Diaspora and Indigeneity

Intersections of Modern Jewish, Kurdish, and Amazigh History

Conference at the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies, March 27–29 2023, in cooperation with the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies

Supported by the VolkswagenStiftung
Organized by Johannes Becke (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies), Bareez Majid (Heidelberg University), Alessia Colonnelli (Heidelberg University)

Monday 27 March

11:00am – 1:00pm  OPTIONAL: GUIDED TOUR OF HEIDELBERG
(organized by Tom Würdemann; meeting point at the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies)

1:00pm – 2:00pm  LUNCH

2:00pm – 2:15pm  WELCOME: Prof. Dr. Viktor Golinets, Vice Dean of the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies

2:15pm – 2:30pm  INTRODUCTION: Johannes Becke, Bareez Majid, and Alessia Colonnelli

2:30pm – 4:30pm  NATIONS, NATIONALISM, AND DIASPORA
Chair: Samir Ben-Layashi

4:30pm – 5:00pm  Rethinking Diaspora through Transnational Indigeneity
Ipék Demir (University of Leeds)

Constructions d’une nation amazighe: narrations et territorialités de Tamazgha
Malika Assam (University of Aix-Marseille)
Karima Dirèche Slimani (CNRS)

The Construction of a Nation from Afar: Amazigh Activism in Catalonia
Ángela Suarez Collado (University of Salamanca)

Jewish Kurdophilia and Kurdish Philosemitism
Johannes Becke (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies) Dastan Jasim (GIGA Hamburg)

5:00pm – 6:45pm  COFFEE BREAK

CULTURAL HERITAGE, IDENTITY, AND THE ARTS
Chair: Alessia Colonnelli

The Politics of Cultural Heritage: Should Collections of Amazigh Art and Material Culture be Repatriated?
Lisa Bernasek (University of Winchester)

Yade Mirat, Diaspora and Exile: Postmemorial Traces of a Homeland that One Can Never Visit
Bareez Majid (University of Heidelberg)
The Politics of Memory in Morocco between Active and Passive Remembering

Najwa Belkziz (New York University Abu Dhabi)

Nation-state and Internal Diaspora: The Agency of Istanbul in the Kurdish Theater Field

Bilal Akar (Boğaziçi University)

6:45pm – 7:15pm BREAK

7:15pm – 8:00pm KEYNOTE (foyer of the Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies)

Amazighitude: Relating Amazigh Indigeneity to Other Indigeneities

Brahim El Guabli (Williams College)

8:00pm – 10:00pm DINNER BUFFET (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies)

Tuesday 28 March

9:00am – 11:00am DIASPORA AND IDENTITY FORMATION

Chair: Bareez Majid

Transnational Life of Northern Moroccan Imazighen in the Ruhr Area – Lifestyles, Generations, Identities

Hanan Karam (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Identité berbère et néologie

Kamal Nait Zerrad (INALCO)

11:00am – 11:15 am COFFEE BREAK

11:15am – 1:00pm THEORIZING INDIGENEITY AND DIASPORA

Chair: Veysi Dag

The Identity Politics of the Berber Academy of Paris Between Attempts to Define an Amazigh Identity and Its Elusiveness

Alessia Colonnelli (University of Heidelberg)

(Re)thinking Migrations from Morocco: Commonalities Among Jews and Muslim-Amazigh

Samir Ben-Layashi and Aviad Moreno (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Kurdish Diaspora, and Homeland Communities in Conversation

Aline Jabbari (American University of Iraq, Sulaimani)

1:00pm – 2:00pm LUNCH
2:00pm – 4:00pm  
**IDENTITY, CULTURE AND ACTIVISM**  
Chair: İpek Demir  

- Jewish-Kurdish Poetry: Is There Anything from Kurdistan?  
  **Ketzia Alon** (Gama Publishing House)  

- Engagement féminin (infra)politique dans le processus de reconstruction identitaire en Kabylie  
  **Margherita Rasulo** (INALCO)  

- Collective Amazigh Transnational Identities Through Film  
  **Habiba Boumlik** (LaGuardia Community College)  

- Centralizing Indigenous Amazigh Voices through Autoethnographic Exploration  
  **Mounia Mnouer** (Princeton University)  

4:00pm – 4:30pm  
**COFFEE BREAK**  

4:30pm – 6:30pm  
**LANGUAGE POLITICS AND NATION-BUILDING**  
Chair: Dastan Jasim  

- Loyauté et revitalisation linguistiques en diaspora: le cas des locuteurs du berbère, du kurde et de l’hébreu  
  **Sacha Bourgeois-Gironde** (University of Paris 2)  
  **Salih Akin** (University of Rouen-Normandie)  

6:30pm – 8:00pm  
**DINNER AND DISCUSSION**  

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**Wednesday 29 March**  

9:00am – 11:00am  
**CULTURAL AND POLITICAL ENTANGLEMENTS**  
Chair: Johannes Becke  

- The Amazigh Movement, Their Jewish Neighbors and the State of Israel: Myth, History and Contemporary Agendas  
  **Bruce Maddy-Weitzman** (Moshe Dayan Center)  

- Représentations et perception de la judaïté chez les Amazighs: déconstructions et reconfigurations  
  **Mohand Tilmatine** (University of Cádiz)
Judeo-Berber: What We Know and What We Don’t
**Evgeniya Gutova** (University of Navarra)

The Role of Language in Nation-Building: A Comparative Analysis between Kurdish and Hebrew
**Ofra Bengio** (Moshe Dayan Center)

11:00am – 11:30am **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30am – 1:00pm **ROUND TABLE: INTERSECTIONS OF JEWISH STUDIES, KURDISH STUDIES, AND AMAZIGH STUDIES – WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER?**
Chairs: Johannes Becke (Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies), Alessia Colonnelli (Heidelberg University), Bareez Majid (Heidelberg University)

**Ofra Bengio** (Moshe Dayan Center)
**Bruce Maddy-Weitzman** (Moshe Dayan Center)
**Brahim El Guabli** (Williams College)

1:00pm – 2:00pm **LUNCH AND DEPARTURE**