

A heart of many rooms

DIVERSE IDENTITIES

Junction Annual

10 - 12 February 2023

BERLIN - GERMANY

Friday

10 FEBRUARY

WHAT IS IDENTITY?

EXPLORING POINTS OF CONTACT

On Day One we will explore and unpick as much as we can understand about Identity universally. How do I understand myself? How do I perceive others? What defines **me** and **them**? What is real and what is imagined?

09:00 *REGISTRATION OPENS*

Come say hello in the Heart Space; get your nametag, swag and more. Meet the team and get settled in. Hotel check-in will open later, so we will provide a space for bag drop. Drinks and snacks are inside!

11:00 *IDENTITY UNPICKED – A LABA EXPERIENCE*

What is Identity? Go deeper into the theme, exploring the many pieces that make us, us, with a choice of 3 artistic mediums (LABA Berlin Fellows).

Join either film, motion or display.

FILM: "MOTHER OF ALL FICTIONS"

A film by Wal Solon reflecting on strategies of representation of identities, and power across national, religious, ethnic and gender borders. *With Wal Solon*

BODY & MOTION

Explore the possibilities of expressing and sharing our identity, from the individual to the universal, through the lens of improv and movement exercises, plus excerpts of Tomer's choreography. *With Tomer Zirkilevich*

ERASURE POETRY: DE(CON)STRUCTION OF CULTURAL IDENTITY

Discover a technique which creates a new text from an old one. Expect a critical examination of morally challenging assumptions, rooted in ancient Jewish literature. The participants are invited to criticise the tradition and appropriate it according to their world views. *With Ella Ponizovsky*

LABA is a Laboratory for Jewish Culture, hosted by the Jewish Center Fraenkelufer Synagogue, is an initiative that brings together a mix of visual artists, writers, dancers, musicians and actors – to study and discuss classical Jewish texts in the heart of Kreuzberg. LABA aims to promote diversity and contribute to making Jewish art and culture present again in everyday German cultural life.

12:30 *WELCOME & ICEBREAKERS* @theWhole

The official kick-off to the program. A welcome from Junction, touching on the theme, purpose and expectations for the weekend.

Followed by a "get to know you", finding out who you are and who else is in the room.

13:30 *LUNCH* @theDiningHall

14:30 **“WHO AM I?” AN EXPERTS PANEL** @theWhole

Our lives, our needs and our identities are layered in dynamic and complex ways. How I see myself, how I choose to present and how others define me, all play a role in building the person I am right now.

Our expert panel will guide us, breaking these layers down and presenting everyday dilemmas for our exploration and response to help us understand ourselves and each other better.

With Rabbi Michael Paley (Tarbut Leadership - JDC), Dalia Grinfeld (Associate Director - ADL) and Renana Ravitsky Pilzer (Educational Director - Hartsman Institute)

16:00 **SHABBAT PREPARATION**

Hotel check-in at our Junction registration desk. Take some time for yourself or to relax with others. Let it all sink in...

17:09 **CANDLE LIGHTING** @theHeart

Bringing in Shabbat together with a special candle lighting led by our wonderful volunteers, with a thought piece and blessing.

Led by Victoria Godik (Board Member of Association of Jewish Organisations and Communities -Vaad- of Ukraine, Member WJC JDCorps).

18:00 **KABBALAT SHABBAT** @theWhole

An all together inclusive service to bring the joy of Shabbat in as a whole community. Using a “tri-chitza” model, please choose to sit in the section that feels most appropriate for you. *Led by Rabbi Rebecca Blady and Rabbi Jeremy Borovitz.*

19:00 **“HIDDEN IDENTITIES” SHABBAT DINNER** @thePrivateDining

Throughout Jewish history, gathering to sit around the table and break bread together has always been fundamental to a shared Jewish experience of identity, memory and peoplehood. Let’s do exactly that but with a twist!

Our volunteers will lead us in Kiddush & Hamotzi before the table fun commences.

20:30 **JUNCTION MOMENT** @theWhole

A summary of the day and what to expect tomorrow.

21:00 **“ONEG” BIG SHABBAT EVENING OF FUN** @theWhole

An unforgettable immersive experience all together.

Embark on a journey full of energy, interaction and good times, ranging across a variety of physical, mental and team activities as we continue to build connections with each other.

Every person will have plenty of elements that they can engage and enjoy, regardless of English level, physical abilities or otherwise.

This event is Shabbat-friendly.

Led by Joey Leskin.



Saturday

11 FEBRUARY

WHAT IS JEWISH IDENTITY EXPLORING POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

On Day Two we will dig deeper into the Jewish spectrum of identity. There are many things we can all agree play a role in Jewish life, religion, peoplehood and culture, but do we all agree on the how, why and when? Challenge yourself to see a colourful Judaism.

