

**11th Congress of the EAJS**

**15 - 19 July 2018 - Krakow**

# **EAJS EMERGE**

## **- Abstracts Book -**

**0.6.I/II – EAJS Emerge I – Tuesday 17 July, 11.30-13.00**  
Pedagogical University of Cracow, Ingardena 4, room 407

**0.6.II/II – EAJS Emerge II – Wednesday 18 July, 17.00-19.00**  
Pedagogical University of Cracow, Ingardena 4, room 407

EAJS Emerge provides a forum for EAJS (post)graduate student members and emerging scholars to discuss their research with one another and to engage with more senior academics. There will be two sessions of flash presentations followed by discussions and networking. Each session will begin with PhD flash presentations, followed by Early Career Researchers sharing their experiences. The first session will conclude with a discussion about funding and the second session will conclude with an opportunity for networking. All conference attendees are welcome to attend these sessions. For more details, please email [eajs.students@gmail.com](mailto:eajs.students@gmail.com). Convened by EAJS interns: **Katja Grosse-Sommer** (College for Jewish Studies, Heidelberg, Germany), **Nethanel Treves** (University of Bologna, Italy), **Rebekah Vince** (University of Warwick, UK).

## 0.6.I/II EAJS Emerge I

Tuesday 17 July, 11.30-13.00  
Pedagogical University of Cracow,  
Ingardena 4, room 407

/// I. PHD FLASH PRESENTATIONS

### A) TEXT AND SPEECH

**Tobias Junker** (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)  
*Resh Laqish from Text to Text. Functions of Irony within Yerushalmi and Bavli*

**Lily Lerman** (Cambridge University/British Library, UK)  
*Modern Oral Versions of Toledot Yeshuvot*

**Maria Giuseppina Mascolo** (Paris-Sorbonne University, France)  
*Hebrew epigraphy in Cesare Colafemmina's Archive*

**Magdalena Janosikova** (Queen Mary London, UK)  
*Composing Hebrew Medical Literature in the Late Renaissance: Medicine in Life and Work of Eliezer Eilburg*

### B) NATION, NARRATION, NEGOTIATION

**Nathalia Schomerus** (University of Potsdam, Germany)  
*The Secession of Modern Orthodox Kehillot in 19th century Germany*

**Rose Stair** (University of Oxford, UK)  
*Narrating Jewish History in Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany*

**Jonna Rock** (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany)  
*Negotiating Germanness, Jewishness and Russianness in an era of changing social boundaries: A study of identity formation amongst Russlanddeutsche, Russian Jews and ethnic Russians in Berlin*

### 2. LIFE AFTER THE PHD

**Early career researchers share their experiences**

**Michael Miller** (Liverpool Hope University, UK)

**Maja Gildin Zuckerman** (Stanford University, USA)

### 3. FUNDING PHD AND POSTDOC RESEARCH

**Discussion and networking**

## 0.6.II/II EAJS Emerge II

Wednesday 18 July, 17.00-19.00  
Pedagogical University of Cracow,  
Ingardena 4, room 407

/// I. PHD FLASH PRESENTATIONS

### A) PLACE AND SPACE

**Oleksii Chebotarov** (University of St. Gallen)  
*Transmigration of the Jews from the Russian Empire in Habsburg Galicia, 1870-1914*

**Maja Hultman** (University of Southampton, UK)  
*'Turn Your Attention to Our Minyan': How the Small Jewish Community Created Spatial Diversity in Stockholm, 1870-1939*

**Sasha R. Goldstein-Sabbah** (Leiden University, Netherlands)  
*Transnational Baghdadi Jewish Networks*

### B) SOUNDS AND SILENCES

**Janina Wurbs** (Bern University, Switzerland)  
*Overheard? Sounds and Soundscapes in Ghettos and Concentration Camps*

**Nikita Hock** (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)  
*Making Sense(s) With Sound*

### C) MIGRATION AND MYSTICISM

**Joseph Citron** (University College London, UK)  
*Assessing the vision of R. Isaiah Horowitz's Shnei Luhot Haberit as a model of Jewish Pietism in the 17th Century*

