



AEJM Annual Conference 2017

The Absence of Things – Jewish Museums & the Possibilities of Limitations

November 19 - 22
Toledo - Spain

annual conference

www.aejm.org

Location

Sephardic Museum of Toledo

Calle Samuel Levi 2

45002 Toledo

Spain

Programme

Saturday 18 November

Optional Social Event

Location: Sephardic Museum of Toledo

- 19:00 Doors open
- 19:30 – 20:30 EVENING CONCERT
Lunes de Sefarad
- Contemporary songs with Sephardic roots,
by Ana Alcaide Trio
- 20:30 – 21:30 RECEPTION
at the Hotel San Juan de los Reyes
- PLEASE REGISTER IN ADVANCE*
limited availability for the evening concert
and reception

Sunday 19 November

Location: Sephardic Museum of Toledo

- 9:00 – 9:30 Conference Registration
- 9:30 – 10:15 OFFICIAL START OF THE PROGRAMME
- Welcome from **Dr Hanno Loewy**, Chairman of the AEJM, and **Dr Santiago Palomero Plaza**, Director of the Sephardic Museum of Toledo, and **Fernando Benzo**, Secretary of Culture, Spanish Government
- 10:15 – 11:15 KEYNOTE SESSION I
Museums & The Absence of Things
- Museum Talk with **Elma Hašimbegović**, Director of the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), and **Joanne Rosenthal**, Chief Curator of the Jewish Museum London (UK)
- 11:15 – 12:00 CONVERSATION I
Jewish Museums & The Absence of Things
- Round table with **Dr Christiane Twiehaus**, Curator of MiQua – Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter Cologne (DE), **Silvia Planas Marcé**, Director of the Museum of Jewish History Girona (ES), and **Tomasz Kuncewicz**, Director of the Auschwitz Jewish Center (PL), led by **Joanne Rosenthal**
- 12:00 – 13:15 Lunch Break
location: Hotel San Juan de los Reyes
- 13:15 – 15:30 EXCURSION PROGRAMME
The Three Religions
- The Three Religions Walk will take the conference delegates on a walking tour of Toledo that will explore the religious history

Programme

of the city by visiting some of its most interesting sites. The city's Jewish heritage will be seen in the Sephardic Museum and the former synagogue Santa María la Blanca. The mosque and the Muslim quarter will provide the framework for learning about Toledo during Muslim rule, and the Christian history of the city will be represented by the Christian quarter with the monastery San Juan de los Reyes and the archbishop monuments.

15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break <i>location: Hotel San Juan de los Reyes</i>
16:00 – 18:00	MUSEUM FOCUS I <i>Jewish Museums & The Absence of Things</i>
	Project presentations moderated by Dr Michaela Feurstein-Prasser, Curator at xhibit.at (AT)
	<i>The Girl in the Diary</i> – Galicia Jewish Museum (PL)
	<i>Google Cultural Institute</i> – Auschwitz Jewish Centre (PL)
	<i>Hanukkah Lamps</i> – Jewish Museum of Casale Monferrato (IT)
	<i>Renewing the Museum</i> – Jewish Museum of Stockholm (SE)
	<i>Comparative Research Amsterdam & Berlin</i> – Hetty Berg, Jewish Cultural Quarter (NL)
18:00	End of the Day
19:00	OPTIONAL EVENTS <i>please register in advance</i>
	A. Young Professionals Event
	B. Leadership Meeting

Monday 20 November

10:00 – 12:30	GROUP SESSIONS <i>1st round of parallel group sessions</i>
	See the final page of this programme for the different options
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch Break <i>location: Hotel San Juan de los Reyes</i>
13:45 – 14:00	Welcome from the Real Fundación <i>location: Real Fundación</i>
14:00 – 15:30	KEYNOTE SESSION II <i>The Absence of Things – Representing Hispano-Jewish and Sephardic Material Culture in Spain</i>
	Lecture by Dr Javier Castaño , CSIC – Spanish National Research Council, Madrid, and round table with Dr Arturo Ruiz Taboada , Archaeologist at Complutense University Madrid, led by Silvia Planas Marcé
15:30 – 16:15	CONVERSATIONS II <i>Representing Sephardic Heritage in European Jewish Museums</i>
	Round table with Paul Salmons , Director Museum of Jewish Art and History Paris (FR), Nisya Isman Allovi , Director Quincentennial Museum of Turkish Jews (TR), Christina Meri , Curator of the Jewish Museum of Greece (GR), and Marcella Ansaldi , Director Jewish Museum of Venice (IT) moderated by Dr Brigitte Sion , Museum Programme Officer of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe
16:15 – 17:00	Coffee Break

