

SPP 2357 JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE

# Grand Forum 2024

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2–6 June 2024

POLIN Museum

Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute (JHI)

German Historical Institute Warsaw (GHI)



JEWISH  
CULTURAL  
HERITAGE

SPP 2357

Programme Book

## GRAND FORUM 2024

June 2—6, 2024

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### PROGRAM

#### Sunday, June 2, 2024 – Jewish Historical Institute (Tłomackie 3/5, 00–090 Warszawa)

18:00 Official Opening of the Grand Forum, welcome by *SPP Program Committee*

18:10–19:00 Welcome by *Michał Trębacz* (JHI), Greetings: *Ruth Leiserowitz* (GHI)

Introduction to place and heritage by *Anna Rosner* (JHI)

19:00–19:20 **Introduction: "Authorizations of Jewish Cultural Heritage"** (*Markus Tauschek*)

19:20–21:00 *Reception*

#### Monday, June 3, 2024 – POLIN Museum (Mordechaja Anielewicz 6, 00–157 Warszawa)

9:00–9:15 Welcome of the POLIN by *Jolanta Gumula*

9:15–10:00 **Francesco Spagnolo (Center for Jewish Studies, Berkeley) – Chair: Samuel Weigel**  
– **Keynote Lecture 1: "Synagogue Life and/as Cultural Heritage" – online**

10:00–10:15 *Miranda Crowds* (University Concordia) – Response to Keynote Lecture 1

10:15–10:30 Questions and discussion

10:30–11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00–12:45 **Public Panel Discussion I: "Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Museum: Collections, Participation and Ethical Aspects"**

*Eleonora Bergman* (JHI), *Alina Gromova* (Centrum Judaicum Berlin),  
*Renata Piątkowska* (POLIN Museum) – Moderation: *Ulrich Knufinke* (Bet Tfila)

12:45–14:15 *Lunch break*

14:30–16:30 Guided tour of the POLIN Museum (1 group German-speaking, 1 group English-speaking)

16:30–17:00 Plenary discussion 1: Reflections on the Core exhibition

17:00–17:30 *Break*

17:30–19:00 **Public Panel Discussion II: "Navigating Identities: Exploring Jewish World Heritage through the Lens of Critical Heritage Studies"**

*Joanna Król-Komła*, POLIN – *Lara Lempertiene*, Judaica Research Center of the Lithuanian National Library – *David Maier*, ShUM Cities – *Maria Stürzebecher*, Jewish World Heritage Erfurt – *Barbara Traub*, Jewish Educational Center Swabia  
Moderation: *Jessica Roda*, Center for Jewish Civilization, Washington, D.C.



## Tuesday, June 4, 2024 – City Tours + GHI Warsaw (Al. Ujazdowskie 39, 00–540 Warsaw)

- 9:00–12:00 1 group city tour through former ghetto, 1 group general city tour
- 12:00–14:00 Lunch break** (Internal meeting of the Junior Research Group: GHI Hall of Mirrors)
- 14:00–16:00 **Reflections of the Junior Research Group on the 2nd Annual Topic**  
*Frantz! Blessing – Neele Menter – Zuzanna Światowy – Mirko Przystawik – Sonja Dickow-Rotter – Laura Brüggemann – Tabea Henn – Susanne Weigand – Astrid Riedler-Pohlers – Laura Marie Steinhaus – Samuel Weigel*
- 16:00–18:00 General Break** (Internal meeting of the Junior Research Group: Library)
- Public Evening Lecture (GHI)**
- 18:00 Welcome and Introduction by *Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska* (GHI)
- 18:05–18:55 **Yfaat Weiss (Dubnow Institute/Hebrew University) – Chair:**  
 – **Keynote Lecture 2: "Tarbut im Derech Eretz. Jugend in Litauen"**  
 (German with simultaneous translation into Polish)
- 18:55–19:30 Questions and discussion
- 19:45 Reception**