**David Freis** (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany) and  
**Farina Marx** (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany)  
*Migration, Translation, and the Search for Ecstasy: Fischl Schneersohn's 'science of man' between modern psychology and Hasidic mysticism*

### 2. LIFE AFTER THE PHD

**Early career researchers share their experiences**

**Martina Mampieri** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

**Susanne Korbelt** (University of Graz, Austria)

### 3. NETWORKING

**Followed by conference dinner (self-pay) in a nearby restaurant**

please email [eajs.students@gmail.com](mailto:eajs.students@gmail.com) if you wish to attend

## 0.6.I/II – EAJS Emerge I

Tuesday 17 July, 11.30-13.00

Pedagogical University of Cracow, Ingardena 4, room 407

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### A) TEXT AND SPEECH

#### **Resh Laqish from Text to Text. Functions of Irony within Yerushalmi and Bavli**

**Tobias Junker** (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany)

Ironical Speech needs context. In relation to the Resh-Laqish figure two aspects have been stated by several scholars: The general alterity of the figure in contrast to all other rabbis, as well as the ironical tone used in bBM 84a. My thesis seeks to explore the ways of storytelling about Resh Laqish in depth. The initial goal is to differentiate the Palestinian tradition from the Babylonian one in close readings of aggadic tales from the Talmud Yerushalmi, Bereshit and Kohelet Rabba. In a second step these stories will be compared to their parallels in the Bavli. Thus, the Babylonian way of adapting Resh Laqish's stories, a Rabbi that is known by the Bavli for his hatred towards Babylonians, and the Bavli's editorial enterprise will be exposed. Examining Resh Laqish's intertextual dimension will finally help to clarify the notions about ironical speech of the Bavli's redactor.

*Tobias Junker is a PhD student at Frankfurt am Main (Supervisor Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Hollender). In 2016 he has been Research Assistant at Seminar für Judaistik, Goethe University Frankfurt and at Arye-Maimon Institute for the History of Jews, University of Trier. Between 2008 and 2016 he studied Philosophy of Religion, Jewish Studies and German Literature at Goethe University Frankfurt, Bar-Ilan University Ramat-Gan and Ben-Gurion University Beer-Sheva.*

#### **Modern Oral Versions of Toledot Yeshuvot**

**Lily Lerman** (Cambridge University/British Library, UK)

In this study I examine how three oral folktales from the Israel Folktale Archives are brought as popular 20th century retellings of the Jewish polemical tract of Toledot Yeshu ('The Life Story of Jesus'). These folk tales were narrated by Polish immigrants and bring a fresh insight into the continued existence of Toledot Yeshu in these communities. Firstly, the connections between the contemporary oral versions and the manuscripts of Toledot Yeshu will be highlighted through a categorization of the folktales within the Princeton Toledot Yeshu classification system. In the second part of the study, the folkloristic myth-ritual framework will guide the contextual analysis of the tales. The oral Polish versions introduce the rituals of 'Nittel Nacht', a Jewish festival on Christmas Eve, to the Toledot Yeshu discourse. Through the myth-ritual framework the relationship of Nittel Nacht to Toledot Yeshu is shown to be one of mutual support and reaffirmation.

*Lily Lerman is a recent graduate from Cambridge University from the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. She is currently working at the British Library for the Hebrew Book Retroconversion Project.*

#### **Hebrew epigraphy in Cesare Colafemmina's Archive**

**Maria Giuseppina Mascolo** (Paris-Sorbonne University, France)

The project is focused on the evolution of Hebrew script, based on comparative analysis of the epigraphic material of Puglia and Basilicata in relation to the development of Jewish culture in southern peninsular Italy between Eretz Yisra'el and Mediterranean Northern Europe. Among the objectives: the creation of a catalog of what is known, lost and subsistent materials, based on a comparison of Caesar Colafemmina's findings and on investigation on the territory. In particular, the project will start by Jewish inscriptions already reported in the past ('800-'900) to compare them with the current ones, in order to find those that have been lost, or reproduced, so as to realize a complete and updated mapping.

