

Abstracts

Claudia Ulbrich

Use of Space and Time in the Daily Life of Christian and Jewish Communities

New historical studies emphasize that the worlds of work and everyday life of Jews and Christians were closely entwined in the early modern period. Against this background, increasing attention has been paid to the meaning of spaces and time. This article argues for the necessity of connecting temporal and spatial perspectives with one another when researching Christian and Jewish communities. In this respect, it is important to distinguish between different levels of community-building (the religious community, the resident community, and the working community). By employing micro-historical approaches, the author elaborates on selected aspects of a complex spatial and temporal web, which was shaped by many different male and female historical actors (and which also warrants further research). The starting point for this investigation is provided by Jewish wills from the eighteenth century, which point to a centuries-old tradition of utilizing public spaces for legal business.

Francesco Saracino/Mara Barbierato

The Jewish Community of Bozen/Bolzano in the Eighteenth Century: An Exceptional Case within the Context of the Habsburg Monarchy?

Within a context of a general deterioration of the situation of Jewish communities in Central Europe and Northern Italy in the eighteenth century prior to the Toleration Patents of Emperor Joseph II (1780–1790), Jewish families in Bozen/Bolzano enjoyed less restrictions and greater consideration, in a way similar to the communities in Trieste and Hohenems. The Moravia, Pollacco, Hendle, Levi and Gerson-Marx families were all able to engage in commercial activity without any hindrance or interference. Moreover, they were also able to preserve their religious practices and to host travelling Jewish traders in an appropriate manner. In Bozen/Bolzano, there is no record of a ghetto and Jews lived across the city, disposed of their own prayer-room, school and – since the fifteenth century – a cemetery. The heads of the most prosperous families always played an active role in ensuring that the rights of the community were respected and sought to protect it from possible antisemitic acts, thus allowing Jewish culture and society to flourish in Bozen/Bolzano in the nineteenth century, and indeed, up until the tragic events of the Shoah.

Annekathrin Helbig

The Internal Organization of the Jewish Community in eighteenth-century Mecklenburg-Schwerin

From the end of the seventeenth century onwards, Jews and Jewesses began to settle again in the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Around 1767, there lived around 200 families of protected Jews in 32 places across the Duchy. This contribution centres on the development of the Jewish corporative organisation – the so-called *Landjudenschaft* – as a form of supra-regional entity for the coordination of internal Jewish affairs across the various communities. In doing so, it describes and categorizes this body's political and institutional structures. The second part of the article turns to the practices and content of the privileges accorded to the Jewish population in eighteenth-century Mecklenburg-Schwerin. Overall, the article represents a first attempt to examine more closely the structures and organization of Jewish life in Mecklenburg, along with the community's particular features and privileges.

Andrea Sarri

Religion and Politics in the Sermons and Pastoral Letters of the Bishop of Brixen/Bressanone, Johannes Geisler, under Fascism (1930–1938)

The article aims to examine the sermons and pastoral letters of Johannes Geisler, Bishop of Brixen/Bressanone 1930–1952, from the start of his period of office during the Fascist era up until 1938. The author analyzes both published and unpublished sources in order to reconstruct the bishop's public attitude in connection with the politic-religious nexus. The bishop, who was under constant observation by the local fascist authorities with regard to the national question in South Tyrol/Alto Adige, overtly referred to contemporary instructions delivered by Pope Pius XI (1922–1939). Geisler identified apostasy from God and the Church as the distinguishing evil of the modern age, which permeated – in his opinion – the valleys and urban centres of his diocese.

Maria Fiebrandt

The South Tyrolean Plebiscite (Option) and the Policy of 'Hereditary Health'. 'Racial hygienic' selection mechanisms in the re-settlement of the South Tyrolean population

The re-settlement of the so-called racial Germans (*Volksdeutschen*), among whom the South Tyroleans were included, took place under the banner of 'racial hygiene'. The National Socialist vision of the future, which was charac-

terized by a 'racially pure and hereditarily healthy settler society', set in motion a selection process that involved a thorough screening of every individual settler. Local functionaries already assisted in carrying out a systematic assessment of the population in the region of origin and differentiated between 'desirable' and 'undesirable population growth'. During the process of transfer, this segregation was reinforced by consigning people to homes or psychiatric institutions and was confirmed by a selective practice of citizenship conferment.