

ReIReS School Use and Study of Special Documents in Hamburg

This document presents the program of the ReIReS Use and Study of Special Documents Course organized by the University of Hamburg, June 15–17, 2021.

Introduction

The School will focus on the use and the study of special documents of the University of Hamburg, with special regard to Jewish manuscripts. The Institute of Jewish Philosophy and Religion together with the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies offer to the starting community a well ruled system of hosting scholars and researchers as well as open access to several tools and facilities in the field of Jewish Studies. We will learn about the research infrastructure at Hamburg, gaining insight to the work of different institutions such as the Institute for the History of the German Jews, the Academy of World Religions and the Centre for the Study of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC). At the CSMC we will be given the chance to visit the manuscripts labs and learn about different technologies applied to current case studies.

We will spend a (virtual) day at the Universitäts- und Staatsbibliothek Hamburg, which holds a precious collection of Hebrew manuscripts (Cod. Hebr. and Cod. Levy), as well as the library of the Jewish Community. We will gain insight into the history and management of different collections, as well as the study of Hebraica and Judaica in past and present.

The participants will learn of the story and the preservation of special collections and archives: Both through the recently established Yiddish library Salomo-Birnbaum-Bibliothek at the University of Hamburg, and through an overview to the impressive digitizing projects and the shift in scholarly approach in the last decade at the National Library of Israel.

Dates

June 15–17, 2021

Location

Online

Organising Institution

University of Hamburg



Contact

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Trainers

- Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Veltri
- Dr. Anna Menny
- Dr. Anna Körs
- Dr. Katrin Janz-Wenig
- Maria Kesting
- Dr. Irina Wandrey
- Dr. Michael Kohs
- Dr. Sebastian Bosch
- Dr. Michael Studemund-Halévy
- Prof. Dr. Guido Bartolucci
- Dr. Stefan Litt
- Dr. Lilian Türk

Specific Learning Goals

Participants will be able to

- understand the history, organization and management of archival materials and special collections in the field of Jewish Studies
- become familiar with the process of restoration and preservation of Jewish manuscripts;
- discover the uniqueness of some research tools and search opportunities
- learn about the study of Judaica and Hebraica in past and present

Unique Contribution to the ReIReS Training Programme

In the framework of this 3-day School our intention is to join the expertise of the use and study of special documents in the field of Jewish and Religious Studies.

1. The Research Infrastructure on Jewish and Religious Studies in Hamburg
2. The Study of Hebraica and Judaica in Hamburg's Past and Present, and
3. Special Documents: Archives and Accessibility

Programme

June 15, 2021	10:00–10:15 Welcome and Introduction
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Katharina Hillmann and Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Veltri

10:15–10:30

Introduction to ReIReS

Karla Boersma, Theological University of Apeldoorn

I. The Research Infrastructure on Jewish and Religious Studies in Hamburg

10:30–11:15

The Institute for the History of the German Jews (IGdJ): Introduction to the Key Documents

The IGdJ offers many different digital projects and digital archives. In the frame of this School, we would like to consider the special case of one of the biggest digital archives of documents of German-Jewish History produced in the IGdJ, the Key Documents of German-Jewish History. This online source edition published by the IGdJ uses a selection of sources, so-called key documents, to thematically highlight central aspects in Hamburg's Jewish history from the early modern age to the present. This source edition is a model project for testing and improving existing digital infrastructures. The project takes advantage of open source solutions and integrates common standard formats for digital edition.

Trainer: Anna Menny

11:15–12:00

The Academy of World Religions

The Academy of World Religions at Hamburg University is the institutional home for research, teaching and contributions to society in the area of interreligious dialogue. It embraces a dialogical approach that concerns itself not only with religions coexisting but also with their interacting.

Trainer: Anna Körs

12:00–13:00

Lunchbreak

13:0–17:00

The Centre of the Studies of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC)

Based on the work of the DFG-Research Group 963 - "Manuscript Cultures in Asia and Afrika" (2008-2011) the Centre for the Studies of Manuscript Cultures (CSMC) is engaged in fundamental research, investigating from both a historical and comparative perspective, based on material artifacts, the empirical diversity of manuscript cultures. It will establish a new paradigm that is distinct from the



