Shared Spaces
Methodological Approaches to Jewish/non-Jewish Relations

A cooperation between the Parkes Institute, University of Southampton, and the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz

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1 pm - 6 pm
Parkes Institute,
University of Southampton
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Confucius boardroom

Discussants:
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A growing number of scholars in Jewish studies have discarded the idea of a largely isolated Jewish existence in the past. Instead, they have concerned themselves with Jewish and non-Jewish cultural exchanges as well as encounters. In this context, the notions of space and spatial conditions have become particularly relevant. Historians have drawn attention to shared Jewish and non-Jewish experiences at particular spaces ranging from markets to religious sites or neighborhoods and entertainment venues. What has remained unanswered so far, and what we wish to address in the workshop, is the question of how such shared experiences affected the relations between Jews and non-Jews. Which methodological procedures can and shall be employed in order to assess their repercussion?

Furthermore, we aim to explore and discuss different forms of proximity and togetherness, ranging from mere co-presence to intense friendships and relations, and ask whether, and in which way, the focus on Jewish and non-Jewish encounters and interactions has contributed to a new understanding of the Jewish past. What exactly are the new analytical instruments, theoretical frameworks, and methodological approaches that may render research on Jewish and non-Jewish entanglement more promising than the work of traditional historiography?