Jewish History
Encounters Economy
April 15-16, 2005

Sponsored by the
George L. Mosse Program
Department of History,
University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Friedrick Center
1950 Willow Drive

An International Workshop Sponsored by the George L. Mosse Program
Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Friday, April 15

2:00-2:30  Opening Remarks: Gideon Reuveni  
Jewish History Encounters Economy Once Again

2:30-4:30  ECONOMY AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Adam Teller, University of Haifa  
Economic Activity as a Form of Cultural Contact  
In Early Modern Poland-Lithuania

Susanne Bennewitz, Basel  
Just Talking or Doing Business? Shmoozer,  
Middleman, or Agent: A Low-Profile Business  
that Served a High-Profile Cliché

Jonathan Karp,  
State University of New York at Binghamton  
Jewish Ethnicity and the Spirit of Feudalism

5:00  KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduction: David Sorkin,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Derek J. Penslar, University of Toronto  
Periphery or Center? Economics in  
Modern Jewish Historiography

6:30  Dinner

Saturday, April 16

9:00-11:00  THINKING IN ECONOMIC TERMS ABOUT JEWS

Grit Schorch, University of Leipzig  
Contract Theory and Economics in Moses  
Mendelssohn’s Political Writings

Sharon Gordon, Hebrew University Jerusalem  
Exchange of Identity: The Economic Discourse  
Of Jewish Conversion to Christianity in 19th century Germany

Jerry Z. Muller,  
The Catholic University of America, Washington  
The Economics of Nationalism and the Fate of  
The Jews in the Twentieth Century: The Insights  
of Ber Borochov and Ernest Gellner

11:15-12:30  NATIONAL AND TRANS-NATIONAL ASPECTS  
OF JEWISH ECONOMY

Michael Miller, Central European University  
Budapest Going Native: Moritz Jellinek and the  
Modernization of the Hungarian Economy

Sarah Stein, University of Washington-Seattle  
Praying to a New God: Jews and the Trans-  
Atlantic Trade in Ostrich Feathers

12:35-1:30  Lunch

1:30-2:45  JEWS AS CONSUMERS

Sarah E. Wobick,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Buying, Selling, Being, Drinking; Or, How the  
Coffeehouse Became a Site for the Consumption  
of New Jewish Identities

Paul Lerner, University of Southern California  
Shopping and Its Discontent: The “Jewish  
Department Store” in German Politics and  
Culture

3:00-4:15  IMAGINING THE HOMO ECONOMICUS JUDAICUS

Kirill Postoutenko,  
University of Southern California  
Dostoevsky and Marx: Wandering as Circulation

Nicolas Berg, University of Leipzig  
Economy and Metaphor: Perceptions of the  
Jewish ‘Luftmenschen’ in fin-de-siècle Europe

4:30-5:30  JEWISH HISTORY ENCOUNTERS ECONOMY:  
SOME THOUGHTS FOR THE FUTURE

Jonathan Zatlin, Boston University  
Derek Penslar, University of Toronto

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