

BIAJS 2026 conference schedule, Monday 13 July to Wednesday 15 July, Birkbeck, University of London

V.15 // 24/06

	Monday					
9		Registration				
9:30		Welcome				
10-11:30	<i>Papers: Textual spaces in Judaism 1</i> Eli Yosef - Textual Boundaries and the Place of Ben Sira in Rabbinic Literature Sarah Grabiner - Space in the Siddur: The Geography of the Multilingual Prayer Book Israel M. Sandman – Can the Infinite One dwell within maqom (space / place)? Chair: Andrea Shatz	<i>Papers: Disrupting Jewish/English literature</i> Sue Vice - Jewish Characters, English Spaces: Disrupting Golden Age Detective Fiction Gal Manor - “Lunch in the Ruins”: Space, Jewish Difference, and the Austenian Romance in Emily Harris’s <i>Estelle</i> (1878) William Pimlott - The Importance of Translating Wilde: Queer Spaces in Modern Yiddish Culture	<i>Papers: The Eastern European and Soviet world in the mid-20th century and its aftermath</i> Amelia Glaser - Remembering the Holocaust in Contemporary Ukraine Giorgi Zazunishvili - From Archive to Landscape: Reconstructing the Spatial Memory of Jewish Collective Farms in Georgia Kinga Czechowska - Polish Jews, the mass desertion from the Polish Army in Scotland, and the findings of the Special Committee created by the Polish government-in-exile	<i>Roundtable: Jewish Ethnography in Violent and Polarised Times: A Conversation</i> Speakers: Ruth Sheldon; Sami Everett; Marina Sapritsky; Daniella Shaw; Alyaa Ebbiary	<i>Papers: Rethinking the Cousinhood: Anglo-Jewish elites</i> Haim Sperber - Philanthropy and social control in mid-nineteenth century Britain: Moses Montefiore, Samuel Montague and the Rothschilds Meir Chazan - Sir Robert Waley Cohen and the Paradoxes of Anglo-Jewish Non-Zionism, 1918–1948 Joseph Finlay - A Binational Space? Herbert Samuel’s Views on Palestine Chair: David Feldman	

			Chair: Brendan McGeever?			
11:50-1:20	<i>Papers: Borders, thresholds and boundaries in ancient Judaism</i> Yigal Levin - The Border between Judah and Israel: Boundary, Frontier, or Borderland? Insights, Questions and Directions for Future Study Meron Piotrkowski - Rethinking the Origins and Architecture of the Temple of Onias Ivri Bunis - Mishnaic Hebrew: A Jewish Linguistic Homeland under Growing Foreign Pressure Sanne de Niet - Present in absence: nineteenth-century discussions on	<i>Papers: Israeli culture, trauma and displacement</i> Lily Glasner - Mapping the Margins: <i>The Yemenite Children Affair</i> in Israeli Children's Literature Roy Horovitz - "Open Closed Open. This Is the Whole Man" (Yehuda Amichai): Claustrophobic and Haunted Israeli Theatre Sari R. Alfi-Nissan - "Don't Forget to Smile": Cruel Optimism and the Everyday Life of War in Israel Roy Katz and Yuval Benzimon - The Needle and the Damage Done: Tattoos as a Response Among Israelis After the October 7th Attack	<i>Panel*: Reconceptualizing Jewish American Histories of Place and Space: Testimony, Zionism, Refugees</i> Benjamin Schreier, Bryan Cheyette, Nicolas Turner, and Jennifer Glaser	<i>Roundtable: Diversity and British Jews</i> Hannah Ewence, Eylan Eziekiel, Ben Gidley	<i>Papers: Gender, tradition and transformation in changing religious spaces</i> Béatrice de Gasquet - Religious change through transnational academic mobility: creating spaces for Jewish Orthodox feminism in France Noga Bing - Gender Space in Hasidic-Haredi Society: Between Core and Periphery Shira E Schwartz - Hormonal Yeshiva: A Theory of Jewish Transmission	

