



European Jewish history: How do cities 'think' about and 'act' on their Jewish past?

Virtual exchange between Graz, Austria and Thessaloniki, Greece

Spring term 2022/23 (1,5 hours every week, e.g. Tuesday 17.15–18.45)

Teaching languages: English

In (most of) Europe today, an examination of the history of minorities in the European past is given a central position. Debates about the place of the Holocaust in a common European history condensed around the opening of the House of European History in Brussels in 2017, for example. But how is the formation of a collective European understanding of history experienced at the local level by specific societies, which in turn is supposed to foster new collective transnational European identity(ies)?

Urban centers are central to this formation. An understanding of urban spaces as relational products and as condensed constructs of civil society negotiation suggests not only to re-examine institutionalized "history", but to ask in particular how city dwellers make the city theirs and thus shape the urban space as the topos of collective memory. An investigation on which traces of the past are visible and which remain invisible provides important insights into the formation of a European historical narrative. Therefore we ask: How is Jewish history visible in European cities? How do Europeans think about Jewish pasts?

In this course, which transcends regional / local perspectives in a virtual exchange (VE) between students from different localities (Graz/Thessaloniki) and from diverse academic backgrounds, we examine human agency in appropriating urban space to construct meaning through individual practices. We qualitatively engage with spatial making processes through annotated walking interviews and visualize the collected data in deep maps. This approach allows us to go beyond the mere movement of people through space to capture profound experiences of urban life, encounters, and the co-production of urban places for individuals and groups.

In this virtual exchange, there are joint units between the University of Graz (course leader Dr Susanne Korbel) and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (course leader Prof Garyfallia Katsavounidou, PhD). The students of both universities implement the research projects locally and discuss them in a European comparison.

Objectives

The students...

- ... deal with the visibility of Jewish history in urban space.
- ... test methods of social science research and cultural science analysis.
- ... apply annotated walking interviews as an exploration tool.
- ... produce critical maps and deep maps.

- ... discuss research results in European comparison.

Assessment

Attendance (immanent LV)

Virtual exchange

Creation of a critical map (deep map) based on annotated walking interviews

Classes

Week	Tentative date	Content	Presentation	Student activity
1 (synchronous)	7.3.2023	Introduction to the course	Prof. Katsavounidou and Dr. Korbel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Jewish history and urban spaces • Examples of Jewish urban spaces and their histories in Thessaloniki and Austria • Methodology: Critical mapping (Prof. Katsavounidou) & Walking interviews (Dr. Korbel) 	Formation of teams (4-5 people) within each one of the two groups
2 (asynchronous)	14.3.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature reading • Initial research on case studies • Preparing field work Assignment of tasks		Group discussion on progress (documentation of meetings which should be held at least 1 hour every week)
3. (asynchronous)	21.3.2023	Discussion on first findings		Disussion of Literature in the group: each group prepares a 5 Minutes presentation of one text
4 (synchronous)	28.3.2023	Discussion on first findings	Group presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary findings • Design of field work 	
(asynchronous)	28.3.– 21.4.2023 [easter break]	Field work: Conducting the interviews		Group discussion on progress
5 (synchronous)	25.4.2023	Field work: Mapping / visual documentation		Group discussion on progress
6 (synchronous)	2.5.2023	Discussion on field work experience	Group presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raw findings of field work • How to proceed 	
7 (asynchronous)	9.5.2023	Transcription and initial exploration of the data		Group discussion on progress
8 asynchronous	9.– 15.5.2023	Analyzing data Mapping data and preparing visuals		Compare findings in the groups
9 (synchronous)	16.5.2023	Present and Discuss group findings		
10(synchronous) [*Possible participation of external reviewers / discussants]	31.5.2023	Presentations of the case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group presentations of the case studies • Discussion on how they can be compared • Conclusions 	

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