



The Long Struggle of the Jewish Working Class of Thessaloniki for the Implementation of a Social and Political Agenda (1908-1943)

- Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation -

June 11-14, 2023 | University of Haifa

Sunday, June 11 2023

University of Haifa, Ofer Observation Gallery, Eshkol Tower, 30th floor

13:00-15:30 Chair: Prof. Eyal Ginio (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Greetings, Introduction of Participants

Session I: Archival Turn in Greece; New Avenues of Research in Social History of Salonikian Jews

Dr. Shai Srougo (University of Haifa)
The Impact of Democratization/Opening of Archives in Greece on the Historiography of the Salonikian Jewish Labor Movement

Prof. Minna Rozen (University of Haifa)
The Lives of Jewish Workers in Salonika Through the Lens of the Moscow Archives (1932-1940)

15:30-15:45 – Break

The break will be accompanied by a performance of Betty Klein (singer, guitarist, and accordionist)

15:45-18:15 Memorial session dedicated to the late Professor Tamar Alexander (1945-2023): Rethinking the Language of Labour and Popular Culture in Thessaloniki of the 1900-1930s

Chair: Prof. Eyal Ginio (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Prof. Shmuel Refael (Bar-Ilan University)
The Contribution of Michael Molho to the Mapping of Ladino Literature between the Two World Wars

Dr. Eliezer Papo (Ben-Gurion University)
Matatja – Sarajevo's Jewish Workers Organization, its Drama Cycle and the Cycle's 'Shakespeare' (Laura Papo Bohoreta) in the Light of the Inter-Class War

Dr. Rena Molho (Pantheon University)
Theatrical Production of the Socialist Federation in Salonika

18:15-18:30 – Break

The break will be accompanied by a performance of Betty Klein (singer, guitarist, and accordionist) and Arie Livshin (the Bouzouqi and Mandolin player)

18:30-20:30 Memorial session dedicated to the late Professor Tamar Alexander (1945-2023): Rethinking the Language of Labor and Popular Culture in Thessaloniki of the 1900-1930s

Chair: Dr. Shai Srougo (University of Haifa)

Prof. Devin Naar (University of Washington) (Virtual participation)
The Salonikian Jewish Labor Movement Abroad: Activism in New York City's Factories, Cafes, and Unions, 1912-1939 (Virtual Participation)

Dr. Gila Hadar (University of Haifa)
The Socialist Federation and Linguistic Realities in Thessaloniki: In Search of a Linguistic and Cultural Capital

The session will be accompanied by a performance of Betty Klein (singer, guitarist, and accordionist) and Arie Livshin (the Bouzouqi and Mandolin player) (19:30-20:30)

Monday, June 12 2023

University of Haifa, Ofer Observation Gallery, Eshkol Tower, 30th floor

09:00-11:30 Session IV: History From Below: Forging New Paths of Research on the Labor Movement of the Balkan under the Ottoman Empire

Prof. Leda Papastefanaki (University of Ioannina)
Labour History of the Ottoman Past in Greek Historiography

Prof. Iphigeneia Vamvakidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), and

Prof. Dagkas Alexandros (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
Jewish Labor Movement in the Balkans. The Case of Salonika, Ottoman Empire

Dr. Emine Tuktı VARDAĞLI (Istanbul Aydin University) (Virtual Participation)
Syndicalism in the Late Ottoman Thessaloniki: A Multi-Ethnic Cluster of Tobacco Workers

11:30 - 11:45 – Break

11:45-13:15 Session V: The Dynamics of Class Identities: Internal Differentiation Alongside of Diversification

Chair: Prof. Minna Rozen (University of Haifa)

Dr. Andreas Bouroutis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
The Petit Bourgeoisie in Thessaloniki. Cooperation and Divisions of Jewish and Christian Merchants in the Interwar Period

Prof. Orly C. Meron (Bar-Ilan University)
Workers as Reflecting the Scope of Industrial and Commercial Entrepreneurship in Thessaloniki during the 1930s

Dr. Dimitris Goulis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
Where is Gabriel Amar? The Strike of Jewish Teachers in 1933 through the Greek-Speaking Press of Thessaloniki

13:30-14:45 – Lunch

15:00-17:30 Session VI: Episodes in the History of the Jewish Labor Movement

Chair: Dr. Shai Srougo (University of Haifa)
Joseph A. Mevorach (Independent Researcher)
In Kavala Gold was Called Tobacco and the Gold Mines were Tobacco Warehouses

Dr. Vasileios Ritzaleos (Democritus University of Thrace)
The Role of the Jews in the Labor Struggles in Kavala, 1905-1936

Dr. Melisande Leventopoulos (Paris 8 University)
Going to the 'Modern' or to the 'Alcazar'. The Role of Cinema in Leisure Activities among the Jewish and Christian-Orthodox Working-Class Men and Women of Thessaloniki

Dr. Susy Gruss (Bar-Ilan University)
Assimilation is not Carmen – The Labor Struggle of the Tobacco Workers in Eastern Macedonia in Juda Haim HaCohen Perahia's Novella

Tuesday, June 13 2023

University of Haifa, Ofer Observation Gallery, Eshkol Tower, 30th floor

09:00-10:00 Chair: Dr. Shai Srougo (University of Haifa)

Session VII: On the Edge. Gloomy Skies, Signs of Danger, and Sirens in Thessaloniki of the 1920s and 1930s

Dr. Kostas Tziaras (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
Red Napoleon and the Murdered Infants: anti-Semitism and anti-Communism in the Discourse and Practice of the Repression of the Labor Movement in the Interwar Period. Thessaloniki, 1932

Prof. Shmuel Hassid (Technion)
The Jews in the Greek Communist Newspaper "Rizospastis" during the 1920s-1930s

10:00-10:15 –Break

10:15-12:15 Session VIII: On the Edge. Gloomy Skies, Signs of Danger, and Sirens in Thessaloniki of the 1940 and Afterwards

Chair: Prof. Shmuel Hassid (Technion)

Dr. Maria Kavala (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
The Forced Labor in Thessaloniki and the Jewish Community during the German Occupation

Iliana Herrera (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)
The Story of my Grand-Father. The Jewish Labor Stratum of Thessaloniki in the Greek National Resistance against Fascism, 1941-1944

Dr. Kostas Paloukis (Thessaloniki Port Archives)
The Port of Thessaloniki without its Jews: Aspects of National Identity among the Dockworkers after the Second World War

12:30-13:45 – Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session IX: Jewish Labor Movement beyond the Balkans

Chair: Prof. Danny Guetwein (University of Haifa)

Prof. Marcus Silber (University of Haifa)
Between Russia and Austria. Borochoy and the Jewish Socialism

Dr. Tal Elmaliach (University of Haifa)
Liminals: Left -Wing Radicalization in the Zionist Labor Movement in the 1920's and 1930s

15:30-15:45 – Break

15:45-17:15 Session X: Personal Testimony and Life Journey

Chair: Dr. Shai Srougo (University of Haifa)

Eliyahu ben-Aroya
My father, Avraham ben-Aroya: A Forgotten Sephardic Revolutionary in Israel

Concluding Remarks

Wednesday, June 14 2023

"Following the Salonikian Longshoremen and Fishermen,"
A Fieldtrip to the Waterfront of Haifa and Acre (Invitees only)