Fifth Junior Scholars Conference in German-Jewish History

Rich and Poor, Jews and Gentiles
Wealth, Poverty and Class in the 19th and 20th Centuries
Bloomington, Indiana, March 30-31, 2017

Conveners: Co-organized by the German Historical Institute Washington, DC, the Institute for the History of the German Jews, Hamburg, the Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, and the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts (Miriam Ruerup, Anne Schenderlein, Mirjam Zadoff)

This year’s conference focuses on the themes of wealth, poverty, and class. We are specifically interested in creating a dialogue between scholars of Jewish history and historians working on other ethnic, religious, social, and cultural groups. In bringing together a cross-field group of historians, we hope to broaden our understanding of different approaches and sharpen our eye for particularities and commonalities in how wealth and poverty in particular and class more generally manifest themselves in historical research today. Whereas the recent economic turn in Jewish history has inspired numerous works on questions such as production, consumption, commerce, and capitalism, social class has received surprisingly little attention, whether as an analytical category or as lived reality or self-identification. The papers address this shortcoming and that focus on issues of class in history, in particular as manifested in practices and experiences, but also at the level of ideas. We would like to explore when, how, and why social inequality, wealth, poverty, and class mattered in Jewish and non-Jewish history of the 19th and 20th centuries. Furthermore, we wish to examine how individuals and communities across different religious orientations as well as national and transnational contexts dealt with social inequality.
Program

Thursday, March 30, 2017
School for Global and International Studies, Room 4067

9.30–9.45  Welcome Remarks

9.45–11.45  Panel 1: American Economies
Chair: Anne Schenderlein

Kristoff Kerl, University of Cologne
“The Aristocratic and Jew Money-lending Classes”. Antisemitism, Class, and Family in Southern Populism

Aaron Welt, NYU
The Shtarkers of Progressive Era New York; Labor, Crime, and Capitalism in an Era of Mass Migration, 1890-1930

Avigail Oren, Carnegie Mellon University
Where Philanthropists Meet the Poor: The Divergence of Class Interests in the Jewish Community Center

Lunch

1.00-2.30  Panel 2: Transnational Networks
Chair: Miriam Ruerup

Jakob Stürmann, University of Potsdam
Multiple affiliations of Eastern-European Jewish Socialists in Exile

Constanze Kolbe, Indiana University
Corfiote Jewish Merchants and Transnational Philanthropy Networks
Panel 3: Philanthropy & National Culture  
*Chair: Sarah Imhoff*

Hanna Shaul Bar Nissim, Brandeis University  
The Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations: Democratization and  
Communal Participation

Maja Gildin Zuckerman, University of Southern Denmark  
Giving and Receiving: Zionist Relief Work and Class Assertions

Evening Lecture  
*Oak Room, Indiana Memorial Union*

Miriam Ruerup  
Imagining Remigration & Return: Translating Experience and Utopia  
into Film in Postwar Germany

Friday, March 31, 2017

Panel 4: Space and Segregation  
*Chair: Mark Roseman*

Moti Gigi, Sapir College  
The Establishment of Cinémathèque in Sderot: Class, Space and  
Ethnicity

Iona Dascultu, USHMM  
Social dynamics in the Shargorod Ghetto during the Holocaust
11.30-1.00 Panel 5: Religion & Class
Chair: Mirjam Zadoff

Tim Corbett, University of Vienna
Religious Culture, Social Standing, and Reflections of Belonging in Nineteenth-Century Viennese Sepulchral Epigraphy

Alexandra Zirkle, University of Chicago
Preaching Poverty: Poor Jews and Economic Theology

Lunch & Concluding Remarks