Programme

Tuesday 21 November

17:00 – 18:00	MUSEUM FOCUS II <i>Sephardic Heritage</i>	9:00 – 11:15	GROUP SESSIONS <i>2nd round of parallel group sessions</i>
	Project presentations moderated by Christina Meri, Curator at the Jewish Museum of Greece (GR)		See the final page of this programme for the different options
	<i>Jews and Muslims, Sharing Cultures</i> – Jewish Museum of Brussels (BE)	11:15 – 11:45	Coffee Break <i>location: Real Fundación</i>
	<i>Sephardic Voices</i> – Jewish Museum London (UK)	11:45 – 12:30	CONVERSATIONS III <i>Looking Back & Ahead</i>
	<i>The Menorah. Cult, History and Myth</i> – Jewish Museum of Rome (IT)		Talk with Prof. Shelley Hornstein , Architectural History & Visual Culture, York University Toronto (CA)
	<i>The Izmir Project</i> – Nesim Bencoya (TR) and Christina Meri	12:30 – 13:00	CLOSING SESSION
		13:00	End of the official programme
18:00 – 19:15	MUSEUM FOCUS III <i>New Museum Projects</i>	14:00 – 16:00	GENERAL MEETING AEJM This session is open for AEJM members only
	Project presentations moderated by Eva Koppen, Managing Director of the AEJM		Delegates who are not attending the AGM have the chance to join a guided tour of the <i>Toledo Cathedral</i> . The cathedral is ranked among the greatest Gothic structures in Europe. Inside, the cathedral contains important masterpieces including a spectacular high altar and paintings by El Greco, Tizian, Velasquez, Goya and Caravaggio.
	<i>The Jewish Museum of Lisbon Project</i> – Esther Mucznik (PT)		
	<i>Jewish Museum of São Paulo</i> – Beatriz Blay (BR)		
	<i>The Lost Shtetl Museum Project in Šeduva</i> – Milda Jakulytė-Vasil (LT)		
	<i>MiQua – Jewish Museum in the Archaeological Quarter Cologne</i> – Dr Christiane Twiehaus (DE)		

Programme

Wednesday 22 November

Optional Excursion Programme SEGOVIA

- 8:45 Meeting point
Departure from Toledo to Segovia by bus
- 11:00 Jewish Quarter of Segovia, guided walking tour with
Carmen Gómez
- 11:45 Reception at the Centro Didactico de la Judería
Welcome by Claudia Santos, councillor of Heritage &
Tourism of the city of Segovia
- 12:30 Visit to the Real Alcázar
- 13:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 Departure to Madrid

The bus will return to Madrid-Barajas Airport.
Expected time of arrival: 17:00

Group Sessions

OVERVIEW OF PARALLEL GROUP SESSIONS

On Monday and Tuesday morning conference delegates are invited to participate in one of the concurring group sessions.

In October the AEJM will request all delegates to sign up for two group sessions. The final list of group sessions will be published closer to the conference dates.

Monday 20 November

A: Archival Visit National Historical Archive of the Spanish Nobility at the Hospital Tavera, with Arancha Lafuente, Director of the Archive

Archivo Histórico de la Nobleza houses, preserves and disseminates archives from the Spanish nobility. The aim of this visit is to show the contents and a wide variety of documents and books, many of them painted, related to the life of people in the Castilian and Aragonian lordships. We will show documents reflecting the life of the ancient aljamas, the Jews and conversos during the middle Ages. Privileges, ceremonies of homage and other types or documents of the archives of the Dukes of Frías (Velasco), Duques de Baena (Fernandez de Córdoba) or other families like the Dukes of Infantado (the powerful Mendoza family) will be exhibited. The archive is located in the Tavera Hospital building, one of the most important Spanish civil architecture buildings of renaissance stile.

B: Expert Talk Origin, Decline and Oblivion of the Medieval Jewish Cemetery of Toledo, by Dr Arturo Ruiz Taboada, Complutense Univerity Madrid

The Jewish presence on the Iberian Peninsula dates back to Roman times and is characterized by a centuries-long alternation of light and shadow, until their expulsion from Spain in A.D. 1492 and Portugal in A.D. 1496. There have been very few Jewish cemeteries identified in the Iberian Peninsula considering the importance that this community had throughout a long period of history. Cemeteries have always been meeting places. Different religions conceive of this space as a place of rest and transition to the afterlife and the reflection of the social diversity of the moment. The medieval Jewish cemetery of Toledo was discovered in year 2008. It has clearly distinctive elements that characterize this cemetery from other religions, such as the funerary architecture or the depth of the pits. Arturo Ruiz Taboada will

discuss the origin, decline and oblivion of this cemetery in the context of the three cultures of medieval Toledo. This session will start with a visit to the Roman Circus, which was used as a cemetery during the late Middle Ages.

