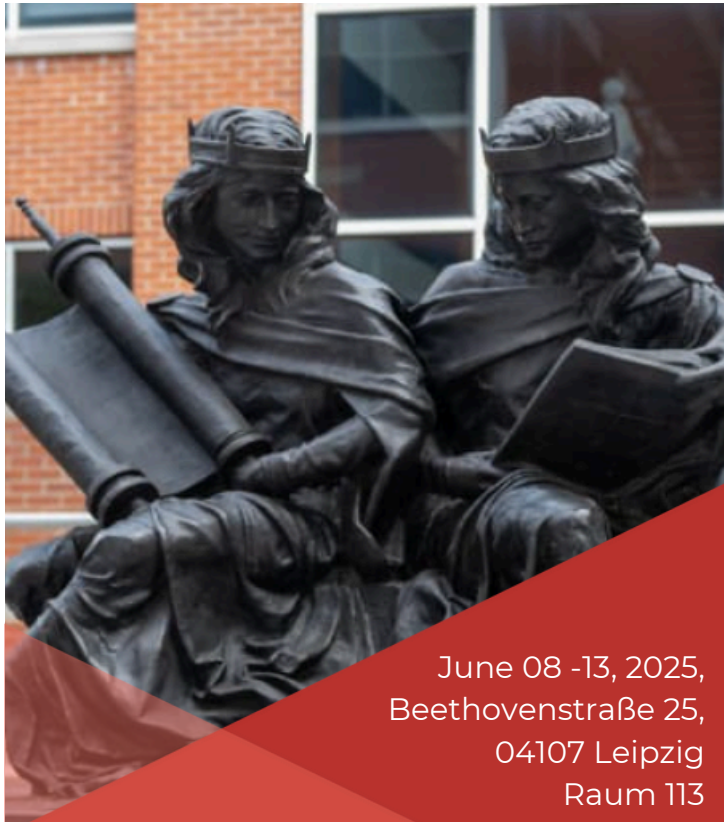




UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG

Theologische Fakultät



June 08 -13, 2025,
Beethovenstraße 25,
04107 Leipzig
Raum 113

Leipzig-Jerusalem Traveling Seminar:

**Jews and Protestants in Germany
from the 19th Century
to the Present**

Course Description

In the long and troubled history of Jewish-Christian relations, the encounter between Jews and Protestants in Germany between in the 19th and 20th century carries significant importance: in this high-time in the history of Protestant theology – when theologians developed new scientific methods to study Scripture and new conceptual categories to study religion, Jewish intellectuals were looking for their place within the evolving landscape of German scholarship. Heavily influenced by their German neighbors yet often rejected and belittled by them, Jewish scholars developed their own academic institutions and their own scientific methods to grapple with German theology, intellectually, socially and politically. This is a chapter of history that weaves together comparative religion, theology, German history, Jewish thought, and the history of antisemitism.

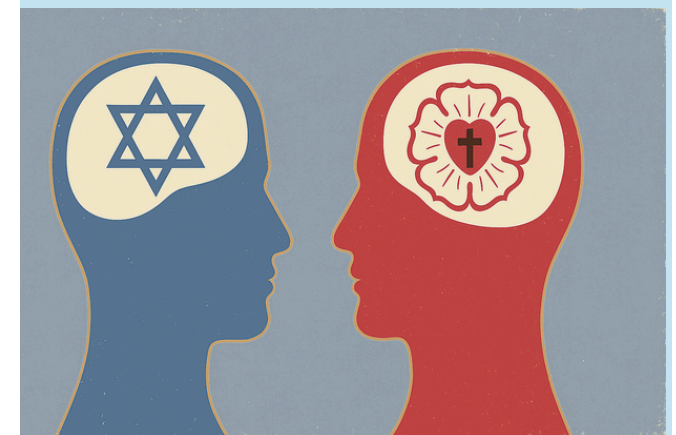
World War II and the destruction of European Jewry profoundly fractured the history of the Jewish-Christian encounters. The role of Christian individuals, institutions and ideas in facilitating the destruction of European Jewry is a sensitive and complex issue that requires nuanced and careful historiographic work. In the aftermath of the catastrophe, Jews and Christians turned to reshape their relationship in light of the tormenting memories of the Shoah; a significant effort was made by Christian theologians to cleanse their religious and scientific traditions from anti-Jewish and antisemitic tropes.

