

Hanno Loewy
Jan-Christopher Horak
Ofer Ashkenazi
Natasha Gordinsky
Katja Petrowskaja
Sarah MacDougall

Leo Baeck Institute
Lecture Series
London, 2021

Conceptions of
***Heimat* in Jewish Visual**
History and Culture

Conceptions of *Heimat* in Jewish Visual History and Culture

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This season's series examines the German-Jewish and European-Jewish notion of *Heimat* and its diverse and changing visual representations and interpretations during the course of history. It looks at the subject through a prism of visual media, such as the arts, photography, film and fashion, as well as literature and social media, etc.

*Due to current restrictions all lectures of this series will be held online. Please check our website (www.leobaeck.co.uk) closer to the date of the event for a Zoom link to participate in this talk or alternatively register with us at info@leobaeck.co.uk.

As soon as this will be possible again, lectures will be held at: German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2NJ.

Places at the GHI are strictly limited and must be reserved in advance by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London. e: info@leobaeck.co.uk t: +44 (0)20 7882 5690 Admission is free. Lectures will begin promptly at 6.30pm. Latecomers may not be admitted.

Hanno Loewy
Jüdisches Museum Hohenems, Austria
Unrewarded Love: Alpine Clubs, Ski-Tourism, Folklore and the Jews
6.30pm, Thursday 11th February, 2021

Among the pioneers turning the Alps into the playground of Europe, the urban Jewish middle class played a crucial role. While cities like Vienna, Berlin or Prague offered Jews access to secular culture, industry or higher education, the domesticated 'wilderness' of the mountains provided 'innocence' of togetherness and belonging beyond confines of class, religion and ethnicity. Jewish climbers, environmentalists and pioneers of tourism were among the first to organize Alpine clubs, while others reinvented folklore dressing. All of them lost faith in the Alpine *pastorale* after 1933. Memories of innocent moments enshrined in memorabilia and tales live on. Some of this has its afterlife in the Alps, even today.

Hanno Loewy, PhD, is a scholar of literature and film, an exhibition curator, and, since 2004, the Director of the Jewish Museum Hohenems, Austria. He is the author and editor of several books on film theory, Holocaust, Jewish history and popular culture.

*This lecture will be held online**



Jan-Christopher Horak
UCLA, Los Angeles, USA
Helmar Lerski between the Diaspora and a Jewish Homeland
6.30pm, Thursday 18th March, 2021

The nomadic photographer and filmmaker Helmar Lerski was born in Alsace, raised in Switzerland, began his professional career in Milwaukee, moved to Germany, travelled to Erez Israel and ultimately retired in Switzerland. Aesthetically, Lerski sought to communicate timeless values through the manipulation of light and the physiognomy of the human face in extreme close-ups. His photo project 'Jewish Heads' started his search for a distinct Jewish identity. While advocating a Jewish homeland as a Zionist filmmaker, Lerski remained loyal to his artistic vision. This dichotomy between identifying Jewishness in the Diaspora and a national Jewish identity tied to the land of Israel, between biology and environment, eternal art and propaganda, makes Lerski's work rich and still contemporary.

Prof Horak is the former Director of the UCLA Film & Television Archive, the Munich Filmmuseum and Curator at the George Eastman Museum. He teaches at UCLA and is the multi-award-winning author of numerous books on film historical subjects.

*This lecture will be held online**

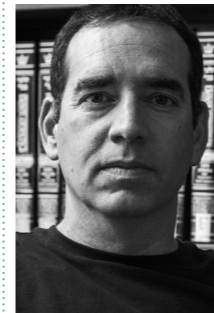


Ofer Ashkenazi
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Heimat as a Shelter from Nazism
6.30pm, Thursday 22nd April, 2021

This talk analyses the presence of generic *Heimat* imagery in German-Jewish family albums from the 1930s and highlights two major tendencies: the appropriation of *Heimat* iconography in photographs of the Jewish home, and the endeavour to situate Jewish family members within generic *Heimat* scenes. In both cases, *Heimat* iconography alluded to an alternative notion of German identity – and of belonging in the German landscape – which allowed and encouraged the integration of Jews within it. Consequently, in Jewish family albums, *Heimat* imagery provided an imagined landscape that sheltered Jews from the menace of Nazism.

Ofer Ashkenazi is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Koebner-Minerva Center for Germany History at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is the author of three monographs on German film (most recently, *Anti-Heimat Cinema: The Jewish Invention of the German Landscape*, 2020). His current research project considers Jewish photography under Nazism.

*This lecture will be held online**



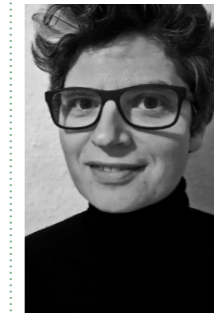
Natasha Gordinsky
Haifa, Israel, in conversation with
Katja Petrowskaja
Berlin, Germany
'Your Heimat is our Nightmare?': Post-Soviet Poetic Interventions in German Culture
6.30pm, Thursday 14th October, 2021

In the past decade post-Soviet Jewish writers, poets and artists who live and work in Germany have played a crucial role in the ongoing debate on the various forms of migrant belonging in contemporary German culture. This lecture seeks to grasp the poetics of (non) belonging. Natasha Gordinsky will explore how different artists represent and de-stabilize performatively the meaning of *Heimat*, and reflect on this highly charged concept, both in German and Soviet contexts, in a dialogue with Kiev born German writer Katja Petrowskaja.

Dr Natasha Gordinsky is Senior Lecturer at the Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature at the University of Haifa and is an author of two books.

Dr Katja Petrowskaja holds a PhD in Literary Studies from the Russian State University in Moscow and works in Berlin as an author and free-lance journalist. Her first book *Maybe Esther* (2014) was translated into 20 languages and has won several prestigious prizes.

*This lecture will be held online**

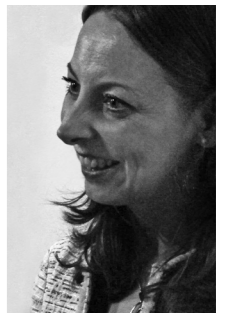


Sarah MacDougall
Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, London, UK
From Heartland to Homeland? – German-Jewish Émigré Artists in Britain, c. 1933–45
6.30pm, Thursday 11th November, 2021

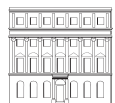
Founded as an arts society in 1915 in London's East End, Ben Uri's collection, exhibition history and programming were significantly impacted from the 1930s onwards by the artistic influx of the so-called 'Hitler émigrés'. This lecture examines the conception of *Heimat* in relation to the lives and work of German-Jewish artists from this cohort, among them Frank Auerbach and Eva Frankfurter, as they navigated their new host culture, touching on notions of national cultural heritage and belonging.

Sarah MacDougall is Director of Ben Uri Gallery and Museum, where she has been a curator since 2002 and Head of Collections since 2012. Her research focuses on Jewish and/or immigrant artists in Britain in the 20th century with exhibitions including *Forced Journeys: Artists in Exile in Britain* (2009–10) and *Finchley Strasse* (German Embassy, London, 2018). She is a member of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies at the University of London.

*This lecture will be held online**



The Leo Baeck Institute
Lecture Series London,
2021 is organised
by the Leo Baeck
Institute London, in
cooperation with the
German Historical
Institute London



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