	the role and function of the Temple in Antiquity and the modern era					
2:30-4	<i>Papers: Jewish culture in the 21st century</i> Alex Tepperman - Geography, Demography, and Jewish Criminality in the Twenty-First Century Sarah Godfrey - The Paradox of Hyper (in)visibility: Representation, Jewishness and Gender in Contemporary British Media Culture Simon James Webster - Building the post-Enlightenment ghetto: The deepening socio-spatial exclusion Western European Jews in the aftermath of 7/10	<i>Papers: Jewish Ireland</i> Katrina Goldstone – The South Circular Road: Safety and Surveillance Representations of ‘Ireland’s Whitechapel’ Rosa Reicher - German-Jewish Newspaper Coverage of Ireland: Space, Segregation, and Analytical Perspectives Yotam Fromm - The Dublin ‘Little Jerusalem’: Shaping a Diasporic Space through the Litvak Ethos of Rabbi Meir Yoel Wigoder (1855–1933) Chair: Nathan Abrams	<i>Papers: Antisemitism and other racisms</i> James Renton - The Theological Looking Glass: Anti-Palestinian Racism and Antisemitism in the Longue Durée McGeever, Gidley, Feldman – Facing Antisemitism Toby Kunin - ‘Was their future to be like everyone else’s after all?’ (Fonseca 1995, p. 300): Towards a relational understanding of Jewish and Romani histories in post-Holocaust, postcolonial Europe. Chair: Hannah Ewence	<i>Roundtable: Dislocated Belongings: Jewish Ethnography, Layers of Memory, and the Weight of Place</i> Vic Seidler, Stuart Blume; Sami Everett, Ruth Sheldon; Rebekah Vince; Ben Kasstan	<i>Papers: Spaces of religious identity in the UK</i> Howard Cohen – Brit milah ceremonies: where and who is invited? Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz and Martin Devereux - The Limmud Archive: A New Resource for Research on the UK Jewish Community Jonathan Lewis - The Council of Christians and Jews: Its Creation and Legacy	
4:20-5:50	<i>Participatory workshop: Spatialising Landauer: Community as</i>	<i>Papers: Art and diaspora</i> Maria Veits - Mapping Artistic Yiddishland:	<i>Papers: Mid-20th century Israel</i>	<i>Roundtable: Recognizing Difference: Comparative</i>	<i>UK Jewish studies centre directors meeting</i>	

	<i>Relational Place-Making in Jewish Studies</i> Facilitator: Nathaniel Coleman Note: Open to up to 12 conference participants — <i>No prior knowledge of Landauer, spatial theory, or art/architecture ability is required.</i>	Diasporic Jewish Space at the Venice Biennale Luke Langille - Co-Constructed Racialization: Painting, Photography and Temporal Links Between “The Ward,” Toronto and Scheunenviertel, Berlin Max Munday - Routedness: navigating tensions in identities within a Jewish space of participatory art practice	Roi Irani - Primitive or Crucial? The Role of Religious Norms in Early Israeli Sexology Boaz Garfinkel - Marketized Spaces of Absorption: Transit Camps and Housing Policy in 1950s Israel Shiri Vidan - A Study of the Work of the First Governmental Naming Committee 1949-1950	<i>Experiences Doing Urban Religious Ethnography</i> Martin Saps; Howard Cohen, Ben Gidley, Alyaa Ebbiary, Arndt Emmerich	Chair: Anna Hajkova	
6-7:30	Drinks reception					
	Tuesday					
9 am	Registration					
9:15-10:45	<i>Papers: Jewish/non-Jewish space and ritual practice</i> Frances Williams - Jewish space and place in the Christian pulpit; A South African case study in rural Kwazulu-Natal Stav Shufan-Biton and Tammar Friedman Lived (not-your) Religion: Jewish Participation in	<i>Papers: Textual spaces: modern novels</i> Brett Ashley Kaplan - Space and Place in Toni Morrison’s Critical Nonfiction, Seneca Village, and the Holocaust Memorial Park Ruth Panofsky - From St. Urbain to Goldfinch: Mordecai Richler and David Bezmozgis	<i>Panel: Reimagining the Jewish Diaspora in Britain*</i> Robert Cohen, Lyman Gamberton, Anne Caldwell Chair: Elena Solomon	<i>Panel: Israel in the 20th century</i> Maya Mark - Placing the Jewish State: Reparations, Germany, and the Spatial Politics of the Cold War Adi Sherzer-Druckman - Re)Placing the Founder: Ben-Gurion, Messianism, and the	<i>Papers: Dialectics of emancipation</i> Christine Achinger - Too Eastern, too Western: Spatial tropes of Modernity and their transformation in German debates on Jewish emancipation Nathanel Stawski – From Reluctant to	

