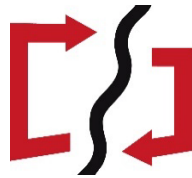




והגית בו  
יוםם  
ולילה | HOCHSCHULE FÜR  
JÜDISCHE STUDIEN  
HEIDELBERG

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



**Heidelberg Centre for  
Transcultural Studies**



מכון ון ליר בירושלים

THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

معهد فان لير في القدس

## CALL FOR PAPERS

submission until September 30, 2024

### **Friends, Enemies, Frenemies: Ambivalences of Jewish-Muslim Relations**

German-Israeli Foundation (GIF) Young Scientists' Meetings (GYSM)

**January 26-28, 2025**

At the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien  
Heidelberg)

Research on Jewish-Muslim relations is slowly shifting from the meta-narratives of “eternal conflict” and “golden ages of coexistence” towards more complex theoretical frameworks, including cultural entanglement, mutual influences and transculturation as well as dialectical enmity. In this workshop, we will contribute to this emerging research agenda by highlighting *ambivalence* as a crucial element of Jewish-Muslim relations: The intimate connection between Jews and Muslims has produced a conflicting pattern of attraction and resentment, ranging from mutual admiration to enduring dynamics of violent conflict.

The workshop is supported by the German-Israeli Foundation (GIF) and is organized by Prof. Dr. Johannes Becke (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies) and Prof. Dr. Oren Barak (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), in cooperation with the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, the Department for Islamic and Middle East Studies (Heidelberg University), the Max Weber Institute of Sociology (Heidelberg University) and the DFG Research Training Group “Ambivalent Enmity” (Heidelberg).

In the context of the workshop, we are particularly interested in papers which contribute to our understanding of Jewish-Muslim ambivalence over time: In which contexts did Jews portray Muslims as role models? When and how did Muslims learn from Jewish culture or attempt to emulate it? How did political conflicts shape the dynamics of learning about the respective “other”? And how can we theorize the frequent shifts from amity to enmity (and back again)?

We invite contributions that cover a wide regional focus of Jewish-Muslim relations, including the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia, and the various diasporic settings, especially in Europe and North America. Organized as a transdisciplinary workshop, we are particularly interested in bringing together young scholars from Jewish Studies, Middle East Studies, History, Anthropology, Religious Studies, and Transcultural Studies.

To capture the complexities of Jewish-Muslim ambivalence, we encourage young scientists to submit original research papers focusing on the following topics:

1. Knowing and learning about "the other": Representations of Muslims and Jews in religious education, media, and popular culture
2. Complicating narratives of conflict and coexistence: Jewish-Muslim ambivalence in comparative perspective
3. Majority-minority relations of Jews and Muslims (in Israel, Muslim-majority countries, colonial settings, Europe, and North America)
4. Theology and Jewish-Muslim relations: Religious polemics and knowledge formation in Jewish-Muslim history
5. Living together: Shared spaces as foci of interaction and conflict

### **How to apply:**

The following rules will apply for our selection process:

- a. All participants must be affiliated with German or Israeli universities.
- b. Participation is limited to doctoral students in the last stages of obtaining their degree as well as post-doctoral students and researchers up to 5 years after receiving their doctoral degree.
- c. If you fulfil these requirements, please submit an abstract of 300 words and a short CV until September 30th 2024 to the workshop organizers via Selahattin Beşer ([selahattin.beser@stud.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:selahattin.beser@stud.uni-heidelberg.de))

**We will be able to cover transportation and accommodation for all participants.**