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EAJS

European Association for Jewish Studies



'Traditionism' and Multifaceted Responses to Secularization amongst Mizrahim in Israel | June 20, 2024 |

The Sephardi encounter with modernity shows a counterexample to the Ashkenazi and European experience of secularization. The Mizrahi encounter with modernity offers a case study for thinking of secularization in Israel and beyond. This workshop explores the religious and secular aspects of what we view as *Mizrahi renaissance* in the context of intra-Jewish power struggles and political debates in Israel. A special focus will be given to the category *Masortiut* or Traditionism as reaction and alternative to the western religious-secular dichotomy.

University of Leipzig | University of Calgary |
Complutense University of Madrid |
University of Potsdam

This project is part of **ReCentGlobe** and **Multiple Secularities beyond the West, beyond Modernities** at the University of Leipzig. Multiple Secularities explores different forms of secularity in non-western regions. The Israeli case - unknown or overlooked - can highlight Mizrahi secularization experiences as key to the questions posed around global secularization beyond the West.

Sponsoring Institutions: **The European Association for Jewish Studies – EAJS | The Jenny Belzberg Program in Israel Studies, University of Calgary | University of Leipzig.**



Thursday June 20, 2024 | 9:00-19:00
Nikolaistraße 8-10, 4th floor, Universität Leipzig, 04109
Leipzig



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'Traditionism' and Multifaceted Responses to Secularization amongst Mizrahim in Israel

9:00 | Welcome and Introduction

Yemima Hadad (University of Leipzig)

Angy Cohen (Universidad Complutense de Madrid/ University of Calgary)

Yael Attia (University of Potsdam/University of Paderborn)

Welcoming words by the directors of Multiple Secularities:
Monika Wohlrab-Sahr and **Christoph Kleine** (University of Leipzig)

9:30-11:00 | Secularism in Sephardi Contemporary History

Introduction: **Angy Cohen** (Universidad Complutense de Madrid/ University of Calgary)

Yaakov Yadgar (University of Oxford): The Nationalization of Traditionism? Reflections on Secularism in contemporary Israeli Politics

Sigal Nagar-Ron (Sapir Academic College): Is there a future to traditionality? A sociological perspective on development towns educational system

11:00-11:30 | Coffee Break

11:30-13:30 | The Sephardi Experience and the problem of European Secularism

Chair: **Ottfried Fraise** (Halle-Wittenberg University)

Yuval Evri (Brandeis University): Sephardi intellectuals in the Yishuv and the Question of Secularism Today

Omri Hannah Ben Yehuda (University of Lille): A Very Sweet Annunciation: From Luther to Ovadiah Yosef

Mati Shemoelof (Berlin): *Brit Mila and Bar Mitzvah*: Examining Secularization and Traditionism in the Arab-Jews (Mizrahi) context through the short stories of Ayelet Tsabari and Adamit Pereh

13:30-14:30 | Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 | Ethnicity, Diaspora and Migration

Chair: **Sina Rauschenbach** (University of Potsdam)

Eliaou Balouka (University of Southampton): From Coexistence to Disconnection. The Trajectories of Two Religious Minorities Through Their European Migrations. A Comparative Study of M'zabi Ibadi and M'zabi Jewish Collective Memories

Aviad Moreno (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev): Migration of Jews and Jewish Migration: The Between the Transatlantic 'Traditions' Among Northern Creation of Moroccan Jews

17:00 | City Tour: Jewish Leipzig

19:00 | Dinner