



Nederlands Genootschap
voor Joodse Studiën



rijksuniversiteit
 groningen

**Dutch Association of Jewish Studies
Conference 2022**

Program

**The Middle Eastern Turn
in Jewish Studies**

Keynote lecture by dr. Yair Wallach (SOAS):
The Arab Ashkenazi: Rethinking Jewish migration from Europe to
the Middle East

Wednesday 2 November 2022

10.00-18.00

University of Groningen

**Court Room, Faculty of Theology
Oude Boteringestraat 38**

Description of the conference

The Dutch Association of Jewish Studies (Nederlands Genootschap voor Joodse Studiën, NGJS) is pleased to announce a call for papers for its annual conference on 2 November 2022, devoted to the theme ‘The Middle Eastern Turn in Jewish Studies’. The NGJS annual conference aims to bring together researchers in the Netherlands in the field of Jewish Studies to share current research and to jointly reflect on current trends and issues in the field. It further aims to facilitate collaboration between researchers and to connect junior and senior scholars.

In recent years, research on Jews and Judaism in the context of the Middle East has been flourishing. This area of research has opened up numerous new lines of inquiry, which have jointly challenged some of the main assumptions dominating the field. They include, to name a few, the complexity of Jewish experiences and identities in the Middle East, the history and conceptualisation of the term ‘Arab Jew’, Jewish transnational networks, Jews and orientalism, Zionism(s) (and Jewish opposition to Zionism), the parallels and connections between Jewish and Islamic reformist movements, the relation between Jews and colonialism, and the Holocaust in the context of the Middle East and North Africa.

While this ‘Middle Eastern turn’ is commonly applied to scholarship on modern Jewish communities in the Middle East in a narrow sense, the aim of this conference is to broadly reflect on the implications of this ‘turn’ for the field of Jewish Studies. Is it possible to speak of a ‘Middle Eastern turn’ in Jewish Studies, and if so, what does this turn imply for researchers working in the field of Jewish Studies in the Netherlands? More fundamentally: is the Middle East inextricably tied to Jews and Judaism? How can the Middle East be understood and applied as a framework of reference, be it as a geographical, imperialist, or literary construct, and what rivalling or alternative frameworks can be used? Researchers are invited to reflect on the implications of a ‘Middle Eastern turn’ for their own field of inquiry, as well as for the diverse field of Jewish Studies in the Netherlands.

Program

10.30-11.00	Walk in	
11.00-11.15	Welcome	Prof. Mladen Popović (RUG) Prof. Karène Sanchez Summerer (RUG) Prof. Jan Willem van Henten (NGJS)
11.15-12.15	Keynote lecture Q&A	Keynote: Dr. Yair Wallach (SOAS) - The Arab Ashkenazi: Rethinking Jewish migration from Europe to the Middle East Chair: Prof. Karène Sanchez Summerer (RUG)

12.15-13.15	Lunch break	
13.15-14.30	Session 1:	<p><u>Parallel panel sessions</u></p> <p>Panel 1: 'Jewish migration and (colonial) networks in and beyond North Africa and the Middle East'</p> <p>Chair: dr. Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah (RUG)</p> <p>13.15-13.40 Prof. Jessica Roitman (VU) - Thinking Beyond the Pale: North African Jewish settlement in Latin America</p> <p>13.40-14.05 Roy Shukrun (RUG/McGill) - Negotiating Independence: Unionization, Integration, and the AIU in Morocco 1948-1965</p> <p>14.05-14.30 Karolina Sierzputowska (Jagiellonian University) - Spreaders of the Western Civilisation: The 19th - century Anglo-Jewish Mission in the East</p> <p>Panel 2: 'Religious diversity and Muslim-Jewish relations'</p> <p>Chair: dr. Arjen Bakker (RUG)</p> <p>13.15-13.40 Dr. Kiki Santing (RUG) - Conspiracy Theories and Muslim Brotherhood Antisemitism under Sadat</p> <p>13.40-14.05 Prof. Gerard Wiegers (UvA) - Recent Studies about Jewish-Muslim Relations in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia and Beyond: A Middle Eastern Turn?</p> <p>14.05-14.30 Dr. Ayhan Aksu (RUG) - The Dead Sea Scrolls: Between Cultural Exchange and Confrontation</p>
14.30-15.00	Coffee break	
15.00-16.15	Session 2:	<p><u>Parallel panel sessions</u></p> <p>Panel 2: 'The Middle Eastern turn and orientalism'</p> <p>Chair: dr. Lucia Admiraal (RUG)</p> <p>15.00-15.25 Prof. Irene Zwiep (UvA) - The Middle Eastern Turn in Jewish Studies: Sephardi Mystique 2.0</p> <p>15.25-15.50 Prof. em. Wout van Bekkum (RUG) - Genizah Studies and Modern Perceptions of Jewish-Arab identity</p> <p>15.50-16.15 Niels Falch (independent scholar) - Oriental Song: Two Middle Eastern Turns in Jewish Music</p> <p>Panel 4: 'Jews in the Netherlands: integration and citizenship'</p> <p>Chair: prof. Jan Willem van Henten</p> <p>15.00-15.25 Julia van der Krieke (Asser Institute/UvA) - Jewish 'Citizenship' through Collaborative Acts, a 1612 Case Involving Amsterdam and Constantinople</p> <p>15.25-15.50 Sietske van der Veen (KNAW/UU) - Novel Opportunities, Perpetual Barriers. The Integration of the Jewish Dutch Elite (1870-1940)</p> <p>15.50-16.15 Channa Zaccai (UvA) - Next Year in Amsterdam: A Study of the Israeli Diaspora</p>

		in the Netherlands
16.15-16.45	Closing panel	The Middle Eastern Turn in Jewish Studies: closing panel Chair: Prof. Bart Wallet (UvA) Dr. Yair Wallach (SOAS) Prof. Irene Zwiép (UvA) Prof. em. Wout van Bekkum (RUG) Prof. Karène Sanchez Summerer (RUG)
16.45-17.30	Drinks	

Organizers:

Dr. Lucia Admiraal
Dr. Arjen Bakker
Dr. Sasha Goldstein-Sabbah

Contact:

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