



Tradition, Transformation, and Identity: The Turkish Sephardic Community Between Two Homelands

27 November 2024, Potsdam

Am Neuen Palais 10, Haus 8, Raum 0.56

We are pleased to announce an upcoming workshop titled **“Tradition, Transformation, and Identity: The Turkish Sephardic Community Between Two Homelands”**, which will be held on **November 27, 2024**, in collaboration with the University of Potsdam, Institute for Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. This event will bring together scholars and researchers to explore the multifaceted historical and contemporary experiences of Sephardic Jews in Turkey and Israel, focusing on the transformations within cultural traditions, identities, and diaspora dynamics from the 1920s to the present day.

The workshop will explore how Sephardic Jewish identities have evolved in response to shifting socio-political landscapes, focusing on the Turkish-Jewish diaspora’s connections between Turkey and Israel, and the strategies used to maintain identity across borders. Topics will include the "Kayades" identity framework, which balances continuity and adaptation among Turkish Sephardim, the resilience of Antakya's Jewish community and its heritage, and the transformation of life cycle rituals within Istanbul’s Sephardi community as spaces for cultural negotiation and communal identity formation. Together, these discussions will offer a multifaceted perspective on tradition, resilience, and identity within the Sephardic experience from Turkey.

This workshop aims to foster an academic dialogue around the distinctive historical and cultural position of the Turkish Sephardic community. Through examining transformations in traditions, identity adaptations, and cross-border relationships, we hope to contribute nuanced perspectives to ongoing research in Jewish studies, diaspora studies, and identity formation. We invite students, scholars, and those interested in these fields to join us in discussing these complex and evolving dynamics within the Turkish Sephardic experience.

Please note that attendance is limited to 40 participants. To register, please send an email to Adem Muzaffer Erol at erol.muzaffer@gmail.com. Registration will be confirmed via email on a first-come, first-served basis.

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13:00 - 13:15: Greetings and Opening Remarks of the Organizers

Prof. Dr. Sina Rauschenbach and Adem Muzaffer Erol

13:15 - 14:15: Dr. Tamir Karkason, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg (A joint project with Dr. Aviad Moreno, Ben-Gurion University)

The Jewish Diaspora Between Israel and Turkey in the 1950s

14:15 - 14:30: Coffee Break

14:30 - 15:30: Ph.D. Adem Muzaffer Erol, Potsdam University

Politics, Memory, Migration: The Kayades Identity Strategy of Sephardim from Turkey

15:30 - 16:30: Liza Cemel, GRID Fellow, Freelance Journalist

From Sanctuary to Strife: Antakya Jewry and the Legacy of Kayades, Harmony and Resilience

16:30 - 16:45: Coffee Break

16:45 - 17:45: Ph.D. Belin Benezra Yensarfati, Leiden University and Boğaziçi University.

The Transformation and (Reinvented) Traditions of Social and Religious Life Cycle Events of the Sephardi Community of Istanbul

17:45 - 18:00: Closing Remarks

To find directions to the Potsdam University Neuen Palais Campus, please scan the QR code below.

