

CAJES

Conference of Applied Jewish Studies

16 – 18 November 2026, University of Cologne

Sunday, 15 November 2026	
	Individual arrival, check-in
Monday, 16 November 2026 – New Senate Hall, University of Cologne	
09.00-09.30	Registration and distribution of conference materials
09.30-09.45	Welcome University of Cologne: Matthias Lehmann, Sebastian Barsch JEWLIF: Rebecca Mitzner
Panel 1: After the Requiem: Jewish Studies in Europe at a Point of Rupture	
09.45-11.15	<i>Irene Zwiép (University of Amsterdam)</i> <i>Itamar Ben Ami (Utrecht University)</i> <i>Magdalena Janosikova (University of Amsterdam)</i>
11.15-11.30	Break (coffee, refreshments, snacks)
Roundtable: Contemporary Jewish Studies and Israel Studies in Germany	
11.30-13.00	<i>Johannes Becke (HfJS Heidelberg)</i> <i>Dani Kranz (Tikvah Institut)</i> <i>Sarah Ross (HMTM Hannover)</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch break – Cafeteria, University of Cologne
Panel 2: Antisemitism Education – Reports from the Field	
14.30-15.30	Critical Antisemitism Education at Lower Secondary Level – A Study of Social Studies Teachers' Attitudes and Conceptions of Judaism <i>Meltem Bedorf (University of Cologne)</i>
	Certificate Program “Antisemitismuskritische Bildung” (Education Against Antisemitism) at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf <i>Anke Hilbrenner (HHU Düsseldorf)</i>
15.30-15.45	Break (coffee, refreshments, snacks)
Roundtable: Jewish Education and the Social Question	
15.45-17.00	<i>Lukasz Gorniok (Paideia)</i> <i>Dr. Florian Weis (Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung)</i>
18.00-20.00	Conference Dinner at Synagogengemeinde Roonstraße
20.00-22.00	Fireside Chat Welcome: Abraham Lehrer (Jewish Community of Cologne and the Central Council) Introduction of guest: Andrei Kovacs (General Secretary JEWLIF)

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Tuesday, 17 November 2026 – New Senate Hall, University of Cologne	
Panel 3: Jewish Life in the European Public Sphere (I)	
09.30-11.30	Formulating a research agenda for fostering Jewish life and combatting antisemitism <i>Jonathan Boyd (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London)</i>
	Formulating a research agenda for fostering Jewish life and combatting antisemitism <i>Keith Kahn-Harris (Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London)</i>
	Holocaust Education and Jewish Life in the European Public Sphere: From Classroom Practice to Societal Impact <i>Melanie Carina Schmoll (University of Calgary)</i>
	The potential of contemporary German Jewish literature for Applied Jewish Studies <i>Samuel Schumann (RWTH Aachen)</i>
11.30-11.45	Break (coffee, refreshments, snacks)
Panel 4: Rooting Jewish Life: Beyond Holocaust Memory	
11.45-13.15	Jewish Urban Memory and the Present: Spatial Histories, Long-Term Presence and Educational Approaches in Public History <i>Federica Di Padova (Modena, Italy)</i>
	Portugal – The Sepharad that Never Existed (in the Classroom) <i>Ana C. Marques (University of Porto and CSIC Madrid)</i>
	The Szeged New Synagogue as educational site: Communicating a complex Jewish history to diverse audience <i>Dóra Pataricza (Jewish Theological Seminary-University of Jewish Studies, Budapest)</i>
13.15-14.45	Lunch break – Cafeteria, University of Cologne
Workshop Early-Career Researchers and Jewish Activism (Working Title)	
14.45-16.15	<i>Hanna Veiler (President EUJS)</i>
	<i>David Benatar (President Spanish Union of Jewish Students)</i>
	<i>Hanna Nir, PhD candidate Sociology of Religion, Uppsala University</i>
16.15-17.00	Light Snack (Coffee, refreshments, fingerfood)
18.00-19.30	Keynote: Jewish Exile as Experience and Metaphor Prof. Dr. Vivian Liska, University of Antwerp Location: Amélie Thyssen Auditorium
Afterwards	Reception

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Wednesday, 18 November 2026 – University of Cologne	
Panel 5: Jewish Life in the Nordics	
09.30-10.45	Studying Everyday Jewish Life in the Nordics: Implications for Education <i>Ruth Illman (Abo Akademi University, Turku)</i>
	Antisemitism and Jewish Life in the Nordics: Belonging, Practice, and the Limits of Visibility in Iceland Norway, and Finland <i>Mercédesz Czimbalmos (Abo Akademi University, Turku)</i> <i>Vibeke Moe (Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, Oslo)</i>
	10.45-11.00 Break (coffee, refreshments, snacks)
Panel 6: Jewish Life in the European Public Sphere (II)	
11.00-12.30	Making Jewish Lifeworlds Visible: The Digital Learning House 'Jewish Life' as an Innovative Educational Mode <i>Werner Haußmann (Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Nürnberg)</i>
	Staging Integration: National Jewish Museums and the Problem of Inclusion within European Public Culture <i>Joshua Krug (independent researcher)</i>
	Between Visibility and Vulnerability: Jewish-Muslim Encounters and the Reconfiguration of Jewish Life in Europe's Public Sphere after October 7 <i>Marcela Menachem Zoufalá (Charles University, Prague)</i>
12.30	End of conference, farewell
Side programme (optional)	
13.30-15.30	Visit to Museum Ludwig – Guided tour in English (pending)