Ofer Ashkenazi is an Associate Professor of History and the Director of the Koebner-Minerva Center for German History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research interests include twentieth-century German history, modern German-Jewish history, and various aspects of visual history, with emphasis on film and photography. Ashkenazi received his PhD from the Hebrew University, conducted postdoctoral research at the University of California, Berkeley, and taught as Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota. His first book, *A Walk into the Night* (2010), considered the negotiation of “subjectivity” and “rationality” in the German film of the pre-Nazi era. The book *Weimar Film and Modern Jewish Identity* (2012) argued that the experiences of (mostly immigrant) Jews—their anxieties and aspirations—were integrated into German mainstream culture through popular genre films in the aftermath of World War One. The book *Anti-Heimat Film* (forthcoming, 2020) demonstrates the Jewish influence on the evolution of “Heimat” (the imagery and emotions attached to the German perception of Home and Homeland). It underscores the contribution of Jewish filmmakers and critics to the varying notions of Heimat through the twentieth century, as well as to the criticism of Heimat and its impact on German ethnic nationalism. The latter, the book argues, had helped shaping the German counter culture of the post-1968 era. In addition to these monographs, Ashkenazi co-edited volumes on the politics of Einstein and Freud (2018); on the continuities from Weimar to the Cold War (2015) and on Crime and Madness in Modern Germany (2009). Ashkenazi published several articles on various topics, including on the integration of “Heimat” with Zionist perceptions of space; Albert Einstein’s involvement in political campaigns; the German antiwar movement of the 1930s; German-Jewish athletes in Mandate Palestine; contemporary German humor on the Nazi past; and “Exile Photography” in the Land of Israel.
Ashkenazi’s current project, funded by the Israeli Science Fund (ISF), considers Jewish photography in Nazi Germany. The project analyzes the ways Jews documented their everyday life under Nazism through photographs and family albums. During the years 2013-2018, he was a member of the Israeli Center of Research Excellence “Daat Hamakom” at the Hebrew University. In recent years his research has been funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development (GIF), and Volkswagen Stiftung.