

Venue

Alexander-von-Humboldt-Haus
Alter Steinbacher Weg 58, 35394 Gießen

Restaurants

Wednesday, 19.08.2026
Restaurant Aura
An der Kaserne 8, 35394 Gießen

Thursday, 20.08.2026
Ristorante Trattoria Nudelstube
Ludwigstraße 36, 35390 Gießen

QR-Code for a virtual
map of the campus



Contact Person

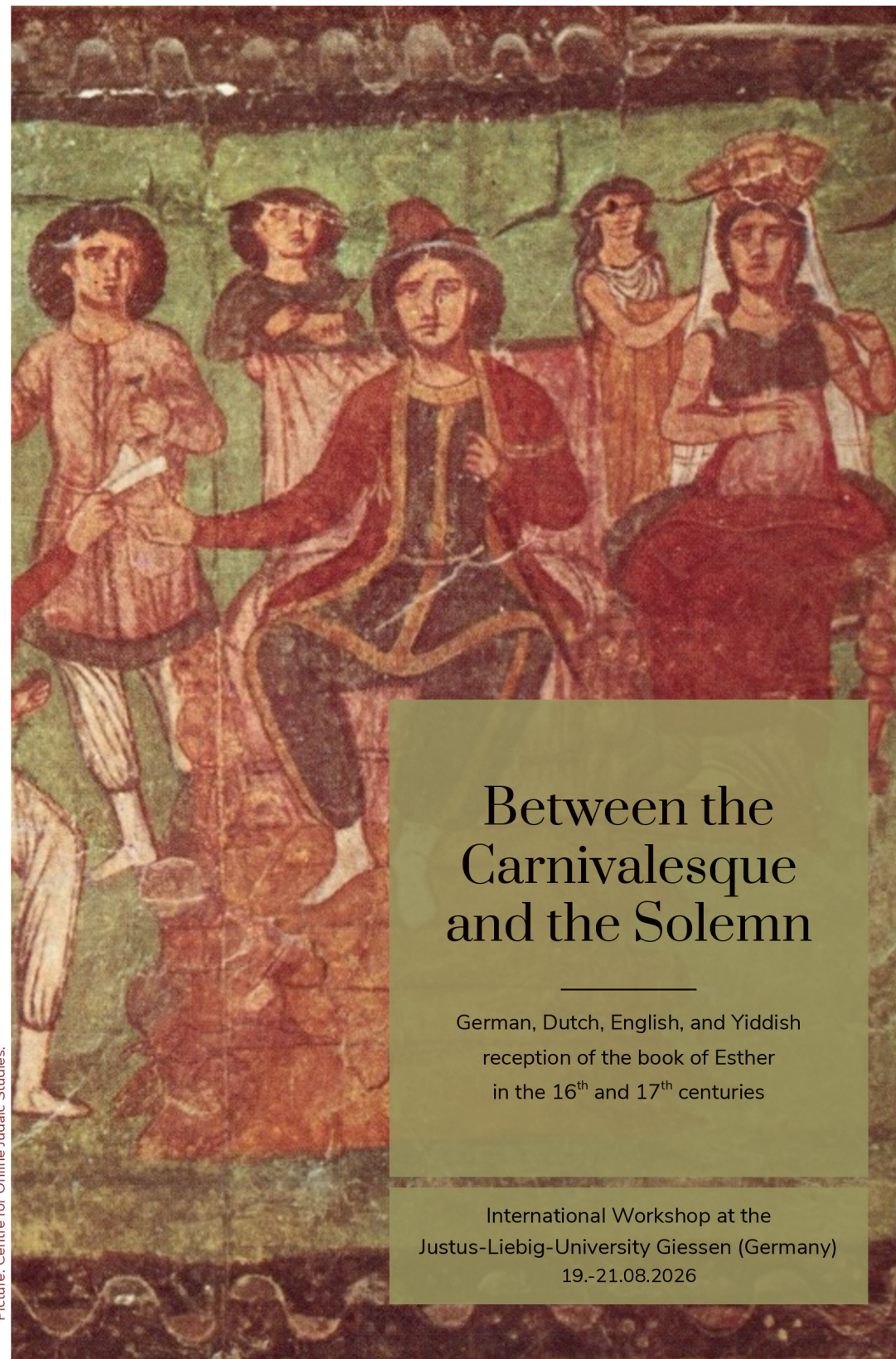
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Organisation