08:00 BREAKFAST

SHABBAT MORNING OPTIONS

Please only attend the option you registered for and try to be on time.

08:30 FRAENKELUFER SYNAGOGUE & WALK start @theLobby

For those who want to experience Shacharit at the local conservative synagogue, please meet *Hanna Veiler* in the hotel lobby. It is roughly a 40minute walk each way, so please be on time, wrap up warm and stay with the group.

08:30 AN ORTHODOX SHACHARIT @theSoul

For those who want a more traditional prayer experience and Torah reading, please join *Rabbi Jeremy Borovitz*. There will be a tri-chitzah. All are welcome.

09:30 FRESHEN UP - TREPTOWER PARK OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE start @theLobby

For those who want to experience an interactive walking shacharit outdoors, please meet *Joey Leskin* in the hotel lobby. We will use our surroundings to reflect on the week gone by. The full loop will take roughly 1hr 30minutes, with a stop at the iconic Soviet War Memorial designed by Jewish architect Yakov Belopolski.

10:00 YOGA & MEDITATION RUACH HASHABBAT @theWhole

For those who want to experience a breath and body focussed “shacharit” moment, please join *Martin Schubert*. This will be a mixture of physical and spiritual experiences, for a meaningful Shabbat morning. Bring a towel and/or pillow.

11:30 WELCOME BACK – COFFEE & SNACKS @theHeart

12:00 JUNCTION MOMENT @theHeart

An introduction to the theme of the day with Mike Mendoza – time to challenge yourself!

12:30 OPEN SERIES 1

EXCLUSION, INCLUSION, AND BOUNDARIES: A FEMINIST READING OF MIDRASHIC LITERATURE @theWhole

As a modern Jewish woman, how should I read classical rabbinic texts about women? Should I read them with grace or suspicion? Should I impose modern complexities on the text, or try to walk a mile in the shoes of the ancient sages - reading the text from their perspective? How free should I feel to seek out strong woman predecessors to serve as models for me? These are not simply theoretical questions - they keep sleep from the eyes of feminist religious women, who feel obligated to their tradition and who ask themselves if traditional and feminist values are mutually exclusive or if they can be contained within a single system of beliefs.

This study session will explore challenges involved in studying an ancient tradition and seeing traditional texts as sources of inspiration.

With *Renana Ravitsky Pilzer*

WHAT IS A "BAD JEW"? @theSoul

What should a Jew do to be a "good Jew"? Join this stimulating conversation to explore shared and personal experiences, common reflections and challenging normalisations. This session is fundamentally about fostering inclusivity, whilst highlighting the complexity and multiplicity of Jewish identities.

With Eitan Bergman (EUJS) & Albert Oliveras (Moishe House)

JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD AND ISRAEL @theMind

Thinking about how we articulate "Jewish Peoplehood" and what it actually is. We will explore the connection between Jewish peoplehood and Israel, through the lense of Am Yisrael (the People of Israel), Eretz Yisrael (the Land of Israel) and Medinat Yisrael (the State of Israel). All in all, this will enhance your sense of Jewish leadership. *With Robin Moss*

MY ENVIRONMENTAL IDENTITY @theBody

We are at the precipice of experiencing the irreversible effects of our climate crisis. As governments fail to take action, as big corporations go for profit over sustainability and so many leaders are failing to take responsibility - how can our environmental Jewish identity direct us to action? How can we take knowledge and inspiration from our tradition and our age-old practices in relation to land, each other and to ourselves, to make a difference as Jewish activists?

With Lievnath Faber

14:00 SHABBAT LUNCH @thePrivateDining

At this special meal, we encourage you to sit with people who you do not know. At your tables you will find table challenges and discussions, provoking you to share on the diversity and polarity in your home communities.

15:30 RE-ENERGISE @theHeart

Join our volunteer team for a fun post-lunch pick me up!

16:00 OPEN SERIES 2

INTERSECTIONALITY *With Dalia Grinfeld (T.B.C.)*

WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE ALL THE JEWS? @theSoul

An interactive session to gain awareness of how Jewish communities formed around the world and celebrate the diversity which makes the concept of 'global Jewish peoplehood' beautiful. Take a physical history lesson into diaspora formation, uncover 'askenormativity' and compete in the gameshow of Jewish communities today. *With Joey Leskin*

IDENTITIES: CHOOSING OR SKIPPING? @theMind

A workshop on our personal and communal struggle between Jewish identity, Israeli identity, national identity, personal identity and everything in between. The multitude of identities that each of us has (and the organisations we work in) and the internal conflict that follows have a great impact on the way we behave and feel in our day-to-day lives. Participants will gain a new point of view on the conflict and see the multiple identities as an advantage and a motivation for action rather than a challenge and difficulty. *With Shai Doitch & Tehilah Darmon (Zusammen)*

TIKKUN OLAM – WHO ARE WE RESPONSIBLE FOR? @theBody

How do we choose to act based on who we think we are? With an introduction to OLAM's examples of global partner organisations who use Tikkun as a mission statement, we will explore the importance of doing good in the world – is this a Jewish responsibility? How do we choose where to direct attention?

