

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910796689403321
Titolo	Modern Jewish Scholarship in Hungary : The 'Science of Judaism' between East and West // Tamás Turán, Carsten Wilke
Pubbl/distr/stampa	München ; ; Wien : , : De Gruyter Oldenbourg, , [2016] ©2017
ISBN	3-11-039551-7 3-11-033073-3
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (400 pages)
Collana	Europäisch-jüdische Studien – Beiträge ; ; 14
Disciplina	370.89/92409439
Soggetti	Jüdische Wissenschaft Jüdisches Leben / 19. Jahrhundert Ungarn
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Wissenschaft des Judentums in Hungary: An Introduction -- The Rabbinical Seminary of Budapest and Oriental Studies in Hungary -- The Rabbinical Seminary and the War Years -- Was R. Saadia Gaon's Arabic Translation of the Pentateuch Meant for Muslims Too? -- From Talmud Torah to Oriental Studies: Itineraries of Rabbinical Students in Hungary -- Scholarship and Patriotism: Research on the History of Hungarian Jewry and the Rabbinical Seminary of Hungary—the First Decades -- Suspension Bridge of Confidence: Folklore Studies in Jewish-Hungarian Scholarship -- Beyond the Classroom: The Enduring Relationship between Heinrich L. Fleischer and Ignaz Goldziher -- Connecting Centers of Wissenschaft des Judentums: David Kaufmann in Budapest, 1877–1899 -- The International Context of Samuel Krauss's Scholarship: Network Connections between East and West -- Figures -- From Geiger to Goldziher: Historical Method and its Impact on the Conception of Islam -- Academic Religion: Goldziher as a Scholar and a Jew -- From Bacher to Telegdi: The Lure of Iran in Jewish Studies -- Meir Friedmann—A Pioneering Scholar of Midrash -- Adolf Büchler and the Historiography of Talmudic Judaism -- Georges Vajda's Contribution to the Study of

the Kabbalah -- Hungarian Expectations and Jewish Self-Definitions, 1840–1914 -- Defending the Dignity of Judaism: Hungarian Jewish Scholars on Christian Prejudice, Racial Antisemitism, and the Exclusion of Wissenschaft des Judentums, 1880–1914 -- The Decades of an Ending: The Budapest Rabbinical Seminary after the Shoah -- Bibliography -- Index -- The Authors

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Sommario/riassunto

The Habsburg Empire was one of the first regions where the academic study of Judaism took institutional shape in the nineteenth century. In Hungary, scholars such as Leopold and Immanuel Löw, David Kaufmann, Ignaz Goldziher, Wilhelm Bacher, and Samuel Krauss had a lasting impact on the Wissenschaft des Judentums (“Science of Judaism”). Their contributions to Biblical, rabbinic and Semitic studies, Jewish history, ethnography and other fields were always part of a trans-national Jewish scholarly network and the academic universe. Yet Hungarian Jewish scholarship assumed a regional tinge, as it emerged at an intersection between unquelled Ashkenazi yeshiva traditions, Jewish modernization movements, and Magyar politics that boosted academic Orientalism in the context of patriotic historiography. For the first time, this volume presents an overview of a century of Hungarian Jewish scholarly achievements, examining their historical context and assessing their ongoing relevance.

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