

Jewish Law Association

Call for Presentations

Workshop on “Jewish Law and Antisemitism: Institutions, Legislation, and Discourse in Pluralistic Contexts”

February 26, 2025, Baden bei Wien, University of Vienna (Hybrid Format)

Following our successful September workshop, we are pleased to announce the second event in our European series exploring the critical yet understudied intersection of Jewish Law and Antisemitism Studies. This workshop aims to address a significant gap in current scholarship by examining how antisemitism shapes the understanding and practice of Jewish Law by insiders and outsiders, how Jewish Law is used within the range of contemporary forms of antisemitic discourse and practice, and how Jewish Law may feature in work to address antisemitism.

The workshop will feature short (10-minute) presentations of research projects or works in progress, creating an academic brainstorming environment that promotes innovative interdisciplinary perspectives.

We welcome research addressing, among other topics:

- The influence of misconceptions about Jewish Law on legislation, particularly regarding religious freedom, hate speech laws, and cultural practices
- Reflection on Jewish legal tradition as a living ethical/intellectual resource in responses to antisemitism
- The incorporation of external norms into halakhic discourse
- The potential of Jewish legal concepts and methodologies in shaping anti-discrimination policies and public discourse
- Rights-based, duties-based, and pluralist approaches to Jewish Law and antisemitism
- The proliferation and impact of fake Talmudic quotes and misrepresented rabbinical teachings on social media on a “longue durée” perspective
- Analysis of the misrepresentation of Jewish Law as promoting misanthropy and racism in radical online spaces
- The mainstreaming of antisemitic discourse in public debate
- The implications of democratized access to Jewish legal texts through digital platforms
- Historical treatments of Jewish Law across different regions and their contemporary resonance

The workshop format encourages fresh perspectives and works in progress, making it ideal for scholars looking to expand their research into new interdisciplinary territories.

Noémie Issan-Benchimol (PSL/Huji/Shalom Hartman); Stephan Wendehorst (Vienna/Giessen); George Wilkes (KCL).

Submission Guidelines:

- Abstract length: Maximum 300 words (including title)
- Deadline: February 18, 2025
- Submit to: Noémie Issan-Benchimol (Noemie.Benchimol@mail.huji.ac.il)

The hybrid format will accommodate both in-person and remote participation. Selected participants will be notified promptly after the submission deadline. [The Jewish Law Association](#) works to promote academic study and research on Jewish Law. Its membership is diverse in terms of background and discipline.