*Maria Giuseppina Mascolo is a PhD student at EPHE (École Pratique des Hautes Études) Paris-Sorbonne PSL, mention: Histoire, Textes et Documents (HTD) - Langues, littératures et civilisation juives, under the direction of Prof. Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (EPHE). She is the curator of exhibitions on Jewish culture in Puglia and Basilicata.*

## **Composing Hebrew Medical Literature in the Late Renaissance: Medicine in Life and Work of Eliezer Eilburg** **Magdalena Janosikova** (Queen Mary London, UK)

The dissertation explores the nature of learned medicine among Jews in the late Renaissance. It follows the life and works of Eliezer Eilburg, a sixteenth-century German Jewish physician without a university degree, in order to construct wider definition of learned medical practice. My research analyses, first, the motivations to become a medical practitioner in the age of their rising popularity in central and eastern Europe (Ashkenaz). Second, it traces the reception of the medieval Hebrew medical texts in the Renaissance. Last but not least, it puts Eilburg's medical manuscript into the context of the market with medical knowledge. The dissertation locates the role of handwritten knowledge in the ecology of medical thought and highlights the limits of print culture in Hebrew medicine at the time of its growth.

*Magdalena Janosikova is a PhD student at Queen Mary University of London. Under the supervision of Prof. Miri Rubin, she explores the boundaries of learned medicine and its textual transmission among Ashkenazi Jews in the (late) Renaissance. Prior to her doctoral research, she graduated from Palacky University in Olomouc, working with Dr. Tamas Visi, and the University of Oxford, supervised by Prof. Joanna Weinberg.*

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## **B) NATION, NARRATION, NEGOTIATION**

### **The Secession of Modern Orthodox Kehillot in 19th century Germany** **Nathalia Schomerus** (University of Potsdam, Germany)

The purpose of my thesis, The Secession of Modern Orthodox Kehillot in 19th century Germany, is to understand this secession of Jewish communities in the second half of the 19th century, the political and religious background, and subsequent legal debates. More precisely, it aims to illuminate the disputes within the Jewish community, which led to, enabled, and accompanied the process of separation. By first introducing the Jewish Liberal politician Eduard Lasker, who introduced the "Austrittsgesetz" [Secession Bill] in the Prussian Parliament, then Samson ben Raphael Hirsch, rabbi of the first secession kehillah of Modern Orthodox Jews, namely, the Israelitische Religionsgesellschaft in Frankfurt, and other important figures of this time such as Ludwig Bamberger and Azriel Hildesheimer, this proposed project aims to illustrate the connections between Liberal politics, Jewish identity, and religious developments between 1850 and 1900. It will subsequently compare the community in Frankfurt to the other secession congregations in Germany.

*Nathalia Schomerus studied Law at Bucerius Law School and Theology at the Universities of Hamburg, Bonn and in Rome. Then, she went to the University of Oxford for a Master in Theology. Since 2017 she is an ELES Research Scholar and PhD student under the supervision of Prof Brechenmacher (University of Potsdam).*

### **Narrating Jewish History in Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany** **Rose Stair** (University of Oxford, UK)

My research will consider the engagement of Jewish history in domestic and community educational spaces in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Germany, with particular reference to conceptions of the role of the Jewish mother in cultural Zionism. A key figure for my project is Paula Winkler, who theorised this role as a mediator of the Jewish history that communities turning away from assimilation were to engage anew. Generally mentioned only in reference to her husband Martin Buber, Winkler is a little studied but significant early theorist of the woman's role in domestic Zionist education. Engaging intellectual history, social history, and theories of narrative historiography, this project will explore both how educational spaces and community figures were conceived of as channels for Jewish history, and how physical space and gender roles influenced the narrative shape that this newly mediated history would be able to take.

