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Title: *German Jews, German Gentiles and the Alps: How Conceptions of Heimat, Bavarian Traditions and Moral Values defined 'German' Belongings and German-Jewish experience, 1920-1940.*

Abstract: My PhD focuses on how German Jews were important in forming and propagating the ways in which 'belonging' was imagined in Germany, and how their ideas were turned on their heads by the Nazis, between 1920 and 1940. As a meaningful social imaginary tied to regionalism, ideas of belonging in the form of 'Heimat' were crucially central to perceptions of inclusion and exclusion within German society. The key integratory function of regional interpretations of 'authenticity' is evident in how German Jews actively invented and promoted regional customs that were utilised locally and nationally to articulate 'German' belonging. These inventions, which offered ideas of inclusion, were subsequently overturned and used by the Nazis to legitimate anti-Semitic policies. I concentrate on Bavaria as a region that by the 1920s had become an embodiment of quintessential 'German' (alpine) landscapes and traditions and in doing so, show that concepts of Heimat and the Alps could be at once inclusionary and exclusionary.

My project draws from a range of historiographical fields. I combine Jewish history, Weimar and Third Reich history, studies in anti-Semitism, business history, leisure history and the history of emotions, in order to explore how Jews shaped and propagated ideas and the subsequent practices of 'belonging' that informed the self-understanding of German society until the 1930s. I explore three key levels of Jewish attachment to Bavaria as a model of distinctive 'Germanness': how Jewish entrepreneurs invented popular conceptions of Bavarian culture and thus 'authentic Germanness'; how local Jews mirrored these interpretations of authenticity by actively expressing an affinity with Bavaria on an individual level; how non-Bavarian German Jews explicitly sought Bavarian customs via popular alpine spa culture to project various forms of integration. Ultimately, I will show how Jewish inclusionary conceptions of 'Germanness' were inverted by Nazism to exclude Jews, specifically in ways that obstructed Jewish engagement with the Alps, and how the Nazis appropriated those businesses that had been central to inventing these conceptions. My thesis starts in 1920, with the emergence of alpine leisure culture during the Weimar Republic and ends in 1940, after the aryansation of Jewish businesses and the near-total exclusion of Jews from the Alps.