

JEWISH MUSLIM ENCOUNTERS BEFORE AND AFTER OCTOBER 7

Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

at Sciences Po, Paris, 75007

1st day: Tuesday December 3rd, 2024

1:30 PM

Welcome coffee

2PM

Opening words:

- **Nonna Mayer** (Sciences Po, CEE, CNRS)
- **Florence Faucher** (Director of Sciences Po, CEE)
- **Ben Gidley** and **Sami Everett** (Encounters coordinators)

2:30-3:30 PM

Session 1 - How Jews and Muslims interact

- **Arndt Emmerich**: "Jewish-Muslim friendship themes within the German TV series "The Zweiflers" (visio)
- **Vanessa Rau**: "Love and Relationships between Jews and Muslims"
- **Frederic Strack**: "Orthodox Jews v. Orthodox Muslims: An Impossible Interfaith Alliance" (visio)

Moderator: **Samia Hathroubi**

3:30-4:45 PM

Session 2 - Local surveys to map local intercultural relations

- **Vincent Tiberj** and **Nonna Mayer**: intercultural relations in multicultural context (Sarcelles and Paris 19th)/

Moderators: **Lucine Endelstein** and **Hande Senguler**

Coffee break

5PM-5.45PM

Keynote : **Paul M. Sniderman** (Stanford University): "Notes for a Paradigm on Minoritarian Politics: Jews and Muslims" (on Zoom)

6PM-7.30PM

Performance. Encounter between Jewish and Arab musicalities, TA'AM (טעם – طعم)
A creation of Cie Safra / **Jessica Bonamy** with **Abderraouf Ouertani** and **Amalia Alba** (open to the public)

8PM-till late

Conference dinner

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2nd day: Wednesday December 4th, 2024

8:30 AM *Welcome coffee*

9:00-10:15 AM Session 1

- **Anne Sophie Lamine** “The aftermath of October 7 in Strasbourg”
- **Dekel Peretz** “Dialogue in times of Crisis. Muslim–Jewish Encounters in the Shadow of the October 7th War”
- **Daniella Shaw** “Interfaith relations in the UK since October 2023”

Coffee break

10:30-11:45 AM Session 2

- **Jonas Pardo** (co-founder of Golem) “How October 7 crystalized hostility between Jews and Muslims”
- **Alexandre Thuet Balaguer** “Creating Space for Dialogue: How Interfaith Conversations Broke Down at Sciences Po Paris after October 7th” (visio)

Moderators: **Matthias Koenig** (visio) and **Nonna Mayer**

12:00-1:00 PM Executive team meeting

ABSTRACTS.1

Ben Gidley and **Samuel Sami Everett**

Welcome words

Overview of the Encounters project (2020-2023), which tracked Jewish-Muslim interactions across six European cities (Paris, Strasbourg, London, Manchester, Berlin, Frankfurt): methodology, main results and perspectives.

Arndt Emmerich

Jewish-Muslim friendship themes within the German TV series "The Zweiflers"

Within an extremely critical public sphere around Jewish Muslim relations in Germany, the highly acclaimed mini-series Die Zweiflers that won several awards at this year's Cannes Film festival, has seemingly escaped this kind of severe scrutiny, while telling a courageous and little-noticed subplot of Jewish-Muslim coexistence. Inspired by the HBO Series Sopranos, the series focuses on the Jewish family, Zweiflers, with all its messy, intergenerational, complexity, including alleged ties to Frankfurt's notorious underworld. While the Zweiflers' search of a modern German-Jewish identity was initially praised by critics, at a second glance the theme of Jewish-Muslim friendships in post-war Germany becomes apparent, which this presentation seeks to explore.

