

annual conference



AEJM Conference 2019 Preliminary Programme

17-19 November

MEIS Museum of Italian Judaism and the Shoah, Ferrara (IT)

Sunday 17 November

Day 1

- 13:30 – 15:00 OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITY
Guided tours of the core exhibition *Jews, An Italian Story. The First Thousand Years* by the curatorial team of MEIS
- 14:30 – 15:30 Registration
- 15:30 – 16:00 OPENING CEREMONY
Welcome by Dario Disegni, President MEIS, and Simonetta Della Seta, Director MEIS
- 16:00 – 16:30 PERSPECTIVES & PROSPECTS
Opening statement by Emile Schrijver, Chair of AEJM and Director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam (NL). Schrijver will address the challenges and opportunities of Jewish museums in 21st century Europe.
- 16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE BREAK
- 17:00 – 18:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE I
2000 Years of Italian-Jewish History
The uninterrupted presence of Jews in Italy spans over two millennia. How did this presence take shape and develop? This talk explores how the Jews of Italy built their own identity and how they contributed to that of all Italians across periods of fruitful cohabilitation and interaction, alternated with persecution and expulsion.
- 18:00 – 19:00 CONVERSATIONS
Curating 2000 Years of Italian-Jewish History
Discussion of the representation of Italian-Jewish history and heritage in the MEIS core exhibition, with Simonetta Della Seta and the MEIS curatorial team. Moderated by Paull Salmona, Director of the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme (FR)

- 19:30 – 21:30 RECEPTION
Get together and meet your colleagues! Conference delegates are invited to join a dinner reception.

Monday 18 November

Day 2

- 9:00 – 10:30 PROJECT SLAM I
Exhibitions
6 museum professionals will shortly present selected curatorial projects of excellence
- 10:30 – 11:15 ITALIAN COFFEE TABLE TALK
Discuss the 6 exhibition projects with the presenters of the Project Slam while enjoying your coffee
- 11:15 – 12:30 PARALLEL PROGRAMME
1. PROFESSIONAL FOCUS GROUP Institutions > 10 FTE, with Abigail Morris, AEJM Board and Director Jewish Museum London (UK)
 2. PROFESSIONAL FOCUS GROUPS Institutions <10 FTE, with Mats Tangestuen, AEJM Board Member and Academic Director at Oslo Jewish Museum (NO)
The Focus Groups are developed to support museum professionals that actively work in the field and to stimulate focused discussion and exchange. The first Focus Groups will bring together leadership of Jewish museums of similar size. Discuss challenges and opportunities facing the leaders of European Jewish museums with your peers.
 3. DISCOVER MEIS curatorial visit to multimedia installation *Through the Eyes of Italian Jews*
- 12:30 – 15:00 JEWISH FERRARA LUNCH BREAK
Discover the Jewish past of Ferrara during this heritage city walk and lunch
- 15:00 – 16:00 KEYNOTE LECTURE II
Site-Seeing: Museum // Architecture // Tourism
Shelley Hornstein, Professor Architectural History & Visual Culture York University, Toronto (CA) will speak about the relationship and entanglement between architecture and tourism and its impact on contemporary museum design. How will the new MEIS change and shape Jewish heritage tourism in Ferrara and Italy and speak to the broader issues of Jewish Heritage Tourism internationally?
- 16:00 – 17:30 PARALLEL PROGRAMME
1. PANEL Jewish heritage tourism in Ferrara
 2. PROFESSIONAL FOCUS GROUP Marketing
 3. PROFESSIONAL FOCUS GROUP Security, with Mats Tangestuen, AEJM Board Member and Academic Director at Oslo Jewish Museum (NO)
- 19:30 Optional Leadership Dinner
Please register in advance

Tuesday 19 November

Day 3

- 9:00 – 10:15 PROJECT SLAM II
Special Projects
5 museum professionals will shortly present selected special projects of excellence
- 10:15 – 11:00 ITALIAN COFFEE TABLE TALK
Discuss the 5 curatorial projects with the presenters of the Project Slam while enjoying your coffee
- 11:00 – 12:00 PARALLEL PROGRAMME
1. PANEL Jewish Museums in Italy
Discussion of the wider Jewish museum landscape in Italy. What are the challenges for these local and regional community museums? With Marcella Ansaldi, Director of Jewish Museum Venice, Olga Melasecchi, Director of Jewish Museum Rome, and Claudia De Benedetti, Jewish Museum of Casale Monferrato
 2. PROFESSIONAL FOCUS GROUP Contemporary art in Jewish museums
- 12:00 – 12:30 REFLECTIONS
Closing Session
Looking back and ahead: this session marks the end of the official programme.
- 14:00 – 16:00 AEJM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Board of the Association will report on past activities and future plans. Members will vote on new membership applications and for Board elections. Members are requested to send a delegate to the meeting.
- In parallel*
Conference delegates and guests not attending the General Meeting are invited for a guided visit in Ferrara

Wednesday 20 November

OPTIONAL EXCURSION PROGRAMME I – EMILIA ROMAGNA

Discover the Jewish heritage of Emilia Romagna by joining this post-conference optional excursion. In the morning the group will visit smaller sites of Jewish interest. After lunch, the medieval academic city of Bologna will be visited, including the [Jewish Museum Bologna](#). In the afternoon the bus will return to Ferrara via Bologna Airport (estimated time of arrival at the airport: 16:00).

Departure from Ferrara: 8:00
Costs: 65 EUR, lunch included

Thursday 21 November

OPTIONAL EXCURSION PROGRAMME II – Monte San Savino

This year, conference delegates are cordially invited by Jack Arbib to join an additional excursion programme to [Monte San Savino](#) on Thursday 21 November. During the excursion, participants will learn about the project on the history of Jewish presence and absence in this Tuscan town. Please note that at the end of the programme, participants will be transferred to Arezzo Train Station, with train connections south to Rome and north to Florence.

Departure from Ferrara: 08:00
Estimated time of arrival at Arezzo Train station: 16:00
Participation is free of charge