Dani Kranz

Intersecting Allopolitics, or the Quest for Jewish Anthropology in Germany
Abstract:
This paper form part of my research project concerning the history of Jewish Studies in post-1945 Germany; the particular focus of this presentation lies on ‘Jewish anthropology’, and the anthropological and ethnographic writing on Jews – at times by Jews – on location, which bears witness to post-genocidal structures. I will argue that academic research that concerns ‘things Jewish’ needs to be seen within its socio-historical, societal, and academic context to understand structures, processes and framings of allopoltics, that is the political economy of othering. A mere focus on ‘Jews’ would betray the complexities that connect Jews and others in Germany, and it would do the analysis of Jewish anthropology, the anthropology of Jews, or by Jews, in Germany a disservice. By that token, I will venture into the context of the economy of academic work and economies of knowledge creating industries, and the embeddedness of the academy within German society, as the situation I am depicting needs to be understood in a holistic context.
Dani Kranz works as an academic anthropologist at Ben Gurion University, Israel, and as an applied academic and director of Two Foxes Consulting, Germany and Israel. Trained in anthropology, social psychology and history, her thematic expertise covers migration, ethnicity, law, state/stateliness, political life, organisations as well as memory politics. She has been conducting long-term fieldwork in Europe and the Middle East. She teaches on post-1945 Europe and Germany, migration, ethnicity, law and politics.

Her current academic projects concern the genesis of moral economies and the history of Jewish Studies – in the widest sense – in Germany post-1945; while her focus as an applied anthropologist lies on consulting to the high commissioner of the German government for Jewish life, and against antisemitism, and other administration on issues of migration, integration, and intergroup relations.