FIGURATIONS OF JESUS IN GERMAN-JEISH LITERATURE

In the seminar we will concentrate on the realm of German language texts from the 18th century to the present dealing with Jesus or related symbols like the cross or scenes of the Passion and Crucifixion. Not surprisingly, in Christian as well as Jewish contexts mixing religious symbolism in literature and art repeatedly provoked scandals. Authors like Carl Einstein were fined for blaspheming Christ, while others like Stefan Zweig, Alfred Döblin or Franz Werfel were accused of having betrayed Judaism. We will discuss how texts problematize assimilation and also try to understand the role of (trans-)figurations of Jesus in 20th Jewish literature about war, the Shoah and the modes of memory.