

## Jewish Heritage and Identity: A Conversation About Xueta Island

An Online Event by “Moreshet - Jewish Heritage Network”

October 15th at 5:00 pm (CEST)

In 1671, several *Autos de Fe* took place in Majorca, and 37 people were burnt to death, accused of “crypto-Judaic practices”. Later, a list of their names was perpetuated in the *sambenitos* hanging in the Convent of Santo Domingo in Palma, stigmatizing for centuries the descendants of Jews who were forcibly converted to Christianity: they are the *Xuetas*.

Despite their forced conversion, the *Xuetas* endured centuries of social exclusion, marginalization, and prejudice, with their Jewish ancestry shaping their identity in complex and often painful ways. Over the centuries, the *Xuetas* were confined to specific professions, lived in designated neighborhoods, and were subjected to strict social barriers despite their formal conversion to Christianity.

The documentary ***Xueta Island* (2021)** takes a deep and intimate look into the lives of modern-day descendants of these people. Through personal stories, historical research, and cultural reflection, the film uncovers the enduring legacy of the *Xuetas*, exploring how



the memory of persecution and exclusion has influenced the construction of their identity. The documentary also delves into recent efforts to reconnect with their Jewish heritage, as many *Xuetas* seek to reclaim their ancestry and rediscover long-suppressed traditions. Moreover, it presents the voices of several members of the Jewish community on the island and how they view the *Xueta* identity and their integration.

Registered participants to the event will receive a link to watch the movie up to three days before the event. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, attendees will have the chance to discuss it with **Ofer Laszewicki Rubin**, co-director of this movie, who will engage in a conversation with attendees about Jewish heritage, memory, and identity, moderated by **Lucía Conte**. Together, we will discuss the lasting impacts of historical trauma, the challenges of preserving and reviving intangible heritage, and the ways in which individuals and communities navigate the complexity of Jewish identity today.

**Join us** on an immersive journey into intangible Jewish heritage through the powerful story of the *Xuetas*.



# Moreshet

Jewish Heritage  
Network

## Xueta Island

Directed by Dani Rotstein, Felipe Wolokita and Ofer Laszewicki

Spain/USA 2021

Documentary

English, Catalan, Spanish

63 minutes

**Trailer:**

<https://youtu.be/fk2TwObZnIE>



## Ofer Laszewicki Rubin



Based in Barcelona, Ofer collaborated for years as a freelancer for a multitude of media in Spain and Latin America. A multimedia journalist with a masters degree in International Politics from the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, he is currently editor and announcer on the program “Kan in Spanish” of the national radio of Israel and correspondent for the newspaper “La Razón” (Madrid). Ofer also films and edits videos for social networks and international press agencies. In 2017, he published the book “Israel Out of Focus: Portraits of Society Beyond the Conflict” (UOC editorial), a selection of reports that explores the diversity of Israeli society. Ofer also worked in production and script writing for documentaries published on the Israeli channels Kan11 and i24new.

## The event

- Date and time: **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 5:00-6:00 pm CEST**
- The event will take place on Zoom and **registration is required before October 11<sup>th</sup> 2024.**
- Registered attendees will receive instructions to watch the movie online and a link to connect to the event on October 13th.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/PLiDJDoHouCHy1sz6>