

International Workshop

Jewish Diplomacy and Welfare: Intersections and Transformations in the Early Modern and Modern Period

April 10–12, 2016

Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz,
and Museum Judengasse, Frankfurt a.M.

Shtadlanut (intercession) is generally perceived as a Jewish political practice, or as Jewish diplomacy. It was often closely connected with “righteous” and charitable activities (tzedakah) within the Jewish community. Both practices changed fundamentally during the 19th and early 20th centuries, when Jews were offered emancipation and, as a result, faced issues of inclusion, acculturation, and assimilation. In this context, the shtadlanim (advocates) of the Jewish minority were confronted with the incomplete integration as well as increasing anti-Semitism, which appear to have reinforced the necessity of Jewish intercession and solidarity.

The workshop takes a new look at the concepts of shtadlanut and tzedakah, in order to identify how they are interrelated and how these interrelations have changed over time. Key questions of the workshop are: How did Jews represent and negotiate their interests and “otherness” in different societies? Why and how could they receive special status in cultural, economic, and legal systems from the early modern period up to the 20th century? How influential were the concept and practice of tzedakah in Jewish political traditions? How have intercession and welfare been adapted in the course of the modern era?

Convener

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Space limited. Pre-registration required (ieg4@ieg-mainz.de).

The workshop is sponsored by
Fritz Thyssen Stiftung

Conference Program

Sunday, April 10, 2016

Venue: Museum Judengasse, Battonstraße 47, 60311 Frankfurt a.M.

6 pm **Welcome**
Mirjam Wenzel (Frankfurt a.M.)

Introduction
Mirjam Thulin (Mainz), *Bjoern Siegel* (Hamburg), and *Rebekka Voß* (Frankfurt a.M.)

Keynote Lecture
Noam Zohar (Bar Ilan): Moser (Informer): Who has the Right of Access to the Non-Jewish Power?

Followed by reception (by invitation)

Monday, April 11, 2016

Venue: Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Alte Universitätsstraße 19, 55116 Mainz

9:15 am **Welcome**
Irene Dingel (Mainz) and *Johannes Paulmann* (Mainz)

- 9:30 am** **Panel 1: Authority and Transregional Solidarity**
 Chair: *Esther Moeller* (Mainz)
Yaron Ben-Naeh (Jerusalem): Businessmen, Rabbis, and Doctors at the Sultan's Court
Michael K. Silber (Jerusalem): The Well-Networked Baron: Diego d'Aguilar, an Eighteenth Century Shtadlan and Maecenas
- 10:30 am** **Coffee break**
- 11 am** **Panel 2: Jewish Networks of Solidarity and Charity**
 Chair: *Thomas Weller* (Mainz)
Tirtsah Levie Bernfeld (Rotterdam): Solidarity and Intervention in Early Modern Amsterdam: The Portuguese Community and Philanthropy Abroad
Adam Teller (Providence, Rhode Island): Jewish Philanthropic Networks in the Early Modern Mediterranean: Towards the Creation of Trans-Regional Policy
- 12 pm** **Lunch (catered)**
- 1:30 pm** **Panel 3: Charity and Politics**
 Chair: *Christian Wiese* (Frankfurt a.M.)
François Guesnet (London): Honor, Charity, Politics: Jewish Intercession as Entangled History between the Holy Roman Empire and Poland Lithuania
Shaul Stampfer (Jerusalem): Diplomacy of the Masses: The Pushke, the Jewish Community in the Land of Israel, and World Politics
- 2:30 pm** **Coffee break**

 Transfer to Frankfurt a.M.
- 4 pm** **Tour of the Old Jewish Cemetery, Battonstraße, 60311 Frankfurt a.M. (guided by Michael Lennarz)**
- 6 pm** **Dinner at Sohar's Kosher Restaurant (Jewish Community Center), Savignystraße 66, 60325 Frankfurt a.M. (by invitation)**

 Transfer to Mainz

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Venue: Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Alte Universitätsstraße 19, 55116 Mainz

- 9:30 am** **Panel 4: Community, Welfare, and Family Politics**
 Chair: *Cornelia Aust* (Mainz)
Joshua Teplitsky (Stony Brook, NY): "A Regime of Uncles?" Welfare and Oligarchy in Early Modern Ashkenaz
Mirjam Thulin (Mainz): Prague 1744/45: Jewish Diplomacy and Relief in Action
Fritz Backhaus (Frankfurt a.M.): Mayer Amshel Rothschild as Shtadlan and Benefactor
- 11 am** **Coffee break**

- 11:30 am** **Panel 5: The Transformation of Intercession and Charity**
Chair: *Sarah Panter* (Mainz)
Yochai Ben-Ghedalia (Jerusalem): Empowerment: Philanthropy, Diplomacy and Inner-Jewish Advocacy, 1830s-1860s
Bjoern Siegel (Hamburg): Jewish Philanthropy in Habsburg Vienna: Joseph von Wertheimer and his Understanding of International Solidarity
Eli Lederhendler (Jerusalem): From Paternal Charity to Diplomacy by Stewardship: The Cases of Benjamin Peixotto, Jacob H. Schiff, and Louis Marshall
- 1 pm** **Lunch (catered)**
- 2 pm** **Concluding Discussion**
with Michael Walzer (Princeton) via Skype