

[15 August 2023]

## Fulda's Jewish History

Monday 4 September – Thursday 7 September 2023

*Stadtschloß* Fulda

### *Conference Programme*

*including excursions*

The conference is convened by the City of Fulda, in association with the *Kommission für die Geschichte der Juden in Hessen* (Commission of the Federal State of Hesse for the History of the Jews in Hesse) and the Institute for Legal and Constitutional History of the University of Vienna and in cooperation with the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem, the Archive of the Religious Kibbutz movement, Kvuzat Yavne, the Museum of the Haredi Pioneer Movement, Chafetz Chaim, the Austrian State Archive, Division House, Court and State Archive, Vienna and the Archive of the Federal State of Hesse, Division State Archive Marburg

Academic responsibility rests with Professor. Dr J. Friedrich Battenberg, Technical University of Darmstadt and Dr Stephan Wendehorst, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen and University of Vienna, overall responsibility with Dr Thomas Heiler, City of Fulda

**Venues:** Stadtschloss, Marmorsaal, if not explicitly mentioned otherwise

### **Pre-Programme Monday, 4 September**

11.00 a.m. – 4.00h: **Excursion 1** to **Betzenrod** (The Rodges legacy I), **Mansbach** and **Rhina**, Chair *Stephan Wendehorst, Vienna*

with brief interventions in Betzenrod by *David Harel, Kvuzat Yavne* and in Mansbach by *Dieter Wunder, Bad Nauheim: History of the Jews in Mansbach* [German]

Departure: Bus-Stop *Abtstor* (next to the *Hotel am Dom*)

## Monday 4 September 2023

### Opening Session

Venue: *Stadtschloss* [City Hall, former Prince-Bishop's palace], *Fürstensaal* [State Room]

As from 4.30 p.m. *Arrival & Get-Together*

5.00 p.m. **Welcome by the Lord Mayor of Fulda**, *Heiko Wingenfeld* [German]

5.20 p.m. **Welcome Addresses by**

- *Roman Melamed*, **Chairman of the Jewish Community of Fulda** [German]
- *Andreas Lehnardt*, **Chairman of the *Kommission für die Geschichte der Juden in Hessen*** [German]
- *Miloš Vec*, **Deputy Head of the Institute for Legal and Constitutional History of the University of Vienna** [German]

5.45 p.m. **Introduction to the Conference Fulda's Jewish History**: *J. Friedrich Battenberg* and *Stephan Wendehorst* [German & English]

6.15 p.m. **New Archival Sources concerning Fulda's Jewish History & welcome addresses:**

- *Yochai Ben Ghedalia*, Director of the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP), Jerusalem
- *Hadar Bashan, Nitzan*, Head of the Archive of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, Kvuzat Yavne [Hebrew]
- *Keren Hamiel*, Museum of the Haredi Pioneer Movement, Chafetz Chaim [Hebrew]
- *Arye Kunststadt*, Yeshiva Kol Torah, in absentia, read out by *Abraham Moses*, Jerusalem [Hebrew]
- *Helmut Wohnout*, Director General of the Austrian State Archive, Vienna, tbc [German]

*Break*

7.30 p.m. **Lecture: Jewish Life in Germany from 1945 up to the Presence**

*Daniel Neumann*, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities in the Federal State of Hesse

8.00 p.m. *Reception by the City of Fulda*

## Tuesday 5 September 2023

8.15 – 09.45 a.m. **Excursion 2 to Fulda's Jewish Places (Old Jewish Cemetery, Site of the former Synagogue, Jewish Community – Former Jewish School)**

Chair: Thomas Heiler, Fulda

*Meeting point: Old Jewish Cemetery, Rabanusstraße*

### ***Panel 1: Fulda's Jewish History in the Middle Ages***

***Chair & Introduction: Volkhard Huth, Darmstadt***

10.00 a.m. *Israel Yuval, Jerusalem: The Ritualmurder Trial in Fulda 1235 – A reevaluation of the facts*

10.45 a.m. *Andreas Lehnardt, Mainz: Snatched - Cut - Recycled: Medieval Hebrew Manuscript Fragments in Fulda*

11.15 a.m. *Sabine Bloch, Herrsching: Manus from Steinhaus reconsidered*

*Break*

### ***Sektion/Panel 2: Fulda's Jewish History in early modern times***

***Chair & introduction: Karl Härter, Darmstadt***

12.00 noon: *J. Friedrich Battenberg Darmstadt: The Fulda Jewry Ordinance of 1586 and the background*

