

New Course for the Summer Semester 2019 in „Israel Studies“ Department of Contemporary History

The History of Israel in (Auto)-Biographies Seminar, 4ECTS



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Biography and autobiography are among the most popular and best-selling genres of historical writing. In this course we will explore (auto)-biography as a prism through which history can be understood, in our case the history of Zionism and of the State of Israel. We will analyze the lives of individuals as related to Zionism – a collective Jewish national project. We will ask methodological questions about the role of individuals in history and historiography, about the relationship between the biographer and her protagonist, and the different strategies and aims between autobiographical writing and biographical writing. We will read chapters of biographical literature on individuals such as Theodor Herzl, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Gershom Scholem and more.

Language of Instruction: English

Registration starts February 1st 2019, lfu:online