

# Trials and Transmissions: Mapping the Legacy of the German Refugee Rabbinate

German Refugee Rabbis in the United States,  
1933-2010



## GOALS OF PROJECT



- ➔ The creation of a digital prosopographical research portal (MIRA 2.0) exploring the cultural heritage and legacies of the German refugee rabbinate (over 250 refugee rabbis) in the United States including the publication of a digital edition of articles on these individuals (MIGRA).
- ➔ The database will allow to visualize and analyze this refugee group as individuals and as collective according to specific criteria, such as region of birth, religious affiliation and political activity, etc. It will be able to analyze the intellectual activity and mobility of the group, the destruction of their intellectual centers, the re-establishment after emigration, their cultural transfers and the discourses on their heritage.
- ➔ This includes also late returns to Germany, which gave them unexpected agency in the face of history and an opportunity to act as special moderators of a painful Jewish reality after the Holocaust.

- Collection of Data as preparation for book: MIGRABB/MIRA 1.0 (<https://mira.geschichte.lmu.de/>)
- Book „The Last Generation of the German Rabbinate: German Refugee Rabbis in the United States, 1933-2010“, <https://iupress.org/9780253070197/the-last-generation-of-the-german-rabbinate/>
- Since Fall 2022 creation of Digital Research Portal with new data model, new contents and visualizations.

THE LAST GENERATION OF THE  
**GERMAN  
RABBINATE**

German Refugee Rabbis in the  
United States, 1933–2010



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- ➔ Topic stands at the heart of German-Jewish history, - and constitutes its last chapter.
- ➔ Methodological challenges to grasp this group as collective have prevented research.
  - Global dispersion, size and heterogeneity of the refugee rabbinate make it difficult to collect, compare and analyze the data of this group and understand their global impact, their new centers and communication networks.
  - The group can only be understood if the individual rabbis' prosopographical data can be researched and compared, which is likewise a huge challenge.
- ➔ Global dispersion, knowledge transfer, the building of a legacy as „the last generation of the German rabbinate“, their late returns to Germany and the writing of the last chapter of German-Jewish history by this generation can not be seen. Their reasoning over their heritage and experience and the future of a modern Judaism has been overlooked.

# THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES AS A SOLUTION....?

## MIRA and MIGRA



- Stimulation of research globally and across national boundaries on one (digital) platform, **MIRA 2.0**. with English as lingua franca
  - provides prosopographical information on individual rabbis (publications by them, archival holdings, digital and audio resources, publications on them)
  - will allow the analysis of the collected data through diverse search options, visualizations and direct access to archival resources.
  - will provide an interactive map to understand the global nature of this migration, its context and the related knowledge transfer.
  - Communication platform for scholars and the community.
- **Digital Prosopographical Handbook of Flight and Migration of German Rabbis after 1933 (MIGRA)**. Short, moderated scholarly articles on the refugee rabbis' transnational identities.



# THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES RESEARCH PORTAL

## MIRA: How can you assist?

- Data is necessary to feed the database. Please share your information with us
  - either by using the button on website MIRA 1.0/2.0 email: [MIRA@lmu.de](mailto:MIRA@lmu.de)
  - or by making available papers of a family member to research through an archive that will preserve and digitize these materials, e.g. our cosponsors
  - AJA: <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/>
  - and LBI: [www.lbi.org](http://www.lbi.org)
  
- Images – face and context
- Authors for MIGRA: <https://www.migra.gwi.uni-muenchen.de/>
  
- Examples: Digibaeck and Breuers2Gether
  - [https://digipres.cjh.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps\\_pid=IE5920182](https://digipres.cjh.org/delivery/DeliveryManagerServlet?dps_pid=IE5920182)
  - [https://archives.cjh.org/repositorieIE5920182s/5/archival\\_objects/1233914](https://archives.cjh.org/repositorieIE5920182s/5/archival_objects/1233914)
  - [https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5SXZxHGItH\\_aEdnZWJCMVViOEK/view?resourcekey=0-S4T-GrSf71o\\_8Yf\\_pfVzfg](https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B5SXZxHGItH_aEdnZWJCMVViOEK/view?resourcekey=0-S4T-GrSf71o_8Yf_pfVzfg)
  
- Visualizations



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**Thank you for your interest and cooperation!**

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