

keDer Projektcluster „Jüdisches Heiliges Röm. Reich“ lädt ein zum

Jour Fixe, zum Thema „Pfade der jüdischen Emanzipation jenseits der deutschen und französischen Paradigmen - Eine vergleichende Rechtsgeschichte“

Forget Assimilation. Recovering Subjectivity in German-Jewish History

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Abstract: Between the Enlightenment and the Holocaust, a wide range of German-speaking Jewish subjects shared a set of assumptions about a problematic associated with being Jewish and living in a non-Jewish German society (and the concomitant process of relative “assimilation”). The categories of identity and culture that undergirded this problematic became part of a shared lexicon of a German-Jewish “identity crisis”—a lexicon that was handed down to the historiography of German Jews that would develop after the community’s destruction. In this contribution I want to challenge the validity of some of these categorical assumptions by setting them against the varied background of German-Jewish experience in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and offer a model of subjectivity (rather than identity) that might allow the historiography to break out of the cyclical repetition in which it currently (arguably) finds itself. By examining specific exemplars, including Gershom Scholem, Edith Stein, Martin Buber, and others, I intend to model a reading strategy that would be appropriate for German-Jewish subjectivity.

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**Juridicum I
Schottenbastei 10 - 16
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