

Cultural Encounters between Israel and Germany: Literary Cross-Cultural Relations 1918-2022

This upcoming conference sets to examine the cultural encounters between modern and contemporary German and Israeli literature, with a specific focus on representation, reception and translation.

While the conference focuses on a relatively wide corpus, we find special interest in the period following Germany's reunification, in which hundreds of literary works have been translated from Hebrew to German. This suggested time frame is based on the changes that Germany has undergone after its reunification, both politically and culturally, following the "memory boom" in German historiography – first in academic discourse and later in the general public sphere – which had shaped Germany's renewed national identity, and from a motivation to cope with the past ("Vergangenheitsbewältigung") rather than hiding or denying it. Germany's reckoning with its past affected, in turn, its cultural arena, and specifically its field of publishing, in which the number of publications of Israeli literature began to increase dramatically following Germany's reunification and throughout the 1990's, and reached an average of 27 titles per year by the end of that decade, a rate maintained to date.

This upsurge in Israeli-German translations could be viewed as a prefiguration of the current restoration and flourishing of the close cultural and artistic links between Germany and the Jewish/Israeli culture – a process that has materialized in the past decade, and which Amir Eshel and Na'ama Rokem term "a productive horizon of creativity" in Israeli literature.

Israeli society and culture have also undergone frequent and dramatic changes during this time, with the dominant ideological shift following Prime Minister Rabin's assassination in the mid-1990's and the outbreak of the second Intifada in 2000, which has subsequently impacted Israeli literature. This literary shift is represented in form (from romantic or "escapist" short prose to longer, more realist novels) and in changes in themes and attitudes. It has also affected the traditional role of the Israeli author as prophet or critic. Moreover, already from the mid-1980's and throughout the 1990's, Israeli literature underwent a process of pluralization, which introduced more voices that transcend the long-dominating white, male and Ashkenazi Zionist narrative.

Location

Kollegiengebäude der Universität
Basel, Petersplatz 1, 4051 Basel

Educating Talents since 1460.

University of Basel
Centre for Jewish Studies
Leimenstrasse 48
4051 Basel
Switzerland

<https://jewishstudies.unibas.ch>



31 May - 2 June, 2022

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DOKTORATSPROGRAMM
LITERATUR
WISSENSCHAFT

יאוֹרִיק, בַּאֶנְהֵיֶט,
תְּהוֹלֹגִישׁה
פּאָקולְטַאֵט
לִיטֶרַאטוּר
וּבִישׁוּנְשַׁפְט
בַּאֶסֶל
בַּאֶסֶל
בַּאֶסֶל

Programme

May 31, 2022

17.00 **Greetings**

Introduction with Literary Readings

18.30 **Apéro riche**

June 1, 2022

09.00 **Inquiries into Translation,**
Chair: **Hans-Joachim Hahn**
Yarden Ben-Zur (Tel Aviv): Dr. Abraham,
Mr. Sonne?: Abraham BenYizhak's Poetry
between German and Hebrew
Federico Dal Bo (Heidelberg): The Sorrows of
Young Celan. Paul Celan's Early German
Translations of Yehudah ha-Levi's Hebrew Poems
Dekel Shay Schory (Beer Sheva):
Stefan Zweig in Hebrew (1928-2022)

10.30 **Coffee Break**

11.00 **Translation and World Literature,**
Chair: **Lisa Ketges**
Jan Kühne (Jerusalem): German-Hebrew
Homophonic Translation
Na'ama Rokem (Chicago): Hortulus 37
Tom Kellner (Halle): Yoram Kaniuk's German
Fiction: On World Literature's Intended Reader(s)

June 1, 2022 (continuation)

12.30 **Lunch Break**

14.00 **The Double Image of Germany in Hebrew and
Israeli Literature,** Chair: **Esther Maria Meyer**
Noam Krohn (Beer Sheva): Berlin of Dreams and
Nightmares: The City as Represented in
Hebrew Novels
Adia Mendelson-Maoz (Ra'anana):
Kaniuk and Germany – Two Unpublished Works
Dorit Lemberger (Ramat Gan): Multi-dimensional
Representation of the Holocaust: Thomas Mann's
„Mario and the Magician“ and David Grossman's
“See Under: Love“

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Navigating Hebrew and German Traditions,**
Chair: **Seven Kraus**
Judith Müller (Basel/Beer Sheva): Between
Sprachwelten: Writing in German and Hebrew
Yaara Keren (Rehovot): The Tradition of German
Hermeneutics and Lea Goldberg's
Recovered Novel
Michal Ben-Horin (Ramat Gan):
Entwined Stories: A Comparative Reading of
Ruth Almog and Jenny Erpenbeck

18.30 **Conference Dinner**

June 2, 2022

9.30 **The (Im)Possibility of Cultural Crossings,**
Chair: **Delphine Conzelmann**
Anna Rosa Schlechter (Vienna/Jerusalem):
Untranslatable? The Notion of Translatability in
the Bilingual Work of Elazar Benyoëtz
Dmitry V. Shlapentokh (South Bend):
Russian Jews in Israel and Approach to Germany:
The Case of Efraim Savela

10.30 **Coffee Break**

11.00 **Cultural Migrations Between Hebrew and German,**
Chair: **Michaele Frey**
Dani Kranz (Beer Sheva): Cultural Knowledge
Infrastructures and Migrating Knowledge:
Genres, Themes, Experiences
Kathrin Schwarz (Berlin): A Metalinguistic
Landscape. Visible Encounters of Israeli Literature
in Germany
Nishant K Narayana (New Delhi/Hyderabad):
German as a Foreign Language: Between
Polarisation and Recognition

12.30 **Lunch Break**

13.30 **Final Discussion**

15.00 **Optional Tour: Jewish/Hebrew Basel**

Organisation

Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Basel
Judith Müller (Basel/Beer Sheva)
Dr. Tom Kellner (Halle)