## Wednesday, June 5, 2024 – POLIN Museum

- 9:30–10:15 **Elisabeth Punzi & Jenny Högstöröm Berntson (CCHS, University of Gothenburg) – Chair:** Mirko Przystawik / Tabea Henn  
 – **Keynote Lecture 3: "Heritage from below: Co-creating Jewish Narratives"**
- 10:15–10:30 *Jessica Roda* (Center for Jewish Civilization) – Response to Keynote Lecture 3
- 10:30–10:45 Questions and discussion
- 10:45–11:00 Coffee break**
- 11:00–12:00 **Sandra Anusiewicz-Baer (Berlin) – Chair:** Frantz! Blessing  
 – **Keynote Lecture 4: "Jewish Education in the Past and its Relevance as Heritage for the Present"**
- 12:00–12:15 *Michael Daxner* (Potsdam/Salzburg) – Response
- 12:15–12:30 Questions and discussion
- 12:30–14:00 Lunch break**
- 14:00–15:30 Workshop with Sacha Kagan, Part I  
 (*Jewish Village Triangles: Reflecting on 'Authorizations of Jewish Heritage' through an embodied systems game workshop*)
- 15:45–16:00 Coffee break**
- 16:00–18:00 Workshop with Sacha Kagan, Part II

## Thursday, June 6, 2024 – GHI Warsaw

- 9:00–11:00 Cluster Meetings
- 11:00–11:15 Coffee break**
- 11:15–11:45 Organizational announcements, outlook 2024/2025
- 11:45 End of conference

## ABSTRACTS

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### Public Panel Discussion

#### I Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Museum Collections, Participation and Ethical Aspects

The Jewish museums invited to the panel differ in the history of their establishment, their collections. In the panel we want to discuss the challenge for museums not only to collect Jewish heritage, but to care for it, popularize it and, most importantly, transmit the values contained in the collection. The questions, therefore, relate to building and expanding collections in historical and social contexts, genre (tangible and digital collections) and collection-related activities. Each institution participating in the museum grapples with different challenges, including the ethical biography of objects – the questions all institutions have to ask themselves are: why are particular objects in the collection, what rights do we have to use or share them? Museum collections are not neutral mirrors of society. Museums decide what to collect and what not to collect, whose heritage to include and whose to leave out. Therefore, museums themselves play an active role in *doing* heritage. So the overall question is: How can museums establish relevance between their collections and a society that has changed dramatically over the last forty years?

Eleonora Bergman, JHI

Alina Gromova, Centrum Judaicum Berlin

Renata Piątkowska, POLIN Museum

Moderation: Ulrich Knufinke, Bet Tfila

#### II Navigating Identities

##### Exploring Jewish World Heritage through the Lens of Critical Heritage Studies

The meanings of Jewish heritage change as society changes. Therefore, one of the central questions at the heart of the panel discussion is what significance Jewish cultural heritage has for the present and what relevance can it have in the future. Based on recent initiatives around Jewish (world) heritage in Germany and elsewhere, the panel discussion will take a critical look at the representation and communication of the complexity of tangible and intangible Jewish heritage and its intertwining not only with the multiple dimensions of Jewish identities but also non-Jewish identities. What significance does Jewish heritage have for the cities that are home to it and for their tourist appeal? What role does it play in the everyday lives of the inhabitants of these cities, what role does it play for the local Jewish communities?

The panelists will discuss how Jewish heritage is defined, preserved, communicated, and interpreted in today's society. The complexity of Jewish cultural heritage will be scrutinized against the backdrop of concepts such as authenticity, representation, and power dynamics, which are not only linked to measures for preserving Jewish heritage but also to narratives that arise around Jewish heritage. In particular, the embedding of Jewish heritage in the culture of Holocaust commemoration shapes today's understanding of Jewish cultural heritage. Thus, the discussion critically assesses how different stakeholders, including communities, institutions, and governments, negotiate the politics of heritage preservation and interpretation.

Ultimately, this panel aims to promote a deeper understanding of the complexities of Jewish heritage and to chart new directions for scholarship, cultural policy, and dialog in the field of





Critical Heritage Studies. By focusing on marginalized voices and challenging dominant narratives, the discussion aims to enrich our collective understanding of Jewish identity, Jewish/non-Jewish relations, and cultural heritage in a rapidly changing world.

Joanna Król-Komła, POLIN, Head of Digital Collections and Resource Center  
 Lara Lempertienė, Head of Judaica Research Center at the Documentary Heritage Department,  
 National Library of Lithuania (Lithuanian National Martynas Mažvydas Library)  
 David Maier, ShUM Cities, Cultural Coordinator Worms  
 Maria Stürzebecher, Jewish World Heritage Erfurt  
 Barbara Traub, Jewish Educational Center Swabia  
 Moderation: Jessica Roda, Center for Jewish Civilization, Washington, D.C.

