

Conference Programme

MONDAY 3 JULY, 2023

Venue: Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Cape Town

Bus leaves Little Scotia 8:30am

8:45 - 10am

Welcome, introductions, and opening address

Eli Lederhendler (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) “The Emergence and Dissemination of a Regional ‘Type’: Litvaks between Myth, Stereotype, and Identity”

10:15 – 11:45am

THE DYNAMICS OF LITVAK MIGRATION IN THE 19th CENTURY

Chair: Tony Kushner (University of Southampton)

- Eric L. Goldstein (Emory University), “Why They Went Where They Went: Small-Town Jews, Family Networks, and the Making of a Litvak Diaspora in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries”
- Tobias Brinkmann (Penn State University), “Jewish Migration from Lithuania before 1900”
- Claire Le Foll (University of Southampton), “‘A Land Not Flowing with Milk and Honey’: Literary Representations of ‘Lite’ and Analysis of the Reasons for Emigration in the 19th Century”

12 – 12:45pm

Immigrants and Immigration in South Africa Today 1

Stephen Goldberg (founder of Selpal): Immigrant Business Networks in the Township Economy

12:45 – 1:45pm: **Lunch**

1:45 – 2:45pm

THE RELIGIOUS LIVES AND INSTITUTIONS OF LITVAKS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Chair: Daniel Soyer (Fordham University)

- Vladimir Levin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Litvak Synagogues in *Lite* and Around the World: Architecture, Way of Life, Identity”
- Ruth Leiserowitz (German Historical Institute, Warsaw), “Rabbis in the Litvak Global Network”

3 – 3:45pm

Immigrants and Immigration in South Africa Today 2

Rosette Sifa Vuninga (University of Cape Town): Immigrant Strategies among Congolese Asylum Seekers

4 – 5pm

THE ROLE OF THE PRESS AND LITERATURE IN FORGING A LITVAK DIASPORA

Chair: Tobias Brinkmann (Penn State University)

- Ellie Kellman (Brandeis University), “‘Greenhornsh Shpeaking American Shtyle’: Abraham Cahan’s Representation of the Speech of Litvak Immigrants, ca. 1895”
- William Pimlott (Birkbeck, University of London), “The Litvak Diaspora and the Global Yiddish Press: A Case Study of Yiddish Press Networks and Yiddish Language Politics”

Bus leaves 5:15pm from the Kaplan Centre for Groot Constantia

Dinner: Jonkershuis, Groot Constantia Wine Estate

Immigrants and Immigration in South Africa Today 3

Michael Bishop: Immigrants and the South African Constitution

Tuesday 4 JULY, 2023

Venue: Nelson Mandela Auditorium, South African Jewish Museum

Bus leaves Little Scotia 8.15am

8:45am

Welcome from Gavin Morris (Director of the South African Jewish Museum)

9 – 10am

LITVAK NETWORKS AND THE MAKING OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

Chair: Adam Mendelsohn (University of Cape Town)

● Boris Gorelik (Institute for African Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences), “On the Multiplicity of Communication Channels Between Litvaks in Russia and South Africa”

● Gavin Beinart-Smollan (New York University), “Between Vilnius and Piketberg: Litvak Diaspora Family Relationships after 1945”

10:15 – 11am

Litvaks in South Africa

Milton Shain (University of Cape Town): Images of and Attitudes Towards Eastern European Jews till 1930

11:15 – 12:15pm

THE INDEPENDENT LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC AND ITS JEWISH DIASPORA

Chair: Eric L. Goldstein (Emory University)

● Jurgita Verbickienė (Vilnius University), “Meeting in New Social and Geographical Spaces: How did Lithuanians See and Value Litvaks Living in Lands of Emigration?”

● Dovilė Čypaitė-Gilė (Vilnius University), “‘I Go Where They Go’: Networks of Jewish Emigration from Lithuania in 1918–1939”

12:15 – 1:45pm: **Lunch**

LITVAKS AND POLES

1:45 – 2:45pm

Chair: Ruth Leiserowitz (German Historical Institute, Warsaw)

● Gil Ribak (University of Arizona), “We Cannot Be Russifiers: The ‘Litvak Invasion’ of Congress Poland in Historical Perspective”

● Tony Kushner (University of Southampton), “Remembering Litvak/Polak Tensions in the Jewish Diaspora”

3pm

Tour of Jewish immigrant Cape Town, followed by discussion with Sean Field about popular memory of District Six

Dinner: Between Us, Bree Street

Wednesday 5 JULY, 2023
Venue: Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Cape Town

Bus leaves Little Scotia 9:00am

9:15 – 10:45am

NARRATIVES OF LITVAK MIGRATION AND MEMORY

Chair: Tony Kushner (University of Southampton)

- Ekaterina Oleshkevich (Bar-Ilan University), “Litvaks’ Autobiographies and Their Childhood Narratives: Unique Litvak or Common East-European?”
- Peter Garry (Trinity College, Dublin), “‘They Thought it was New York’: An Analysis of the Communal Narrative of Accidental Arrival to Cork”
- Daniel Soyer (Fordham University), “Avraham Sho’er and the Invention of Litvak Memory”

11 –12pm

Litvaks in South Africa

Richard Mendelsohn (University of Cape Town): The Parow Project

Katie Garrun (University of Cape Town): Archival Resources at the Kaplan Centre

12pm: **Lunch**

1 – 2pm

THE LITVAK DIASPORA AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Chair: Claire Le Foll (University of Southampton)

- Malena Chinski (Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social, Buenos Aires), “Transmitting the Legacy of Jewish Vilna: Shmerke Kaczerginski’s Postwar Collecting and Memorial Work”
- Veronica Belling (UCT), Creating a South African Litvak identity: Levi Shalit and his South African Yiddish Newspaper, *Di afrikaner idishe tsaytung*

2:15 – 3pm

Litvaks in South Africa

Adam Mendelsohn (University of Cape Town): Trends in the South African Community Today

Bus returns to Little Scotia 3.30pm

Conference Organizing Committee

Tobias Brinkmann	Claire Le Foll
Michael Casper	Ruth Leiserowitz
Eric L. Goldstein	Adam Mendelsohn
Tony Kushner	Daniel Soyer

Organized with generous support from

