The British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) was founded in 1975 as a learned society and professional organization on a non-profit-making basis. Its aims are to nurture, cultivate and advance the teaching and research in Jewish culture and history in all its aspects within Higher Education in the British Isles.

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Dear BAJS members,

We are delighted to present the annual BAJS Bulletin to our members. BAJS as a learned society aims to raise the profile of Jewish Studies as an academic discipline in the UK and Ireland. The Bulletin is one way of advertising and celebrating our members’ achievements.

The BAJS conference 2019 is being held in Oxford under the leadership of BAJS President Professor Hindy Najman. This offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase the excellent work done in Jewish Studies by colleagues at Oxford. We are also excited to celebrate on-going successes in the field as well as introducing you to emerging scholars who have been the recipients of a BAJS bursary, a BAJS essay prize, or participants in postgraduate conferences.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this year’s edition of the BAJS Bulletin. We rely on your contributions – please get in touch if you have suggestions for what you would like to read about and let us know about your research and teaching.

Hannah Ewence, Chester

Yulia Egorova, Durham

Hindy Najman, President of BAJS and the Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture

This past year has been an important and exciting year for Biblical Studies in Oxford. I have officially launched the new Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities with a dynamic international conference that hosted many renowned speakers from across the globe and an audience of 150 people. All of our activities are posted on our website: https://www.oriel.ox.ac.uk/cbh

The Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities (CBH) revitalizes engagement with biblical texts and traditions across the Arts and Humanities. Based in Oriel College and in partnership with the Faculty of Theology and Religion, the Centre hosts research projects, postgraduate research seminars, workshops, and conferences that study the ongoing vitality of scripture. The Centre also facilitates collaborative relationships with leading academic institutions across the globe. With these activities, the Centre encourages cutting-edge research, trains graduate students, and builds an international and interdisciplinary network of scholarship reuniting Biblical Studies into the Humanities based in Oxford.
I am the founder and director of the Centre. I am joined by a Programme Coordinator, Arjen Bakker, Postdoctoral Researcher, Yael Fisch, and my Assistant, Stefania Beitia. The Centre also has an Advisory Board and a Programme Committee.

Seminars

Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar (average attendance: 40 people)

This weekly seminar hosts prominent international scholars to discuss central topics in the study of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. In Michaelmas 2018 the theme was The Dead Sea Scrolls, in Hilary 2019 the theme was the Textualization of Prophecy and in Trinity 2019 the seminar was devoted to a variety of topics. In the 2019/2020 academic year the seminar will focus on Rethinking Intertextuality and on Hebrew Philology and Interpretation.

Oct 15: Hindy Najman (Oriel) – Poetic Processes and Non-Redemptive Reading: The Hodayot as Collection

Oct 22: Eibert Tigchelaar (Leuven) – Palaeography and the Dead Sea Scrolls: The Scrolls as Scribal Artifacts


Nov 12: Reinhard Kratz (Göttingen) – Isaiah in the Scrolls

Nov 26: Jutta Jokiranta (Helsinki) – Can I Trust You? Cooperation and Ritual Behaviour in the Qumran Movement

Jan 14: Madhavi Nevader (St. Andrews) – Textualisation and the Creation of Culture: Ezekiel as Test Case

Jan 28: John Goldingay (Fuller) – Canonical Readings of Isaiah

Feb 4: Armin Lange (Vienna) – Jeremiah in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls: Dead Sea Scrolls, Jerusalem Priests, and Ptolemaic Egypt

Feb 11: Anselm Hagedorn (Osnabrück) – Habakkuk: From Persia to Pesher

Feb 18: Noam Mizrahi (Tel Aviv) – Prophetic Interpretation and Poetic (Re-)Structuring: Zechariah Reads Jeremiah

Feb 25: Friedhelm Hartenstein (Munich) – The End of Judah and the Persistence of Cosmic Order: Understanding History in the Light of Creation in Psalms and Prophetic Books

Mar 4: Ronnie Goldstein (Hebrew University) – The Search for Context in the Book of Isaiah

May 6: Aulikki Nahkola (Wolfson) – Orality and Genre: Issues of Method and Interpretation

May 13: John Day (LMH) – The Serpent in the Garden of Eden: Its Background and Role

May 20: Sandra Jacobs (King’s College London) – Slave Trading (Judaean) Women in Neo-Babylonian and Persian Records

June 3: Eva Mroczek (UC Davis) – King Hezekiah and Precritical Histories of Scripture

Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar (average attendance: 25 people)

The Early Biblical Interpretation seminar is focused on the study of texts and considers the vitality of biblical texts, traditions, and themes across the ancient world. In 2018/2019 the seminar was devoted to reading the Dead Sea Scrolls in the light of the celebration of the seventieth year of their discovery. In 2019/2020 the seminar will focus on the reading of Rabbinic literature.

