



Call for application

SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

ITALIAN JEWISH HERITAGE KNOWLEDGE, TRANSFER, AUTHORIZATION

Priority Program

Jewish Cultural Heritage SPP 2357

A trans-disciplinary and trans-local research initiative funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

The summer school invites German as well as Italian doctoral students and young post-doctoral researchers who work on Jewish cultural heritage in all its manifestations: from tangible remains of Jewish life to intangible forms of cultural and religious expressions of Jews in Europe. Focusing on the Jewish Heritage of Italy, which provides an exceptional case study due to its long history and strong biocultural nature, different working units attempt to pursue a dual objective:

- a. **Transferring knowledge on Italian-Jewish heritage, its research institutions, and heritage foundations:** The particular history of Jewish settlements on the Italian peninsula has given rise to a variety of local ritual practices, cultural traditions, and productions. Italy's Jewish Heritage survived until today in very different formats and with varying degrees of preservation and documentation. Despite some parts having completely disappeared (similar to Jewish heritage in most parts of Europe), some specifics of Italian-Jewish heritage are still very much alive, even outside Italy, and continually passed on to the younger generation. The aim is to familiarize students with the specific, thus exemplary measures for the preservation, restoration, mediation, and promotion of the Jewish Cultural Heritage in Italy (and beyond), following important questions:
 - Who are the actors and institutions behind Italy's Jewish heritage initiatives?
 - What resources do they provide?
 - Where and how can visitors learn about and experience Italy's Jewish heritage?
 - To what extent does Jewish heritage provide information about cultural inter-dependencies in Italy?
- b. **Conveying one of the key paradigms of Critical Heritage Studies, that is, 'Authorizations of Jewish Heritage':** Critical Heritage Studies are a transdisciplinary field of research dedicated to the promotion and development of the study of heritage as a social, cultural, economic, and political phenomenon and as an area of governmental and professional intervention with a focus on sustainability and social and cultural balance. Within this teaching unit, students will analyze and discuss how (Italian) Jewish Cultural Heritage is



authorized in complex discourses and social practices. Since Laurajane Smith's fundamental studies, informed by governmentality and hegemony critique, the research field of Heritage Studies has been sensitized to the constitution and effects of an "Authorised Heritage Discourse" (AHD). The teaching units pursue to address this perspective by focusing on the processuality of powerful ascriptions and negotiation processes around Jewish Heritage in general, and Italian Jewish heritage in particular. Inevitably, it implies a (temporal) historical dimension, as processes of authorization are constantly changing, adjusting to social and cultural-political transformations, being at times contingent. In this respect, (Italian) Jewish Heritage, like all cultural heritage, is to be understood as a palimpsest, wherein overlays, over-writings, formatting, or re-actualizations occur. The summer school aims to reveal the latter, to gain a better understanding of how Jewish Cultural Heritage is created, used as a multifaceted resource, interpreted in multiple voices and indeed ideologized.

The **working/teaching units** are provided by an international team of experts conducting interdisciplinary research, specializing in Jewish Culture and Cultural Heritage Studies.

Application Modalities:

Advanced Master students, Ph.D. candidates and junior practitioners working in this field are welcomed to apply for participation at the summer school. In order to apply, please send us the following information:

- Letter of motivation specifying your interest for taking part in the Summer School (half a page). You are welcome to briefly describe the project you are currently working on (half a page).
- Up-to-date CV

As the number of participants is limited to 24, the selection committee will review all applications and select participants based on the information provided. Kindly note that you may need to submit further documentation for participation (e. g. degree certificates).

Application deadline: June 31st, 2024.

Application submission:

Please send your applications via email to tom.kellner@hmtm-hannover.de at the coordination office of the SPP.

You may also send your questions related to the Summer School to this email.

Participation fees:

The summer school will be financially supported by the Priority Program on Jewish Cultural Heritage (SPP 2357). Accommodation and meals will be taken care of; however, there will be no dinner arrangements.



Note on data protection:

The Summer School is run by the Priority Program on Jewish Cultural Heritage (SPP 2357), funded by the German Research Foundation, located at the European Center for Jewish Music, Hanover University of Music, Drama, and Media, with kind cooperation of the Fondazione Ugo e Olga Levi in Venice. By submitting your application, you give your consent to the processing of your data by this consortium. Your data will only be used in the framework of the Summer School for the purpose of reviewing the application.

About the Priority Program

The priority program on Jewish Cultural Heritage, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), aims at scholars of different disciplines who research Jewish cultural heritage in Europe. Interdisciplinary teams of scholars critically examine the tangible and intangible issues of Jewish cultural heritage, including, but not limited to objects, contexts of origin, transmission, and innovation processes of Jewish heritage. The researchers of the program develop strategies to involve Jewish communities and institutions in heritagization processes of their heritage. Drawing from current insights and discourses in the field of Critical Heritage Studies (CHS), the overall objective of the project is to develop an understanding of the discursivities of European Jewish heritage and to support Jewish communities with means of empowerment. This involves the study of mechanisms that structure historical and contemporary relationships between Jewish heritage, society, and the relevant political, economic, religious, and cultural spheres in which Jewish heritage is lived and performed.