



CALL FOR PAPERS

**Azimuth. Philosophical Coordinates in Modern and Contemporary Age
Issue 2 (2021)**

Mother-Tongue and Father-Land. Jewish Perspectives on Language and Identity.

Editor: Libera Pisano (Hamburg Universität)

The term “diaspora” is situated in a field of tension between identities and otherness, stability and migration. Today, exile still represents a political and philosophical challenge to the local needs of the nation-state, which must define its borders in order to exercise control. *Galut*, exile or movement, belongs to the Jewish tradition, not only from a historical but also from a theological perspective. The history of the Jewish people begins with God’s command for them to leave the land and from the beginning they have been deprived of it (*Genesis* 12, 1-5). Not only must Abraham be a nomad, a foreigner, *gber*, but also his descendants will be foreigners in a land not their own. From the very outset, Israel is in exile. The Jew, considered as a “guest” of other peoples and mother-tongues, fundamentally questions the political and philosophical links between language, identity, nation and race, and especially the idea of an exclusive national community marked by a national language and geographical sovereignty.

In this issue, the connection between homeland, identity and mother-tongue will be analyzed within the framework of 20th-century Jewish thought, namely through the reflections of relevant thinkers such as Franz Rosenzweig, Margarete Susman, Hannah Arendt, Elias Canetti, Jacques Derrida, Vilem Flusser, Paul Celan, and Edmond Jabes. In the Jewish tradition, language becomes a substitute for the lost homeland, the missing mother, and the homeland. By contrast to belonging to a concrete country, the homeland in this case mainly consists of a body of texts, a language, and a cultural tradition. Thus, we are concerned here with an abstract heritage that is not connected with any territorial delimitation.

We welcome papers analyzing the extent in which conceptions of homeland and mother-tongue, fashioned by 20th century Jewish thinkers, illuminate the current debates on the bond between country, language and identity.

All papers giving an original contribution on these and other similar topics are welcomed. We invite contributions in English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. Authors, whose papers will be accepted, will be asked to edit their contributions following the editorial rules of the journal.

Papers should be editing according to the Editorial Rules available on the website: www.azimuthjournal.com

Please send your papers to: editorial@azimuthjournal.com

Deadline: (For the complete article): May 15, 2021.

Max contribution length: Contributions are expected to be between 25.000 characters and 34.000 characters (spaces and footnotes included).

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