



Hebrew astrolabe, Adler Planetarium (Chicago)

## › Organisation

### Project of the Institute for Jewish Studies: “The Visual in the Medieval Jewish World”

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### Project of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Beyond the Elite – Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Europe

Prof. Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten

### Goethe University Frankfurt

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Hollender

### Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Dr. Ephraim Shoham-Steiner

## › Venue

Schloss | Senatssaal  
Schlossplatz 2, 48149 Münster

Schloss | Festsaal  
Schlossplatz 5, 48149 Münster

## › Registration

until 14.07.2017  
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A workshop of the **Institute for Jewish Studies** and the **Cluster of Excellence “Religion and Politics”** of the University of Münster.

The Institute for Jewish Studies was founded at the WWU in 2015 with the goal to establish a new study track in Jewish Studies expected to open in the fall 2018. Among the special foci of the institute are Jewish visual and material culture and Jewish literatures.

In the Cluster of Excellence some 200 academics from more than 20 disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and from around 14 countries deal with the relationship of religion and politics across epochs and cultures. It is nationally the largest research association of its kind and of the 43 Clusters of Excellence in Germany, it is the only one to deal with religion. The German Federal Government and the Federal States support the project with 40.1 million euros in the Excellence Initiative’s second funding phase from 2012 to 2018.

### Institute for Jewish Studies

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International Workshop of the Institute of Jewish Studies and  
the Cluster of Excellence

## › Visual and Material in Medieval and Early Modern Jewish Culture

17.–20.07.2017



Bildnachweis: Hebrew astrolabe, Adler Planetarium (Chicago), Josefine Rodriguez Arribas, WWU

## › Visual and Material in Medieval and Early Modern Jewish Culture

So far there is no insight into the question what shaped Jewish attitudes to the image and to issues of visualization and visibility beyond dealings with the Second Commandment. Whereas numerous scholars pinpointed the role non-Jewish environments played in the development of Jewish art per se, not much is known in what way interactions with other cultures shaped not just the art itself, but Jewish dealings with images, their creation, modes of mediation, their uses, functions, and reception, in short the role images may have played in Jewish society.

Likewise, the question of what Jews saw as part of their daily lives on the streets of medieval Europe has hardly been considered. This holds both for sights on the street as well as for what was seen within holy spaces (synagogues or churches) and domestic spaces. By including material culture within a broader discussion of visual culture, we hope to understand what Jews saw and perceived on multiple levels.

The workshop brings together scholars from various fields of Jewish studies to discuss issues of the visual, visualization, material culture and the mediation of sight from a variety of view points: legal texts and responsa, philosophy, science, mysticism, exegesis, poetics, and others. We hope for insights into questions of idolatry, iconoclasm, beauty, local culture, of possible didactic functions of images and objects, of their reception and rejection.

## › Programme

### Monday, 17.07.2017 | Senatssaal, Schloss, Schlossplatz 2

10:00–10:20 Opening and Greetings  
Katrín Kogman-Appel, Münster

10:20–12:00 **Representations of the Divine I**  
‘Beloved is Man for he was Created in the Image [...] Beloved are Israel for they are Called “Sons of God”’: On *Imago Dei* and *Imitatio Dei* in Talmudic Literature | Yair Lorbeerbaum, Tel Aviv  
Painting with Words: Visuality in Ashkenazic *Piyyut* and *Piyyut* Commentary  
Elisabeth Hollender, Frankfurt

14:00–15:40 **Representations of the Divine II**  
Visualizing the Invisible: Appearances of Elijah in Ashkenaz | Chana Shacham-Rosby, Be’er Scheva  
Visualizing Divine Communication in Medieval Jewish Art | Shulamit Laderman, Jerusalem

16:00–18:30 **Visualisations of the Past I**  
Materialized Memory | Rainer J. Barzen, Münster  
Visual Thinking in Yiddish: The Red Jews as a Visual Idiom for Vernacular Jewish Identity in Ashkenaz | Rebekka Voß, Frankfurt