*Rose Stair is beginning her doctoral studies in the University of Oxford's Theology and Religion faculty. She previously studied for her MA in Divinity at the University of Chicago Divinity School, and her BA in Theology at the University of Oxford.*

**Negotiating Germanness, Jewishness and Russianness in an era of changing social boundaries: A study of identity formation amongst Russlanddeutsche, Russian Jews and ethnic Russians in Berlin**  
Jonna Rock (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany)

I explore interactions between Berlin-based ethnic Germans 'returning' from the Soviet Union (commonly known in Germany as Russlanddeutsche), Russian Jews and ethnic Russians. I will collect personal accounts through semi-structured interviews and pinpoint questions of victimization and their possible experiences of xenophobia in today's Germany. My goal is to shed light on the interviewees' attitudes towards such heterogeneous and overlapping categories as Germanness, Jewishness and Russianness, in order to determine in which ways these qualities are significant social identifiers. The wider significance of this project lies in its exploration of the role of the contemporary German state in creating conditions for integration of immigrant communities, even when they are treated as groups which have been 'reclaimed' by the German nation (Russlanddeutsche and Russian Jews).

*Jonna Rock is an Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Scholarship Fund Research Fellow and PhD candidate at the Humboldt University Berlin at the Institute for South Slavic Languages. Ms. Rock's doctoral thesis addresses how, in Sarajevo, the challenge for the Sephardic-Jewish community lies in cultivating Jewish life after the fall of Communism.*

## LIFE AFTER THE PHD

### Early Career Researchers share their experiences

**Michael Miller** (Liverpool Hope University, UK)

*Dr Michael T. Miller is a Visiting Lecturer in Jewish Studies at Liverpool Hope University. His research focuses on Jewish mysticism and modern Jewish philosophy. He completed his PhD in 2014 at University of Nottingham, which was published as *The Name of God in Jewish Thought* (Routledge 2015).*

**Maja Gildin Zuckerman** (Stanford University, USA)

*Maja Gildin Zuckerman is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Education and Jewish Studies at Stanford University and adjunct professor in Jewish Studies at University of San Francisco. She has a PhD from University of Southern Denmark (2016), an MA in Anthropology from Tel Aviv University (2012), and a BA in Anthropology from Copenhagen University.*

## 0.6.II/II – EAJS Emerge II

Wednesday 18 July, 17.00-19.00

Pedagogical University of Cracow, Ingardena 4, room 407

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### A) PLACE AND SPACE

#### **Transmigration of the Jews from the Russian Empire in Habsburg Galicia, 1870-1914**

**Oleksii Chebotarov** (University of St. Gallen)

Over one million of Russian Jews migrated across Habsburg Galicia to the West in the period of 1870s – 1914. Apart from this impressive number, researchers know very little about how the transmigration happened. The proposed trans-border approach offers new insights into Galicia as a space of intersecting histories of two empires. The questions of migration/transmigration, and its political, social and cultural impact on the regions to and through which it took place, have a great explanatory potential for understanding the past of these regions. The history of Jewish transmigration in Galicia is also the history of relations between Jews and Gentiles as well as between Russian and Austrian Jews. The main argument of the project: the mass movement of the Jews from the Russian Empire has turned Galicia into a Point of passage - the region with the developed infrastructure of control over migrants and an elaborated network of illegal migration.

*Oleksii Chebotarov is a Ph.D. Candidate and Research Assistant of the Department of Russia studies at the University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) and Associate Fellow of the doctoral program "Austrian Galicia and its Multicultural Heritage" at the University of Vienna (Austria).*

#### **'Turn Your Attention to Our Minyan': How the Small Jewish Community Created Spatial Diversity in Stockholm, 1870-1939**

**Maja Hultman** (University of Southampton, UK)

Handwritten letters, autobiographies, oral interviews, board meeting minutes, architectural designs and taxation records tell the story of how Stockholm's Jewry constructed a diversity of sacred places and spaces. Researchers have claimed that Jewish diversity is based on the size of its populations. This interdisciplinary PhD-thesis therefore uses methodologies from geography, anthropology, oral history and literary analysis to investigate the strategies and limitations of Swedish-Jewish diversity.