Vanessa Rau

Intimacy under pressure. Love and Relationships between Jews and Muslims

What role do Race, Racism and Antisemitism play in intimate relationships? What role do they play among Jewish-Muslim couples? Drawing on a study and interviews of Jews and Muslims in intimate relationships in Germany, this paper shows how racism and solidarity are played out in the context of power dynamics and hierarchies in romantic relationships, sexuality and intimacy. Through in-depth interviews and ethnographic observation, it shows how religion, race, solidarity and identity affect the relationship, and how individuals draw on identifications in order to negotiate their position in terms of race, class, gender and in the current political climate, especially after October 7th. Zooming in to the micro-dynamics of relationships will then offer a broader understanding of how these positionings intersect with other social categories. Further it not only shows how specific societal positions affect intimacies but also how intimacy is affected by entangled otherings. Taking a post-colonial and intersectional analytical approach, this paper then makes a broader claim for the necessity to include Love, intimacy and sexuality and in the critical study of racism, identity and solidarity.

Frédéric Strack

Orthodox Jews v. Orthodox Muslims: An Impossible Interfaith Alliance

Facing challenging public policies, Orthodox Jews and Muslims may share the same observation that the notion of laïcité has threatened religious praxis in French society. Indeed, be it the prohibition for people working in the public service to wear religious signs, exams on holy days, or debates on banning circumcision or ritual slaughtering, orthodox Jews and Muslims may feel specifically targeted or even prevented from practicing the way they need to. Yet, Orthodox Jews don't unite with Muslims to speak up in favor of broader religious freedom. They instead opt for an every-man-for-himself-approach without a common line of actions. They may feel for them, but they mostly resent them.

Nonna Mayer and **Vincent Tiberj**

Intercultural relations in multicultural context : the case of Sarcelles and Paris 19th

From an intercultural perspective, this article explores majority/minority and between minorities interactions in multicultural urban areas hosting large proportions of Jews and Muslims. The data comes from telephone surveys conducted on local samples of inhabitants in the town of Sarcelles (2019) and the 19tharrondissement of Paris (2022). Open and closed questions explore the symbolic boundaries respondents construct between "us" and "them » and their patterns of sociability. Survey experiments deal with more sensitive issues such as antisemitism. The immediate social and ethnic surrounding of each respondent is reconstructed on the base of census and ethnographic data. The results go against several common beliefs, showing that religion is not the only dimension of respondents' identity, and that the relations between Jews and Muslims are not so much conflictual as ambivalent. Being minorities and feeling discriminated as such brings them together, a majority consider that Jews and Muslims have a common cultural heritage and should unite against discrimination. Nevertheless, there are friction points (Israeli-Palestinian conflict/ colonial past of France) and socially and politically the two groups stand wide apart.

ABSTRACTS.2

Paul Sniderman

"Notes for a Paradigm on Minoritarian Politics: Jews and Muslims"

Studies of prejudice and politics have concentrated on analyses of the responses of national majorities to a minority. Focusing on Muslims and Jews interrelations opens a door to new questions and methodological approaches, possibly, even, a new paradigm for the study of prejudice and politics.

Anne Sophie Lamine

"The aftermath of October 7 in Strasbourg"

This presentation will look at the impact of 7 October on interfaith relations and on minority religious groups in Strasbourg.

Dekel Peretz

"Dialogue in times of Crisis. Muslim–Jewish Encounters in the Shadow of the October 7th War"

Berlin is the city with the largest Jewish and Muslim populations in Germany, among them a considerable Israeli as well as the largest Palestinian Diaspora in Europe. Living in proximity brings forth many forms of encounter across a wide range of domains: in formal dialogue, cultural production, commercial activities and in everyday life. Dialogue and alliances between Jews and Muslims exist in different fields such as interfaith relations, holocaust commemoration, antidiscrimination education, culture, and political advocacy. Local relations between Jews and Muslim tend to be influenced by cycles of geopolitical tensions and tranquility. Yet, the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th and the ensuing War have had global repercussions with seismic effects on local encounters and dialogue initiatives. This talk will explore the shifts in encounter dynamics and contact zones based on ethnographic field work carried out in Berlin between 2021–23 as part of the ORA joint research project "Muslim-Jewish encounter, diversity & distance in urban Europe: Religion, culture and social model" as well as ongoing fieldwork after October 7th.