	Halloween rituals in the UK Katja Stuerzenhofecker - The dislocation of place-based ritual community: experiences of Jews in Britain Chair: Hannah Ewence	Michal Ben-Horin - Wounded Places and Relational Spaces in Anna Maria Jokl's Writings		Political Imagination of the Israeli Right Nikolay Tabah - Moral Frames and the Delegitimation of Israel: United Nations Discourse during the 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli Wars	Radical Revolutionaries: Zionism and the Late 19th Century Crisis of Liberalism Assaf Malach - The Authenticity of Napoleon's Proclamation to the Jews: A Re-evaluation Chair: Sonia Gollancz?	
11:05-12:35	<i>Panel: Land, Exile, and Interpretive Place: Constructions of Space in Biblical and Medieval Jewish Thought</i> Ari Geiger - From Earth to Land: The Semantic Construction of 'Ereš in Biblical Hebrew Malkah Shenvald - Semantic Change and the Construction of Interpretive Space in Nahmanides Naama Bindiger - Parable as Place: Imagined Geography	<i>Papers: Religious identity and textual space</i> Itshak Cohen - Fault, Marriage, and the Spatial Architecture of Property in Jewish Law and Comparative Law Marc Michaels - MST #1431 - The Torah that Took the Long Way Round Ohad Sorek - Faces instead of borders: Space in Tannaitic literature	<i>Roundtable: Jewish Heritage Now: Politics, Visibility, Agency*</i> Anoushka Alexander-Rose / Anne Caldwell / Yulia Egorova / Eva Frojmovic / Jay Prosser	<i>Papers: Jewish urbanism 1 – the German metropole and memory politics</i> Meitar Tewel – Subsumed Landscapes: The Dissolution of Jewish Space in Frankfurt am Main's Postwar Rubble Economy, 1945-1960s Alexandra Klei (Braunschweig / Berlin) - From an 'Empty Space' in the Urban Landscape to a Symbol in a Fight against anti-Semitism.	<i>Papers: Margins/mainstreams – Diasporic, local and international presence in the 20th century</i> Josh Alston - Revolutionary Yiddishland in South Africa?: Jewish Anti-Apartheid Activism Kirsten Morgenstern - College Town Jews: Liberal Organizing in 1980s Ann Arbor, Michigan Amelia Roth-Dishy - Creating Culture,	

