



Call for Papers

International Research Workshop on Migration and Multiple Homelands February 16–17, 2026

Jerusalem, Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi and online via Zoom (hybrid workshop)

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

Revised date

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

The history of the Jews of the Islamic lands and the Iberian Peninsula has known numerous migrations, uprootings and expulsions, alongside centuries of prosperity and stability. In this workshop we will explore how Jewish communities expressed attachment to their place of residence while maintaining religious and historical ties to Zion, and Iberia, how these were integrated with new affinities and loyalties created during migrations to places such as North and South America and Western Europe.

This workshop aims to bridge the gaps between 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 scholars to submit proposals for short presentations on the following topics (as well as other relevant subjects):

- 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.

The workshop will take place on February 16–17, 2026, at Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi in Jerusalem, and on Zoom. Proposals for presentations, including a 300-word abstract and a CV, should be submitted via [this link](#) by September 3, 2025.

Steering Committee Members

Aviad Moreno, Yuval Evri, Miriam Frankel, Yamit Rahman-Schrire, Netta Schramm

