

Gesprek | Present-day Jewish life in Berlin

Communities, Culture and the City

Activiteit van Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

Datum: woensdag 22 februari 2023 om 19:30 uur

Locatie: Goethe-Institut Amsterdam, Herengracht 470, Amsterdam

Informatie: Voertaal: Engels

Toegang: € 5,00 | studenten/met Goethe-Pass: gratis. Aanmelden via Eventbrite

Berlijn kent een rijke Joodse geschiedenis. Een geschiedenis van vallen en opstaan, bloei en teloorgang, met als dieptepunt de Shoah. Interessant genoeg beleeft de Duitse hoofdstad juist in de afgelopen jaren een groei van de Joodse communities. Op dinsdag 22 februari spreekt journalist Sandra Rottenberg met de Berlijnse schrijver Mirna Funk, antropoloog Dani Kranz en de directeur van het Joods Museum in Berlijn, Hetty Berg over het hedendaagse Joods Berlijn.

Berlin has a rich Jewish history. A history of ups and downs, prosperity and decline, with the lowest point being the Shoah. Interestingly enough, the German capital is experiencing a growth of the Jewish communities, especially in recent years. Young Israelis in particular are moving to Berlin. What motivates them to come and live in the city where the elimination of Jewish life can be felt all around? And what's actually meant when we're talking about contemporary Jewish life? We will discuss these questions with Berlin writer Mirna Funk, social anthropologist Dani Kranz and the director of the Jewish Museum in Berlin, Hetty Berg. Panel host: Sandra Rottenberg.

Jewish life in Berlin is diverse. For some, religion plays a major role, for some it does not. There are local resident Berlin Jews but also Jews from the former Soviet Union, among others. This group came to the city as so-called "Kontingentflüchtlinge" after the fall of communism. Another group for which the German capital is particularly popular consists of young, mostly left-liberal Israelis. Why is that? And where do we see contemporary Jewish Berlin reflected in the city's art and cultural scene?

In German media and public debate, being Jewish is often still reduced to the Shoah. As a result, most of German society know little about Jewish culture of today. Initiatives such as the talk show [Freitagnacht Jews](#) or the podcast [2021 Jüdisches Leben in Deutschland](#) are trying to change that. But what else is needed to bring perspective to the present and future? And how is being Jewish being experienced differently in a neighbouring country like the Netherlands?

About the speakers

[Hetty Berg](#) is director of the [Jüdisches Museum Berlin](#). Previously, she was manager of museum affairs and chief curator of the [Jewish Cultural Quarter](#) in Amsterdam.

[Mirna Funk](#) majored in Philosophy and History at Humboldt University Berlin. She is a journalist and writer and lives in Berlin and Tel Aviv.

[Dani Kranz](#) is an anthropologist and DAAD Visiting Professor at Ben Gurion University, Israel. She is also a member of the Advisory Board of the [Federal Commissioner for Jewish Life and Combating Anti-Semitism](#).

[Sandra Rottenberg](#) works as a programme maker, advisor, and producer for a wide range of media including television, radio and public debates.

This event is organized in collaboration with the [Goethe-Institut Niederlande](#) and the [Joods Cultureel Kwartier](#).

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