



Ages of Diaspora International Workshop

Goethe University Frankfurt May 29-30, 2019

Supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Info: yaelalmog6@gmail.com

This workshop seeks to propose a historical exposé of the notion of diaspora based on liturgical, literary, and philosophical texts by Jewish authors. The event will feature lectures on antiquity; the Middle Ages; the Early Modern; and modernity; as well as an overarching commentary. This historical analysis will discern the differences between diaspora and exile in Jewish thought and the (re)appearances of theological images of diaspora and return in diverging political contexts. The participants will not only discuss the transformation of the notion of diaspora in Jewish communities throughout the period of their expertise but will also reflect on the echoes of this change in other epochs.

The workshop will opt to challenge common notions of Jewish diaspora. Complicating the binary opposition of diaspora to a homeland, we will discuss sources that constitute the attachment to multiple homelands; non-territorial national identities; and competing diasporist ideologies that adhere to diverging political visions and depictions of the world.

Wednesday 29.05.2019 Campus Westend Seminarpavilion 2.03

Chair: Caroline Sauter, Goethe University Frankfurt

15.30 Welcoming/Coffee

16.00 Introduction, Yael Almog, Goethe University Frankfurt

16.15 Christian Wiese, Goethe University Frankfurt

“Interpretations and Reinterpretations of Diaspora as a Religious, Cultural, and Political Concept: Perspectives from 19th and early 20th-Century German-Jewish Thought”

17.00 Hindy Najman, Oxford University

“Constructions of the Self in Diaspora: reflections on Hellenistic Judaism”

18.00-18.30 Coffee break

18.30 Keynote address by Daniel Boyarin, The University of California, Berkeley

“Diasporic Nationalism: An Old Solution to a New Problem”



Thursday 30.05.2019 Campus Westend NG 1.701

Chair: Leena Eilitta, University of Helsinki

10.00 Andrea Schatz, King's College London

“Exilic Returns: Global History among Early Modern Jews”

11.00 Yael Almog, Goethe University Frankfurt

“Jewish Diaspora in Modernity”

12.00 Adam Stern, Yale University

“Ages of Diaspora: A Response”

Free and open to the public