



Jewish Wedding in Cairo (Egypt) 1940s ©Camille Fox Family Archive

Invitation

Modern times: being Jewish in the Mediterranean, 1880s-1940s

Dr. Dario Miccoli
(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Wednesday, March, 27 | 10:00 AM

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During the second half of the nineteenth century, the reformist efforts of the Ottoman Tanzimat and later on the onset of colonialism and the advent of European Jewish institutions like the Alliance Israélite Universelle, stimulated new ways of conceiving one's Jewish identity all over the Mediterranean world. But it was especially from the end of the nineteenth century up until the 1940s that some Jewries – for example that of Cairo – experienced a passage from a more traditional societal model, still connected to the Ottoman millet system, to one at the top of which stood a Westernised and well-off bourgeois elite. But what did this mean in the realm of culture, in the social relations between Jews and Arabs, or in the family? And how did notions of cultural and political modernity intertwine with centuries-old Jewish traditions and feelings of belonging? Taking Egypt and Algeria as case-studies, this lecture will try to answer these questions, reconstructing the complex historical itinerary of the Jews of the Mediterranean, from late Ottoman to colonial times.

Dario Miccoli is Lecturer of Modern Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the Department of Asian and North African Studies, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy). He is the author of two books – *Histories of the Jews of Egypt: An Imagined Bourgeoisie, 1880s-1950s* (2015) and *La letteratura israeliana mizrahi* (2016) – and of several articles dedicated mainly to the history and memory of the Jews of the Arab world and Israeli literature. He has recently edited, with Marcella Simoni and Giorgia Foscari, *Homelands and Diasporas: Perspectives on Jewish Culture in the Mediterranean and Beyond* (2018).

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