	and Spiritual Journey in Judah Halevi's Kuzari Tal Burgansky - Living in Egypt, Writing about the Land of Israel: Biography, Law, and Sacred Space in Maimonides' Thought – Tues or Wed Chair: Zvi Stampfer			The Bornplatz Synagogue in Hamburg Henri Hoor - A Jewish Space? The Großer Jüdenhof and Contemporary Urban Redevelopment in Berlin's Historic Centre Chair:	Performing Patriotism: Ladino Theater in New York, 1914-1918	
1:30					Walk: Jewish refugees in Bloomsbury [pre-bookable]	
1:45-3:15	<i>Panel: Saadya Gaon and the Challenges of Religious Practice across Changing Spaces</i> Nadia Vidro - A Place-Contingent Law: Saadya Gaon on the Second Day of Festivals in the Diaspora Nir Vargon - Legal Space under Constraint: Coercion, Consent, and Islamic Law in Saadya Gaon's Book of Legal Documents	<i>Papers: Literatures of exile</i> Papers: Smadar Falk-Peretz - Between Lived Space and Scriptural Place: Biblical Chronotope and Feminist Dissent in the Poetry of Ella Amitan-Wilensky John Spiers - Jewish Exile and Domestic Space in the Life of Rachel Bespaloff Irina Rabinovich - Breath,	<i>Workshop/Discussion: Jewish Studies and Postcolonial Studies: Challenges and Possibilities*</i> Toby Kunin, Laura Almagor, Bryan Cheyette	<i>Roundtable: The Space and Place of Yiddishland: Real, Imagined, and Mediated</i> Ayelet Brinn, Sonia Gollance, Vivi Lachs, and Shachar Pinsker chair/moderator: David Mazower	WORKSHOP: Researching Sexuality in (Jewish) Archives: Tools, Ethics, and Practice Aleph Ross and Joanna Zofia Spyra	

	Zvi Stampfer - Creating Sacred Space without a Temple: Saadya Gaon and the Normative Framing of Prayer Chair: Amir Ashur Ben Outhwaite - Response	Exile, and Moral Space: May Arno's Poetics of Jewish Place				
2 pm					Wiener Library tour	
4:00-17:30	<i>Panel: Space, Boundary, and Authority in Rabbinic Literature</i> Ayala Friedman - The Anatomy of Creation: Pairing and Cosmic Structure in Genesis Rabbah Daniel Nikritin - Between Inside and Outside: Liminal Space and Threshold Crossing in Talmudic Narratives David Kapach - From Temple Space to Normative Memory: The Chamber of Hewn Stone	<i>Papers: Jewish arts and craft and media in central Europe and in exile: radio, photography, fashion</i> Michael Berkowitz - Joseph Wechsberg, colour photography, and the idea of Europe Ryan Hugh Ross - Creativity in Exile: Julius Burger's 'Radio Potpourri' Elena Solomon - Historic Jewish Fashion in Poland: Materials, Techniques, and Trends Chair: James Renton	<i>Papers: Jewish urbanism 2 – ghettos, squares and shtetls*</i> Francois Guesnet - Post-Shtetl: Re-assessing the Impact of the Jewish Urban Experience in Eastern Europe, ca 1850-1900 Laura Vaughan - Mapping the spatial character of the Ghetto Bart Wallet and Sietske van der Veen - "Jews' Squares" and "Jewish Squares": Conceptualising a Central Jewish Space	<i>Panel: Jewish Women in International Spaces*</i> Aleksandra Jakubczak, Jaclyn Granick, Ruth Nattermann, Laura Almagor Chair: Anne Summers	<i>Papers: Adventures in Yiddishland</i> David Mazower - From Warsaw to Massachusetts: Reimagining the Peretz Salon Zehavit Stern - Laughing Men, Weeping Women: Gendered Space in the Badkhn's Performance Keren Rubner - Variation and change in the Hasidic-English spoken by the Jewish community of	

