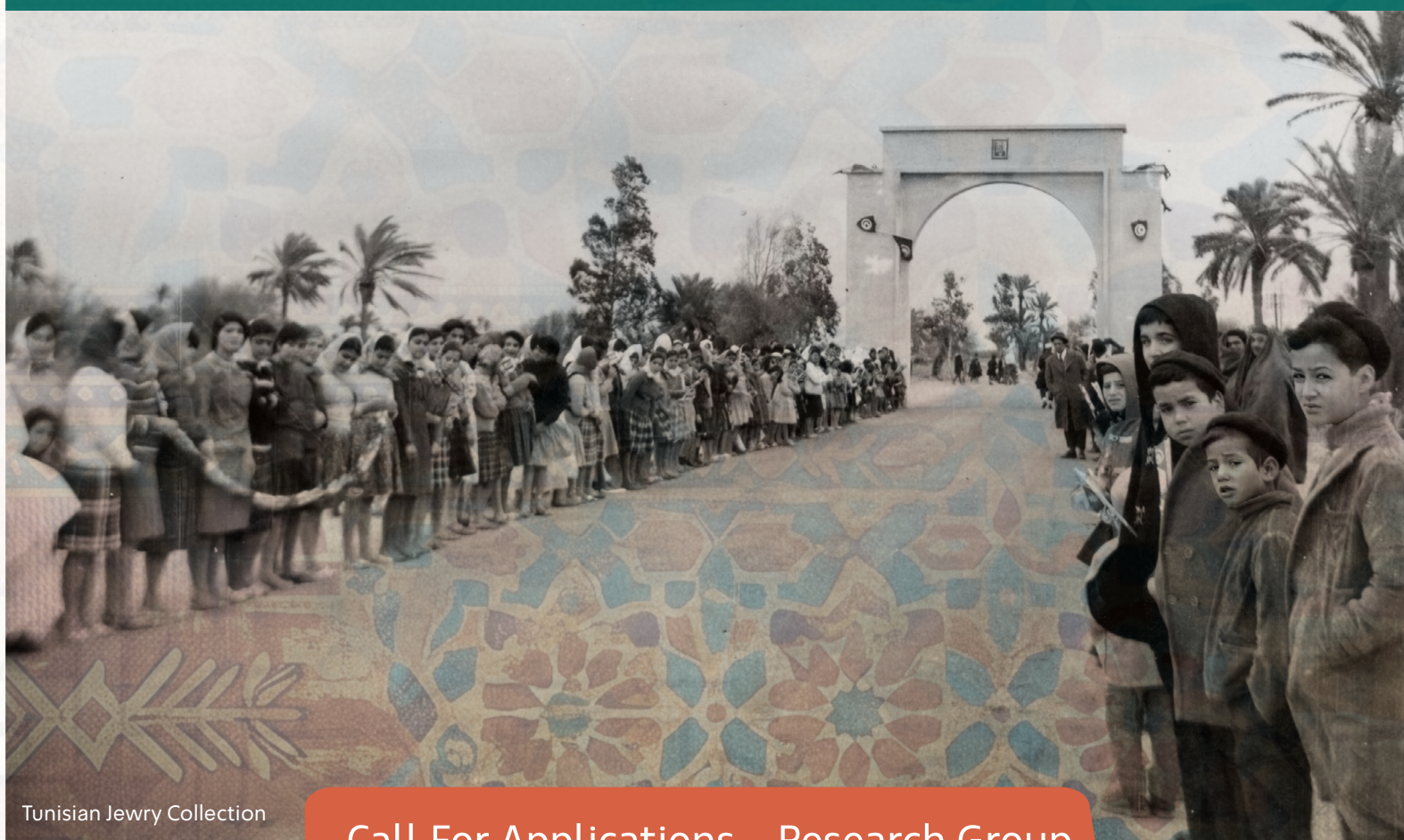




Tunisian Jewry Collection

Call For Applications – Research Group

The Jewish Maghreb: Spaces and Communities

The Jewish communities of North Africa have maintained a rich and diverse culture throughout their centuries of existence. Despite their significance, however, the history and unique culture of Maghrebi Judaism remain under-researched. The Ben-Zvi Institute, a leading center for the study of Jewish communities in the East, is now taking a pioneering

step by establishing a dedicated interdisciplinary research group focused on the Jewish Maghreb. We invite applications for the first year of a three-year international and interdisciplinary research group. Participants will join on an annual basis, with the possibility of renewal for the full duration of the project.

The group's goal is to foster innovative research on topics, such as
Jewish culture and history in the Maghreb from early Islam to the 20th century
Connections between Maghrebi Jews and their geographic, social, and cultural environment
The current state of Jewish life in the Maghreb: memory and continuity

This initiative encourages a reevaluation of lesser-studied regions and sub-communities, with the emphasis on multiple perspectives — those focusing on community formation and identity, as well as broader cultural and scholarly viewpoints illuminating Jewish life in the region.

Structure

The group will meet online once a month on the last Thursday of each month, October through June, with the first meeting on October 29, 2026. All meetings will be conducted in English.

There will also be a three-day retreat in Israel, December 9–11, 2026, at which participants will present their research, take part in thematic workshops, and attend guest lectures. Two nights at a Jerusalem hotel will be covered for all participants. Scholars living abroad will receive a travel subvention of €400–€600, determined by career level and distance traveled.

The academic year will conclude with an international conference at the Ben-Zvi Institute. Some travel grants will be available for participants from abroad upon request.

Eligibility

The group is open to scholars at all levels, from doctoral students on, from Israeli and international institutions alike.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via [this form](#) by July 30, 2026, and should include:

- A one-page CV
- A research proposal of no more than one page
- Doctoral students should additionally arrange for their advisor to send a letter of recommendation directly to netta@ybz.org.il.

[submission form](#) ➡

For more information, please contact: netta@ybz.org.il

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