In Global Transit
Forced Migration of Jews and Other Refugees (1940s – 1960s)

May 20 – 22, 2019

German Historical Institute | Pacific Regional Office at the
University of California, Berkeley

Second Conference in the Series “In Global Transit” organized by the
German Historical Institutes in Washington and London
In cooperation with the Max Weber Stiftung Branch Offices in Delhi and Beijing, and
The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, University of California, Berkeley

Conveners:

**Wolf Gruner**  
USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, Los Angeles

**Simone Lässig**  
German Historical Institute Washington

**Francesco Spagnolo**  
The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Berkeley

**Swen Steinberg**  
Queen's University, Kingston

Cover Photo: “On to the West” reads the sign on the railroad car in which these Polish Jews were repatriated from the Asiatic region of the USSR.  
John Vachon © 1946 | Archives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Monday, May 20
The Magnes Collection, Allston Way, Berkeley

4:00 p.m. Welcome
Simone Lässig, German Historical Institute Washington

4:10 p.m. Exhibit Program: Memory Objects
Francesco Spagnolo, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, University of California, Berkeley
Shir Gal Kochavi, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life, University of California, Berkeley

4:45 p.m. Borders and Boundaries
Panel 1
Citizenship Denied. Jewish Refugees in Mexico in a Legal Limbo
Daniela Gleizer, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City

Transit, Borders and Integration: Travel and Arrival of Holocaust Survivors to Argentina
Emmanuel Kahan, National Council for Scientific and Technological Research, Argentina

Chair
Stefan-Ludwig Hoffmann, University of California, Berkeley

5:45 p.m. Break

6:00 p.m. Keynote
Wandering Jews or Jewish Migrations? How Jewish Scholars Conceptualized Migration
Tobias Brinkmann, Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Tuesday, May 21

The Magnes Collection, Allston Way, Berkeley

8:30 a.m.  Light Breakfast

9:00 a.m.  Translating and Producing Knowledge

Panel 2

“Send me letters and I will send you packages”: Polish Jewish Refugees around the Globe Share Knowledge and Resources

Eliyana Adler, Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Politics of Refugee Internment and Knowledge Production in Colonial India

Razak Khan, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg

Chair  

Sören Urbansky, German Historical Institute Washington DC

10:00 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m.  Conflicting and Converging Identities: Emotions in Transit

Panel 3

“We were refugees and carried a special burden:” German Jewish Emigrés and the Emotional Struggle of Finding a new Home in São Paulo

Björn Siegel, Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg

Post-World War II Brazil: A New Homeland for Jews and Nazis

Sarah R. Valente, The University of Texas at Dallas

Chair  

Indra Sengupta, German Historical Institute London and Max Weber Stiftung India Branch Office, New Delhi

11:30 a.m.  Lunch

1:30 p.m.  Production and Use of Networks in Transit

Panel 4

World Sojourners: Jewish migration to Bolivia and Guatemala

Sandra Gruner-Domic, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

“We are not going to wait until 1939 ... this is 1933.” The Role of Popular Unity Government and Pinochet's Dictatorship in the Holocaust Survivors' Decision to Emigrate from Chile

Nancy Nicholls, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Santiago

Chair  

Claudia Roesch, German Historical Institute Washington

2:00 p.m.  Break

3:00 - 6:00 p.m.  Excursion – Conceptualize Transit

Museum of the Chinese Historical Society of America / walking tour through San Francisco’s Chinatown
**Wednesday, May 22**

The Magnes Collection, Allston Way, Berkeley

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td><strong>Light Breakfast</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:00 a.m.   | **Refugees in Processes of Decolonization, State Building, and State Crisis**  
              Notun Yehudi (The New Jews): A Study of the Refugees from East Pakistan in Post-Partition India  
              **Pallavi Chakravarty**, Ambedkar University Delhi  
              “Shifting Figures in a Shifting Landscape:” Holocaust Refugees in Young Independent India  
              **Margit Franz**, Karl-Franzens University, Graz  
              **Chair**: **Isabel Richter**, University of California, Berkeley |
| 10:00 a.m.  | **Break**                                                            |
| 10:30 a.m.  | **Power Structures and Shifting Settings: Class, Race, and Gender**   ।
              Trauma, Privilege, and Adventure: Jewish Refugees in Iran  
              **Atina Grossmann**, Cooper Union, New York  
              Haven in British East Africa: German and Austrian Jewish Refugees in Kenya  
              **Natalie Eppelsheimer**, Middlebury College, Vermont  
              **Chair**: **Andrea Sinn**, Elon University |
| 11:30 a.m.  | **Break**                                                            |
| 12:00 p.m.  | **Departing as Child – Arriving as Adult: Age and Generation**       ।
              “Living Across Border:” Agency and Displacement of Polish Jewish and Ethnic Polish Migrants after the War (1945 – 1960)  
              **Anna Cichopek-Gajraj**, Arizona State University, Tempe  
              Musical Migration: Ruth Schönthal from Mexico City to New York  
              **Andrea Orzoff**, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces  
              **Chair**: **Sheer Ganor**, University of California, Berkeley |
| 1:00 p.m.   | **Lunch**                                                            |
In Global Transit Forced Migration of Jews and Other Refugees (1940s – 1960s) Program

2:00 p.m.   Neighborhoods Between Belonging and Alienness
Panel 8

American Dreams: Jewish Refugees and Chinese Locals in Post-World War II Shanghai

*Kimberly Cheng*, New York University

Home and In Transit Location for Holocaust Survivors in Mexico

*Yael Siman*, Anáhuac University, Mexico City

Chair   *Nick Underwood*, German Historical Institute Washington, Pacific Regional Office Berkeley

3:00 p.m.   Break

3:15 p.m.   Narrating Transit and Forced Migration
Panel 9

From Auschwitz to Bogotá: When Genocide and Political Violence Converge

*Lorena Ávila Jaimes*, Konrad Adenauer Foundation Rule of Law Program for Latin-America

Bolivia as Transitory Refuge: Memoirs of Jewish Refugees

*Helga Schreckenberger*, University of Vermont, Burlington

Chair   *Andrea Westermann*, German Historical Institute Washington, Pacific Regional Office Berkeley

4:15 p.m.   Concluding discussion

Chairs   *Wolf Gruner*, USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, Los Angeles

*Swen Steinberg*, Queen's University, Kingston

5:00 p.m.   Break

6:30 - 9:00 p.m.   Conference dinner
This painting hangs in the social hall of Congregation B'nai Emunah in San Francisco. It shows five of the synagogue's founding generation and traces their routes from Germany via Belgium and China to San Francisco. You can read their stories on the artist's website: https://anneruthisaacson.com/journeys-of-survival.

Painting by Anne Ruth Isaacson © 2016