



Invitation

Tuesday, 25 May 2010, 6 pm

The Dönme and Anti-Jewish Conspiracy Theories in the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic

Lecture by Prof. Marc David Baer

The Dönme, the descendants of Jewish converts to Islam, have long attracted suspicion in Turkey. For the past several years, the best selling books have concerned the alleged Jewish heritage of everyone from the secular elite to the Muslim Sufis. Everyone in Turkey who is important, it would seem, has Jewish ancestry. What are the historical roots of such current claims? What are secular and religious authors claiming when they “out” people as “secret Jews”? And what does the long prevalence of conspiracy theories about the Dönme inform us about antisemitism in the Ottoman Empire and Turkish Republic?

Marc David Baer earned a Ph.D. in History at the University of Chicago. An Associate Professor in the History Department at the University of California, Irvine, Baer is a scholar of Ottoman and southeastern European History with particular interests in religious and cultural conversion. He currently holds a research position at the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin.

Venue:

Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung
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