



Tradition, Transformation, and Identity: The Turkish Sephardic Community Between Two Homelands

27 November 2024, Potsdam

Am Neuen Palais 10, Haus 8, Raum 0.56

We are pleased to announce an upcoming workshop titled “**Tradition, Transformation, and Identity: The Turkish Sephardic Community Between Two Homelands**”, which will be held on **November 27, 2024**, under the auspices of the University of Potsdam's Institute for Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. This event will bring together scholars and researchers to explore the multifaceted historical and contemporary experiences of Sephardic Jews in Turkey and Israel, focusing on the transformations within cultural traditions, identities, and diaspora dynamics from the 1920s to the present day.

The workshop will delve into the ways in which Sephardic Jewish identity has evolved amidst shifting socio-political landscapes, both for those who remained in Turkey and for those who emigrated to Israel. Discussions will include the nuanced dynamics of Jewish diaspora life between Turkey and Israel in the mid-20th century, the political and cultural strategies of identity preservation among the Turkish Sephardim, and the role of collective memory in shaping identity and community cohesion. The workshop will also consider how nostalgia, in its varying interpretations across Turkey and Israel, intersects with these transformations, offering insights into the nuanced relationship between life cycle events and identity formation within the Sephardic communities.

This workshop aims to foster an academic dialogue around the distinctive historical and cultural position of the Turkish Sephardic community. Through examining transformations in traditions, identity adaptations, and cross-border relationships, we hope to contribute nuanced perspectives to ongoing research in Jewish studies, diaspora studies, and identity formation. We invite students, scholars, and those interested in these fields to join us in discussing these complex and evolving dynamics within the Turkish Sephardic experience.

Please note that attendance is limited to 40 participants. To register, please send an email to Adem Muzaffer Erol at erol.muzaffer@gmail.com. Registration will be confirmed via email on a first-come, first-served basis.

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13:00 - 13:15: Greetings and Opening Remarks of the Organizers

Prof. Dr. Sina Rauschenbach and Adem Muzaffer Erol

13:15 - 14:15: Dr. Tamir Karkason, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (A joint project with Dr. Aviad Moreno, Ben-Gurion University)

The Jewish Diaspora Between Israel and Turkey in the 1950s

14:15 - 14:30: Coffee Break

14:30 - 15:30: Ph.D. Adem Muzaffer Erol, Potsdam University

Politics, Memory, Migration: The Kayades Identity Strategy of Sephardim from Turkey

15:30 - 16:30: To be Confirmed

Revisiting Nostalgia: Exploring and Teaching Through the Memories of the Turkish Jewish Community

16:30 - 16:45: Coffee Break

16:45 - 17:45: Ph.D. Belin Benezra Yensarfati, Leiden University and Boğaziçi University.

The Transformation and (Reinvented) Traditions of Social and Religious Life Cycle Events of the Sephardi Community of Istanbul

17:45 - 18:00: Closing Remarks

To find directions to the Potsdam University Neuen Palais Campus, please scan the QR code below.

