

**The Congress of Jewish Organizations and Communities of the USSR and the Idea of "Soviet Jewry"**

Joshua Tapper (Stanford University)

**Auntie Fira's Letter: How Material Culture Taught Soviet Jews about Israel**

Dina Fainberg

**Jewish Supply Agents in the Era of "Developed Socialism": Information Experts, Entrepreneurs, Tricksters (The Case of Soviet Moldova)**

Anna Kushkova (Hebrew University Jerusalem) (ZOOM)

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **PANEL V**

**Cross-Border Movements, Emigration & Immigration**

Moderation: Jannis Panagiotidis (RECET, Vienna)

**Provincial Encounters: Israeli Visitors, Soviet Jews, and the Conceptualization of the Soviet-Jewish Experience**

Alex Valdman

**Litvak Battle Behind the Iron Curtain: Jewish Travel to Soviet Union and their Human Rights Campaigns, 1966-1982**

Odeta Rudling (Lund University)

**Between Prejudice(s) and Shared Experiences. The Interethnic Relationship Between Post-Soviet Jews and post-Soviet Germans in the Federal Republic of Germany from the 1990s until Today**

Alexander Schneidmesser (RECET, Vienna)

**Multiple Perceptions and Ascriptions of Identities: Jewish (Post) Soviet-Georgian Migrants in Germany**

Nino Aivazishvili-Gehne (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European studies, Regensburg)

15:40 Coffee & Concluding Remarks:

Jannis Panagiotidis, Tatsiana Astrouskaya and Semion Goldin

16:30 Departure

**ORGANIZERS**

**Tatsiana Astrouskaya**

(Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe)  
tatsiana.astrouskaya@herder-institut.de

**Semion Goldin**

(Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry, Hebrew University Jerusalem)  
semyon.goldin@mail.huji.ac.il

**ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE**

Tatsiana Astrouskaya (HI, Marburg)

Thomas Bohn (JLU Giessen)

Juliane Fürst (ZZF, Potsdam)

Semion Goldin (Hebrew University Jerusalem)

Heidi Hein-Kircher (HI, Marburg)

Jannis Panagiotidis (RECET, Vienna)

Jakob Stürmann (Dubnow Institute, Leipzig)

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Leonid Nevzlin Research Center  
for Russian and East European Jewry



**HERDER INSTITUTE**  
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## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# THINKING BEYOND THE 'SOVIET JEWRY' NARRATIVE Localism, Diversity, and Subjective Experiences of Jews in the Soviet Republics under Late Socialism

October 9-10, 2024

Herder Institute for Historical Research on East Central Europe –  
Institute of the Leibniz Association  
Gisonenweg 5-7 | 35037 Marburg

## Wednesday, October 9, 2024

- 9:30 Arrival, registration and coffee
- 10:00 **CONFERENCE OPENING**  
Welcome words of the Director of the Herder Institute Peter Haslinger and the organizers
- 10:30 **PANEL I**  
**Negotiating Soviet Jewish Identity: Diversity & Localism**
- 10:30 **PART A**  
Moderation: Thomas Bohn (University of Giessen)  
**Navigating 'Jewishness' After Stalinism: Soviet Dimensions of Polish Jewish Identity During the Second Repatriation, 1956-60**  
Frankee Lyons (University of Illinois Chicago/ Dubnow Institut Leipzig)  
**Jews in the post-WWII Lithuania: Modernization Without Total Sovietization**  
Samuel Barnai (Hebrew University, Jerusalem/ Ben-Gurion University, Negev)  
**From Ukrainization to Russification: Vectors of Jewish Acculturation in the Ukrainian SSR**  
Tobias Wals (LMU München)
- 11:45 Coffee break
- 12:00 **PART B**  
Moderation: Tatsiana Astrouskaya (Herder Institute, Marburg)  
**Soviet Identities and Traditional Modernity: Bukhara, Georgia and Kavkaz Jews. A comparative analysis**  
Chen Bram (Hadassah Academic College, and Hebrew University)  
**Religious, National, Cultural or Soviet? Transforming Frameworks of Jewish Identity in Late Soviet Central Asia**  
Zeev Levin (Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem)

- Mountain Jews and Local Holocaust Memory: A Case Study of the North Caucasus during Late Socialism**  
Mateusz Majman (Bar-Ilan University/ Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem)
- 13:15 Lunch
- 14:15 **"The Story of Mulka Joffe" J-Doc Exhibition Opening**
- 14:45 **PANEL II**  
**Jewish Culture and Jewish & Non-Jewish Encounters**
- 14:45 **Part A**  
Moderation: Juliane Fürst (The Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History Potsdam)  
**Aleksandr Lizen and his Effort for Yiddish Culture in Late Socialism**  
Jakob Stürmann (Dubnow-Institut, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture)  
**Vilnius, Year Zero: The Collapse Discourse in Grigorii Kanovich's "The Jewish Park"**  
Rafi Tsirkin-Sadan (Open University of Israel)  
**Michael Zand at the Tajik Academy of Sciences: Literary Translation and the Contours of Jewish Intellectual Life in Soviet Dushanbe**  
Benjamin Arenstein (University of Chicago)
- 16:00 Break
- 16:10 **Part B**  
Moderation: Dina Fainberg (City University of London)  
**Utesov (i), (ii), (iii): Evolution of Jewish Soviet Celebrity Self-representations during Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev Eras**  
Viktor Osminin (Heidelberg University)  
**Jews and Jazz. How and Why Jews Played a Key Role in Soviet Jazz Movement**  
Alexander Kan (Independent Scholar, London)
- 17:00 Coffee break

- 17:30 **KEYNOTE**  
**Soviet and also Jewish: Jewishness as Secondary and Tertiary Identities**  
Juliane Fürst  
Moderation: Jakob Stürmann
- 18:30 Walk to Downtown Marburg
- 19:00 **Dinner**  
Restaurant Mon Ami  
Universitätsstraße 28, 35037 Marburg  
<https://monami-marburg.de>

## Thursday, October 10, 2024

- 9:45 **PANEL III**  
**Beyond the Narrative of Resistance**  
Moderation: Alex Valdman (Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University/ Kaye Academic College of Education)  
**Jewish Life and Resistance in Late Soviet Ukrainian Borderlands: Local Dimension**  
Julia Elena Grieder (University of Basel)  
**Anatolij Rubin's "Stranicy perežitogo" (1977): the Construction of a Proper Zionist Autobiography**  
Uladzimir Valodzin (ELTE Budapest/CEU Budapest)
- The Cold War's Invisible Migrants: How Soviet Jews Negotiated Soviet Citizenship, 1960-1990**  
Irina Nicorici (New Europe College, Bucharest)
- Soviet Security Agencies Against Jews in Chernivtsi: Policies, Facts, Narratives**  
Aleksandr Ivanov (Independent Scholar, Dortmund)
- 11:25 Coffee break
- 11:45 **PANEL IV**  
**The Variety of Jewish Experiences & Everyday Life**  
Moderation: Semion Goldin (Leonid Nevzlin Research Centre, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)