**Special Issue "Research of Jewish Communities in Africa‏‏ and in Their Diaspora"**

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**Prof. Dr. Rachel Sharaby** [**E-Mail**](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/Jewish_Communities_in_Africa) [**Website**](https://www.ascleiden.nl/organization/people/rachel-sharaby)
*Guest Editor*

Department of Sociology, Ashkelon Academic College, Ben Zvi St.12, Ashkelon, Israel
**Interests:** immigration; religion; tradition and modernity; ethnic renewal, identity, rituals, gender and syncretism

**Special Issue Information**

Dear Colleagues,

The Jewish communities in Africa have an ancient Jewish tradition and a rich cultural heritage. Their Judaism was integrated and gained a prominent position within the Jewish and general history of the New Age of this large continent. Research on African Jewry focused mainly on a few large Jewish communities in North Africa, in Ethiopia, and in South Africa. In the past, research was divided into separate fields according to geographical and international boundaries. This Special Issue intends to discuss the Jewish identity of communities all over the continent, in diverse fields and disciplinary approaches.

Identity is shaped and changes as a function of the manner in which we are represented in the social systems surrounding us (Hall, 1996). The dynamic picture of identities is realized in the construct “fluid identity” coined by Bauman Zygmunt (2000). The internal dimension of the identity motivates people, and is expressed in self-identification and identification with the values of the group (Ben-Rafael & Peres, 2000: 9-13; DellaPergola, 2016: 162-163). Immigrants find ways of including their diverse identity and using it wisely in changing social contexts (Hodzi, 2019; Levitt & Glick Schiller, 2004).

Identity in general, and Jewish identity in particular, can be defined on two axes: a diachronic axis that indicates the relation between the present conformation and its past heritage, and a synchronic axis that indicates the broad diverse contexts that influence identity in the present (Sagi, 2016). This Special Issue of *Religions* will represent the encounter between these two axes. Scholars are invited to submit articles with a scope of up to 8000 words on current topics, as well as topics of historical value, using different methodologies. We hope that these articles will contribute to understanding the dynamic identity of the Jews as individuals and as a collective, in the communities in Africa and wherever they are dispersed, on issues of: tradition and modernity; Jewish education; holidays and customs; religious organizations and institutions; pilgrimage; religious and cultural syncretism; Jewish art; language; religious music; gender; immigration and religion; symbolic boundaries; rite and ritual.

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Prof. Dr. Rachel Sharaby
*Guest Editor*

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**Keywords**

* Africa, religious
* cultural syncretism
* religious practice
* Jewish identity
* immigration
* tradition
* symbolic boundaries

**Published Papers**

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