

The Asian Sphere: Trans-Cultural Flows
An Inter-University Graduate Program

The University of Haifa and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

International Conference on

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN MODERN ASIA

CULTURAL CONTACTS IN HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday–Wednesday, 24-25 April, 2018 | Ofer Observatory, Eshkol Tower (fl. 30), The University of Haifa

DAY I

09:00–09:45 Registration

09:45–10:00 Greetings

Rotem Kowner, The Asian Sphere Program

Ithamar Theodor, The Program for Hindu-Jewish Studies

10:00–12:00 Session I

Community and Political Activity in China, 1900-1950

Chair: Gideon Shelach-Lavi, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Discussant: Shakhbar Rahav, University of Haifa, Israel

Joshua Fogel, York University, Canada

The Jewish Community of Harbin: An Overview

Yitzhak Shichor, University of Haifa and the Hebrew University, Israel

Fateful Attraction: Jewish Activists in China's Communist Revolution

Gabriel N. Finder, University of Virginia, USA

Jakob Rosenfeld: A Jewish Doctor in Mao Zedong's People's Liberation Army

Lunch

13:30–15:30 Session II

Jewish History and Identity in Present-Day China and Beyond

Chair: Michal Biran, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

Discussant: Nimrod Baranovitch, University of Haifa, Israel

Noam Urbach, Bar Ilan University, Israel

Jews and Other 'Others': A Comparative Discussion on the Status of Jews/Judaism in China

Xu Xin, Nanjing University, China

Renewed Jewish Communities in China: The Case of Ohel Yisrael Shanghai Jewish Center

Gideon Elazar, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Finding Lost Jews in Asia: The Search for Restored Authenticity

Coffee break

16:00–18:00 Session III

Long Legacies and Emerging Communities

Chair: Eyal Ginio, The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem, Israel

Discussant: Rotem Kowner, University of Haifa, Israel

Jonathan Goldstein, University of West Georgia, USA

A Jewish Community Founded and Based on the Opium Trade: Singapore, 1795-2018

Leonard Chrysostomos, Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies, Indonesia

The Emergence of New Jewish Identity in the Post-Reformation Indonesia

Meron Medzini, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

The Emergence of New Jewish Communities in Asia—The Israelis

18:10–19:00 Session IV

Keynote Lecture

Nathan Katz, Florida International University, USA

The Study of Jewish Communities in India: The State of the Art

Reception at the University of Haifa

DAY II

10:00–12:30 Session V

Jewish Migration and Cultural Life in Central and Soviet Asia

Chair: Guy Podoler, University of Haifa, Israel

Discussant: Gur Alroey, University of Haifa, Israel

Thomas Loy, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany

Permanent Migration? The Jews of Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iran

Vladimir Levin & Anna Berezin, Hebrew University, Israel

Jewish Colonization of the Asiatic Russia (Siberia) and Its Architectural Expression

Chen Bram, Truman Institute, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Hadassah College, Israel
Boundaries, Local Identity and Mutual 'Soft' Resistance: Jewish-Muslim Relations in Soviet Central Asia

Anna P. Ronell, Tufts University, USA

Jewish Literary Responses to Central Asia: From Grogory Kanovich to Dina Rubina

Lunch

Transfer to Education Building, Room #570

14:00–16:00 Session VI

Jews and Culture in India

Chair: Yoram Evron, University of Haifa, Israel

Discussant: Ithamar Theodor, University of Haifa, Israel

Yulia Egorova, Durham University, United Kingdom

India, Communalism and Tropes of Jewish-Muslim

Yudit K. Greenberg, Rollins College, USA

The Formative Role of Jewish Indian Women in Bollywood and Their Influence on Gender Roles in 20th Century India

James Ponniah, University of Madras, India

Adoption of Caste by the Foreign Faith Communities in India: A Means for Cultural Integration or Religious Alienation?

Coffee break

16:00–18:00 Session VII

Jewish Identity in British Asia

Chair: Itzhak Weismann, University of Haifa, Israel

Discussant: Arik Moran, University of Haifa, Israel

Margit Franz, University of Graz, Austria

Knowledge and Technology Transfer, Modernisation, and Regional Development: German-Speaking Jewish Exile to British India 1933-1945

Amos Lim Wei Wang, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

The Effects of Decolonization upon the Baghdadi-Jewish Diaspora in British Colonies

Menashe Anzi, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel

Yemenite Jews in India and Indian Jews in Yemen

Dinner for participants

Background photo: Shanghai Jewish school, 1946. Source: Rebecca Toueg