

WAG Scholars' Working Group on German Rabbis after 1933 at LMU München

Personal Details

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Historisches Seminar

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Statement of Interest

Part of our work on a “research portal” on German refugee rabbis after 1933 is to provide a platform for communication and cohesion to facilitate collaboration among the scholars who work in the field. The digital nature of the publication is therefore also a tool for us to bridge spacial gaps that scholarship is currently still struggling with, and we hope to establish a functioning network for regular scholarly exchanges, joint activities and the publication of our scholarship. As scholars who are working on a digital research portal, we appreciate any information made available to us by members of the group. As a group of experts, we also encourage regional projects, cooperations, workshops, exhibitions and lecture series that highlight the legacy of the German refugee rabbis abroad from a critical perspective and want to encourage the groups' members to collaborate and raise additional funding. The group is supported by the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft of the Leo Baeck Institutes in Germany (WAG).

Project Outline

The project explores the cultural heritage and the legacies of the German refugee rabbinate after flight and dispersion during and after Nazism (<https://mira.geschichte.lmu.de/>), which is currently implemented in a cooperation of the department of Jewish History and Culture and the IT-Gruppe Geisteswissenschaften at LMU München. The project seeks to add a new comparative and more global perspective on key questions that have developed in part I of the priority program. This includes the development of a comparative perspective particularly on the migration to Palestine/Israel, the refugees' long-term spacial distribution, global networks, communication hubs, authorizations of cultural transfers, and the historic development of such transfers in different national and religious narratives and settings

Presentation

Varieties of aspects on “The last Generation of the German Rabbinate in the US after 1933”:

<https://publish.iupress.indiana.edu/projects/the-last-generation-of-the-german-rabbinate>

and the MIRA Project: <https://mira.geschichte.lmu.de/>

Short Bio

Cornelia Wilhelm is professor of modern history at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München. Her work focuses primarily on migration, race, ethnicity, religion and on comparative and transnational aspects of modern Jewish history. She taught as DAAD Visiting Professor in History and Jewish Studies at Emory University (2010-2016) Atlanta and also held visiting positions at Rutgers University and the university of Innsbruck.

She is author of the monographs *Bewegung oder Verein? Nationalsozialistische Volkstumspolitik in den USA* (Stuttgart: Steiner, 1998); *Pioneers of a New Jewish Identity: The Independent Orders of B'nai B'rith and True Sisters* (ger. Stuttgart: Steiner, 2007, engl. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2011) and *The Last Generation of the German Rabbinate* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, September 2024, available as open access publication).

She currently works in the DFG-sponsored priority program "Jewish Cultural Heritage" on the construction of a digital research portal on the cultural transfers of the German rabbinate after 1933.