



מכון בן־צבי לחקר קהילות ישראל במזרח
BEN-ZVI INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN THE EAST
יד יצחק בן־צבי והאוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

מרכז עזריאלי ללימודי ישראל
מכון בן־גוריון לחקר ישראל והציונות
אוניברסיטת בן־גוריון בנגב



Call for Papers

International Research Workshop on Migration and Multiple Homelands

July 2–3, 2025

The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, The Azrieli
Centre for Israel Studies (MALI), The Ben-Gurion Institute
for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

What is a homeland, and what role does it play in a multicultural and globalized world? What does it mean to have multiple homelands? What is the nature of the association between a person and their homeland, and is it universal?

The Jewish-German writer Jean Améry, who rejected the homeland that betrayed him with the rise of Nazism, wrote:

Because a human being needs a home. How much of one? [...] How much home a person needs cannot be quantified. And still, precisely at this time, when home is losing some of its repute, one is greatly tempted to answer the purely rhetorical question and say: he needs much home, more, at any rate, than a world of people with a homeland,

At the mind's limits: Contemplations by a survivor on Auschwitz and its realities, Jean Améry



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This workshop will explore migration, transnationalism and multi-nationality in the historical context of Jewish communities in Islamic countries and Iberia. These communities have experienced migration, uprooting and expulsions, alongside centuries of prosperity and stability. How did Jewish communities express attachment to their place of residence while maintaining religious and historical ties to Zion, and Iberia? How were these bonds integrated with new affinities and loyalties created during migrations to places such as North and South America and Western Europe? What connections existed between newly formed attachments and prior perceptions, and how did individual immigrant experiences relate to collective identities?

To date, academic research and public discourse on these questions have often been fragmented and limited to specific disciplines or contexts. For example, such questions are discussed in isolation within fields such as Israel Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Jewish history, sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies. Furthermore, discussions often overlook broader contemporary research that challenges binary perceptions of homeland and diaspora by emphasizing the multidirectional and multilayered relationships between different homelands.

This workshop aims to bridge the gaps between such diverse fields and narratives. Through interdisciplinary dialogue, we seek to uncover the perceptions, emotions, and expressions of homeland among Jews from Islamic countries and Spain, spanning from the rise of Islam to the present day.

We invite proposals addressing the following themes:



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- Questions of citizenship and dual loyalties
- Diasporic networks (economic, cultural, religious)
- Economic strategies in migration and resettlement
- Religious dimensions of migration
- Multilingualism in monolingual national contexts
- Linguistic identity and language preservation
- Artistic expressions and cultural productions
- Legal and judicial frameworks
- Sephardic identities between empires and nation-states
- Geopolitical perspectives

Proposals addressing additional relevant topics are also welcome.

Please submit a proposal for a lecture, including a 300 word abstract and a CV, to Ms. Haya Sigal at mbz@ybz.org.il by **March 10, 2025**.

Steering Committee Members:

Aviad Moreno, Yuval Evri, Miriam Frankel, Yamit Rahman-Schrire, Assaf Tamari