

6H JEWISH PLURALITY

CENTRO DE HISTÓRIA
60 ANOS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO EM HISTÓRIA



THE PAST AND THE PRESENT OF THE IBERIAN MATRIX

21-22TH JUNE
2018

UNIVERSITY OF LISBON

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND
HUMANITIES

SALA SEMINÁRIOS
CENTRE FOR HISTORY

ORGANIZATION
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Outline of the Workshop:

The world of Jews of Iberian origin is, as is well known, diversified in the temporal and spatial framework, as well as in terms of its religious identity. There is, notwithstanding, a designation that needs further and more rigorous discussion.

The designation “Sephardi” – in relation to Jews of Iberian origin – has fuelled disparaging perspectives throughout national historiographies and misunderstandings with respect to the diversity of its socio-cultural and religious identities. Fundamentally, such disparity arises from the specific interests upon which scholars focus their wide-ranging thematic approach. To illustrate this idea, the approach of an historian of the medieval period on these Jews has to be symptomatically different from those that are interested in the study of the modern and contemporary Diaspora.

On its turn, the methodological orientations themselves adopted in the study of Jews of Iberian origin play a central role in the application of the “Sephardi” designation. The diversity in the application of such designation - both inside the communities of Iberian origin, and even with respect to Jews that do not carry it (but yet have adopted an Iberian *minhag*) – reflects the perplexity of its use as a general comprehensive concept.

In addition, it should be noted that the knowledge of sources has a direct impact regarding the application of the designation “Sephardi”. Let us take another example: the historian of the Portuguese community of Amsterdam knows that the Jews from this city never perceived themselves as Sephardi, but as Portuguese; and the scholars of the Jews from the Ottoman Empire know that this one was a highly esteemed designation from the standpoint of identity for the Jews of Iberian origin that lived in the countries born out of the latter’s dismemberment.

In view of the present outline, this event seeks to address the complexity of this thematic, taking as a reference the objectives and areas proposed.

Objectives of the event:

- Widening of our understanding of the diversity of identities in both spatial and temporal terms;
- Development of topics on the diversity of socio-religious identities in a synchronous perspective;
- Identification of signs of cooperation and/or intra/extracomunitarian belligerence;
- Comparison of behavioural practices throughout the diaspora: strategies of survival, adaptation, transmission of values and knowledge.

Key issues:

- A. Negotiation, confrontation and resistance to external (id)entities (civil and religious);
- B. Negotiation, confrontation and resistance between Iberian Jews (Jews and *converts*);
- C. Extension of regulation into household life: litigation, marriage, parental role and authority, family property, domestic violence and popular customs.

Chronologies and geographic areas under analysis:

- From the medieval period to the 21st century
- Europe, Ottoman Empire, North Africa and Colonial spaces

PROGRAMME

JUNE, 21

10:00 – Welcoming and Introduction – Hermenegildo Fernandes, Director of the Centre for History

10:30 – *Tanja Zakrzewski*, Universität Potsdam, Institut für Jüdische Studien und Religionswissenschaft
Historiography as a means of identity-making - A Converso history of Spain?

11:30 – *Peter Mark and Lily Landau*, Wesleyan University
When is anti-Semitism a form of racism? Is anti-Semitism the same as racism in Early Modern Europe?

LUNCH

14:00 – *Jonathan Schorsch*, Universität Potsdam, Institut für Jüdische Theologie
Thoughts on the Jewish Portuguese Empire

15:00 – *Maria da Graça Ventura*, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro de História; Instituto de Cultura Ibero-Atlântica
The “Auto de Fé” In Lima on the 23rd January 1639: Causes and Sentences against Portuguese New Christians

BREAK

16:15 – *Sina Rauschenbach*, Universität Potsdam, Institut für Jüdische Studien und Religionswissenschaft
Carvajal and the Franciscans - Jewish-Christian Eschatological Expectations in a New World Setting.

17:15 – *José Alberto R. S. Tavim*, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro de História

Jews and Marranos: Rabbinic Responsa and Other Examples Relating to the Ottoman Empire in the Early Modern Age

18:15 – Roundtable about the Protocol Lisbon-Potsdam Universities

JUNE, 22

10:00 – *Hugo Martins*, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro de História
The Individual, the Family and the Mahamad – a Study on Communal Dynamics

11:00 - *Ana Leitão*, Universidade de Lisboa, Centro de História
Letters in the Shadows: the communication in the Jewish Diaspora through judicial records (17th century)

LUNCH

13:30 – *Julia Lieberman*, Saint Louis University, Languages, Literatures & Cultures
From Men of the Nation to ‘those professing the Portuguese Jewish religion’: the evolving communal identity of the London Spanish-Portuguese Jewish Community in the Eighteenth Century

14:30 – *Dejanirah Couto*, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris
In search of *Las Dizioço* : identities, memories and wanderings of an « intermediary minory », the Jews of Istanbul (20th and 21th centuries)

15:30 – Roundtable about the Workshop