## Keynotes

### Francesco Spagnolo: Synagogue Life and/as Cultural Heritage (online)

Synagogues, as architectural spaces, have long entered the canon of "Jewish cultural heritage" and are often the object of both study, preservation, and visitation. Many synagogues have also become "museums" in their own right, hosting and informing displays about Jewish history, life, and culture. In many cases, including across Europe, synagogues are no longer, or very seldom, sites of active Jewish life. Yet, synagogues exist primarily as sites for prayer, study, and assembly, and as such essential institutions in the economy of Jewish life. In this keynote presentation, "synagogue life" will be discussed through the many cultures that inform it – including space and architecture, language and literature, sound and music, material culture and ritual objects, and the choreography of ritual – as a dynamic multi-mediatic arena. The presentation will thus highlight how the study and preservation of Jewish cultural heritage can be enhanced by centering synagogue life as a crucial aspect of the heritage itself.

Francesco Spagnolo (Ph.D. Hebrew University 2007) is the Curator of The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life and an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Department of Music at the University of California, Berkeley. A multidisciplinary scholar focusing on Jewish studies, music, and digital media, he intersects textual, visual, and musical cultures, contributing to academia, cultural heritage institutions, and live and electronic media in Europe, Israel, and the US.

### Yfaat Weiss: Tarbut im Derech Eretz. Jugend in Litauen

*German with simultaneous translation into Polish*

Während der Zwischenkriegszeit genossen die Juden in Litauen bekanntlich kulturelle Autonomie. In den Jahren 1919–1926, ehe Litauen tiefgreifende politische Veränderungen durchlief, war die dortige Freiheit für die Entfaltung jüdischer Kultur und Bildung im Vergleich zu anderen osteuropäischen Ländern sehr weitreichend. Aber auch danach florierte das jüdische Leben in Litauen bis zum Beginn des Zweiten Weltkrieg – allerdings unter erschwerten Bedingungen. Aufbauend auf der eigenen jüdischen lokalen Tradition seit der Haskala entstand dort ein umfassendes Schulwesen: „Tarbut“, das auf Hebräisch geführte Netzwerk jüdisch-säkularer Bildung entwickelte sich in Litauen zum bestimmenden Faktor. In absoluten Zahlen besuchten die Tarbut-Einrichtungen im kleinen Litauen bei weitem mehr Kinder und Jugendliche als im zehnfach größeren benachbarten Polen.

Basierend auf der zunehmenden Zahl von Juden, die ihre Kinder unter wirtschaftlichem Druck in den 1930er Jahren in allgemeinen Schulen unterrichten ließen, schrieb der große Osteuropa-Historiker Ezra Mendelson in seinem Buch *Jews in East Central Europe between the Wars*, folgendes: „We may assume that had independent Lithuania existed for another twenty years a situation similar to that which prevailed in interwar Poland would have come to pass, with a minority of politically and culturally committed parents sending their offspring to Jewish national

schools while most attended institutions of the majority culture. In this regard, Lithuania provides additional evidence that the ambitious programs of those who believed in extraterritorial autonomy for the Jewish nation in East Europe were built on sand.”

Im Gegensatz zur Einschätzung eines zionistischen Telos, wird anhand einer Fülle von textuellen, materiellen und visuellen Materialien, deren Lokalisierung Teil des Vortrags ist, der Versuch unternommen, das Phänomen der hebräischen Jugend in Litauen in der Zwischenkriegszeit von seinem Ursprung und nicht von seinem Ende – durch den unterdrückenden Kommunismus und den vernichtenden Nationalsozialismus – zu beschreiben.

Since April 2017, Yfaat Weiss has been Director of the Dubnow Institute and Professor of Modern History, in particular Jewish History, at the University of Leipzig. She has been Professor of Jewish History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem since 2008 and headed the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Centre for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History from 2010 to 2017.