The seminar focuses on these complex historical transitions in the relationship between Jews and Protestants in Germany, exploring intellectual exchange, mutual perceptions, and interreligious tensions in crucial intersections in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

Building on the diverse expertise of the seminar's professors, the course's sessions will focus especially on the following themes:

- Historical Background: Jews and the reformation
- The history of Protestant critical Biblical scholarship and its impact on Jewish-Christian Relations
- The Development of Jewish Studies (Wissenschaft des Judentums) in relation to Protestant scholarly traditions
- Jewish-Christian Polemic in 19th and early 20th century German academia
- The Church-Struggle in Nazi Germany and the question of theological antisemitism
- Post-Holocaust Jewish and Christian Theologies and the history of Jewish-Christian dialogue
- Contemporary representation of Jews in Protestant religious education and of Christians in Jewish education

The 5-day seminar will be divided into in-class discussions, guided field trips in Leipzig and Wittenberg, guest lectures, and workshops. One day will be dedicated to a field trip to Wittenberg, focusing on the history of the Reformation and its impact on Jewish-Christian relations.



Schedule:

Sunday 8.6

13:30 Arrival Leipzig
17:00 Nimrod Baratz
Guided tour: Jewish Leipzig
19:00 Festive Dinner

Monday 9.6

09:00 Andreas Schüle
Jewish Christian biblical hermeneutics
in the 20th-21st century
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Frank Lütze
Paulinum
Pentecost Monday Service
12:30 Lunch break
14:30 Yemima Hadad
Martin Buber on Emunah and Pistis in Two
Types of Faith (Zwei Glaubensweisen, 1950)
and His Critiques
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 Asher Biemann
"The Josef Bloch – August Rohling Affair:
An Example of Resisting Antisemitism
in Fin-de-12Siècle Vienna"
18:00 Dinner
Karl-Liebknecht-Straße

Tuesday 10.6

09:00 Klaus Fitschen
Excursion Wittenberg
12:30 Lunch break

Wednesday 11.6

09:00 Klaus Fitschen
The "Kirchenkampf" during the 3rd Reich
11:30 Coffee break
11:00 Katharina von Kellenbach
Auschwitz and the Development of
Christian- Jewish Relations after 1945
12:30 Lunch break
14:00 Coffee break
14:30 Christian Staffa
Transformations of Christian motifs in
Antisemitism
16:00 free time
19:00 Karma ben Johanan
Theorizing the Triad: Jews, Christians, and
Antisemites

Thursday 12.6

09:00 Frank Lütze
Jewish Life in Contemporary Protestant
Religious Education
10:30 Coffee break
11:00 Frank Lütze
Jewish Life in Contemporary Protestant
Religious Education
12:30 Lunch break
14:00 Coffee break
14:30 Alexander Deeg
Representing Jews in Protestant Preaching
and Liturgy
16:00 Coffee break
16:30 Roderich Barth
The Mendelssohn–Lavater Controversy
19:00 Film
Masel Tov Cocktail

Friday 13.6

Departure

Organizers/Course teachers:

Prof. Karma Ben Johanan, Comparative Religion
(Hebrew University)
Jun. Prof. Yemima Hadad, Judaistik (University of
Leipzig)
Prof. Andreas Schüle, Alte Testament (University of
Leipzig)
Prof. Frank Lütze, Religionspädagogik

Speakers and Guest lecturers:

Rabbi Zsolt Balla,
Mr. Nimrod Baratz,
Prof. Roderich Barth,
Prof. Karma Ben Johanan,
Prof. Asher Biemann,
Prof. Alexander Deeg,
Prof. Klaus Fitschen,
J.Prof. Yemima Hadad,
Prof. Katharina von Kellenbach,
Prof. Frank Lütze,
Prof. Andreas Schüle,
Dr. Christian Staffa

The seminar is a collaboration between the
Department of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew
University of Jerusalem and The Faculty of
Theology, The University of Leipzig.



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