

LUNCHTIME SEMINARS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Week 5

Judith Müller
(University of Basel/Ben Gurion University)

'A Hebrew Writer in Graz, Styria and Austria: Gershon Shofman Then and Now'

Judith Müller is teaching Hebrew and Jewish literature at the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Basel. As a PhD candidate at the University of Basel and the Ben Gurion University of the Negev she examines the perception of Europe in Hebrew literature (1890-1938) thereby touching on questions of translation, literary networks and borders. She has, moreover, worked on the European realm and 'culture' within Israeli literature. Her latest publication in English is 'Neither Heimat nor Exile: The Perception of Paris as a Historical Blind Spot in Three Israeli Novels' in *Spiritual Homelands: The Cultural Experience of Exile, Place and Displacement among Jews and Others* (2019).

Abstract: In the past two decades, we witnessed an increasing interest in translating Hebrew literature written before the Second World War. Many Hebrew texts emerged in the German-speaking lands, and only lately they are translated into the language that dominated the environment they were conceived in. One of the most intriguing cases is the one of Gershon Shofman. In 2017, 79 years after Shofman left Wetzelsdorf near Graz published a volume with translated short stories has been published. This translation can be read as an attempt to link the author to the readership of the region he once lived in. This presentation traces the encounters in and of Shofman's texts with the Grazian, Styrian and Austrian public then and now. It also addresses the fact that Hebrew literature reaches only a minority within the general German readership, even in the majority language.

Wednesday, 25th May 2022

1pm (UK time)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online
(see below) and in person in Room 207

No need to register if attending in person.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtcOugqTItHdVFF20C0wzc--qP7Rg_KlpU

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