

Events

List of Events

SOLD OUT - Constantly Rebuilt: The Worms' Synagogue 1034 to 1990s

Dr Susanne Urban

Wed 30 Jan 2019

Time: 6:30pm - 8pm

Part of The Wiener Library's *SHATTERED: Pogrom, November 1938* exhibition series.

The history of the Worms' synagogue spans over 970 years – the Jewish Community in Worms was present in the city from the 11th century until 1942. The iconographic synagogue was burnt down during the November Pogrom in 1938, its remaining walls demolished.



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In 1947, an initiative began to reconstruct the synagogue – although no Jewish community was living there. This was a unique situation in the entire of post-Holocaust Europe. Those involved included a city archivist, a former Jewish community leader, Hannah Arendt and several politicians. Various interests and controversial debates began to circle around the ruins. The reconstruction process started in 1957 and was finished in 1961.

This lecture will give insights into the history of this unique synagogue, its destruction in 1938, the motivations of the opponents and supporters of the reconstruction. It will also touch upon the question, whether the former Jewish space regained a Jewish character or if it is more or less “symbolic topography”.

About the Speaker

Since 2015, Dr Susanne Urban has been the Managing Director for the Association of ShUM-Cities. Prior to this, she was Head of Historical Research and Education at the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany. After being a Fellow Researcher at Yad Vashem's Research Institute in 2004, she worked in the Yad Vashem Educational Department. From 1990 to 2004 she worked at the Jewish Museum Frankfurt in the Exhibitions and Educational Department. She has curated various exhibitions, for example, on Displaced Persons, death marches, and Youth Aliyah. Dr Urban has published extensively. From 2012 to 2015 she was initiator and coeditor of the ITS's academic Year Book series. Her latest book on early testimonies in the International Tracing Service collection will be published in November 2018.

Location: [The Wiener Library - click for map](#)

How to book:

Registration



WED, 30 JANUARY 2019, 18:30 – 20:00 GMT

