

Conference

JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE INDIAN OCEAN: EVIDENCE FROM MATERIAL CULTURE

Research on the written and material sources for Jewish-Christian interaction in medieval and early modern times has been, for the most part, focused on Western Europe and the Byzantine Empire. In these areas, Jews lived as a minority under Christian rule. In contrast, in regions to the east of the Byzantine Empire, from the eastern Mediterranean to Central Asia, the Red Sea and India, Jews and Christians interacted, in some cases, on different terms: Jews and Christians as two minority groups; Jews and Christians as two sovereign entities; and "imagined" Jews, appearing in Christian texts, artistic representations and discourse in regions where Jews may not have existed.

Up to the present, research on Jewish-Christian interaction east of the Byzantine Empire in medieval and early modern times (ca. 600-1800 CE) has tended to focus on textual evidence. This conference will examine the ways in which material culture can shed light on this interaction. The regions which will be addressed include the Near East, the Caucasus, Central Asia, China, India and the Horn of Africa.

Research Project JewsEast

JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE EAST: STRATEGIES OF INTERACTION BETWEEN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE INDIAN OCEAN

The encounters and interactions between Jews and Christians in the Middle East, Ethiopia, India and the Caucasus, which have hitherto been only insufficiently researched, is the subject matter of the project *Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean* (JewsEast).

One of the main premises of JewsEast is that in order to obtain a truly accurate understanding of the dynamics of Jewish-Christian relations in the non-Latin world during the Middle Ages and early modern period, these various regions and traditions must be studied together because they were all profoundly interconnected through the exchange and translation of texts, artistic motifs and techniques, and other goods, via long-distance trade along the 'silk road', the Mediterranean, and the Indian Ocean, which, of course, also entailed the movement and encounter of peoples, Jews and Christians among them.

Tuesday, 26 March 2019

11:00 - 11:30 **WELCOME ADDRESS & INTRODUCTION**
Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum, PI JewsEast)
Bar Kribus (Bochum, Team Member JewsEast)

11:30 - 01:00 **Session 1: The Caucasus and Asia Minor I**
Chair: Kianoosh Rezania (Bochum)

Judeo-Christian Theory 2.0: Georgia
Yana Tchehanovetz (Tel Aviv)

Anatolian Jewish and Christian Religious Buildings (12th-15th c. CE): Case Studies from Material Culture
Yunus Demirci (Jerusalem)

The Jewish Cemetery in Eghegis, Southern Armenia seen in its Cultural Context
Michael Stone (Jerusalem)

01:00 - 02:30 **LUNCH**

02:30 - 04:00 **Session 2: The Caucasus and Asia Minor II**
Chair: Zara Pogossian (Bochum, Project Coordinator JewsEast)

Medieval Eghegis (Vayots' Dzor - Armenia): First Results of the 2018 Light Archaeological Survey
Michele Nucciotti (Florence)

The Jewish Tombstones at Eghegis (Armenia) and their Sculptural Decorations
Edda Vardanyan (Yerevan/Paris)

New Iconographies of the Passion of Christ: The Jews in two Armenian Miniatures of Vaspurakan (Yerevan mss. 4806 and 4818)
Rachele Zanone (Rome)

04:00 - 04:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

04:30 - 06:00 **Discussion 1: Jews and Christians in the Caucasus**

06:00 **DINNER**

Wednesday, 27 March 2019

09:00 - 10:30 **Session 3: The Middle East**
Chair: Alexandra Cuffel (Bochum, PI JewsEast)

Notes on the Representation of the Jews in Coptic Monastic Wall Paintings
Gawdat Gabra (Claremont, CA)

Black Writing Inks in the 11th-12th Centuries
Ira Rabin (Hamburg)

The Historical and Archaeological Context of the *History of the Likeness of Christ*, a Christian Polemic Against the Jews of Tiberias
Barbara Roggema & Bar Kribus (Bochum, Team Members JewsEast)

10:30 - 11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 - 12:00 **Introduction of JCR-MIO and the Interactive Map**

12:00 - 01:30 **LUNCH**

01:30 - 03:00 **Session 4: India and South Arabia**
Chair: Ophira Gamliel (Glasgow, Associated Researcher JewsEast)

Horned Moses in Bombay: European Visual Culture in the Folk Art of the Jews of India
Shalom Sabar (Jerusalem)

Entangled Identities: Investigating "Jewish-Christian" Sacred Spaces vis-à-vis that of the Contemporary Religious Communities in Early Modern Kerala, South India
Percy Arfeen (Bochum)

Which Christians were in Arabia of the 5th and 6th Centuries of the Christian Era?
Christian Robin (Paris)

03:00 - 03:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

03:30 - 06:00 **Discussion 2: Jews and Christians in West and South Asia**

06:00 **DINNER**

Thursday, 28 March 2019

09:00 - 10:30 **Session 5: Ethiopia**
Chair: Verena Krebs (Bochum, Associated Researcher JewsEast)

Old Testament Scenes in Ethiopian Manuscripts
Jacopo Gnisci (Oxford)

True Affinities and Imagined Enmities. Between Jewish Customs in Ethiopian Christianity and Christian Prejudices
Dorothea McEwan (London)

The Betä ʾĪsra'el (Ethiopian Jewish) Monastery of Qolqwaloč – Results of the October 2017 Survey Season
Sophia Dege-Müller & Bar Kribus (Bochum, Team Members JewsEast)

10:30 - 11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 - 12:00 **Session 6: South Arabia and Ethiopia**
Chair: Barbara Roggema (Bochum, Team Member JewsEast)

Jews and their Relations with Christians in Pre-Islamic South Arabia (4th-6th Century)
Iwona Gajda (Paris)

The Palace of the Hairy King: An Ethiopian Political and Religious Riddle
Manoel João Ramos (Lisbon)

12:00 - 01:30 **LUNCH**

01:30 - 01:45 **Concluding Remarks**
Zara Pogossian (Bochum, Project Coordinator JewsEast)

01:45 - 03:00 **General Discussion**

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Sponsors



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission



This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 725519).

Partners



26 - 28 March 2019
Center for Religious Studies (CERES)
Ruhr-Universität Bochum