INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Applied Heritage

Research and Practice of Jewish Heritage

Organized by the Priority Program "Jewish Cultural Heritage" (SPP 2357)

26–29 October 2026

University of Amsterdam

Funded by
DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

Universiteit van Amsterdam
Traumascapes: Valuing, Negotiating and Sharing Sites of Trauma, Pain and Loss
funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO)

Applied Heritage: Research and Practice of Jewish Heritage

Jewish heritage is a vibrant and vital part of Europe's cultural landscape — visible in museums and synagogues, audible in music and liturgy, and alive in everyday community life. It is also shaped by today's social and political debates. This four-day conference in Amsterdam brings together researchers, museum professionals, educators, tourism experts, artists, and community representatives to explore how Jewish heritage can be preserved, interpreted, and shared with everyone.

Alongside scholarly panels on museums, memorial sites, education, cultural policy, and community initiatives, the program opens its doors wide to the public with: a film screening and discussion — My Life Part 2, a curator-guided visit to the Jewish Museum Amsterdam, a lecture-concert: Italian-Jewish musical heritage in practice, with Ensemble Nuria, and a guided walking tour of Amsterdam's Jewish Cultural Quarter and the Portuguese Synagogue.

Together, we will discuss how Jewish history and heritage help us understand the past while engaging with the challenges of the present and planning for the future. The conference aims to strengthen collaboration between research and practice, exchange successful approaches from across Europe, and develop ideas for responsible, inclusive, and meaningful engagement with Jewish heritage today.

Registration: **www.spp-juedisches-kulturerbe.de** — Location: University of Amsterdam, Bushuis

Organized by the DFG Priority Program "Jewish Cultural Heritage" (SPP 2357) in cooperation with Präsenzen – Netzwerk Jüdische Gegenwartsforschung e.V., Joods Maatschappelijk Werk (JMW), and University of Amsterdam project: Traumascapes: Valuing, Negotiating and Sharing Sites of Trauma, Pain and Loss, funded by the Dutch Research Council (NWO)

DAY 1

Monday, 26 October 2026

	BUSHUIS – F0.01
11:00	**Registration & Welcome Coffee**
13:00	**Guided Walking Tour: Jewish Heritage in Amsterdam** **Daniel Metz and Rob de Spa:** *Exploring the Jewish Cultural Quarter + Portuguese Synagogue* (approx. 3 hours; **please register!**)
16:15	**Welcome Address** **Sarah Ross:** *Speaker of the Priority Program "Jewish Cultural Heritage" (SPP 2357)*
16:30	**Opening Lecture** **Bart Wallet:** *Applied Heritage, Jewish Communities, and non-Jewish Societies: (Post-)Critical Reflections on Jewish Heritage in the Netherlands* – **CHAIR: Ina Henning**
17:15	*COFFEE BREAK*
17:30	**Film Screening** **Ulrike Schneider, Laura Brüggemann & Irine Beridze:** *My Life Part 2, followed by discussion* (approx. 2 hours)

DAY 2

Tuesday, 27 October 2026

	BUSHUIS – F0.01	F1.14
9:30	**Jewish Museums in Germany** **CHAIR: Thorsten Fehlberg** **Christiane Dätsch:** *Jewish specificness or multiculturalism? New narratives of the Jewish in German Jewish Museums* **Angela Kolb-Janssen:** *Teaching intercultural competencies through a partnership between the Moses Mendelssohn Academy in Halberstadt and two universities*	**Repairing the Sacred: Applied Heritage and the Afterlives of Holocaust Torah Scrolls** **CHAIR: Sarah Ross** **Jay Prosser:** *'The Jewish Elgin Marbles'? The Reparation of the Salonikan Shoah Torah Scroll Shoe Soles* **Eva Frojmovic:** *Fugitive Pieces: Reflections on Torah Scroll Fragments Reused as Painting Supports* **Marc Michaels / Mordechai Pinchas:** *Repairing Holiness: Dating, locating and recreating the Shoe Soles Torah*
11:00	*COFFEE BREAK*	
11:30	**Living and Transmitting Jewish Heritage** **CHAIR: Jannis Nickel** **Ina Henning:** *Jewish education and the prevention of antisemitism – two sides of the same coin?* **Samuel Weigel:** *Digital Futures of Cantorial Learning? Musical Tradition between Institutionalized and Autodidactic Transmission on the Internet* **Laila Bat Chen Seri:** *The Task of the Transmitter: A Feminist Rethinking of Tradition in and of the Talmud*	**Jewish Heritage and Resilience** **CHAIR: Sascha Wegner** **Sarah Ross:** *Framing Jewish Heritage and Resilience. Theoretical Perspectives from Critical Heritage Studies* **Anthony Kauders:** *Group Formation, Heritage, and the Costs of Resilience* **Dani Kranz:** *Jewish Heritage as Resilience and Resistance. The Case of Jewish Academics*
13:30	*LUNCH BREAK*	
15:30	**Doing Jewish Heritage: Identity, Belonging, and the Self** **CHAIR: Markus Tauschek** **Tom Kellner:** *Whose Heritage? Negotiating Jewish Heritage Between Individual and Community* **Mercedész Czimbalmos:** *Studying Jewish Heritage from the Inside Out: Positionality and Belonging in Cross-Community Research* **Dóra Pataricza:** *Self-Heritage and Heritage Mediation in the Szeged New Synagogue*	**Following the Trail of European Successes** **CHAIR: Thorsten Fehlberg** **Duifje van de Woestijne:** *Synagogue in Groningen, the Netherlands* **Neele Menter:** *Synagogue in Schirmeck (Alsace), France* **Mirko Przystawik:** *Bornplatz Synagogue and Tempel Poolstraße – The Discourse on two Hamburg Cases, Germany* **Zuzanna Światowy:** *The Upper Silesian Jews House of Memory in Gliwice Poland*

