



Komar and Melamid in collaboration with Douglas Davis Questions New York - Moscow, Tel-Aviv - New York from the series "What is the Line Between Us", 1976-1978 | Photo: Peter Jacobs © Vitaly Komar and Alexander Melamid

Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation

# European Encounters: East-West Discourse in Modern Jewish Art, Literature and Culture

Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University,  
and the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz  
May 27-29, 2025

# Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation

## European Encounters: East–West Discourse in Modern Jewish Art, Literature and Culture

Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University, and the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz

May 27–29, 2025

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025 (Bldg. 301, Room 310)**

### 9:30–10:15 Greetings

Prof. Michale Avioz, Faculty of Jewish Studies, Dean

Prof. Ilia Rodov, Chair

Prof. Mirjam Rajner, Department of Jewish Art

Prof. Olaf Terpitz, Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz

### 10:15–11:45: I East–West Encounters and Divides: History and Culture

Chair: Mirjam Rajner

Olaf Terpitz (University of Graz)

**Imaginations of “East” and “West” in European–Jewish Literatures: Shifting Boundaries and Perceptions**

Jakub Bendkowski (The Royal Castle in Warsaw – Museum)

**From the Kingdom of Poland to the West and back: How the painter Aleksander Lesser, a Polish Jew, became fascinated with the Middle Ages and what came of it**

Claire Le Foll (University of Southampton)

**Chagall and Sutin: Catalysts for an East–West encounter in post–Soviet Belarus**

### 11:45–12:00: Coffee Break

### 12:00–14:00: II Travels in the East and the West: Travelogues, Diaries and Autobiographies

Chair: Nathan Cohen

Marina Dmitrieva (The Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig)

**Stories from the Maghreb: Czernowitz’ Urban Space as Austria–Hungary’s Oriental Other**

Martina Niedhammer (Collegium Carolinum Munich)

**Traveling to Yiddishland? The Image of Yiddish in Central European Jewish Travelogues on Eastern Europe in the Early 20th Century**

Monika Adamczyk–Garbowska (Maria Curie–Sklodowska University, Lublin)

**Innocents in *di Goldene Medine*: Encounters of East European Jews with the American *Landslayt***

Michal Ben–Horin (Bar–Ilan University)

**Belated Journeys: Encounters and Poetic Crossroads in Anna Maria Jokl’s *Essenzen***

### 14:00–15:30 Lunch

### 15:30–17:30: III East–West Discourse in Jewish Literatures

Chair: Olaf Terpitz

Nathan Cohen (Bar–Ilan University)

**East European Yiddish Readers Reading West European Authors**

Maxim D. Shrayer (Boston College)

**Boris Pasternak: The Poetics and Politics of Apostasy**

Dov Ber Kotlerman (Bar–Ilan University)

**“The Three in Me, a Russian, an American and a Jew”: Peretz Hirshbein the Globetrotter and His Yiddish–speaking and “Western” Tribesmen**

Mikhail Krutikov (University of Michigan)

**Borukh Glazman’s Search for Jewish Authenticity Between the American Midwest and the Soviet Union**

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025 (Mishkan L’Omanut Museum, Ein Harod)**

### 10:00–12:00: Visit to the Museum and the Collections

### 12:00–14:00: IV East–West Discourse in Jewish Art and Visual Culture

Chair: Monika Czekanowska Guttman

Michaela Sidenberg (Jewish Museum Prague)

**On the Periphery’s Edge: Jewish Female Artists in Bohemian Lands of the Late Empire and Interwar Czechoslovakia**

Mariann Farkas (Bar–Ilan University)

**East–West Discourse in Hungarian Jewish Art: Painters of the Zionist Journal *Mult es Jovo* (*Past and Future*)**

Renata Piątkowska (POLIN, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw)

**Zber, Themersons and others: Polish–Jewish artists in France on the Eve of World War II**

Mirjam Rajner (Bar–Ilan University)

**Post–Holocaust Reception of the East European Jewish “Artists of the Ghetto” in Israel and America**

### 14:00–15:30 Lunch

### 15:30–17:00: V East–West Discourse in Popular Culture

Chair: Claire Le Foll

Susanne Korbel (University of Graz)

**Central European Spa Culture as a Meeting Space between East and West**

Maya Balakirsky Katz (Bar–Ilan University)

**Evacuation Animation: The Brumberg Sisters in Samarkand**

Marcos Silber (University of Haifa)

**From West to East and Back: Multidirectional Cultural Transfer Through Popular Music in Interwar Poland**



### Organization

Prof. Mirjam Rajner, Department of Jewish Art, Bar–Ilan University

Prof. Olaf Terpitz, Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz

### Supporting Grants

Israel Science Foundation

The Office of the VP for International Affairs and the Third Mission, Bar–Ilan University

The Samson Feldman Chair for the History and Culture of East–European Jewry, Department of Jewish Art, Bar–Ilan University

**Thursday, May 29, 2025 (Bldg. 410, Room 310)**

### 9:00–11:00 VI East Meeting West: Visual and Architectural Creativity

Chair: Ilia Rodov

Fani Gargova (The Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz)

**The Viennese *Türkische Tempel*: Subverting the East–West Discourse**

Michele Migliori (Bar–Ilan University)

**Eastern Europe meets Western Europe... in Argentina: Synagogue Art, Jewish Immigrant Self–identification, and Jewish Narratives in Buenos Aires and Beyond**

Zvi Orgad (Bar–Ilan University)

**The Shape of Ideology: Transforming Jewish Symbols (Synagogues)**

Sergey Kravtsov (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Józef Awin: “Jewish” Architecture between East and West**

### 11:00–11:15: Coffee

### 11:15–13:15: VII Expression of Trauma in Art

Chair: Mirjam Rajner

Monika Czekanowska Guttman (University of Warsaw)

**Looking Through Guernica: Representations of the Trauma of the Shoah in the Art of East European Modern Jewish Artists**

Daniel Véri (Central European Research Institute for Art History Budapest)

**Memory on the Move: Early Postwar Holocaust Memory between Hungary, the US, and Israel**

Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

**Sergei Loznitsa’s *Babi Yar*. Context: Reorienting Holocaust Discourse from West to East**

Mor Presiado (Bar–Ilan University)

**Art, Motherhood, Identity, and the Search for Home: Tali Ratzker’s *War Diary* Photographic Series Following October 7, 2023**

### 13:15–14:30 Lunch

### 14:30–16:00: VIII Russian Art and Literature in Israel and the West

Chair: Maxim D. Shrayer

Roman Katsman (Bar–Ilan University)

**East–West European Discourse in Russian Israeli Literature**

Lola Kantor–Kazovsky (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**“Malevich the Prophet” and the Historiography of Russian Avant–garde East and West of the Iron Curtain**

Ilia Rodov (Bar–Ilan University)

**‘I’m in the East, My Heart in the West’:**

**Intercultural Encounters in the Works of Soviet–Born Israeli Artists**

### 16:00–16:30: Conclusions and Plans for the Future