

Russian Jews in Germany in the 20th and 21st Century

December 13-14, 2004

Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton UK

Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society Leo Baeck

Institute London and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex.

[Original Conference Schedule](#)

Summary

Throughout the 20th century the different German states from the Weimar Republic to contemporary Germany occupied a unique position at the border between Eastern and Western Europe and could thus provide discursive spaces for negotiating Jewish identities between *Westjuden* and *Ostjuden* and between Jews and Gentiles.

The conference will focus on the two time periods most significant for Russian-Jewish immigration to Germany:

- The Weimar Republic as a centre for Russian-Jewish Yiddish and Hebrew writing and culture
- Post-1989 Germany and the immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

Conference Program and Schedule

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Welcome Address

Richard Whatmore , Head of Department (History), University of Sussex

[Yfaat Weiss](#) , Director of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society, Haifa

Raphael Gross , Director of the Leo Baeck Institute, London and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex

Speakers:

- Harriet Murav, Head, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Professor, Comparative Literature, University of Illinois

"The New Golem and the Russian Jew in Germany Today" Tea, Lounge

- [Olaf Terpitz](#) , Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture, Leipzig Russian Jewish authors in Germany after 1989. Between 'Russendisko' and the 'Jewish Peninsula'. The different artistic and 'lebensweltliche' concepts of Wladimir Kaminer and Oleg Jurev

Chair: Stella Rock University of Sussex

- Yvonne Schütze Professor, Humboldt University Berlin

" Young Russian Jewish Immigrants in Berlin - the Process of Adaptation and Acculturation over time"

Chair: Nils Roemer, University of Southampton School of Humanities-History

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Speakers:

- Yinon Cohen, Department of Labor Studies, Tel Aviv University

" Patterns of self-selection and socio-economic assimilation of FSU Jewish immigrants to Israel and Germany during the 1990s". Paper co-authored with Irena Kogan , University of Mannheim Chair: Andrea Hammel, University of Sussex

- [Julia Bernstein](#), PhD student, Department of sociology, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main

" Coping with 'Capitalism'. How Jewish Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union in Israel and Germany Experience and Interpret their New Societies"

- Victoria Hegner, Ph.D. candidate, Humboldt University Berlin

" 'Historical Responsibility' vs 'Freedom'- A Comparative Study of Settlement Patterns among Soviet Jewish Migrants in Berlin and Chicago"

Chair: Irena Kogan, University of Mannheim.

- Nelly Elias , The Department of Mass Communication, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Sapir Academic College

"'We live in Germany, but our heart is in Israel': Identity seeking and cultural preservation among the participants of Nash Dom club in Köln"

- Simon Rabinovitch , Ph.D. Candidate, Brandeis University

"'The pain of a nest destroyed' Simon Dubnov and Jewish Émigré Historical Writing in Weimar Berlin"

Chair: Rudolf Muhs , Lecturer in European History, Dept. of History, Royal Holloway, University of London

Closing Comments



Collage by Julia Berenstein