Translating Judaism: Textbooks and the Transformation of Jewish Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century America

In the late nineteenth century Jewish education and scholarship became major forces in modern Judaism. Religious textbooks aimed at Jewish children and young adults sought to present an authoritative and systematic account of Judaism using universalized concepts. First produced in central Europe, these textbooks were later translated and adapted for American Jewish congregations. Dr. von der Krone will situate these texts and their various iterations in the broader framework of the transformation of Jewish knowledge in the nineteenth-century. She will also discuss the translational dimension—both textual and cultural—of German-Jewish textbooks in America.