### **Elisabeth Punzi & Jenny Högström Berntson: Heritage from below. Co-creating Jewish Narratives**

In this talk we present our experiences of working in an interdisciplinary team within the Centre for Critical Heritage Studies at the University of Gothenburg (CCHS), especially focusing work concerning Jewish cultural heritage in Sweden. CCHS wants to problematize what heritage is and how heritage and perceptions of heritage are experienced and used within various social arenas today. The purpose of the research is to present alternative and critical interpretations of cultural heritage and to investigate how the past can be used in the present to create the future.

By focusing on how heritage can be studied and built from below, our approach to heritage aims to be inclusive and go beyond the “authorized heritage discourse” (Smith 2006). This includes how we as academics can work together with museums, organizations, congregations, and those who are “carriers” of heritage to study and recognize material as well as immaterial forms of heritage. Societal outreach is an integral part of the center’s policy and goal, and the purpose is to contribute to a sustainable society in the future. This is done for example via different research communication projects like the podcast *Inside the Box*, and the podcast *Matarvspodden* (Culinary Heritage Podcast). In 2024 we launch the new podcast *Schmus! Jewish Cultural Heritage in Sweden*.

We will share our experiences of the possibilities and challenges with interdisciplinary work with critical heritage studies and provide some examples of our work which mostly concern displaced or neglected narratives. Examples will include projects such as the podcast *Schmus! Jewish Cultural Heritage in Sweden*, material and immaterial heritage from survivors of the Holocaust, and new music composed for Yiddish poems written by Anna Margolin which connects to Yiddish as cultural heritage in Sweden. We will introduce critical heritage studies and in relation to that also briefly present projects concerning the heritage of madness and psychiatry, and sites of conscience.

Elisabeth Punzi, clinical psychologist, and associate professor of psychology at the Department of Social Work and Centre for Critical Heritage Studies, University of Gothenburg.

Jenny Högström Berntson, coordinator, Centre for Critical Heritage Studies and the Heritage Academy, University of Gothenburg.

### **Sandra Anusiewicz-Baer: Jewish Education in the Past and its Relevance as Heritage for the Present**

In 1932, the Private Waldschule Kaliski, short PriWaKi opened its doors as a Reform school in the West of Berlin. Its founder, Charlotte Kaliski (1908–1995) was a visionary, a courageous



woman and at the same time a pragmatic realist. Their school existed until 1939 when it was forced to close down by the Nazis.

Among the five Jewish schools in the well situated, rather secular and well-educated part of Berlin, PriWaKi was both: the normal school for the upper-middle class, and an exception. The very special role of the school and its founders, staff and students has two main aspects: the survival of the school during the Nazi period from 1933 until 1939, and the incredible survival of the majority of its students. 93% of the students survived, most of them could leave Germany. This makes the school exceptional among its Jewish institutional siblings. The other exceptional quality of the school was its extraordinary combination of Jewish aspects, of educational reform strategies, and of an early environmental and ecological concern.

The keynote will address the following questions: Can we distil a Jewish pedagogy from the legacy of PriWaKi that incorporates and conveys concepts such as resilience and sustainability? How can we activate the school's specific heritage when eyewitnesses no longer exist? Where do Reform pedagogy, ecology/environmentalism and Jewish values intersect to enable us to make the heritage of the past relevant for the present?

Sandra Anusiewicz-Baer is a Berlin based Jewish educator. She holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in education, Jewish studies and Islamic studies. She served as head of the educational department and later as the head of the cultural department of the Jewish community in Berlin before she left to pursue her doctoral studies in education. Her dissertation about the alumni of the Jewish High School in Berlin (*The Jewish Gymnasium in Berlin: Identity and Jewish Schooling since 1993*) was awarded the Humboldt-Prize. Most recently she worked as the coordinator of the Zacharias Frankel College, a rabbinical seminary established in 2013 to train Masorti/conservative rabbis.

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## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Workshop:**

***Constructions of Jewish Cultural Heritage in Fictional Texts on Architecture, City, and Space***

June 26–27, 2024

Warburg-Haus, Hamburg

### **SPP 2357 SUMMER SCHOOL 2024**

***Italian Jewish Heritage. Knowledge, Transfer, Authorizations***

September 15–19, 2024

Fondazione Ugo e Olga Levi, Venice (IT)

*(application deadline: June 30, 2024)*

### **Interdisciplinary Conference:**

***On the Polyphony of Jewish Heritage: Negotiations, Constructions, Authorisations***

11–13 February 2025

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg i.Br.

