IJS
Institute of Jewish Studies
University of Antwerp

25 YEARS

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Intergenerational Transmission in Jewish Studies

ANTWERP, 14 – 15 OCTOBER 2026

On the occasion of its twenty-fifth anniversary, the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp will convene a special gathering to mark a moment of continuity and renewal. As the Institute celebrates a quarter-century of scholarship, community, and innovation, it also marks a change in leadership, as its founding director, Vivian Liska, passes the mantle to her successor, Theodor Dunkelgrün.

To honour this milestone, the Institute will bring together distinguished senior scholars from across the fields of Jewish studies, each paired with a junior scholar in their discipline. In short statements and conversations, these intergenerational pairs will explore transmission in all its registers: continuity, disruption, and new beginnings; indebtedness and the anxiety of influence; mentorship and discipleship — and discuss together ways in which knowledge, method, and creativity are passed on, reinterpreted, and transformed across generations.

Through these dialogues, participants will reflect on the evolution of their fields, the challenges and opportunities of the present, and the horizons of Jewish scholarship yet to come in a changing world, embodying the mission of the Institute itself: to foster rigorous inquiry, sustain dialogue between past and future, and cultivate the next generation of voices in Jewish Studies.

Wednesday, 14 October

Klooster van de Grauwzusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerpen

12:00 · RECEPTION & WELCOME **Vivian Liska**

12:30	GERMAN-JEWISH THOUGHT **Benjamin Pollock — Dana Rubinstein**	MODERATOR *Dennis Baert*
13:15	TALMUD & JEWISH PHILOSOPHY **Moshe Halbertal — Omer Michaelis**	MODERATOR *Willem Styfhals*
	14:00 Coffee	
14:30	HOLOCAUST & ANTISEMITISM **Alvin H. Rosenfeld — Flora Cassen**	MODERATOR *Veerle Vanden Daelen*
15:15	GERMAN-JEWISH LITERATURE **Mark H. Gelber — Andree Michaelis-König**	MODERATOR *Thomas Ernst*
	16:00 Coffee	
16:30	YIDDISH **Itzchok Niborski — Ethel Niborski**	MODERATOR *Paul Gybels*
17:15	BIBLE & LITERATURE **Ilana Pardes — Yosefa Raz**	MODERATOR *Asif Rahamim*
18:00	ART HISTORY **Richard I. Cohen — Mirjam Rajner**	MODERATOR *Timothy De Paepe*

Thursday, 15 October

Hof van Liere, Tassiszaal (2nd floor), Prinsstraat 13, Antwerpen

09:30	MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY **Leora Batnitzky — Eli Schonfeld**	MODERATOR *Arthur Cools*
10:15	MODERN INTELLECTUAL HISTORY **Steven Aschheim — Itamar Ben Ami**	MODERATOR *Bart Wallet*
	11:00 Coffee	
11:30	JEWISH–CHRISTIAN RELATIONS **Israel Yuval — Karma Ben-Johanan**	MODERATOR *René Dausner*
	12:15 · Lunch (speakers only)	
13:15	KABBALAH **Moshe Idel — Ruth Kara-Ivanov**	MODERATOR *Aaron Kachuck*
14:00	EARLY MODERN HISTORY **David Ruderman — Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg**	MODERATOR *Jessica Roitman*
14:45	THE FUTURE OF JEWISH STUDIES **Vivian Liska — Theodor Dunkelgrün** *followed by words from colleagues and friends*	MODERATOR *Jan Morrens*
	15:30 Coffee	

16:00 – 17:00 · Concert: *Lebensmelodien* Nur Ben Shalom · Reception