12.45 p.m. *André Griemert, Hanau: The court proceedings concerning the Fulda turmoil of 1591 before the Imperial Aulic Council*

*Lunchbreak*

2.30 p.m. *Thomas Heiler, Fulda: The Inventory of the property of the Fulda Jews after the expulsion in 1671*

3.00 p.m.: *Gideon Bashan, Nitzan, Maharam Schiff*

3.30 p.m. *Dieter Wunder, Bad Nauheim: Jews between the Prince Abbey of Fulda and the Prince-Bishopric of Würzburg: The Jews of the Canton Rhön-Werra of the Imperial Knighthood*

4.00 p.m.: *Kevin Hecken, Vienna: Jews from the Prince-Bishopric of Fulda and Canton Rhön-Werra of the Imperial Knighthood as reflected in the records of the Imperial Aulic Council*

*Coffee Break*

5.00 p.m. ***Roundtable: Fulda's Jews in the Middle Ages and the early modern period*** Chair and Kick-Off Statement: *Karl Härter, with I. Yuval, V. Huth and A. Lehnardt participating*

### **Evening Lecture**

Venue: *Stadtschloss, Fürstensaal*

20.00 p.m. *Yacov Ariel, Chapel Hill: The Nobel Laureate S.J. Agnon in Bad Brückenau*

## Wednesday 6 September 2023

### ***Panel 3: The Jews of Fulda - Emancipation and Modernity***

**Chair & Introduction:** *Stephan Wendehorst, Gießen/Vienna*

9.00 a.m. *Rainer Polley, Marburg:* **The Tortuous Path of the Emancipation of the Jews of Fulda during the Era of the Federation of the Rhine**

9.45 a.m. *Paula Somogyi, Vienna, Joseph Joel, Prince-Bishop Heinrich von Bibra and the first Jewish Elementary School in Fulda*

10.30 a.m.: *Mordechai Zucker, Jerusalem:* **Changes in the Use of Language and Writing by Fulda Jews as Reflected in the Communal Records**

*Coffee Break*

### ***Panel 4: German Neo-Orthodoxy: Elsewhere in Germany the exception, in Fulda the rule***

**Chair & Introduction:** *Stephan Wendehorst, Gießen/Vienna*

11.30 a.m. *Carsten Wilke, Vienna:* **From Traditional to Modern Orthodoxy: Kela Bamberger (1804-1881), the Fulda Wife of the Würzburger Rav**

12.00 noon *Andreas Brämer, Hamburg:* **Jewish teachers in Kurhessen (and Fulda) in the Era of Emancipation**

12.30 p.m. *Eitan Cahn, Efrat:* **Rulings on and discussion of 'shechita' by the rabbis of Fulda (zoom)**

*Lunch Break*

### ***Panel 5: The Jews of Fulda between Catholic Milieu, Prussia and the German Nation-State***

**Chair & Introduction:** *Andreas Brämer, Hamburg*

2.30 p.m.: *Olaf Blaschke, Münster:* **Catholic Antisemitism in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Structures and Tendencies**

3.15 p.m. *Avital Sagi, Ofra:* **Refuting the Ritual Murder Libel: The Letter of Georg Kopp, Bishop of Fulda, to Michael Cahn, District Rabbi of Fulda**

3.45 p.m. *Niklot Klüßendorf, Amöneburg:* **How Orthodox Jews Obtained their Kosher Fat during World War I**

*Coffee Break*

5.15 p.m. **Roundtable: Emancipation and Integration of the Jews of Fulda before the Holocaust**  
Chair and Kick-Off Statement: *Stephan Wendehorst, with Yaacov Ariel, Hanina Ben Menachem, tbc and Michael Imhof*

7.00 p.m. *Conference Dinner at the Hotel Esperanto*

9.00 p.m. Screening of the film „**The Pianist**“ by Roman Polanski, with an introduction by *Thomas Heiler* to *Wilm Hosenfeld*. Place: Kino 35, Ohnstraße 18, 36037 Fulda

**Thursday 7 September 2023**

***Panel 6: Fulda's Jewish History during the Weimar Republic***

***Chair & Introduction:*** Martin Liepach, Frankfurt-on-Main

8.00 a.m. Arye Edrei, Tel Aviv, David Fuchs, Vienna, Stephan Wendehorst, Gießen/Vienna, and Mordechai Zucker, Jerusalem. **Selected examples from the jurisdiction of the Rabbinical Court of Fulda**