### Tuesday, 18.07.2017 | Senatssaal, Schloss, Schlossplatz 2

09:00–10:40 **Ambivalent Receptions of Images**  
Christian and Jewish Visualities in 13th Century Ashkenaz: Faces, Masks, Hybridities  
Eva Frojmovic, Leeds  
The Writing on the Wall: A Privilege a Mahzor and a Bimah in Thirteenth Century Cologne  
Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, Be’er Scheva

11:00–12:40 **Powerful Objects**  
Artifacts that Desire: Medieval Jewish Perspectives  
Kalman P. Bland, Durham  
Representation and Identity: Racheppuppen in Medieval Jewish Sources | Katelyn Mesler, Münster

14:40–16:20 **Visualisations of the Past II**  
*Be Col Dor Vador*: When the Bond to Remembrance Becomes Visual | Annette Weber, Heidelberg  
If Such a Thing Has Ever Been Heard or Seen? – The Visual and Memory in Hebrew Liturgical Poetry after 1096 | Peter Sh. Lehnardt, Be’er Scheva

17:00–19:30 **Garments**  
Differing Perceptions of Church Garments and Worship Implements in the Writings of the Tosafists | Ephraim Kanarfogel, New York  
Dressing the Jewish Wet Nurse: Shifts, Veils/ Shawls, Towels and Nursing Attire in 14th Century Catalonia | Rebecca Winer, Villanova  
Marked Identity: Clothes and Creating Religious Belonging | Elisheva Baumgarten, Jerusalem

### Wednesday, 19.07.2017 | Festsaal, Schloss, Schlossplatz 5

#### Jews and Christians Sharing Medieval Space I

09:00–10:40 **Water**  
Water and Danger in 14th Century Jewish Sources | Tzafir Barzilay, New York  
Design and Material of Medieval Mikvaot in Ashkenaz | Neta Bodner, Jerusalem

11:00–12:40 **Light**  
*Sex Calami Egredientur de Lateribus* (Ex.25:32): Menorahs, Candelabra and the Visual Interpretation of the Tabernacle Lamp Stand in Medieval Ashkenaz | Steven Fine, New York  
Lights, Identities and Spectacle in 15th Century Iberia | Eleazar Gutwirth, New York/ Tel Aviv

14:30–17:00 **Vision and Optics**  
“The Diagrams There were Incomplete and I did not Want to Copy Them ...” – Mathematical Optics in Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts  
Sabine Arndt, Münster  
Vision through Eyes that Cannot See: Medieval Rabbinic Texts on Blindness  
Levi Israel Ufferfilge, Münster  
Astrolabe Diagrams and Astrolabe Texts: Dialogue or Delusion?  
Josefina Rodríguez-Arribas, Münster

17:20–18:00 **Excursus**  
Research into *Genizot* in Germany  
Eva Stauch, Münster

18:10–19:30 **Layouts in Books**  
From Bomberg to the Beit Midrash: Rabbinic Page Layout as a Visual and Cultural Phenomenon | Yoel Finkelman, Jerusalem  
Kabbalah Practices/Practical Kabbalah: The *Ilan* as Material Text | J.H. (Yossi) Chajes, Haifa

### Thursday, 20.07.2017 | Senatssaal, Schloss, Schlossplatz 2

#### Jews and Christians Sharing Medieval Space II

09:00–11:30 **Space**  
Moreh Nevukhim and the Anglo-Catalan Psalter  
Sara Lipton, Stony Brook  
‘A Tower Floating in the Air’: Jewish Views of the Medieval Urban Space  
Sara Offenberg, Be’er Scheva  
Beyond Christian/ Jewish Words: Material, Sense, and Perception in the Enquêtes of Louis IX – Reconstructing the Shared Experience of Objects in mid-13th Century France | Anne Lester, Boulder

11:30–12:00 Concluding Remarks  
Katrín Kogman-Appel, Münster