

One of the most remarkable Portuguese Jewish communities was settled in Amsterdam and met its pinnacle in the 17th century. Even today, the city exhibits indelible marks of this past. The Portuguese Synagogue of Amsterdam, also known as the Esnoga, has become one of the city's ex libris and it still symbolizes the influence and dynamism of the Sephardic Jews in the Dutch Golden Age. Ets Haim - Livraria Montezinos, founded in 1616, survived both World Wars. It is the oldest functioning Jewish library in the world, and its collection has been placed on the UNESCO's Memory of the World Register since 2003. Portuguese and Castilian were commonplace languages in the daily life of the community until the eighteenth century, as proven by the documents held in the Ets Haim Library, as well as in the Stadsarchief Amsterdam. All these traces survived the most dramatic period in the history of Jewish Amsterdam. During World War II, following the occupation of the Netherlands by National Socialist Germany, the Sephardic community was nearly annihilated in Nazi concentration and extermination camps.

This workshop aims to bring together Portuguese and Dutch experts in Jewish History and Heritage in order to focus on the Sephardic community of Amsterdam through a long-term, transnational and multidisciplinary perspective. Its cornerstone will be the preservation and mediation of the cultural heritage of the Portuguese-Jewish Diaspora and the education for memory as a vehicle to promote the values of citizenship amongst the younger generations

Organising Committee:

Carla Vieira (CHAM / NOVA FCSH,
Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas Alberto
Benveniste, FLUL)

Cláudia Ninhos (CHAM / NOVA FCSH,
Fundação Aristides Sousa Mendes)

Organisation:



Partners and sponsors:



THE PORTUGUESE
JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF
AMSTERDAM
places of memory

9 April

Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas
da Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
Edifício ID | Sala Multiusos 2



Program

10.00: Opening session

10.30: **I - "Nação Portuguesa": traces and sources for its history**

Joël J. Cahen

(Board Member Hollandsche Schouwburg, former director of Joods Cultureel Kwartier)

"The Amsterdam Esnoga, Ets Haim – Livraria Montezinos and the material culture of the Portuguese Jews of Amsterdam"

Susana Bastos Mateus

(CIDEHUS-UÉ, Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas Alberto Benveniste)

"Iberian memories of the "Nação" in the manuscripts of the Ets Haim - Livraria Montezinos"

12:00: Lunch

13:30: **II - The Sephardic community of Amsterdam and the Holocaust: evoking a troublesome memory**

Jaap Cohen

(University of Amsterdam)

"The Action Portuguesa. Legitimizing National Socialist Racial Ideology as a Dutch Sephardic Strategy for Safety, 1941-1944"

Lonnie Stegink

(Jewish Historical Museum)

"The digital Jewish Monument of the Netherlands, building a living monument"

Ansgar Schaefer (IHC/NOVA FCSH) &

Cláudia Ninhos (CHAM/NOVA FCSH)

"Holocaust research in Portugal"

15:30: Coffee-break

15:45: **III - Educating for the remembrance: strategies to address religious persecution, the Diaspora and the Holocaust in the classroom and in the museum**

Antonie van der Schans (President of VGN

Kleio) & Marc van Berkel (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, Education and Research)

"Who were the Victims of Persecution? The Holocaust in Dutch Education"

Marta Torres

(Vice-president of APH)

"APH and Jewish topics: a chronological synthesis"

Inês Fialho Brandão

(CHAM/NOVA FCSH)

"Listen, research, advocate: local authority museums and cultural institutions in citizenship education"

17:15: Final remarks

Maria de Fátima Reis

(Cátedra de Estudos Sefarditas Alberto Benveniste)

Carla Alferes Pinto

(CHAM/NOVA FCSH)

Natan Peres

(Rabino da comunidade judaica de Lisboa)

Free entrance

The workshop will be conducted
in English