	as a Model of Spatial Authority Ofer Livnat - When a Neighbourhood Becomes a City: Space, Boundary, and Legal Status in Rabbinic Law Chair: Ben Outhwaite		Tetiana Shyshkina with Konstantin Mogarichev, Artemii Plekhanov, Maria Volkova - Jewish Migration and Household Structures in an Industrializing Kyiv Suburb: Digital Approach to 1897 Imperial Census Chair: Hannah Ewence		Stamford Hill, North London Chair: William Pimlott?	
17:35-18:35		BIAJS AGM Walk: Jewish refugees in Bloomsbury [pre-bookable]				
	Wednesday					
9:00	<i>Registration</i>					
9:15-10:45	<i>Papers: Textual space in Judaism 2</i> Lola Graziani - “Undoubtedly, <i>pataḥ</i> is the east and <i>qameṣ</i> the west [...]”: mapping language onto the cosmos in medieval Jewish linguistic thought Kate Tinson – Leprosy in the Cairo Geniza	<i>Panel: Space and Place in British Cinema*</i> Nathan Abrams, Tim Spurrier, Michael Berkowitz	<i>Papers: Representing Jews: 19th and 20th century cases</i> Rachel Kovacs - The Case of Alfred Dreyfus: Where Innocence Did Not Matter Chana Revell Kotzin - American Zion: Mordecai Manuel Noah’s proposal for a Jewish refuge in Ararat, New York	<i>Papers: Peripheral Imperial and British Jewishness in the 19th and 20th centuries</i> Emelye Clifford: The Production and Performance of Newport’s early Jewish Spaces Asa Brunet-Jailly - Memory, Death Tourism, and Medievalist Musings:	<i>Papers: Survival, care and activism: Soviet, Baltic and Eastern European Jewish worlds after the Shoah</i> Boaz Cohen – Places of Care, Places of Tension: Child Survivor Homes 1945-1950 Noam Bizan – emigration activism in Riga 1948-1970	

	Katharina Hadassah Wendl - "And our scribes do so": The place of minhag in scribal handbooks of the 19th century		Yuang Marcus Liu - Early Twentieth Century Chinese Perceptions of Jewish Immigrants in America	Anglo-Jewish Self-Fashioning in Hermann Gollancz's "A Ramble in East Anglia" (1894-5) Aleph Ross - The Space of the Clinic: Jewishness and Sexual Citizenship, 1917-1960 Rotem Giladi - Corporal Punishment, Jewish Whiteness, and Imperial Assimilation in the Union of South Africa' Chair: Jaclyn Granick	Na'ama Seri-Levi - Mapping Survival: JDC Parcel Lists and the Spatiality of Jewish Refugeedom in the USSR	
11:05-12:35	<i>Papers: Textual spaces and sacred cartography</i> Eyal Ben-Eliyahu - The World Map in Jewish Consciousness from Antiquity to the Age of Discovery Nathaniel Coleman - The Five Hurvas: A Lurianic Cartography of Ruin and Repair Laliv Clenman - Between Rome and Jerusalem:	Panel: <i>Music and the Construction of Space and Place in Jewish Studies*</i> Hannah Kieve, Adam Possener, Leeya Mor	<i>Papers: 20th century Israel/Palestine</i> Liat Taub - Contested Worksites: Gender, Labor, and Separatist Organizing in Mandatory Palestine Nitzana Ben-David - The mission of Israel's juvenile court – The 1950s	<i>Papers: Domestic and intimate spaces of Anglo-Jewry, Lived and remembered</i> Sophie Bellamy - Dancing Leads to (Mixed) Marriage? Mapping Jewish Marriage in the North East of England, 1919-1970 Daniel Lichman - Bedrooms, Bathrooms,	<i>Papers: Jewish urbanism 3: Jewish presence in the city</i> Larisa Zorlescu - Jewish Settlement and Communal Spaces in Nineteenth-Century Romania Motti Zalkin - Jews and the shaping of 'New Kaunas' Between the Two World Wars	

