Joint organizers:

Verband der Judaisten in Deutschland e.V.

Vereinigung für Jüdische Studien e. V.

School of Jewish Theology

Serenissima and Ashkenaz
The Venetian Ghetto in European History and Culture

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International Conference in Venice
December 4 - 8, 2016
We will explore the relationship between the Ghetto and the city of Venice and other locations of the Jewish diaspora. Rites and rabbinic institutions will be discussed as well as intellectual influences and cultural transfer.

The focus is set on the Ghetto and its main personalities from the fifteenth to the seventeenth centuries, with particular attention to the influence they exerted on Jewish culture across Europe, and, above all, on the Berlin Haskalah.

Several scholars have argued that the Italian and Berlin Haskalah not only show general similarities, but even a veritable cause-and-effect relationship may be found between them. In fact, it is safe to say that many early maskilim have followed in the footsteps of Jewish Italian intellectuals coming from the Venetian Ghetto, such as: Simone Luzzatto—Rabbi and philosopher—, Leon Modena—author of an account of Jewish customs and rituals (‘Historia de’ riti hebraici’, 1637)—, and many others.

This conference is the final celebration at the end of a year of numerous activities that marked the 500 years existence of the Ghetto. A variety of research institutions join forces in a collaborative concluding commemoration. The initiators are the Associations for Jewish Studies and of Judaic Scholars in Germany together with the Abraham Geiger College and the School of Jewish Theology at the University of Potsdam, thereby representing diverse perspectives on the Jewish life. In this endeavour we are united with the Centre for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg and cherish our cooperation in this important celebration. We thank our magnificent local partners for their extraordinary contribution on this occasion, especially the Università Ca’ Foscari di Venezia and the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani.

Conference venues:

Speakers:

Rafael Arnold
On the Relation between Leon Modena and Abraham Geiger

Giulio Busi
The Ghetto of Venice and the Qabbalah

Bernard Cooperman
Venice and Other Ghettos: The Purpose and Impact of Spatial Segregation Policy

Cristiana Facchini
Crossing the Borders. The Story of Sara between Memory and Space

Jonathan Karp
Ghetto Economics and Jewish Emancipation

Alexander von Kienlin / Ulrich Knufinke
The Venetian Synagogues and their Architectonic Impact History

David Malkiel
Gentile Wine in Renaissance Venice

Asher Salah
An Unknown Figure of Venetian Haskalah: Marco Navarra and his ‘Lettere Orientali’

Emile Schrijver
Italian influences on Ashkenazic Book Production since the Invention of Printing

Giuseppe Veltri
Why Venice

Gadi Luzzatto Voghiera
The Venetian Ghetto in the XIX and XX centuries

Concert:

Jascha Nemtsov
Inside and outside the Ghetto - Jewish Music through the Ages

Registration and further information on the conference website:

www.serenissima.online