ECONOMIC TRUST AND ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE

Jewish Cattle Traders, Nazis and Farmers, 1919–1939

a talk by Stefanie Fischer
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In 1934, a member of the Nazi-dominated city council of Gunzenhausen complained: “We need the Jews, because I have still not been able to sell my cattle...Christian traders offer only overpriced cows...” The statement reveals much about the relationships between Jews and non-Jews in the German countryside. The Jewish cattle traders had been crucial to the German agro-society and the relationships between Jewish cattle traders and farmers were based on mutual trust. Stefanie Fischer will show how those relationships began to change through anti-Jewish violence and how they finally came to an end in 1939.

Dr. Stefanie Fischer is a lecturer at the Leo Baeck Summer University, Humboldt University, she also holds a PostDoc position at the Center for Jewish Studies, University of Potsdam. In her current research project she explores the post-genocidal relationships of Jewish Holocaust survivors to their former German hometowns in the 1950s-60s. Her research interest is Jewish history, the history of trust and economics as well as Holocaust history. In 2012 Fischer earned a PhD from the Center for Research on Anti-Semitism, Technical University Berlin. Her recent book on economic trust and Anti-Semitic violence was jointly awarded the Fraenkel-Prize for an outstanding work of contemporary history from the Wiener Library in London (2012) as well as with the Irma-Rosenberg Prize (2014).

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