Daniella Shaw

Interfaith relations in the UK since October 2023

This presentation explores the evolving Muslim-Jewish encounters between communities in the wake of recent global and local tensions, specifically the escalations in Israel-Palestine from October 2023 and the UK's 2024 summer far-right riots. These events have heightened challenges in fostering social cohesion, with an increase in hate crime and an 'inwards turn'. Focusing on case studies, such as the London Borough of Barnet, the presentation highlights community, educational and local government responses over the past year. This session offers insights into the complex, often ambivalent nature of interfaith encounters, examining how community resilience and cooperation continue to be tested in the UK.

Jonas Pardo

"How October 7 crystalized hostility between Jews and Muslims"

Every explosion of violence in the Middle East is accompanied by a rise of antisemitism. Every attack by a political Islamic militant is accompanied by an increase in Islamophobia. Both the Jewish and Muslim communities in France are suspected of being complicit in crimes. What divides them and how are they opposed? How can we stand together against all racisms?

Alexandre Thuet Balaguer

«Creating Space for Dialogue: How Interfaith Conversations Broke Down at Sciences Po Paris after October 7th»

In 2024, Sciences Po Paris saw significant demonstrations in support of Gaza, including a key event on March 12—a pro-Palestine conference where at least one UEJF member was denied entry, sparking a media and political storm that drew a response from Prime Minister Gabriel Attal on March 13. This incident highlighted the breakdown of dialogue stemming from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, making open communication among students increasingly difficult. Through the Isaac and Ismael initiative, we sought to establish an inclusive space for intercultural and interfaith dialogue, open to all. However, despite initial enthusiasm, the challenges at Sciences Po ultimately made meaningful dialogue impossible. My presentation will explore how and why this breakdown occurred.

BIOGRAPHIES.1

Elodie Druetz

Élodie Druetz has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Free University of Brussels since October 2023. Previously, she was involved in the Encounters project (Muslim-Jewish Encounter, Diversity & Distance in Urban Europe: Religion, Culture, and Social Models). In 2020, she defended her PhD in political science at Sciences Po Paris and INED, where her research focused on the racialization and politicization experiences of university graduates of sub-Saharan heritage in Paris and London.

Ben Gidley

Ben Gidley is a Reader in Sociology and Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, and a research associate of the Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism. His *Turbulent Times* (2010), written with Keith Kahn-Harris, was the first sociological monograph on British Jews for several decades; *Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Europe* (2017), co-edited with James Renton, was a breakthrough volume in this field; and his most recent book is *Jews and Muslims in Europe: between discourse and experience* (2022) co-edited with Sami Everett. He has been the project leader for the transnational research project Encounters: Muslim-Jewish Encounter, Diversity and Distance in Urban Europe.

Arndt Emmerich

Arndt Emmerich is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Hertfordshire and a Guest Researcher at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. His research interest is in the governance of religious diversity, the sociology of religion and interreligious encounters. His findings and commentaries have been published in academic journals such as *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Politics and Religion*, *Social Compass*, *Journal of Muslims in Europe*, *Entangled Religions*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, and featured, among others, in the BBC, Al Jazeera, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Deutsche Welle*, *Times of India*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Der Stern*, and the podcast, *Religion Inside*. He is the author of "Islamic movements in India: Moderation and its discontents" (Routledge, 2020)

Lucine Endelstein

Lucine Endelstein is researcher at the CNRS (the French National Center for Scientific Research) and a fellow at the Institut Convergences Migrations. She carries out research on migration, religion and urban change and part of her research focused on ultra-orthodox Judaism in Paris. She is co-editor of *Dieu change en ville. Religion, espace, immigration* (2010); and co-editor of two special issues on *Géographie des Faits religieux* (*Carnets de Géographes*, 2013) and *Mondes juifs en mouvement. Frontières, porosités, circulations* (*Archives de Sciences Sociales des religions*, 2017).

Sami Everett

Samuel Sami Everett known as Sami is a Senior Research Fellow at the Aix-Marseille Advanced School and the University of Southampton. He holds a PhD from SOAS, University of London and a BA in North African Language and Culture from INALCO, Paris. His research focuses on the historical-colonial and spatial-political dimensions of North African Jewish and Muslim identification. His research interests span the historical the anthropological and the cultural and his work is located between North African, Middle Eastern, Jewish, Islamic studies of Diaspora, dynamic interreligious interaction, and migratory trajectories.

