



FRONTIERS OF HUMANITY AND BEYOND

TOWARDS NEW CRITICAL
UNDERSTANDINGS OF BORDERS

P05 - **SHIFTING BORDERLINES OF A MULTICULTURAL CITY: THESSALONIKI BETWEEN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND THE GREEK NATION-STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Between 1912 and 1943 Thessaloniki was subjected to political, economic, and social upheavals.

The aim of the proposed panel is to study the effect of these geo-strategic factors in Thessaloniki, a living space whose traditional spheres of activities were shifted from separated (on the basis of ethnicity, religious) to a local multicultural identity. The dynamism of borderlines in the cityscape of Thessaloniki will be analyzed through a comparative view of Israeli and Greek researchers of Modern Greece.

Shai Srougo is a lecturer in the Department of Jewish History and Biblical Studies at the University of Haifa, Israel. He is a social historian studying Mediterranean peoples from a bottom-up point of view. He focuses on the material culture of port Jews (Sephardic merchants), dock Jews (longshoremen, contractors in cargo-handling services, fishermen, port administrators, shipping agents, financiers of maritime projects, leasers of waterfront real estate, suppliers of equipment to port authorities, etc.), and Jewish artisans (Jewish niches in craft industry) in different parts of the Mediterranean at the turn of the 20th century—i.e., in the era of capitalism, colonialism, and the rise of nation-states.