8.30 a.m. Verity Steele, Southampton: **Bachad - Brit Chalutzim Dati'im in Germany**

9.00 a.m. Birgit Sack, Dresden: **Fulda Jews during the Weimarer Republic: Internal Differentiation and Integration into Urban Society**

*Coffee Break*

***Panel 7: The National Socialist Era and its Consequences for the Jews of Fulda***

***Chair and Introduction:*** Stephan Wendehorst, Gießen/Vienna

10.00 a.m. Frank Verse, Fulda: **Provenance Research in the Municipal Museums of Fulda – Provisional Results**

10.30 a.m. Anja Listmann, Fulda: **The Auction Catalogues of Jewish Property in Fulda**

11.00 a.m. Michael Braunold, Ra'anana: **Children's Transports from Fulda to England**

11.30 a.m. Yoav Ron, Kvuzat Yavne and Paula Somogyi, Vienna: **Documents in German come back to life: First results of the project "Regesta of the files concerning Kibbutz Rodges and Bachad in the archive of the Religious Kibbutz Movement"**

12.30 – 2.30 p.m. **Excursion 3 to Rodges** (The Rodges Legacy II) with a contribution by Sarah Evron: **'Built to Last' – from Rodges in Fulda 1924 to the Religious Kibbutz Movement in Israel 2023 - from Roots to Fruit**

*Departure: Bus-Stop Abtstor (next to the Hotel am Dom); Snacks at Rodges*

***Panel 8: Fulda Jews after World War II***

***Chair and Introduction:*** Thomas Heiler, Fulda

2.30 p.m. Marcus Velke-Schmidt, Cologne: **Jewish and non-Jewish Displaced Persons in Fulda**

3.00 p.m. Yoav Gad, Yavne: **From Buchenwald to Israel via Fulda: Kibbutz Buchenwald**

*Coffee Break*

3.45 p.m. Gunda Trepp, San Francisco and Berlin: **Torah and Secular Civilization. Rabbi Leo Trepp, Fulda's Neo-Orthodoxy and the American Modern Era**

*Short Break*

## ***Panel 9: Cross-Sections through Fulda's Jewish History***

***Chair and Introduction: Thomas Heiler, Fulda***

4.45 p.m.: *Abraham David, Jerusalem: Rabbinical leadership at Fulda in the Early Modern period*

5.15 p.m. *Anja Listmann, Fulda: Jewish cemeteries in Fulda from the Middle Ages to the present day, with a focus on the legal dispute between the city of Fulda and the Jewish Restitution successor organization in the post-war period.*

5.45 p.m. *Stephan Wendehorst, Gießen/Vienna: Fulda as reflected in the leading German orthodox periodical *Der Israelit**

6.30 p.m. **Final Discussion:** Chairs: *J. Friedrich Battenberg* and *Stephan Wendehorst*

## **Friday 8 September 2023**

9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. **Excursion 4 to Weyhers and Tann** *Chair: Thomas Heiler.* In Weyhers with a tour of the Jewish cemetery by *Inge Hohmann:* and in Tann with a contribution by *Michael Imhof: The Jewish community in Tann. An introduction to its history, in combination with a city walk focusing on Jewish history and an exploration of the Jewish cemetery*  
*Departure: Bus-Stop Abtstor (next to the Hotel am Dom)*

10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. **Excursion 5 to Gehringshof** (The Rodges Legacy III), **Bad Brückenau** and **Pfaffenhausen** near Hammelburg, chair *Stephan Wendehorst*, with contributions in Gehringshof by *David Harel* and *Verity Steele: Gehringshof und the Bruderhof Community at Neuhof* and in Brückenau Spa by *Yaacov Ariel: Between two Cities* and *Stephan Wendehorst: Jewish Spa Visitors* and in Pfaffenhausen by *Cornelia Mence: Tour of the Jewish Cemetery in Pfaffenhausen*  
*Departure: Bus-Stop Abtstor (next to the Hotel am Dom)*

## **Sunday 10 September 2023**

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. **Excursion 6 to the Jewish Museum in Frankfurt-on-Main**

Chair *Rahel Blum*, Frankfurt-on-Main

*Departure 9.07 a.m. in Fulda Railway Station (Bahnhof). Meeting Point in Frankfurt-on-Main: Bertha-Pappenheim-Platz 1, in front of the Jewish Museum (Metro-Station: Willy-Brandt-Platz nearby)*

**Contact and registration for the conference and the excursions:**

kulturamt@fulda.de