Samia Hathroubi

Historian by training, Samia Hathroubi began her professional career as a geography and history teacher in the disenfranchised suburbs of Paris. Drawing on her personal background in Tunisia and France, she investigates the processes of othering related to Jewish and Arab identities in public and political spheres. She is pursuing a PhD at the University of Heidelberg in Germany, that explores the mobilization of Jewish and Muslim identities in the public spaces of France and Germany from a sociological perspective. Her dissertation is part of the Freigeist project: «Invisible Architects: Jews, Muslims, and the Construction of Europe» led by Dr Elisabeth Becker. Additionally, she serves as a board member of the Democracy & Belonging Forum at the Othering & Belonging Institute at UC Berkeley. Recent publications »Pourquoi réfléchir à la question des liens entre juifs et musulmans (in Benbassa and Attias eds., *Juifs et musulmans, Retissons les liens* 2015 ; Learning the Language of the Other? Hebrew and Arabic in Two Parisian Associations», *Annual Review of the Sociology of Religion*. Volume 13 (2022)

Matthias Koenig

Matthias Koenig is professor for empirical macrosociology at the Max-Weber-Institute for Sociology at Heidelberg University. He held visiting positions at the École Pratique des Hautes Etudes, the University of Toronto, the University of Michigan, and Harvard University, and was awarded a ten-year fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. Koenig has published widely on human rights, migration, religious diversity, and nationalism, including volumes such as *International Migration and the Governance of Religious Diversity* (ed. with Paul Bramadat, McGill/Queens University Press 2009), and *Religion and National Identities in an Enlarged Europe* (ed. with Wolfgang Knöbl & Willfried Spohn, Palgrave 2015).

BIOGRAPHIES.2

Nonna Mayer

Nonna Mayer is Research Director Emerita of the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), affiliated to the Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE) of Sciences Po, Paris. She chaired the French Political Science Association from 2005 to 2016. She is an appointed member of the French National Consultative Commission for Human Rights (CNCDH) since 2015 and co-PI of its annual Barometer on Racism. Her main research topics are political and particularly electoral behaviour, radical right populism, racism and antisemitism and intercultural relations. Recent publications: "Sociology and Political Participation" In Grasso et Giugni (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Participation*, Oxford University Press, 2022; *Jews and Muslims in Sarcelles: face to face or side by side?* *Annual Review of the Sociology of religion*, 13, 2022 (with V. Tiberj); "Jews and Muslims in the 19th arrondissement of Paris: face to face, or side by side?" (<https://www.mmg.mpg.de/1110388/blog-mayer-jews-and-muslims>)

Anne Sophie Lamine

Anne-Sophie Lamine is professor of Sociology at Université de Strasbourg. Her research concerns ethnic and religious diversity: religions in public space, interreligious relations, Muslims, Islamic medias, rigorism, radicalisation, pragmatist approach of belief. She coordinated several collective project in these fields. Her recent edited book is « Au delà du séparatisme et de la radicalisation ».

Jonas Pardo

Jonas Pardo is director of the Boussole Antiraciste association. He gives training courses in the fight against anti-Semitism for groups, associations, unions, media and political parties. He is co-founder of the Golem association. He published with Samuel Delor a handbook on the ways to fight racism and antisemitism, *Petit manuel de lutte contre l'antisémitisme* (Editions du Commun, 2024)»

Dekel Peretz

Dr. Dekel Peretz is a post-doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity in Göttingen. Peretz's research focuses on Jewish life in Germany in past and present, Jewish-Muslim encounters, digital religion and post-colonial studies. His current research theme is "Dialogue in times of Crisis. Muslim-Jewish Encounters in Berlin in the Shadow of the October 7th war." Peretz's most recent book *Zionism and Cosmopolitanism: Franz Oppenheimer and the Dream of a Jewish Future in Germany and Palestine* deals with Jewish identity in fin de siècle Germany in the context of racial and colonial discourses.

