

Dubnow

Leopold
Institute

The “Hochschule.”

**Material History and
Intellectual Legacy**

International Conference
29–30 November 2022
Centrum Judaicum Berlin/
digital

In Cooperation with
the Leo Baeck Institute
Jerusalem



The “Hochschule”

Held at the Centrum Judaicum in Berlin on 29–30 November 2022, this international conference by the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem and Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow marks the 150th anniversary of the “Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums,” as well as 80 years since its closure by the Nazi regime.

Established in 1872 against the background of the permanent exclusion of Jewish Studies and rabbinical training from German universities, the “Hochschule” became one of the leading Jewish academic institutions in Germany – a spiritual home for prominent Jewish scholars such as Leo Baeck, Hermann Cohen, Ismar Elbogen, Max Wiener, Emil Fackenheim, Abraham Geiger, Julius Guttmann, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Solomon Schechter, and Eugen Täubler. Over its seven-decade lifetime, the “Hochschule” developed a unique tradition of learning that promoted a broad and liberal understanding of Jewish culture and thought. Although it managed to carry on its work even after November 1938, when most German-Jewish institutions had been dissolved, the “Hochschule” closed for good in 1942, and the majority of its scholars and students perished in the Holocaust. However, the “Hochschule’s” legacy was kept alive against all odds: Some of its members managed to flee Germany and continued their intellectual work in new homelands. This legacy is also preserved in the “Hochschule’s” library, whose remnants survived the war and were disseminated across numerous countries.

This conference brings together scholars dealing with the intellectual legacy of the “Hochschule” as well as with the material aspects of the institution’s historical development. To add a fresh perspective to the question of German-Jewish cultural heritage and its development in the twentieth century, we want to focus especially on the post-Holocaust “Hochschule” to understand what its remains may teach us about the “Wissenschaft des Judentums,” Jewish scholarship and culture more broadly.

Program

Tuesday, 29 November 2022

12.30 p.m.

Yfaat Weiss/Anja Siegemund
Opening

12.45 p.m.

(Material) History and Afterlife of the "Hochschule"
Chair: TBA

Daniel Schwartz

Hochschule-Style "Wissenschaft des Judentums"
in the Post-Holocaust World

Kerstin von der Krone

Berlin in Breslau: Tracing the Legacy of the
"Hochschule" through the "Monatsschrift für
Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums"

2.15 p.m.

Coffee Break

2.45 p.m.

**Translocation, Exile, and New Contexts of Jewish
Collections – A Conceptual Framework**

Chair: TBA

Caroline Jessen

Reconstructing Contexts. Books and Their Usage

Zsuzsanna Toronyi

Material Evidences of German-Jewish Scholar
ship in Budapest

Rachel Heuberger

The Significance of a Library Catalogue for Jewish
Studies: The Digital Reconstruction of the
Freimann Collection in Frankfurt am Main

4.45 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.15 p.m.

Keynote Lecture

Chair: Irene Aue-Ben-David

Nils Roemer

Historicities and Legacies of "Wissenschaft des
Judentums," Then and Now

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

1 p.m.

The Library and Librarians of the "Hochschule"

Chair: Miriam Rürup

Avriel Bar-Levav

The Ecology of Jewish Seminary Libraries in the 19th and Early 20th Century

Bettina Farack

The Last Years of the Library of the "Hochschule"

Irene Munster

Berlin Legacy: Suse Hallenstein

3 p.m.

Coffee Break

3.30 p.m.

Transfer of Knowledge and Objects of the "Hochschule"

Chair: Alina Gromova

Anna Holzer-Kawalko

Forgotten Heritage: The Fate of the "Hochschule"
Library in Israel

Noah S. Gerber

From Barbaric to Promised Land: Refugee
Scholars and Hebrew Books in the Wake of the
Catastrophe

Irene Aue-Ben-David

Selma Stern's Research on German-Jewish
History in Exile – a Material Perspective

5.30 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.45 p.m.

Concluding Remarks – Future Perspectives: German-Jewish Cultural Heritage Outside Germany

Chair: Felix Steilen

with

Emily Bilski

Joachim Schlör

Christian Wiese

Speakers

Dr. Irene Aue-Ben-David, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem | **Prof. Dr. Avriel Bar-Levav**, The Open University of Israel, Ra'anana | **Emily Bilski**, Independent Curator, Jerusalem | **Bettina Farack**, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem | **Dr. Noah S. Gerber**, Tel-Aviv University | **Dr. Alina Gromova**, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum | **Dr. Rachel Heuberger**, Goethe University Frankfurt | **Dr. Anna Holzer-Kawalko**, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem | **Dr. Caroline Jessen**, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig | **Irene Munster**, Priddy Library, Rockville, Md. | **Prof. Dr. Nils Roemer**, The University of Texas at Dallas | **Prof. Dr. Miriam Rürup**, Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum für Europäisch-Jüdische Studien | **Prof. Dr. Joachim Schlör**, University of Southampton | **Prof. Dr. Daniel Schwartz**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Dr. Anja Siegemund**, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum | **Dr. Felix Steilen**, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig | **Dr. Zsuzsanna Toronyi**, Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives, Budapest | **Dr. Kerstin von der Krone**, Goethe University Frankfurt | **Prof. Dr. Yfaat Weiss**, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig/The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Prof. Dr. Christian Wiese**, Goethe University Frankfurt

Organization

Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow in cooperation with the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem

Conference within the framework of the focal project »The Material and Intellectual Legacy of the Higher Institute for Jewish Studies in Berlin« – Part of the DFG Priority Program: Jewish Cultural Heritage (SPP 2357)

www.dubnow.de

www.leobaeck.org

www.spp-juedisches-kulturerbe.de

Venue and Registration

Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum
Oranienburger Straße 28–30, 10117 Berlin

The international conference is also taking place digitally.
For online and in-person attendance please register here
at least one day in advance:

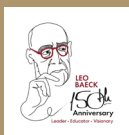
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Illustration:

Students and teachers of the “Hochschule” in the reading room, 1938. Courtesy of the Leo Baeck Institute, New York.



בית הכנסת החדש ברלין – צנטרום יודאיקום
Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum



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This project is financed by the Saxon State
government out of the State budget
approved by the Saxon State Parliament.