The processes behind their spatiality were dependent on class, the financial aid from Jewish individuals and the main liberal synagogue, and the harmonious relationship with non-Jews. As spatial and performance theorists argue, the modern urban landscape developing in cities provided walkers with agency and individuality. In creating diverse spaces and places, Stockholm's Jews tapped into the possibilities of modernity: the reconstruction of physical enactments aligning with individual identifications.

*Maja Hultman is a PhD Candidate in History at the Parkes Institute for Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton. Educated in cultural studies and journalism, Maja conducts her doctoral thesis at the University of Southampton. The project is supported by the Vice Chancellors' Award in History, as well as scholarships from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the foundations of Helge Ax:son Johnson and Gertrude & Ivar Philipson.*

#### **Transnational Baghdadi Jewish Networks**

**Sasha R. Goldstein-Sabbah** (Leiden University, Netherlands)

My research looks at transnational Baghdadi Jewish networks during the interwar period. In particular I consider the relevance of transnational Jewish solidarity movements and Baghdadi participation in the global Jewish public sphere. Focusing on the archives of Jewish philanthropic organizations, historic Jewish press, and private correspondence, I consider the emergence of a secular Jewish identity for Baghdadi Jewry.

*Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah is a PhD candidate and lecturer at Leiden University in the Netherlands (Centre for the Study of Religion – LUCSoR). Her research focuses on MENA Jewry's involvement in philanthropic networks in the modern period. Prior to commencing her PhD she was a senior acquisitions editor at Brill.*

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## B) SOUNDS AND SILENCES

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### Overheard? Sounds and Soundscapes in Ghettos and Concentration Camps

Janina Wurbs (Bern University, Switzerland)

This project asks to listen to Jews and how they experienced sounds under the threat of mass violence by re-reading texts written by themselves. Applying methods from a History of the Senses and Sound Studies, this adds a perspective to so-far historiography on to a Sound History and an "acoustic turn." This is interesting, because sound is never just sound. It elicits emotions, and reveals insights into different individual perceptions, social relations, and survival strategies. Which intentions stood behind those sounds Jews consciously produced themselves? I am analysing documents from the Lodz Ghetto on the street singer Yankele Herszkowicz, from the Warsaw Ghetto (Oyneg Shabes Underground Archive) and the Vilna Ghetto (focusing on Yiddish poems by Avrom Sutskever); furthermore, in primary texts written by members of the Sonderkommando in Auschwitz, I focus on the soundspace of the gas chambers.

*Janina Wurbs (researcher, translator, Yiddish teacher) holds an MA in Jewish Studies, Religious Studies and History. Presently she is a doctoral student and research assistant at Bern University, Switzerland, in the research project "Sounds of anti-Jewish Persecution". She is also a teacher and translator from and to Yiddish.*

### Making Sense(s) With Sound

Nikita Hock (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

In his hiding space in Wilna, Yitzhak Rudashevski describes how an uncontrollable cry becomes an existential threat. In the Warsaw ghetto, Kalonymus Shapiro ponders over the effect of a lament on the surrounding victims and perpetrators. The design of the loudspeaker system in Płaszów creates huddles of prisoners seeking to avoid its sonic impact. My presentation focuses on diaries created by Jews under persecution 1939-1942. Using insights from sound studies, it examines the appearance, function and connotations of sounds in these ego-documents; in texts written on both sides of ghetto walls, in bunkers, attics, basements and cellars, and in camps throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Examining the sensory and semantic dimension of the sonic experience provides insights into social and religious backgrounds and relations; it allows to deeper examine the individual embeddedness in uprootedness of persecuted Jews, and underlines the structure of their daily life in extreme circumstances: Which cultural sense-making is available when sound is too painful for the cognitive and linguistic apparatus, its description beyond the strength of emotions under siege?

