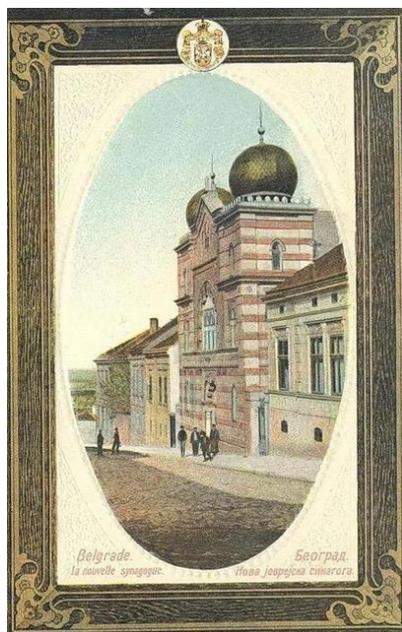


# The History of the Jews of Serbia

Online conference

Monday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

Co-organised by the UCL Institute of Jewish Studies, the Center for the Study of Jewish Art and Culture,  
University of Belgrade-Faculty of Philosophy and the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, London



<https://buytickets.at/uclinstituteofjewishstudies/1115532>

The zoom link will be sent after you register

## Programme

All times in GMT

**14.00-14.45 Jelena Erdeljan** (University of Belgrade)  
*Tracing Jewish Visual Culture in the Balkans*

**14.45-15.30 Eliezer Papo** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Moshe David Gaon Center)  
*Something Loaned and Something Improved, Something Borrowed and Something New:  
The Hajj Culture of Balkan Sephardim*

**15.30-16.15 Vuk Dautović** (University of Belgrade)  
*Visual culture of Serbian Jews from Ottoman times to the Civil Emancipation Period*

**16.15-16.30** tea break

**16.30-17.15 Haris Dajč** (University of Belgrade)  
*Jewish Residential Architecture in Belgrade and its Impact on the Urban Identity of  
Belgrade in the Interwar Period*

**17.15-18.00 Gordana Todorčić** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Moshe David Gaon Center)

***Žak Konfino (1892-1975) and his literary legacy***

### **Speakers in order of presentation**

**Jelena Erdeljan** (University of Belgrade)

***Tracing Jewish Visual Culture in the Balkans***



Jelena Erdeljan is a professor at the Department of Art History, University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy and at the interdisciplinary master program Religion in society, culture and European integration at the University of Belgrade. She is a scholar in the field of study of Byzantine, Serbian medieval and pre-modern art of the Balkans and the Mediterranean world, including Jewish art and culture. She has published extensive volumes on these issues, most notably *Chosen Places: Constructing New Jerusalems in Slavia Orthodoxa* (2017). She has organized and participated in a number of international research projects, congresses, symposia, and is a member of editorial boards of several scientific journals and book series published in Serbia and abroad. She is the founder and director of the Center for the Study of Jewish Art and Culture at University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy.

*Tracing Jewish Visual Culture in the Balkans* will offer insights into the centuries of Jewish art and culture in South East Europe, from antiquity to the present, and will focus on prominent examples such as the archaeological remains and mosaics from Stobi, Philipopolis, Čelarevo, the Sarajevo Haggadah, Jewish cemeteries of Bitola and Niš, synagogues from Sofia, Belgrade, Niš, Novi Sad, and others.

**Eliezer Papo** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Moshe David Gaon Center)

***Something Loaned and Something Improved, Something Borrowed and Something New: The Hajj Culture of Balkan Sephardim***



Eliezer Papo has been Senior Lecturer at the Hebrew Literature Department at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and Chairman of the Moshe David Gaon Center for Ladino Culture since 2016. He is editor in chief of 'El Prezente – Journal for Sephardic Studies', a scientific journal published by the Gaon Center, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Centre for the Study of European Politics and Society at the same University. He has been President of 'Sefarad – Society for Sephardic Studies' since 2018 and a representative of the

Israeli Universities in the Council of the National Authority for Ladino Culture and on its Executive Board since 2015. He has also been a member of the Israeli National Academy for Ladino and on its Executive Board of the INA since 2020 and is a foreign member of the Spanish Royal Academy. Dr. Papo's research centers on Hebrew/Jewish oral literatures, specialising in the field of Sephardic literatures (oral and written, rabbinic and secular). His book *And Thou Shall Jest with Your Son: Judeo-Spanish Parodies on the Passover Haggadah*, received the prestigious Ben-Tzvi award. Dr. Papo has published around 50 articles, in 10 different languages, about different aspects of Sephardic culture and literature, as well as five works of fiction — one in Ladino and four in Serbo-Croatian.

**Vuk Dautović** (University of Belgrade)

***Visual culture of Serbian Jews from Ottoman times to the Civil Emancipation Period***



Vuk F. Dautović is a Research associate in the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. An art historian from Belgrade, Serbia, he received his Ph.D. from the Faculty of Philosophy, Art History Department at the University of Belgrade. His field of research includes the material culture of the early modern period and the visual culture of Southeastern Europe. His primary area of expertise is ecclesiastical art, first and foremost liturgical objects and church utensils. His particular research interest is the various phenomena related to objects of applied art in the service of rites and ceremonies, from their performance to their part in transferring cultural models and ideas, and including interactive participation of material objects in cultural dialogues within societies. Another area of his research is related to studies of Jewish visual culture and history in the Balkans, in particular ceremonial art and various manifestations of Sephardic Jewish visual culture. He has published numerous papers and studies on liturgical silver and related phenomena.

**Haris Dajč** (University of Belgrade)

***Jewish Residential Architecture in Belgrade and its Impact on the Urban Identity of Belgrade in the Interwar Period***



Haris Dajč is an Associate Professor at the Department of History, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade where he has been employed since 2010. His teaching includes undergraduate and graduate courses in Modern and Contemporary history, focusing on the history of the Mediterranean, Yugoslavia's dissolution, and its implications. He is the Chair of the Centre for Cooperation with the EU at the Faculty (former Center for Cooperation with UCL). In March 2018, the Government of the Republic of Serbia appointed him to be its representative and Chairman of the Supervisory Board for the Jewish Restitution Law. He has been working with the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe on several projects focusing on local Jewish archives and cataloging Jewish collections. He is a Nahum Goldman alumni and alumni of the Israeli Foreign Ministry diplomatic YLD program in 2015. Haris Dajč is also proud to add that he has been the chairman of the Serbian Cricket Federation since 2009 and since 2023 he has managed the Marylebone Cricket Club Foundation-funded project focusing on Afghani cricketers in Serbia and youth development.

**Gordana Todoric** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, associate of the Moshe David Gaon Center)

*Žak Konfino (1892-1975) and his literary legacy*



Gordana Todoric was elected a scientific associate at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad (Department of Serbian Literature) in 2018.

Her fields of research are Jewish topics in Serbian/ exYugoslav literature (in cooperation with Moshe David Gaon Center, Ben Gurion University of the Negev) and the representation of the Holocaust in literature. She collaborates with the Center for Empirical Research on Religion in Serbia, as well as with the Center for the Study of Jewish Art and Culture, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade. Currently she is working on a book on Jewish themes in Yugoslav/Serbian literature.

Žak Konfino is a writer who is remembered in the history of Serbian literature as a humorist, also as a chronicler of the Jews of Leskovac, a small Jewish community from the south of Serbia. Although his opus also includes texts that deal with everyday life, most important to present-day readers are the themes of relationship to tradition, shifts in cultural and political paradigms, and those of suffering and victimhood. An insight into his prose style and use of language are also essential to understanding his poetry.