

## **Jewish Communal Dynamics in Greek Thessaloniki**

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### **Abstract**

While scholars often view the end of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of successor nation-states as one of sharp rupture, this talk explores the processes through which Ottoman imperial sensibilities and practices continued to shape the structure and dynamics of the Jewish Community of Salonica (Thessaloniki) and its relationship with the new Greek state. In the 1920s, during which the Jewish community lost some of its official powers with the creation of the Republic of Turkey, in the case of Greece, many of those Jewish communal powers were not only preserved but also further formalized in the name of the new European regime of "minority rights."

### **Bio**

Dr. Devin E. Naar is the Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History, and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. A former Fulbright scholar with a PhD in History from Stanford University, Naar chairs the Sephardic Studies Program. His first book, *Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece*, won a 2016 National Jewish Book Award and the 2017 prize from the Modern Greek Studies Association.