

Baijayanti Roy
Dani Kranz
Kay Schiller
Grzegorz Kwiatkowski

Leo Baeck Institute
London
Lecture Series 2024

Outsiders in
German-Jewish
History

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This season's lecture series *Outsiders in German-Jewish History* seeks to uncover the shared experiences of individuals and communities who found themselves on the margins of society. Transcending both time and geography, talks will offer different perspectives on the resilience and tenacity of those who have grappled with the challenges of being outsiders. How have they found identity and a sense of belonging in societies that have not understood or even accepted them?

Lectures will be held in Room G3, Ground Floor, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU. They will also be streamed live on Zoom. Places at Senate House are strictly limited and must be reserved by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London at info@leobaeck.co.uk. Admission is free. Lectures will begin promptly at 6.00pm. Latecomers may not be admitted.

Zoom links will be advertised closer to the dates of individual events in our lecture announcements via email, social media and on our website (www.leobaeck.co.uk). To participate online and to register your booking please follow the instructions provided in those communications.

Baijayanti Roy
Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany
Heinrich Zimmer, Nazi Racial Politics and the University of Heidelberg, 1933–38
6.00pm, Thursday 2nd May, 2024

This talk examines the grey zones that exist between the established paradigms of persecution and exile in the 'Third Reich', as demonstrated by the trajectory of the Indologist Heinrich Zimmer (1890–1943). Zimmer, who taught at the University of Heidelberg, lost his teaching license in 1938 since his wife Christiane was classified as a 'Mischling' (mixed race) by the Nazi regime. He tried to battle his fate by offering diverse political capital to the Nazi political establishment and by counting on some sympathetic colleagues. Zimmer was able to flee Germany with his family in 1939.

Baijayanti Roy is a postdoctoral researcher affiliated to the University of Frankfurt. Her monograph, *The Making of a Gentleman Nazi: Albert Speer's Politics of History in the Federal Republic of Germany* was published in 2016. Another monograph, *The Nazi Study of India and Indian Anti-Colonialism: Knowledge Providers and Propagandists in the 'Third Reich'*, will be published by Oxford University Press. She has published and spoken on different subjects including Nazi Germany, German Indology and the historical relationship between Germany and India.



Dani Kranz
El Colegio de México, Mexico City, Mexico
Jewish Life in Contemporary Germany
6.00pm, Thursday 13th June, 2024

Germany is home to Europe's third largest Jewish community. Yet surprisingly little is known about them. After the Shoah, about 15,000 German Jews returned to Germany or emerged from hiding. The growth of the Jewish population in Germany after 1945 was due entirely to immigration, which is somewhat counter intuitive. Who are the Jews who live in contemporary Germany? How do they live out their Jewishness? What Jewish cultures did they bring with them, and what kind of Jewish culture is forming in Germany?

Dani Kranz is the incumbent DAAD Humboldt chair at El Colegio de México, Mexico City, and an applied anthropologist and director of Two Foxes Consulting, Germany and Israel. Her expertise covers migration, integration, ethnicity, law, state/stateliness, political life, organisations, memory cultures and politics as well as cultural heritage.



Kay Schiller
University of Durham, UK
A German-Jewish Athlete during the Age of Extremes: Alex Natan (1906–71)
6.00pm, Thursday 10th October, 2024

As a gay high-performance runner, antifascist intellectual and sportswriter, Alex Natan was a quintessential outsider in Weimar Berlin. His marginal status also remained a constant during his forced emigration to Britain, as a precarious refugee in pre-war London, as a long-time internee during World War II, as well as a schoolteacher in the Midlands and author and journalist in post-war Britain and West Germany. This lecture will demonstrate how an unusual German Jew was affected by the 'age of extremes', making his life story quite typical of the predicaments of the 20th century.

Kay Schiller is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Durham. He has published articles and books on German cultural and sports history, including on the history of the Olympics, on football history, on modern German-Jewish history and on the history of the Federal Republic and the GDR. He is currently researching (with Udi Carmi) the influence of German sports models on sports in Palestine and Israel, with a special focus on the activities of the Zionist functionary Emmanuel Ernst Simon (1898–1988).



Grzegorz Kwiatkowski
Poet, Musician and Activist, Gdańsk, Poland
More Light – Art Against Hate
6.00pm, Thursday 28th November, 2024

Grzegorz Kwiatkowski, whose grandfather was a prisoner of the Stutthof concentration camp, and whose wife's Jewish family hid during the war in a forest near Rzeszów, has been leading an artistic and activist battle to fight antisemitism, denialism and violence for years. He does this through poetry, music, and as a guest lecturer at many universities. Kwiatkowski will talk about effective ways to fight violence, oblivion and denial, using the example of his work and his family history and the history of the city of Gdańsk.

Grzegorz Kwiatkowski (b. 1984) is a Polish poet, musician and author of several books of poetry revolving around the subjects of history, remembrance, and ethics. He is a member of PEN America and the European literature platform Versopolis. He is also a member of the psychedelic rock band Trupa Trupa. More at www.grzegorzkwiatkowski.com



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