

History of Ottoman Jewry is far from being neglected by the modern historiography. On the contrary, one may see unceasing endeavour to deal properly with various aspects of Jewish life amidst the Ottoman society. Nevertheless, these studies vary considerably in the sense of chronology, space and approaches. While some of them focus on certain period and/or region, others wish to present a reader comprehensive synthesis. The aim of my thesis is to grasp mental world of Jewish subjects and to find out how and to what extent these subjects joined day-to-day life in the Ottoman society. For this purpose, Jews are seen as integral element of highly heterogeneous Ottoman society. The thesis is inspired by studies of Yaron Ben-Naeh, who represents the youngest generation of Israeli historians, and whose subject of research is mainly social and cultural history of Jews in the Ottoman empire from 15th to 19th century. In order to make the tensions between society and individual more „legible“, we decided to employ the so-called theory of figurations, borrowed from famous sociologist Norbert Elias. The relationship between society (structure) and individual (actor) in historical process is better understood when presented in form of fluid figurations of interdependent people.