Vanessa Rau

Dr. Vanessa Rau is sociologist and a post-doctoral research fellow at the Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen. She holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Cambridge which examines Israeli Migration and the emergence of a new Jewish scene in Berlin and was awarded with the Koerber Prize in 2020. She has worked on religion and secularism, migration and disability as well as diversity and difference. Her current project entitled 'super-diversity meets intimacy' is a research on intimacy between migrants and non-migrants and she also researches intimacy among Jews and Muslims. She was in the initiating team of the Encounters project and is one of the Advisors.

Daniella Shaw

Dr Daniella Shaw brings over two decades of experience as a practitioner and scholar in the interfaith sector, working to deepen understanding and empathy between communities. Her recent research focuses on Muslim-Jewish relations, examining social cohesion, identity and the dynamics of encounter. Alongside her research, Daniella provides strategic direction on initiatives promoting inclusion and community-building and has a strong background in training and teaching. In her spare time, Daniella coordinates projects that support asylum seekers, reflecting her commitment to social justice and empowerment. Daniella's combination of research and fieldwork positions her as a valuable contributor to fostering meaningful interfaith dialogue and collaboration in the UK

Paul Sniderman

Paul M. Sniderman is the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr., Professor of Public Policy at Stanford University and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. One of his major fields of research is the study of racial and ethnic prejudice, developing new experimental methods to the study of public opinion. Among his recent publications: *The Struggle for Muslim Inclusion: Muslim Minorities and the Democratic Ethos* (University of Chicago Press, 2022, with Elisabeth Ivarsflaten), *The Democratic Faith* (Yale University Press, 2017) and *Paradoxes of Liberal Democracy: Islam, Western Europe and the Danish Cartoon Crisis* (Princeton University Press, 2014, with Michael Bang Petersen, Rune Slothuus, and Rune Stubager).

BIOGRAPHIES.3

Frédéric Strack

Frédéric Strack is a Postdoctoral Researcher in Political Science at the University of Sherbrooke, Canada. His research is about the public governance of orthodox religious streams in secular and pluralistic states, including the case of orthodox Judaism in France. His publications include : « Les jeunes, cœurs de cible et promoteurs d'une orthodoxie juive globalisée », *Social Compass*, 71 (1), 2024, p. 101-118 ; « Enterrer ses morts selon la loi juive en France : les défis contemporains », *Archives juives*, 57 (1), 2024, p. 126-143 ; « L'enclave ou le ghetto : rapport à l'hors-groupe et socialisation politique chez les juif.ve.s orthodoxes », *Revue Française de Science Politique*, 73(4-5) ; « Laïcité, Public Governance of Religion, and the Orthodox Jews in France », dans Marko Vekovic, Mirosljub Jevtic (dir.), *When Politics Meets Religion. Navigating Old Challenges and New Perspectives*, Routledge, 2024

Alexandre Thuet Balaguer

«I am Alexandre Thuet Balaguer, a third-year student at Sciences Po Paris, currently on exchange at the American University in Cairo. As a witness to recent pro-Palestinian movements, I co-authored a text that influenced the creation of 'Isaac and Ismael,' a student initiative fostering intercultural and interfaith dialogue to break down prejudices and encourage mutual understanding. I am also a member of the Guerrières de la Paix.»

Vincent Tiberj

Vincent Tiberj (PhD Sciences Po, Paris) is Full Professor of Political Sociology at Sciences Po Bordeaux and researcher at the Centre Emile Durkheim. He has published research on various fields such as electoral behaviour, generational renewal, value systems and prejudices and has works intensively in the field of multiculturalism and migrant integration and has collaborated or directed several surveys focused on political integration process of migrants and on xenophobic prejudices. On this particular topic he has published with Sylvian Brouard "As French as everyone else?" (Temple University Press, 2011) and with Nonna Mayer "Jews and Muslims in Sarcelles: face to face or side by side? *Annual Review of the Sociology of religion*, 13, 2022.

