



Research of Jewish Communities in Africa and in Their Diaspora

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Message from the Guest Editor

The Jewish communities in Africa have an ancient Jewish tradition and a rich cultural heritage. Their Judaism was integrated and gained a prominent position within the Jewish and general history of the New Age of this large continent. This Special Issue intends to discuss the Jewish identity of communities all over the continent, in diverse fields and disciplinary approaches.

Identity in general, and Jewish identity in particular, can be defined on two axes: a diachronic axis that indicates the relation between the present conformation and its past heritage, and a synchronic axis that indicates the broad diverse contexts that influence identity in the present.

This Issue will represent the encounter between these two axes. We hope it will contribute to understanding the dynamic identity of the Jews as individuals and as a collective, in the communities in Africa and wherever they are dispersed, on issues of: tradition and modernity; Jewish education; holidays and customs; religious organizations and institutions; pilgrimage; religious and cultural syncretism; Jewish art; language; religious music; gender; immigration and religion; symbolic boundaries; rite and ritual.





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Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

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