

WAG Scholars' Working Group on German Rabbis after 1933 at LMU München

Personal details

Tammy Kohn

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Statement of interest

I study the material culture of German Jews who fled from Nazism to Argentina, my country of origin and where I currently live. I mainly focus on Judaica (Jewish Ritual Objects), and the stories behind the objects. From February 2025 on, I will serve as the director of the Jewish Museum of Buenos Aires.

In the frame of my doctoral research as well as a curator, I have come across many stories related to German Rabbis. Some of them arrived in Argentina and created new Jewish communities in the 1930s. While my specific research area is not the rabbis per se, the role they have as the spiritual leaders of the communities of which I study the collections is crucial for understanding the displacement and continuation of their material and visual traditions from Germany in Argentina. I hope I will be able to join all sessions, considering time differences, as I live in Argentina with a southern hemisphere academic calendar, and western time zone.

I also hope that my research focusing on Judaica can provide a different perspective of analysis and sources to my colleagues.

Project Outline

In parallel to my dissertation research, I am studying the collections of NCI-Emanu El, Benei Tikva and Avigdor, in Buenos Aires. All three synagogues founded by Jewish refugees from Germany in the 1930s, preserve the material traditions of their country of origin. This can be seen from the ritual objects and the architecture of the synagogues to their approach to the preservations of these traditions in the present.

In this context I am also preparing a new permanent exhibition for one of these synagogues and researching the provenance of the various items in the collection. I have found new stories about

different German rabbis through these artefacts, some who fled to Argentina and others who didn't, but are still part of the prehistory and history of this congregation.

Presentation

German Judaica as Objects of Memory in Argentina: the cases of Rabbis Hans Andorn (1903-1945) and Hanns Harf (1914-2004).

Short Bio

Tamara Kohn is an independent curator of Jewish Art and a Ph.D. candidate at the Jewish Theological Seminary - University of Jewish Studies, in Hungary. In 2023, she was awarded the Christie's grant for nazi-looted art provenance research.

She was part of the research and curation teams for the renewal of the permanent exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Buenos Aires (2012-2014) and the Holocaust Museum of Buenos Aires (2018-2020).

In January 2024 she curated the exhibition "Names and Faces," held at Faena Art Center in Buenos Aires.

She is currently writing her dissertation on the ritual art and material culture of Jewish refugees from Nazism in Argentina as objects of memory.

Recent publications

Tamara Kohn, "Restitución de bienes culturales judíos tras el Holocausto: El caso de la Jewish Cultural Reconstruction y la Argentina" *Anuario TAREA*, 10(10), 92-106.

Tamara Kohn, "Museos judíos latinoamericanos," in *Masorti Journal*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (Winter 2024), pp. 79-86.