DAY 3

Wednesday, 28 October 2026

	BUSHUIS – F0.01
9:00	**The Dutch Method** **Moderation: Paul Ariese** **Daniel Metz and Duifje van den Woestijne**
10:30	*COFFEE BREAK*
11:00	**Dutch and Amsterdam Jewish Heritage** **CHAIR: Duifje van den Woestijne** **Sietske van der Veen:** *Jewish Country Houses as Applied Heritage Sites – The Dutch Case* **Julia van der Krieke:** *Amsterdam's 'The Jewish City' Project – Viewing Jewish Heritage as Shared Heritage* **Paul Ariese:** *Heritagising the Space of Jewish Religious Life – Amsterdam's Jewish Cultural Quarter Synagogues* **Nicolette van den Bogerd:** *Sounding History, Mediating Memory: Listening to/in Amsterdam's National Holocaust Museum*
13:00	*LUNCH BREAK*

	BUSHUIS – F0.01	F1.14
14:30	**Approaches to Jewish Heritage Sites** **CHAIR: Sarah Ross** **Patrick Locher:** *The Worms Synagogue as Lieu de resilience (1100–1961)* **Michaela Böttner:** *Jewish (Cultural) Heritage in Germany: Heritagization Processes of a Contested Heritage* **Pia Schlechter:** *'Feeling' Jewish Heritage: Affect and Mediation at Jewish Heritage Sites in Germany* **Imen Ben Temelliste:** *From Memory to Visibility: Jewish Heritage Mediation and Antisemitism "Prevention" in a German Post-Migrant Society*	**Music, Sound & Living Heritage** **CHAIR: Nicolette van den Bogerd** **Miranda Crowdus:** *Baqashot as Portable, Iridescent Iterations of Jewish Musical-Liturgical Heritage* **Carine Alders:** *Forbidden Music Regained: A Practitioner Case Presentation* **Dalya Markovitch:** *Heritage and Positionality: Engaging with Current Societal Challenges*
16:30	*COFFEE BREAK*	

DAY 4

Thursday, 29 October 2026

	F1.14	F2.11B
9:00	**Synagogues in the Past and the Future: Examples of Physical and Digital Reconstruction** **CHAIR: Thorsten Fehlberg** ***Part 1: Physical Restoration*** **Nesim Bencoya:** *Restoring heritage synagogues in Izmir, Turkey* **Andrei Nedelcu:** *The Restoration of the historic synagogue in Constanta, Romania* ***Part 2: Digital Reconstruction*** **Prof. Alanna Cooper:** *Using Mixed Reality to Digitally Reinstall a Synagogue War Memorial, Cleveland, USA* **Dr. Elias Messinas:** *Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Synagogues in Greece*	**Synagogues, Sites & Mediation** **CHAIR: Jannis Nickel** **Daniel Leviathan:** *From Synagogues to Knowledge Centers* **Markus Tauschek:** *Freiburg's Destroyed Synagogue and the Domestication of Jewish Heritage* **Joshua Krug:** *Staging Jewish Heritage: Museums, National Narratives, and the Politics of Inclusion* **Victoria Heifetz:** *A Face Among the Stones: Walking Jewish History Through Story*
11:00	*COFFEE BREAK*	

	UILENBURGERSJOEL
14:00	**Visit to the Jewish Museum** **Curator-guided visit:** *(approx. 120 min.,* **please register!***)*
18:00	**Keynote Lecture: Do We Need to Decolonize Holocaust Museums?** **Erica Lehrer,** *Concordia University* – **CHAIR: Bart Wallet**
19:00	**Lecture-Concert: From Archive to Sound – Italian-Jewish Musical Heritage in Practice** **Ensemble Nuria; Moderation: Tom Kellner**
20:30	**Reception and closing of the conference**