

An International Conference  
**14-15 September 2014**  
**Undisciplined: German Jewish Studies Today**

The Leo Baeck Institute London

The international conference “Undisciplined: German Jewish Studies Today” aims to represent and reflect on the diversity of German Jewish studies. The conference will bring together scholars working within a variety of disciplines and on a wide range of topics, periods and communities, in an attempt to rethink and radically expand the borders of the field. Throughout the two days of the conference we will explore new and often unfamiliar points of entry into a rich and complex, but also poignant history of boundaries, bodies, languages, and performances.

## Conference Programme and Schedule

### Sunday, 14 September 2014

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#### 9:00-9:30 Coffee

#### 9:30-10:00 Opening Remarks

Raphael Gross (LBI London, Jewish Museum, Frankfurt)

Kerry Wallach (Gettysburg, PA)

Samuel Spinner (Baltimore, MD)

#### 10:00-12:00 Borders I

Chair: Daniel Wildmann (London, UK)

Susannah Heschel (Hanover, NH)

The Wissenschaft des Judentums as Imperial Project: German Jewish Scholarship on Islam in the Long Nineteenth Century

Joshua Teplitsky (Stony Brook, NY)

The Halakhic Limits of Ashkenaz: Political Borders and Legal Boundaries in Early Modern Rabbinic Authority

#### 12:00-14:00 Lunch break

#### 14:00-16:00 Borders II

Chair: Iris Idelson-Shein (Frankfurt, Germany)

David Shyovitz (Chicago, IL)

A World in Miniature: Medieval German-Jewish ‘Mysticism’ between Phenomenology and History

Scott Spector (Ann Arbor, MI)

Two Vultures: Freud Between ‘Jewish Science’ and Humanism

**16:00-16:30 Coffee**

**16:30-18:30 Corpora**

Chair: Amir Engel (Frankfurt, Germany)

Jay Geller (Nashville, TN)

(Un)Natural Histories of the Jews: Of Wanderers along the Human-Animal Border

Iris Idelson-Shein (Frankfurt, Germany)

Maternal Monstrosities in Early Modern Jewish Discourse

**Monday, 15 September 2014**

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**9:00-9:30 Coffee**

**9:30-12:00 Language**

Chair: Samuel Spinner (Baltimore, MD)

Aya Elyada (Jerusalem, Israel)

Yiddish, German, and the Place of Language in German-Jewish Historiography

Vivian Liska (Antwerp, Belgium)

Messianic Language After Walter Benjamin

Kathrin Wittler (Berlin, Germany)

(Not) Coming to Terms with Jewishness. Reflections on the Peculiar German Adjective 'alttestamentarisch'

**12:00-14:00 Lunch break**

**14:00-16:30 Performance**

Chair: Kerry Wallach (Gettysburg, PA)

Philip Bohlman (Chicago, IL)

On Non-Jewish Music

Nicholas Baer (Berkeley, CA)

Metaphysics of Finitude: Fritz Lang's *Der müde Tod* (1921) and the Crisis of Historicism

Amir Engel (Frankfurt, Germany)

Performing German Jewishness after the Holocaust: Arendt and Celan in Germany

**16:30-17:00 Coffee**

**17:00-18:00 Concluding Roundtable**

All conference participants

The conference will take place at the Leo Baeck Institute London

Lecture Room no. 2.17, 2nd Floor, Arts Two Building, Queen Mary, University of London

Mile End Road, London E1 4NS (tube station: Mile End)

Admission is free of charge but due to limitations on space places need to be reserved in advance.

Please contact Melina Stainton ([m.stainton@leobaeck.co.uk](mailto:m.stainton@leobaeck.co.uk)) if you wish to make a booking.