The “Hochschule”

Established in 1872 against the background of the permanent exclusion of Jewish Studies and rabbinical training from German universities, the “Hochschule” became one of the leading Jewish academic institutions in Germany – a spiritual home for prominent Jewish scholars such as Leo Baeck, Hermann Cohen, Ismar Elbogen, Max Wiener, Emil Fackenheim, Abraham Geiger, Julius Gutmann, Abraham Joshua Heschel, Solomon Schechter, and Eugen Täubler. Over its seven-decade lifetime, the “Hochschule” developed a unique tradition of learning that promoted a broad and liberal understanding of Jewish culture and thought. Although it managed to carry on its work even after November 1938, when most German-Jewish institutions had been dissolved, the “Hochschule” closed for good in 1942, and the majority of its scholars and students perished in the Holocaust. However, the “Hochschule’s” legacy was kept alive against all odds: Some of its members managed to flee Germany and continued their intellectual work in new homelands. This legacy is also preserved in the “Hochschule’s” library, whose remnants survived the war and were disseminated across numerous countries.

This conference brings together scholars dealing with the intellectual legacy of the “Hochschule” as well as with the material aspects of the institution’s historical development. To add a fresh perspective to the question of German-Jewish cultural heritage and its development in the twentieth century, we want to focus especially on the post-Holocaust “Hochschule” to understand what its remains may teach us about the “Wissenschaft des Judentums,” Jewish scholarship and culture more broadly.

Venue and Registration
Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum
Oranienburger Straße 28–30, 10117 Berlin

The international conference is also taking place digitally. For online and in-person attendance please register here at least one day in advance:
www.leobaecck.org
www.dubnow.de

Illustration:
Students and teachers of the “Hochschule” in the reading room, 1938. Courtesy of the Leo Baeck Institute, New York.

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Program

Tuesday, 29 November 2022

12.30 p.m.
Yfaat Weiss/Anja Siegemund
Opening

12.45 p.m.
(Material) History and Afterlife of the “Hochschule”
Chair: Anna Holzer-Kawalko
Daniel Schwartz
Hochschule-Style “Wissenschaft des Judentums” in the Post-Holocaust World

Kerstin von der Krone
Berlin in Breslau: Tracing the Legacy of the “Hochschule” through the “Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums”

2.15 p.m.
Coffee Break

2.45 p.m.
Translocation, Exile, and New Contexts of Jewish Collections – A Conceptual Framework
Chair: Meike Hopp
Caroline Jessen
Reconstructing Contexts. Books and Their Usage

Zsuzsanna Toronyi
Material Evidences of German-Jewish Scholarship in Budapest

Rachel Heuberger
The Significance of a Library Catalogue for Jewish Studies: The Digital Reconstruction of the Freimann Collection in Frankfurt am Main

4.45 p.m.
Coffee Break

5.15 p.m.
Keynote Lecture
Chair: Irene Aue-Ben-David

Nils Roemer
Historicities and Legacies of “Wissenschaft des Judentums,” Then and Now

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

1 p.m.
The Library and Librarians of the “Hochschule”
Chair: Miriam Rürup

Avriel Bar-Levav
The Ecology of Jewish Seminary Libraries in the 19th and Early 20th Century

Bettina Farack
The Last Years of the Library of the “Hochschule”

Irene Munster
Berlin Legacy: Suse Hallenstein

3 p.m.
Coffee Break

3.30 p.m.
Transfer of Knowledge and Objects of the “Hochschule”
Chair: Alina Gromova

Anna Holzer-Kawalko
Forgotten Heritage: The Fate of the “Hochschule” Library in Israel

Noah S. Gerber
From Barbaric to Promised Land: Refugee Scholars and Hebrew Books in the Wake of the Catastrophe

Irene Aue-Ben-David
Selma Stern’s Research on German-Jewish History in Exile – a Material Perspective

5.30 p.m.
Coffee Break

5.45 p.m.
Concluding Remarks – Future Perspectives: German-Jewish Cultural Heritage Outside Germany
Chair: Felix Steilen

with

Emily Bilski
Joachim Schlör
Christian Wiese

Speakers

Dr. Irene Aue-Ben-David, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem
Prof. Dr. Avriel Bar-Levav, The Open University of Israel, Ra’anana | Emily Bilski, Independent Curator, Jerusalem
Bettina Farack, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem | Dr. Noah S. Gerber, Tel-Aviv University | Dr. Alina Gromova, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum
Dr. Rachel Heuberger, Goethe University Frankfurt
Dr. Anna Holzer-Kawalko, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem | Prof. Dr. Meike Hopp, Technische Universität Berlin – Digital Provenance | Dr. Caroline Jessen, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig | Irene Munster, Priddy Library, Rockville, Md.
Prof. Dr. Nils Roemer, The University of Texas at Dallas | Prof. Dr. Miriam Rürup, Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum für Europäisch-Jüdische Studien | Prof. Dr. Joachim Schlör, University of Southampton | Prof. Dr. Daniel Schwartz, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | Dr. Anja Siegemund, Stiftung Neue Synagoge Berlin – Centrum Judaicum | Dr. Felix Steilen, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig | Dr. Zsuzsanna Toronyi, Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives, Budapest | Dr. Kerstin von der Krone, Goethe University Frankfurt | Prof. Dr. Yfaat Weiss, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig/The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | Prof. Dr. Christian Wiese, Goethe University Frankfurt

Organization

Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow in cooperation with the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem

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www.dubnow.de
www.leobaeck.org
www.spp-juedisches-kulturerbe.de