Justus-Liebig-University Giessen
Institute for German Studies
Prof. Dr. Cora Dietl
Otto-Behagel-Str. 10B, 35394 Gießen

Contact

Part of the 3rd century AD fresco at the Dura-Europos synagogue.
Picture: Centre for Online Judaic Studies.



Between the Carnavalesque and the Solemn

German, Dutch, English, and Yiddish
reception of the book of Esther
in the 16th and 17th centuries

International Workshop at the
Justus-Liebig-University Giessen (Germany)
19.-21.08.2026

Wednesday, 19.08.2026

14:00-14:30

Welcome and Introductions

14:30-15:15

Helge Bezold (Frankfurt a.M., Germany)

Between the Carnavalesque and the Solemn:
The Biblical Book of Esther in Recent Exegetical
Scholarship

15:15-16:00 (online)

Chanita Goodblatt (Beer-Sheva, Israel)

The Literary Carnavalesque: Scriptures,
Subversion and Sexuality in Early Modern English
and Yiddish Drama

16:00-16:20: Coffee break

16:20-18:05

**Elisabeth Dutton (Fribourg, Switzerland) and
Perry Mills (Stratford-upon-Avon, Great Britain)**

Film presentation Double-Bill (Edward's Boys):
The Enterlude of Godly Queen Hester
(Anonymous, c. 1529) and *Purim Spiel*

18:05-18:45

**Elisabeth Dutton (Fribourg, Switzerland) and
Perry Mills (Stratford-upon-Avon, Great Britain)**

Discussion, Questions and Answers

*19:30: Dinner (Restaurant Aura, An der
Kaserne 8, 35394 Gießen)*

Thursday, 20.08.2026

9:30-10:15

Nina Niedermeier (Augsburg, Germany)

Repudiated, Disfigured, Executed – The Various
Fates of Vashti in Jewish and Christian Art of
Northern Italy

10:15-11:00

Anaëlle Rossi (Saint Martin d'Hères, France)

Architectures of Devotion: Performing Esther
from Venice to the Reformation Stage

11:00-11:30: Coffee break

11:30-12:15

Cora Dietl (Gießen, Germany)

The Carnevalesque as Regional Identification
Offer in Caspar Wolf's Esther Play

12:15-13:00

Andreas Lehnardt (Mainz, Germany)

Purim-Spiel and Aggada – On the Reception of
Medieval Bible Exegeses in the Jewish Amateur
Theater

*13:00-15:00: Lunch break (option for a
joint lunch at the cafeteria)*

15:00-17:00

Olaf Schneider (Gießen, Germany)

Guided Tour of the University Library Special
Collections: Items Related to the Workshop
Theme

18:00-19:30

**Theatre Group of the German Studies
department (Gießen, Germany)**

Performance of Caspar Wolf's Esther Play
(Margarete-Bieber-Saal, Ludwigstraße 34,
35390 Gießen)

*20:00: Dinner (Ristorante Trattoria
Nudelstube, Ludwigstraße 36,
35390 Gießen)*

Friday, 21.08.2026

9:00-9:45

Evi Michels (Tübingen, Germany)

The Yiddish Esther song by Gumbrecht of
Szczecbrzeszyn from Venice, ca. 1555 as the
oldest "Purim play"

9:45-10:30

Sonya Yampolskaya (Fribourg, Switzerland)

The Role of Women in the Play of Mordkhe
and Ester (Amsterdam, 1718)

10:30-11:00: Coffee break

11:00-11:45

Karina R. Fischer (Gießen, Germany)

Solemn and Didactic: The Book of Esther in
Sixteenth-Century Christian Drama

11:45-12:30: **Final discussion**

from 12:30: Lunch To Go and Departure