	<p>research on manuscripts undertaken until now, which has been limited in its approach by region and discipline. On one hand, the cultural dependency of what has usually been considered given will particularly be brought into question, and on the other hand, universal categories and characteristics of manuscript cultures will be delineated, as one possible result of the comparative research. The great variety of fields and disciplines, as well as the large number of cultures under investigation will ensure that unreflected attitudes, such as considering historically contingent European developments to be generally legitimate, or naive dichotomies ("East-West"), considered self-evident not only in Europe, but also in Asia and Africa, are surmounted. Long-term goals include the establishment of an interdisciplinary research field dealing with general manuscript studies, and the development of sustainable and functional tools.</p> <p>Trainers: Irina Wandrey: Introduction to the CSMC Michael Kohs, Sebastian Bosch: Research at the CSMC</p>
June 16, 2021	<p>II. The Study of Hebraica and Judaica in Hamburg's Past and Present</p> <p>10:00–13:00 Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg The Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg owns about 8,100 medieval and non-European manuscripts from various thematic areas. The history of the manuscript collection goes back to the beginnings of the library more than 500 years ago. Increasingly supported by foundations of Hamburg citizens and scholars, the collection is distinguished primarily by extensive material on European and Hamburg history of science and education, the history of the Reformation and the North German Enlightenment. Among them there is an impressive collection of about 550 Hebrew manuscripts (signatures Cod. hebr. and Cod. Levy, respectively), among them 235 valuable Hebraic works from the collection of the Frankfurt scholar Zacharias Konrad von Uffenbach (1683-1734) and 174 manuscripts from the collection of the Jewish lawyer Hajjim Baruk Levy, purchased in 1906.</p> <p>Trainers: Katrin Janz-Wenig, Irina Wandrey: Introduction to the Collection Michael Studemund-Halévy: The Sephardic Manuscripts – A Case Study</p> <p>Hands-on-Session: Researching the Catalogue</p> <p>13:00–14:00 Lunchbreak</p>



	<p>14:00–15:00</p> <p>The Early Christian Hebraists in Hamburg: The Work and Manuscripts of Theodor Dassov</p> <p>Trainer: Guido Bartolucci</p> <p>15:30–17:00</p> <p>The Library of the Jewish Community in Hamburg and its Story</p> <p>The library of the Jewish community (Bibliothek der Jüdischen Gemeinde) in Hamburg is one of the very few libraries saved from the persecutions in Germany. The collection holds about 13,000 volumes in German, Hebrew and Yiddish. Particularly valuable are 3,000 Hebrew volumes from the 17th and 18th centuries. Through this old Hebraica collection, one can draw a short history of Hebrew printing in the Ashkenazic-Jewish area. The collection also contains a large number of Halacha works, a large assortment of different rabbinic bibles (Mikra'ot Gedolot) and works of Midrash and illustrated bilingual Bibles. We will learn about strategies, resistance and preservation during the centuries until today.</p> <p>Trainer: Maria Kesting</p>
<p>June 17, 2021</p>	<p>III. Special Documents: Archives and Accessibility</p> <p>9:30–11:00</p> <p>Salomo-Birnbaum-Library</p> <p>On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the University of Hamburg, the Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion opened the partial library for Yiddish language and literature. In 1922, the UHH was the first Western European university to offer a teaching position for Yiddish. This was given to Dr. Salomo Birnbaum (1891-1989), who taught and researched at the local university until he had to leave in 1933. In 1986, the historian Günter Marwedel (1928-1993), who was researching Jewish history in the Hamburg area, began to establish the partial library at the IGdJ in honour of its namesake Salomo Birnbaum. At that time, he and Dorothea Greve (1955-2016) taught Yiddish language and literature at the IGdJ. In 1995, the Salomo Birnbaum Society for Yiddish was founded, which was dedicated to imparting knowledge of the Yiddish language and literature.</p> <p>The collection brings together two previously separate holdings and makes them accessible. It extends the older Solomon Birnbaum Library at the IGdJ by the Yiddish collection Dorothea Greve, which is property of the Solomon Birnbaum Society. The estates of Dorothea Greve, Dörte Friedrichs and Ingeborg Hartmeyer were incorporated into this younger collection. In total, the extended Salomo-Birnbaum-Library comprises about 3000 volumes, which are accessible in new rooms at Rothenbaumchaussee 34.</p> <p>Trainer: Dr. Lilian Türk</p> <p>11:00–11:30</p>



Break

11:30–13:00

A Decade of Digitization at the National Library of Israel

When the National Library of Israel (NLI) commenced its process of renewal in 2011, digitizing archives was still a rare phenomenon. Shortly before, a first step was taken in cooperation with the Institute for Jewish Studies at Halle University (Leopold Zunz Archive). However, back then the library systems have not yet been able to disseminate large quantities of digitized items in easy ways. Therefore, the result was and is still presented to the public on a separate website. Today, NLI offers countless digital archival items on its own catalog site and the quantities are constantly growing. The presentation will focus on digitizing projects of the last decade, beginning with the Zunz-project, and including those of the Stefan Zweig Collection and the Max Brod Archive. As projects of this kind do not focus solely on technical matters, the presentation will touch as well legal considerations (copyrights), which have to be cleared prior to the first scan. As possible legal restrictions concerning the use of the materials have a strong effect on the ways of dissemination, copyright clearance is an important part of any strategic planning in archives.

Trainer: Dr. Stefan Litt

13:30

Feedback & Goodbye