*Nikita Hock studied Jewish and Religious Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin, as well as Cultural Theory and History at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. He has measured religious sonic spaces in Namibia and curated a sound exhibit at the Märkisches Museum in Berlin. As Research Assistant, he taught seminars on Auditory Culture Studies at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, as well as serving as chief editor of the Berlin-based Kulturwelle radio show. He currently pursues his PhD at the Historical Institute in Bern, examining the sonic dimension in Jewish war-time diaries.*

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## C) MIGRATIONS AND MYSTICISM

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### Assessing the vision of R. Isaiah Horowitz's Shnei Luhot Haberit as a model of Jewish Pietism in the 17th Century

Joseph Citron (University College London, UK)

Rabbi Isaiah Horowitz was an important rabbi and kabbalist who lived in Central Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries (1565-1629). He was the Chief rabbi of Frankfurt (1606-1614) and Prague (1614-1621), before departing for the land of Israel, where he spent the rest of his life. My research focuses on his magnum opus, the Sheneh Luhot Haberit (Shelah/ two tablets of the covenant), an 850 paged encyclopaedic work of musar (ethical literature), halakhah and kabbalah. It was one of the most widely read works of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, spawning numerous abridgments and translations. I am intending to publish a comprehensive analysis of the entire work, focusing on its role in spreading kabbalistic ideas, its interpretation of halakhah, its spread of pietistic practices and its emphasis on joy and the sanctification of the body. The Shelah is a work which contains both universalistic and elitist elements, paving the way for many of the ideas that were to characterise the development of hasidism in the eighteenth century and Orthodoxy in the nineteenth century.

*Joseph Citron is a third year PhD student at UCL in the department of Hebrew and Jewish studies. He has a degree in History from Manchester University and an MA from UCL in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. His academic interests include Jewish history, intellectual and religious history in the Early Modern period, and the relationship between kabbalah and halakhah.*

## Migration, Translation, and the Search for Ecstasy: Fischl Schneersohn's 'science of man' between modern psychology and Hasidic mysticism

**David Freis** (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Germany)

**Farina Marx** (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany)

Fischl Schneersohn (1887–1958), a descendant of the dynasty of Chabad rebbes, physician, psychologist, and novelist, was among the most fascinating forgotten figures in the history of the psychosciences in the twentieth century. His works are set apart by a unique combination of contemporary psychological and psychiatric research with Jewish mysticism. In our paper, we will focus on Schneersohn's main work, *Der veg tsum mentsh* ('the way to man'), which was published in Yiddish in 1927, and appeared as *Studies in Psycho-Expedition* in the U.S. in 1929. We will sketch out his psychological theory – an idiosyncratic fusion of Freudian and Kabbalistic elements –, and discuss his idea of the 'psycho-expedition'. Apart from presenting the ideas of an original but forgotten Jewish psychotherapist moving between places and traditions, our talk provides a unique example of translations between modern psychotherapy and mystical thought.

**David Freis** has studied history, political sciences, and gender studies at the Ruhr-University Bochum. In December 2015, he received his Ph.D. in history and civilization from the European University Institute for a thesis on the psycho-political thought of German-speaking psychiatrists in the inter-war period. Since April 2015, he is a research associate at the Institute for the Ethics, History, and Theory of Medicine at the University of Münster. He has published chapters and articles on the history of psychiatry and psychotherapy, and is currently preparing his doctoral thesis for publication.

**Farina Marx** has studied Jewish studies, ancient oriental studies and Egyptology at the Free University Berlin and the Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf. She is currently writing her Ph.D. thesis in the field of rabbinic literature and is a research associate at the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Duesseldorf. She has published chapters and articles on medieval rabbinic law and mystical Kabbalistic literature.

## LIFE AFTER THE PHD

### Early Career Researchers share their experiences

**Martina Mampieri** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

*Martina Mampieri completed a PhD in Early Modern History at the University of Roma Tre in joint agreement with the PhD in Jewish Studies at the University of Hamburg in 2017. She is currently Short-Term Research Fellow in Jerusalem thanks to a fellowship financed by Sapienza University of Rome.*

**Susanne Korb** (University of Graz, Austria)

*Susanne Korb specializes in Cultural Studies, Theater Studies and Jewish History. She earned her doctorate in Contemporary History and Cultural Studies from the University of Graz. She has held fellowships with the Austrian Academic Exchange Service and the David-Herzog-Fonds in Budapest, Jerusalem, New York, Riga, Tübingen and Vilnius, and taught as visiting faculty in Budapest.*