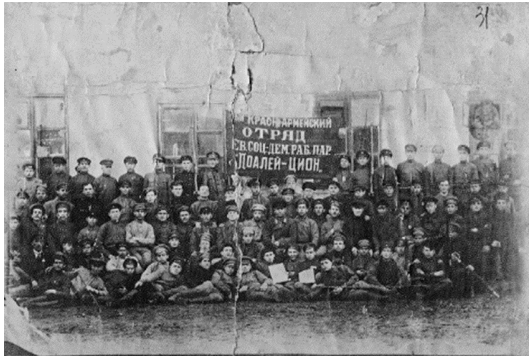


The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society
Haifa Interdisciplinary Unit for Polish Studies

“The Red Flag on Mount Moriah? Conflicting Experiences of World Revolution and the Split of Poale Tzion in 1920”

Dr. Jan Rybak

(Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism. University of London)



The First World War and the revolutions that followed it represented a profound challenge for the theory, programme, and methods of the socialist, Zionist Poale Tzion movement. With many of its members actively involved in the revolutions and revolutionary civil wars in Eastern and Central Europe, the movement's fundamental assumption, that the Jewish working class's liberation was directly tied to the national-territorial project in

Palestine was put into question: Was, after all, liberation now possible in Europe? Just as both world revolution and national liberation appeared within reach, the conflicting perspectives of activists from around the world clashed at the movement's world conference in Vienna in the summer of 1920. In this lecture, Jan Rybak explores the differing experiences Jewish socialists made during the tumultuous years from 1917, how they interpreted the revolution, pogroms, and new perspectives in Mandate Palestine, and what conclusions they drew from it.



Jan Rybak is currently a visiting researcher at the Gottener Institute for the History of the Bund and the Jewish Labour Movement at the University of Haifa. He is Early Career Fellow at the Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism. He received his PhD in 2019 from the European University Institute in Florence and has previously worked at the University of York and the University of Salzburg. He held visiting- and research fellowships at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, at New York University, at the Simon-Dubnow-Institute in Leipzig and at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

His most recent work was published by Oxford University Press in August 2021 with the title "Everyday Zionism in East-Central Europe: Nation-Building in War and Revolution, 1914–1920"

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

18:00-19:45

Senate Hall, 29th Floor, University of Haifa

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