

Sophie Kohler, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: “Genes as an Historical Archive”

ABSTRACT: Over the last years several population geneticists have made Jewish tradition and history an object of research. They have, for example, tried to shed light on the degree of the relatedness of Jewish communities to each other and to other population groups. I would like to discuss from the point of view of an historian of Jewish history whether their findings contribute to our understanding of Jewish history and if so, in how far. I would also like to point out the limitations of genetics as a tool for historians.