

The Jewish World Map

Global Geography in Jewish Writing and Experience

DATES

September 1-3, 2025

VENUES

University of Haifa and The Open
University of Israel

FORMAT

International Research Workshop

Conference Introduction

The Jewish World Map: Global Geography in Jewish Writing and Experience is an international research workshop devoted to the ways in which Jewish cultures have imagined, described, organized, and visualized the world across historical periods.

Held in cooperation between the University of Haifa and The Open University of Israel, the conference brings together scholars from Israel and abroad for a focused discussion of geography, spatial imagination, textual traditions, visual representation, and Jewish self-understanding from antiquity to the modern era.

The conference examines the “Jewish world map” as a dynamic cultural construct: a set of mental, textual, and visual maps through which Jews have understood their place in the world, the boundaries of known and imagined spaces, and the relationship between local experience and global horizons.

A central premise of the workshop is that space and time are deeply intertwined. Changing perceptions of history, memory, migration, travel, exile, discovery, and access to knowledge shaped the ways in which Jewish individuals and communities perceived global space and positioned themselves within it.

Across three days, the sessions will address biblical and Second Temple literature, rabbinic traditions, Greco-Roman and medieval geographical thought, Jewish travel writing, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean worlds, the Age of Discovery, Jewish literary and book cultures, modern Jewish responses to global space, migration, mental maps, visual cartography, and digital approaches to the study of Jewish spatial history.

By placing literary, historical, visual, and digital materials in conversation, the workshop seeks to illuminate how Jewish geographical knowledge was produced, transmitted, revised, and reimaged in changing cultural and political contexts.