

## **Round Table “The Challenges of Modernity: Defining Jewish Identity in the 19th and 20th Centuries” organized by Adi Sherzer-Druckman**

The round table was held as an open event on February 18, 2020, 6 pm, as an event right before the beginning of the conference “Ritual Dynamics and Ritual Agents: Looking Back and Looking Forward”. Its objective was to create an imaginary conversation between four Jewish thinkers that had never met and had a very different understandings of Jewish identity. After short ten-minutes presentations of the thinkers and their worldviews, we had a joint discussion on the intersections between Judaism and modernity and the challenge set to traditional identities by secularism, nationalism and individualism.

The floor was also opened for questions from the public, which led to a concluding discussion on the current day Jewish identity in Germany and Europe, and the special meaning of Jewish Studies research done in Germany.

### Participants and Topics

Judith Frishman (Leiden University): Samuel Hirsch

Chad Alan Goldberg (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Horace Kallen

Annette Vowinckel (ZZF Potsdam): Hannah Arendt

Adi Sherzer-Druckman (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): David Ben-Gurion

Chair: Jörg Rüpke (Universität Erfurt)