The conference will be held in German and English.

Admission is free.

Parking is not available at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Free parking on Chopin St., next to the Jerusalem Theater.

The Perception of Nature and Landscape in German Jewish and Christian Literature in the First Half of the 20th Century

The history and forms of how nature and landscape are perceived have only recently become a subject of interdisciplinary research. More specifically, studies on the perception of nature and landscape in German Jewish and Christian literature of the first half of the 20th century have been entirely absent. This is rather striking considering that nature and landscape, both real and imaginative, play a central role in the literature of this period. This new discipline can pertain to wider academic scholarship as well as to individual authors. The framework of the planned symposium originates from the interdisciplinary conference "Gardens and Parks in the Life of Jewish People after 1933." Organized by the Zentrum für Gartenkunst und Landschaftsarchitektur of Leibniz University in Hannover (CGL), the conference took place August 7-9, 2006 in the former Israelitische Gartenbauschule Ahlem. The section "Literary Worlds of Memory and Gardens in Literature" provided the impetus for pursuing further questions on the topic and initiating a more sustained debate. Thanks to the cooperation of the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, and the CGL, the symposium in Jerusalem is now becoming a reality.

The conference will feature a balanced slate of speakers from Israel and Germany. The program covers popular 20th-century authors of children’s and young people’s literature as well as the literature of the nature conversation movement; even diaries are being drawn upon. With such a breadth of individual themes and a diversity of research topics, the organizers expect the conference to provide new insights into the relationship between literature, religion and landscape; to positively accentuate the convergence and divergence of perceptions in Germany and Israel; to examine the cultural influences on these perceptions; and finally to bring out the biographical ruptures in the understanding of nature and landscape. We plan to publish the conference proceedings in the near future as a volume of the CGL-Studies series.

Natur - und Landschafstwahrnehmung in deutschsprachiger jüdischer und christlicher Literatur der ersten Hälfte des 20. Jahrhunderts

Sunday-Tuesday, 26-28 October 2008
at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute,
43 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem
Monday 27.10.08

Session III 9:30 – 11:00
Chair: Itta Shedletzky (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Hanna Delf von Wolzogen (Theodor-Fontane-Archiv Potsdam): Landschaften im Exil. Landschaftsphantasien, jüdische Identität und Exil bei Joseph Roth und Soma Morgenstern
Irmela von der Lühe (Institut für Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie, Freie Universität Berlin): Sehnsuchtsorte und Seelenlandschaften: Joseph Roths Calizien

Coffee Break 11:00 – 11:30

Session IV 11:30 – 13:30
Chair: Hanna Livnat (Beit Berl College, Tel-Aviv University)
Nitsa Ben-Ari (Diploma Studies for Translation & Revision, the School of Cultural Studies, Tel-Aviv University): The Function of Landscape in Doeblin’s “Berlin Alexanderplatz”
Nurit Buchweitz (The Literature Department, Beit Berl College): The Topography of Environment and Landscape in Erich Kästner’s Writings
Ashraf Noor (The Fanz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Centre, Jerusalem): “Schatten der Erde”: Zur Phänomenologie der Wahrnehmung in Kurzprosa von Peter Weiss und Robert Musil

Lunch Break 13:30 – 15:00

Session V 15:00 – 16:30
Chair: Sigrid Thielking (Leibniz Universität Hannover)
Hanna Livnat (Yemima Center for Study and Teaching of Children’s Literature, Beit Berl College, Tel-Aviv University): “It’s only the paths in the Parks that he finds terribly boring.” Shaping models of landscape for Jewish children and youth in Germany in time of crisis – 1933-1938

Coffee Break 16:30 – 17:00

Session VI 17:00 – 18:30
Chair: Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn (Leibniz Universität Hannover)
Gert Gröning (Universität der Künste Berlin): “Vom Naturschutz ‘vergessen’: Der Schriftsteller Siegfried Lichtenstaedter, Naturschutz und Judentum”
Hubertus Fischer (Zentrum für Gartenkunst und Landschaftsarchitektur, Deutsches Seminar, Leibniz Universität Hannover): Enteignete Umwelt – Garten, Park und Landschaft in Willy Cohns Breslauer Tagebuch (1933-1941)

Free evening