

One of the main challenges for BA/MA programmes in Jewish Studies is the multi-disciplinary nature of the field, and the need to reconcile the provision of skills and disciplines commonly considered central for a Jewish Studies programme, with the disciplinary transformations in the field and the hope to also accommodate less often (in the context of Jewish Studies) taught disciplines.

The institutional context and available staff are additional factors in shaping the teaching provision and the degree diet. The ubiquitous challenges to the Humanities, and the decrease in financial resources, will affect the structure and substance of teaching as well, and the continued gravitation towards disciplinary silos affects the ability of colleagues teaching in a Jewish Studies programme to develop productive exchange and explore to possibilities of cross-disciplinary cooperation.

This workshop addresses these issues by allowing academics with institutional responsibilities to engage in a conversation about the tension between the need to develop coherent degree programmes and accommodate the disciplinary diversity of Jewish Studies. This exchange should also allow to understand the different genealogies and academic traditions constituting the highly diverse landscape of Jewish Studies in Europe.

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**WORKSHOP**

*E Pluribus Unum?*

## **Multidisciplinarity in Jewish Studies Programmes and Teaching**

**Girona, 28-29 May 2017**



## Sunday, May 28

**11:30 - 13:00 Guided visit to the Museum of the History of the Jews in Girona**

**13:00 - 14:00 Registration, Opening, and Lunch**

**14:00 - 17:15 Section 1 - Promises and Pitfalls of Multi-Disciplinarity (Chair: François Guesnet)**

Matthew Kritz (Princeton University), *Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Conferences at Princeton University*

Myriam Silvera (University of Rome-Tor Vergata), *The Search for a Middle Way between Academia and Rabbinical School: the Case of Rome*

Balasz Tamasi (Jewish Theological Seminary, Budapest), *Multi-Disciplinarity and Teaching Jewish Studies at the Budapest University of Jewish Studies*

**15:30 – 15:45 Coffee Break**

Yehuda Brandes (Herzog College, Alon Shvut), *Teaching Mishnah in a Multidisciplinary Approach*

Federico dal Bo (Autonomous University, Barcelona), *A Feminist Commentary on the Babylonian Talmud*

**20:30 Dinner**

## Monday, May 29

**9:30 - 11:00 Section 2 - Senior Institutions and Programmes: Achievements and Challenges (Chair: Elisabeth Hollender)**

Michal Galas (Jagiellonian University, Cracow), *Jewish Studies in Poland: Jagiellonian University Perspective*

Alessandro Grazi & Irene Zwiép (University of Amsterdam), *E Pluribus Plures: Jewish Studies at the University of Amsterdam*

François Guesnet (University College, London), *Lateral Research Areas: Encouraging Cross-Disciplinary Conversation?*

**11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break**

**11:15 - 12:45 Section 3 - New Horizons: Institutions and Challenges, Part I (Chair: Javier Castaño)**

Vladyslava Moskalets (Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv), *Challenges and Opportunities of Opening New Jewish Studies Programs in Ukraine: Interdisciplinary Perspective*

Ricardo Muñoz Solla (University of Salamanca), *Hebrew Studies at Salamanca University: Then and Now*

Rebecca Rose (Alma Mater Europaea University, Maribor), *The Challenges of Forming a Joint Jewish Studies Center in Slovenia*

**12:45 Mayor of Girona's greeting**

**13:00 - 14:00 Lunch**

**14:00 - 16:45 Section 3 - New Horizons: Institutions and Challenges, Part II (Chair: Katrin Kogman-Appel)**

Pablo A. Torijano (University Complutense, Madrid), *Jewish Studies at the University Complutense: A Discipline at the Crossroads*

Katja Šmid (Independent scholar), *Network for South Eastern European Jewish Studies: Future Challenges*

Vitaly Chernovianenko (National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kyiv), *Jewish Studies Programmes in Kyiv, Ukraine*

**15:30-15:45 Coffee Break**

Pavel Sladek (Charles University, Prague), *The Blank Slate: Teaching about Jews after the Death of Western Canon*

Shani Tzoref (University of Potsdam), *Draw from the Past, Live in the Present, Work for the Future: Biblical Studies in an Interdisciplinary Context at the School of Jewish Theology, University of Potsdam*

**17:00 – 18:15 Open discussion: Multi-Disciplinarity and Cultural Diversity as Contexts of Teaching Jewish Studies in Europe (Chair: Pavel Sladek)**

Naida-Mihal Brandl (University of Zagreb), *Hebraistic or Judaic/Jewish Studies: Finding the Balance between Needs of the Field and Students Expectations*

Nomi Drachinsky (Ulpan Hebreo-Sefarad, Madrid), *Challenges of Teaching Modern Hebrew as an Active Language in a non-Hebrew Environment*

**18:30 Public Event at the Museum of the History of the Jews**

Javier Castaño (Spanish National Research Council, Madrid): *Jewish Civilization and Its Place in Spanish Academia*

**20:30 Dinner**