

# A CALL FOR PAPERS

## *The Wandering Jew and other myths*

a special issue of

## *Patterns of Prejudice*

Anoushka Alexander-Rose and Elisabeth Becker-Topkara will guest edit a special issue of the journal *Patterns of Prejudice on the Wandering Jew and other myths*, to be published in 2027.

Part of the VolkswagenStiftung funded project 'Redrawing the Wandering Jew', which will include an exhibition 'Eternal Strangers' at The Winchester Gallery in 2027.

The Legend of the Wandering Jew is undoubtedly ubiquitous in our modern age for better or worse - deviating from its historical origins to appear in myriad contemporary representations lingering in the artistic imagination to express exilic sentiment or being weaponised politically to justify wilful rootlessness. This special issue seeks to carve out the essence of the Wandering Jew to find what makes this immortal, nomadic, shape-shifting figure so enduring and adaptable. We aim to collect analytic reflections on "other myths" from cultures and contexts well beyond the limitations of Christian Europe in order to map the propagation of cursed wanderers and the like. Since so often such myths and legends appear at geographical or cultural crossroads, in what ways can these figures mediate or elucidate difference and encounter? How can they empower in the face of historically stigmatised 'otherness'? Can diaspora be reimagined without being romanticised, alert to the realities of forced migration and exile past, present and future?

We call for submissions that speak about legends and mythic figures **exclusively** through the lens of reclamation in response to racial, national, ethnic or religious exclusion. These are narratives that emerge out of harmful contexts, storytelling which aims to disseminate derogatory and divisive rhetoric about the misunderstood 'stranger' or 'nomad'. Be it a warrior, supernatural guide, or everyman, how is this type removed from such origins, and reshaped by indigenous (or other) cultural actors? We are especially interested in non-formal methods of knowledge as transmitted through folklore or oral tradition, and representations in the visual arts (broadly defined) as well as literature and music. Possible article submissions may explore the difference between Israeli and diasporic approaches to the Wandering Jew; its resonance amongst other nomadic peoples, such as Roma and Sinti; or relevance for other postcolonial cultures.

Moreover, this special issue is grounded in sociological research questions:

- What are the affective implications of creative reclamation for, in particular, marginalised individuals and structurally demonised groups?
- Can and should these so-called reappropriations be defined or classified, and if so, how?
- What happens when a legend becomes an interpolation, that is, divorced from its derisive origins — can it still empower?

This special issue invites contributions from across the disciplines of arts, humanities and social sciences, including but not limited to: literature, history, art, music, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, psychology, linguistics, migration studies.

One-page proposals for papers (**maximum 7,000 words**) addressing these and related questions should be submitted by e-mail before **13 May 2026**. All contributions must be the original work of the author/s, will be subject to peer review, and the editors' decisions will be final. Please send proposals to Anoushka Alexander-Rose, [a.alexander-rose@soton.ac.uk](mailto:a.alexander-rose@soton.ac.uk).