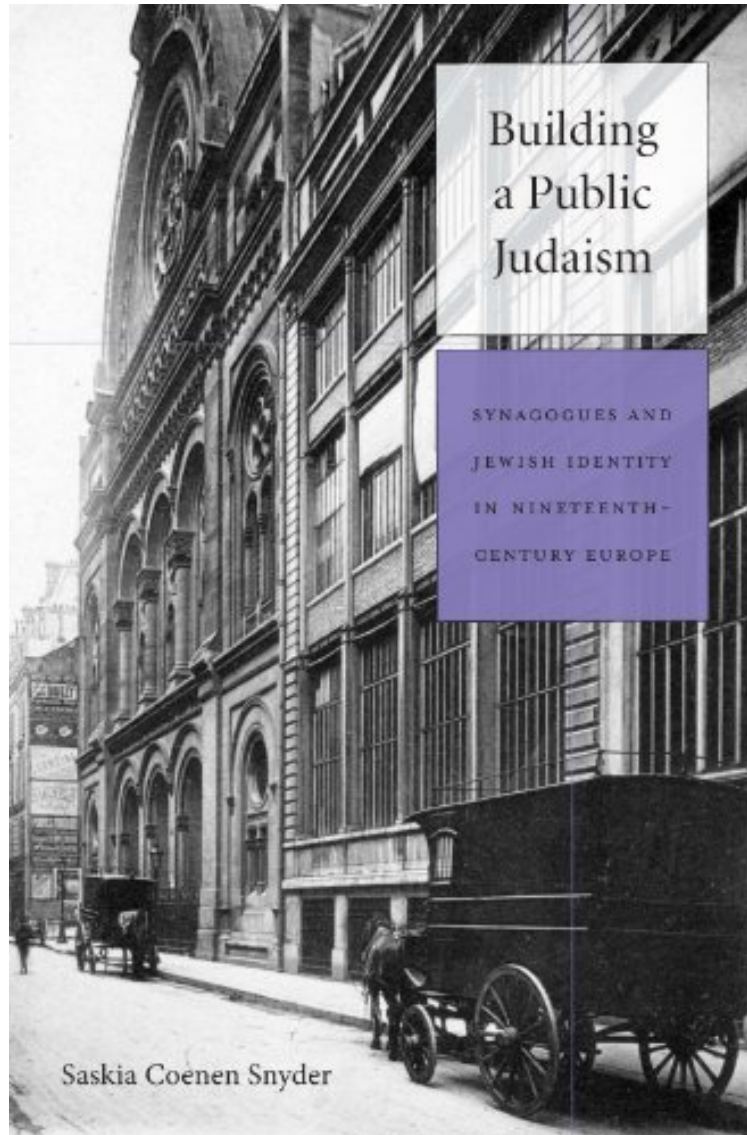


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Building a Public Judaism

Saskia Coenen Snyder

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Saskia Coenen Snyder : Building a Public Judaism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Building a Public Judaism:

Coenen Snyder considers what the architecture and construction of nineteenth-century European synagogues reveal about the social progress of modern European Jews. The process of claiming a Jewish space was a marker of acculturation but not full acceptance, she argues. The new edifices, even if spectacular, revealed the limits of Jewish

integration.

Traversing four cities, Coenen Snyder has written an impressively researched, multifaceted, and comparatively broad book, which concludes that synagogue building in the mid-to-late nineteenth century cannot be read only as an 'architecture of emancipation.' Instead, it reveals the complexity of Jewish experiences of acculturation, integration, emancipation, tolerance, and exclusion. Her socio-political and comparative approach to the study of urban space is highly innovative. (Michael Meng, Clemson University)A work of superb and exhaustive historical research. Coenen Snyder has carefully examined a large trove of archival sources in several languages and has brought them together in a well-written account. It belongs to the best of a new generation of work on Jewish history. (Robin E. Judd, Ohio State University)About the AuthorSaskia Coenen Snyder is Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish History at the University of South Carolina.