C: Museum Education Best Practice & Methodology I A Museum for Everyone, with Carmen Álvarez Nogales, Sephardic Museum of Toledo, and Marta Senis Gilmartin, ONCE

In 2011 the Sephardic Museum of Toledo opened a new way of including new audiences. Its permanent exhibition now display new sections of its masterworks with touch stations that allow visually impaired people to have an independent visit. The museum aims to make its exhibitions accessible to all visitors and offers several services for those who are visually impaired, hard of hearing, or deaf. The Sephardic Museum has been awarded a prize for this work by ONCE Foundation. This group session focuses on accessibility of museums and will be facilitated by Carmen Álvarez Nogales, curator of the museum, and Marta Senis Gilmartin from ONCE in Castilla La Mancha.

D: Workshop Developing a Digital Strategy for Museums – a Toolkit for Staying Relevant, with Dr Mirjam Wenzel, Director of the Jewish Museum Frankfurt

Digital strategies are defining and coordinating the structures, projects and resources of museums that are willing to implement digital change. The workshop will provide the participants with a small toolkit for the development of a digital strategy that fits to every specific organisation.

E: Talking Circle The European Days of Jewish Culture and the European Jewish Museums, with Assumpcio Hosta, General Secretary AEPJ, and Victor Sorensen, Director AEPJ

The European Days of Jewish Culture is a project coordinated by the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), which will celebrate its twentieth edition next year. Last year more than 300 cities from 34 countries joined the program. Since 2016, a task force has been creating temporary exhibitions jointly with the National Library of Israel. We would very much like to share this process and experience with museum professionals. In this group session, we will have the opportunity to discuss with Jewish museums the evolution, future perspectives and projects, and above all, we will focus on the involvement and possibilities of participation among Jewish museums in Europe.

Group Sessions

Tuesday 21 November

A: Archival Visit: Archive of the Chapter of Toledo at the Cathedral, with Isidoro Castañeda, curator

This archival visit will focus on the manuscripts and documents preserved in the Cathedral that show the historical evolution of the Jewish community in Medieval Toledo and its following influence on the city during the modern and contemporary age. During the visit we will also see some examples from the Latin and Mozarab collections, which both consist of manuscripts that illustrate Jewish daily life in the Medieval city of Toledo. We will also look into the Blood Inquisitorial Documents (“Limpieza de sangre”) collection (1547-1855). The documents from this collection all refer to the laws and rules that excluded Jewish descendants from Ecclesiastic Cathedral privileges. Furthermore, we will visit the Library of this Archive and see some volumes of the Hebrew Manuscripts collection, which stem from Rome, as well as the Magna Multilingual Bible, which was made in the XVI Century and is one of the best examples of the Castillian Humanism and the study of Hebrew Language in Castilla.

B: Best Practice Community Building: Open Jewish Houses, with Anat Harel, Manager Collections & Knowledge at the Jewish Cultural Quarter Amsterdam

Open Jewish Houses (OJH) is a commemorative programme, held yearly on the national day of WWII remembrance in the Netherlands. The programme has grown considerably since its first edition in 2012, with 14 cities and towns participating in May 2017. Nationally, it has been presented as a ‘best practice’ for projects creating new ways of commemoration. As an event now organized mostly by local volunteers, it poses specific challenges and chances for the Jewish Cultural Quarter, which still serves as the organizational ‘backbone’ of the programme. This session will explore Open Jewish Houses as a best practice example. Together with Anat Harel, we will also look into aspects such as community involvement, working with volunteers, financing and marketing and communication of OJH.

C: Museum Education Best Practice & Methodology II: Family Education Programmes, with Lucja Koch and Anna Czerwinska of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw now offers a rich and diverse programme for families. Since the opening of the core exhibition in October 2014 the museum is observing a growing interest in programmes dedicated to families. In order to attract them to the Museum, it strived to adapt its facilities and programs to the needs and expectations of young visitors on many levels. To do this, POLIN created dedicated programmes, trained educators and docents, and adapted museum spaces. The aim of this workshop is to present family education programmes offered by POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews as well as to show in practice chosen methods and tools used in activities and projects addressed to families with children aged 4-10.

D: Workshop: Provenance & Quovadience Research, with Dr Felicitas Heimann-Jelinek and Bernhard Purin, Director of the Jewish Museum Munich

The workshop on provenance and quovadience research of Judaica will comprise a practical and a theoretical parts. First we will look at principal research questions and methods on the basis of some selected examples. This will be followed by the theoretical part, focusing on new finding and research aids, data bases and other online publications.

E: Talking Circle: Challenges & Opportunities, with Abigail Morris, Director of the Jewish Museum London

This discussion session will focus on challenges and opportunities facing the leaders of European Jewish museums, such as fundraising, audience development and governance. Leadership of Jewish museums are invited to join an optional dinner on Sunday evening (please register separately) to informally set the agenda for Talking Circle. We will address whatever issues people want to bring to the session.