

M36	JEWES AND JEWISH DISTRICTS IN EUROPEAN CITIES, 18TH TO 21TH CENTURIES
Organisers:	Erika Szivos (Eotvos Lorand University Budapest) Michael Laurence Miller (Central European University, Budapest)
Period:	Modern/Contemporary
Date:	Thursday, 30 August 2012
Time:	14:00-17:30
Room:	217

Description

Today, Jewish districts in several European cities are experiencing a revival. Rediscovered as targets of cultural tourism, Jewish traditions and mementos of the Jewish past are packaged for consumption; at the same time, Jewish districts and one-time places of worship turn into lieux de mémoire, often being the sites of national Holocaust memorials. The real role of these urban quarters is, however, often controversial. Is it justifiable to speak about continuity, living or rediscovered traditions, or are Jewish quarters re-emerging mainly as tourist sights, with their one-time populations often gone or changed beyond recognition? In what ways is the Jewish heritage contributing to the physical and social renewal of previously neglected or decaying urban neighbourhoods? Are new Jewish quarters emerging in European cities, especially after the decolonization process in the 1950s and 1960s? These issues have been inspiring a growing number of works in modern urban history, architecture and urban sociology, and are relevant to the field of Jewish studies as well. Historically, Jewish districts may be viewed as spatial representations of communities, and the histories of these urban quarters have been linked inextricably to the ups and downs of European Jewish history at large; so papers exploring the histories of urban Jewish communities are welcome in this session. Due to the removal of mediaeval barriers and later legal emancipation, Jews in the 19th century began to break out of the physical and symbolic confines of former ghettos. During the age of assimilation a „dissolution” of Jewish districts began: spontaneous societal changes, the residential mobility of the Jewish middle and upper middle classes, and conscious urban planning often led to the transformation of one-time Jewish quarters. Degrees of assimilation, however, varied, and various Jewish groups continued to represent special colours on the social palettes of ethnically and culturally mixed cities of Europe. Jews contributed significantly to the cultural prominence as well as to the economies of European capitals, but with the emergence of modern political anti-Semitism and authoritarian or totalitarian regimes, coexistence and assimilation proved increasingly problematic. Historical Jewish districts would reemerge once again as ghettos in World War II. In some cases, the war and the Holocaust put an end to thriving urban subcultures; in other cases Jewish communities of European cities survived. Their postwar histories, however, continued under radically different political conditions in Western and Eastern Europe. It is among the aims of this session to attempt to understand these different trajectories.

Scientific Programme

- 790 JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN BANNED CITIES: JEWISH IMMIGRATION IN DEBRECEN IN THE PERIODS BETWEEN 1790-1870**
Janos Mazsu (Debrecen University, Debrecen, Hungary)
- 516 JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO GALATA'S URBAN FORMATION**
Meltem Özkan Altinöz (Karabuk University, Architecture Department, Karabük, Turkey)
- 725 VIENNA'S JEWISH GEOGRAPHY: IMAGINING THE LEOPOLDSTADT**
Lisa Silverman (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee History, Milwaukee, USA)
- 215 JEWISH FASHION HOUSES IN AMSTERDAM, 1880-1940**
Huibert Schijf (Universiteit van Amsterdam Sociology/Anthropology, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 235 BRODY ALWAYS ON MY MIND – MENTAL MAPPING OF A JEWISH CITY**
Boerries Kuzmany (University of Vienna, Slavonic Studies, AAKH, Vienna, Austria)
- 268 HISTORY OF JEWS IN WROCLAW AND IN L'VIV AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR UNTIL 1970**
Izabela Kazejak (European University Institute, Department of History and Civilization, Florence, Italy)
- 1357 FROM "ATLANTIS" TO ...? THE PAST AND PRESENT OF JEWISH KRAKOW IN THE SECOND DECADE OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM**
Monika Murzyn-Kupisz (Krakow University of Economics, Unesco Chair for Heritage and Urban Studies, Department of Economic and Social History, Krakow, Poland)
- 1517 BIROBIDZHAN: CULTURAL REVIVAL, CONCEPTUAL GEOGRAPHIES, AND USES OF 'THE JEW'**
S.I. Salamensky (University Of California, Los Angeles (Ucla), Performance Studies; Center for Jewish Studies/Center for European and Eurasian Studies, Los Angeles, USA)