	Rome and the Bnei Romi in the Talmud Yerushalmi Chair: Meron Piotrkowski		Ilan Shchori - Between Sacred and Profane in the Urban Space: The Sabbath Crisis and the Unification of Tel Aviv (1922–1923) Dorit Lemberger - The End of the Exile of Words - Levinas on Hebrew, Israel, and Ethical Politics Chair: James Renton?	Kitchens and Cars: Rabbi Lionel Blue's Radio Congregation Keren Darmon - 'It was an oasis': Reflections on space and place in the Oxford and St. George's Club Miriam Marson - From Margins to Meaning: Reframing Jewish Cemetery Heritage Chair: Sonia Gollancz?	Elsa Pinar Kilavuz - A Social Topography of Synagogues and Jewish Presence in Urban Istanbul	
1:45-3:15	<i>Papers: Ritual space and Jewish memory in the Mizrahi world</i> Ilana Webster-Kogen - Media Economies of Veneration: the Religious Pop Songs Shaping North African Pilgrimage Agnese Tati - Between Place-keeping and Place-making: Reconstructing the Ritual Spaces of Iraqi Jews	<i>Panel: The Gender of Witnessing: Women and the Emergence of Holocaust Survivor Narratives*</i> Speakers: Peter Davies, Jennifer Geddes, Anna Hájková, Christine Schmidt Moderator: Bryan Cheyette	<i>Papers: Jewish Poland</i> Johannes Czakai - All Around the Powder Tower. The Space(s) of Jews in Early Modern Breslau (Wrocław) Idan Breier – “You Will Live in Constant Suspense” (Deut. 28: 66): The Warsaw Ghetto—The Place Where the Torah's Curses Were Realized	<i>Panel: 'Vu mir zaynen, zaynen mir': Diasporist Political Thought in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century</i> Presenters: Sophie Cardin, Raphael Saitet, Jacob Hermant Moderator: Aleph Ross	<i>Papers: Modernist spaces/Race and literature</i> Andrew Dean - Philip Roth's Consulting Room M Syd Rosen - Stanley Gould, Ezra Pound, and the racial politics of the hipster Tony Kushner - Space, place and race. Edward Thomas and a Jewish murderer	

	Martin Orloff - Living Archives at the Border: Jewish Memory, Heritage, and Agency in the Cemeteries of Melilla Chair: Eliaou Balouka?		Malgorzata (Gosia) Wloszycka - Local Memory, Local Tensions: Holocaust Remembrance and Jewish Heritage in Mszana Dolna, Poland			
4:00-17:30	<i>Papers: Unity and plurality - textual and ritual spaces of theology and ethics</i> Miriam Feldmann-Kaye - The Tower of Babel as a Critique of Monolithic Space: Theological Approaches to Pluralism Li Shir - A Sukkah in the Storm: Four Family Sukkahs and Levinas' Ethics of Vulnerability Aaron Lahmi - Speaking with One Voice: Moreh Nevukhei ha-Zeman as an Attempt to Reunify the Jewish Collective	<i>Papers: Memory, ethics and literature and poetry</i> Anat Koplowitz-Breier - "Enveloped by a Profound Embrace" (Cynthia Wallace): The Mikveh in Contemporary Jewish American Women's Poetry Emma Trott - Do Plants Remember the Holocaust? Ecology and Atrocity in Jon Silkin's 'Flower' Poems – wheelchair access Dan Misheiker - Returning Home: Sacred Space and Vegetarian Ethics in Singer's The Penitent	<i>Screening: Memories of Exile and Displacement: Film screenings and Reflections on creating film resources with oral history interviews. / Bea Lewkowicz (AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive)</i>	<i>Papers: Jewish space in the Indian ocean littoral</i> José Alberto R. Silva Tavim - Recognizing a Jewish space in a colonial context: the Jews' Street in 16th-century Goa Menashe Anzi - Yemenite Jewish Time-Consciousness and the Making of Indian Ocean Spatial Identities Jay Prosser - The Jewish Mahallah of Singapore as a Site of Transcultural Memory	<i>Papers: Antisemitism, anti-Zionism and Zionism</i> Jonathan Kaplan - "Something new in the Middle East, after all": Klaus Wilczynski and Jewish Anti-Zionism in East Germany Dana Barnett - The Physical, Textual, Social, Political, and Symbolic Spaces of Antisemitism Mariam Habib Matta - When Muslims Celebrate the Israeli State: Understanding Muslim Participation in the 'New Hebrew Calendar'	



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