With Angela Stoddard (Olam)

17:30 **REFRESHER – IDENTITY CLOUDS** @theHeart

Coming back together for an identity check-in and refreshing drink. Where are we at in our journey? How well do you think you know yourself? Are you able to express it? A light activity with a refreshment!

18:00 **OPEN SERIES 3**

THE STORY OF AN ENTREPRENEUR @theBody

Ever wondered how to start your own business or what you need to get there? Identity shapes us in our professional field and you can take it into your own hands. Join Ben Mateev, Co-Founder & CEO of Informed, to learn how to use your expertise, skills and experience to become a founder. Perhaps there are other areas of your life where you can be entrepreneurial.

With Ben Mateev

A SANHEDRIN OF MANY ROOMS? THE CANCELLATION OF RAV GAMLIEL @theSoul

Rabban Gamliel was Jewish gentry, hand-picked by Yochanan ben Zakkai to lead the Jewish people in a post-Temple age. But after rising to power, he eventually became abusive towards some of his colleagues and subordinates, especially Rabbi Yehoshua. Come and learn the story of how the Rabbis responded to these abuses of power, and how their response might have been helpful towards offering Rabban Gamliel a path to change.

with Rabbi Jeremy

MEMORY IN JEWISH IDENTITY @theMind

It may sound simple to understand the difference between history and memory. Here we will contrast three specific forms of memorialisation: the Holocaust, the Srebrenica genocide and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. In what ways does "Memory" strengthen, or possibly hold us back.

With Robin Moss

19:30 **DINNER** @theDiningHall

21:00 **HAVDALAH** @theWhole

Reawaken the senses as we close Shabbat together.

21:15 **A Party of many rooms**

It's party time! Straight from Havdalah, join us in any of our party spaces. You have the opportunity to enjoy the performance of the great Lechaim Band, or go to the Karaoke room or Chat & Chill corner. Feel free to flow between. If you like to be in the spotlight or having something to share with everyone, the party also offers an Open Mic. You can register your performance with our volunteers Liza and Hanna.

LIVE MUSIC @theBar&Bandstand

KARAOKE @theMind

CHAT & CHILL @theHeart



Sunday

12 FEBRUARY

MY COMMUNITY IDENTITY PREPARING THE TAKE-HOME

On Day Three we will bring it all together, with time dedicated to consider your home communities identity. What are they focussing on? Are there any gaps? What will you strive to create, adapt and initiate?

08:00 BREAKFAST

Check-Out Before Breakfast. Bag Drop will be available @theSoul

09:30 JEWISH BERLIN SHOWCASE @theWhole

Today, Berlin offers a rich and diverse range of Jewish opportunity for young adults. The showcase offers you a chance to encounter some of these amazing initiatives and hopefully gain a new model, skill or thought to take home to your community and build upon. Joining the showcase is:

ZUSAMMEN: *bringing Israeli immigrants together.*

ZE KOLLEL: *how to open a city hub / how to learn Talmud with an open mind.*

JSUD: *how to shape politics and society from a jewish student perspective.*

KESHET: *how to include LGBTQ+ in your community, initiatives and programmes.*

MOISHE HOUSE: *how to open and host a Jewish home, community, and learning space.*

HILLEL DEUTSCHLAND: *leadership programs and project management crash course.*

NETZER/TAMAR: *best practises for rebuilding a youth movement from the ground up.*

YALLAGAN: *exploring the landscape of Jewish events in Europe and Berlin.
What can be done...?*

HIAS: *Welcoming the Stranger into your Jewish Community.*

MEET THE JEW: *Marat Zentralrat.*

10:45 COFFEE & SNACK BREAK @theHeart

11:15 "THE TAKE-HOME" @theWhole

What was it all for if not to make something of it... For our final session, guides and encourages you to draft something that you can make into a reality.

We've encountered so much together, so now we need to try and make sense of it all. We welcome back our expert panel. *with Mike Mendoza & the Experts*

12:45 JUNCTION CLOSE

Thank you and goodbye, with a recap film of our weekend.

13:00 LUNCH – BUILD YOUR OWN BOX @theBuffet

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Goodbye