

## **Border Crosser. Jewish Identity in Contemporary Scandinavian Literature**

My research project focuses on the representation and construction of Jewish identity in contemporary Scandinavian literature. As members of a religious and cultural minority who came to Scandinavia through various migration processes Scandinavians of Jewish descent are constantly forced to cross borders and boundaries within the predominantly protestant societies of Sweden, Denmark and Norway in order to become part of these Scandinavian communities. Thus, they also experience identity formation in close connection to the aftermath of the Jewish diaspora. Those influences, resulting from various kinds of border-crossing, can leave their mark on literary writing.

My aim in this research is to explore the different forms of border-crossing and the diverse representations of Jewish identity as border crosser depicted in recent Scandinavian literature, as well as the images of home, faith and heritage they thus negotiate and equally create. By dealing with questions of identity, home and heritage, writing can be considered a means of actively creating a sense of identity *across* borders and boundaries. It offers the possibility to negotiate but also to unite various narratives of Jewish identity, thus potentially constituting a new and distinct narrative of Jewishness.