Coffee Smugglers and Persil Letters: German Jews, Denazification, and the Writing of History after World War II

Wednesday, September 5th | 1:00-2:30PM | HE 1203
Presented by: Benjamin Hett, Professor of History, Hunter College, CUNY

Very few Jews remained alive in Germany at the end of the Second World War. For those that did, especially if they chose to stay in Germany for the longer term, the early postwar years offered little in the way of comfort or restitution. Non-Jewish Germans perceived themselves as the main victims of the war, and their thinking had been largely shaped by 12 years of Nazi propaganda. These factors decisively shaped the process of “denazification” and the wider political discourse in Germany, and even—often in unexpected ways—the writing of 20th century history.

Jewish Peddlers, Jewish Migrations and the Making of Modern Jewish History

Wednesday, October 3rd | 1:00-2:30PM | HE 1442
Presented by: Hasia Diner, Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at NYU

Between the late 18th century and the early twentieth, over 4 million Jews headed for new lands and became Peddlers. How did the nature of this occupation help propel the migrations, expose their customers to Jews, and facilitate Jewish integration in the United States, Canada, southern Africa, Australia, South America, the Caribbean, and Central America?

Bayt Farhi and the Forgotten Sephardic Palaces of Ottoman Damascus

Wednesday, November 7 | 1:00-2:30PM | HE 1442
Presented by: Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis, Assistant Professor, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Bayt Farhi was one of the largest and most important palatial houses of late 18th- and early 19th-century Damascus. This illustrated lecture examines Bayt Farhi’s outstanding architecture and decoration alongside Damascus’s other prominent mansions.

Join us for lunch!
RSVP required to receive a lunch
(Vegetarian and Kosher options available)
RSVP to leah.garrett@hunter.cuny.edu