

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

Personal Details

Charlotte Weber

Technical University Berlin (Center for Research on Antisemitism)/

Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg

PhD Candidate

c.weber.1@tu-berlin.de

Project Outline and Statement of Interest

I am currently in the final stages of my dissertation, which deals with the complex relationship between women and the memory of the Holocaust, with a particular focus on the topic of helping and rescuing people persecuted as Jews by the Germans. In the course of my research, I became aware of the friendship between two female intellectuals, namely Gertrud Luckner (1900–1995) and Elizabeth Petuchowski (1924). The former was a non-Jewish German Catholic from Freiburg and a prominent figure in the field of Jewish-Christian relations in the post-1945 period. The latter, Petuchowski, was a German Jew who experienced the rise of National Socialism in Bochum but managed to escape from the Nazis to England and later moved to the United States. There she became a specialist in German studies and lived as the wife of the well-known rabbi Jacob J. Petuchowski. The development of the friendship between Luckner and Petuchowski, their individual experiences and the history of reception and recognition serve as a starting point for a further analysis of female perspectives on “German Rabbis after 1933” as well as for an examination of the connection between this topic and Christian-Jewish relations after the Shoah. Therefore, the WAG Scholars' Working Group on German Rabbis after 1933 would give me an excellent opportunity to discuss and further develop a gendered perspective on the topic while gaining a deeper understanding of rabbis in the United States after the 1930s. However, due to uncertain funding and personal circumstances, I am not in a position to make a firm commitment. Nevertheless, I will do my utmost to make this possible.

Presentation

Possible topics for the presentation could be: the transnational encounter between Gertrud Luckner and Elizabeth Petuchowski, Luckner's contacts in the United States in general and the *Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion* in particular and Elizabeth Petuchowski in the shadow of her husband Jacob.

Short Bio

Since November 2018, Charlotte Weber is a PhD candidate at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg and at the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the Technical University Berlin. Her research focuses on gender history, the history and memory of the Holocaust, and German-Jewish history. She was also part of the Selma Stern Center's research group on “Narratives of the Rescue of Jews after 1945 in Comparative Perspective” led by Dr. Manja Herrmann. Charlotte Weber studied History and Jewish History in Berlin (B.A., Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany), Heidelberg (M.A., Heidelberg Center for Jewish Studies, Germany) and Graz (M.A., Center for Jewish Studies, University of Graz, Austria).