Oct 11: Eibert Tigchelaar – Introduction to the Dead Sea Scrolls and Electronic Resources

Oct 25: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Hodayot (Thanksgiving Hymns), 1QHa IX

Nov 1: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Hodayot (Thanksgiving Hymns), 1QHa IX

Nov 8: Sean Adams (Glasgow) – Philo and the Biographical Tradition
Nov 15: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Hodayot (Thanksgiving Hymns), 1QHa IX

Nov 29: Crispin Fletcher-Louis (University of Gloucestershire) – The Self-Glorification Hymn (1QHaa 26 and parallels), Ben Sira 50 and Liturgical Theology’s Response to Ruler Cult

Jan 17: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Hodayot (Thanksgiving Hymns), 1QHa IX

Jan 24: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Serekh (Rule of the Community), 1QS XI

Jan 31: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Serekh (Rule of the Community), 1QS XI

Feb 7: Dead Sea Scrolls Reading Session: Serekh (Rule of the Community), 1QS XI

Feb 14: Hindy Najman (Oriel) – Practices of Reading and Modes of Interpretation

Feb 21: Noam Mizrahi (Tel Aviv University) – Cursing Belial: From The Priestly Blessing to the Apotropaic Curses in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Feb 28: Menahem Kister (Hebrew University) – The Damascus Document, Columns IV and V

Mar 7: Bradley Marsh (Oriental Institute) – The ‘Harklean’ Version of Susanna: A Jewish or Christian Revision

May 2: Tessa Rajak (Somerville) – The Torah of 4 Maccabees

May 9: Barry Hartog (Protestant Theological University, Groningen) – Pesher in Context

May 23: Loren Stuckenbruck (Munich) – 1 Enoch and the Interpretation of the Psalms

Ethical Reading Seminar (average attendance: 40 people)

This seminar primarily brings together biblical scholars and classicists (but other disciplines are welcome) who study a particular topic through a variety of disciplines and approaches. In 2018, this seminar focused on the theme of ‘Exemplarity’ in biblical and classical texts, with a concluding graduate workshop on this theme with Yale University students. In 2020 the theme will be ‘Authenticity’ and in 2021 ‘The Fragment’.

16 Jan: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Tobias Reinhardt (Corpus Christi) – Exemplarity and Its Discontents

23 Jan: Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi) – “For Time / is nothing if not amenable”: Time, Exemplarity, and Reception

30 Jan: Simon Goldhill (University of Cambridge) – Exemplarity and the Case Study

6 Feb: Rebecca Langlands (University of Exeter) – Critical Thinking and Exemplary Ethics

13 Feb: Panel discussion, chairs: Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)

20 Feb: Glenn Most (University of Chicago) – Weeping Heraclitus and Laughing Democritus: A Couple of Exemplary Pre-Socratics

27 Feb: Jaš Elsner (Corpus Christi) – Visual Epitome in Late Antique Art

6 Mar: Melanie Möller (FU Berlin) – Beyond Exemplarity? On Ethics in Roman Philology

Biblical Hebrew Reading Group (average attendance 20 people)

The reading group is led by speakers of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar. This is an opportunity to read a biblical text under the guidance of our faculty and occasionally visiting scholars as linked to their formal guest lecture.

Workshops and Conferences

Wisdom and Ethics Workshop (7th June 2018)
Conveners: John Barton (Oriel & Campion Hall) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Supported by Theology and Religion, and CBH (Oriel College)

Launch Conference: The Bible and the Humanities (17th – 18th October 2018)
Convener: Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Supported by John Fell Fund, Theology and Religion, and CBH (Oriel College)
Lament, Reading and Therapy Workshop (5th November 2018)
Convener: Paul Joyce (KCL) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Supported by KCL, Theology and Religion, and CBH (Oriel College)

Exemplarity Postgraduate Workshop (10th – 11th March 2019) – Yale and Oriel
Convener: Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi), Hindy Najman (Oriel), and Tobias Reinhardt (Corpus Christi)
Supported by TORCH, Yale College (Classics), Yale Divinity School, Theology and Religion, Classics, CBH (Oriel College), and Corpus Christi College Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity

Translation Theory and Practice in the Later Middle Ages: The Bible and Beyond (14th March 2019)
Convener: Elizabeth Solopova (New College)
Connected to British Academy

Protestant Bible Scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism, and Anti-Judaism (26th – 27th May 2019)
Convener: Arjen Bakker (Oriel) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Supported by Theology and Religion, and CBH (Oriel College)

Codex Zacynthius: Retracing the Words of Scribes and Early Christian Writers (5th November 2019)
Convener: William Lamb (Oriel), Hugh Houghton and David Parker (Birmingham)
Supported by AHRC and ITSEE, University of Birmingham

Hermeneutic Interventions and Practices of Reading: Between Modernity and Antiquity (1st – 2nd December 2019)
Convener: Yael Fisch (Oriel), Adriana Jacobs (St. Cross), Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Martyrdom in the Margins (20th February 2020)
Convener: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Christian Sahner (St. Cross)

Convener: Hindy Najman (Oriel), Mladen Popović (Groningen), and Eibert Tigchelaar (Leuven)
Supported by Leuven and CBH (Oriel College)

Liturgical Space and Practices of Reading in Antiquity: Philo of Alexandria and his World (16th – 17th June 2020)
Convener: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Sarah Pearce (Southampton)
Supported by Southampton and CBH (Oriel College)

Formation of the Subject (29th – 30th June 2020)
Convener: Arjen Bakker (Oriel), Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi), Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Stephen Mulhall (New College)
Supported by TORCH and CBH (Oriel College)

Writers’ Workshop

This workshop offers opportunities to graduate students to present and receive feedback on their written work. The group met twice in Hilary Term and twice in Trinity Term 2018. Attendance averaged 10 people from different research areas within the Faculty of Theology and Religion.
Postgraduate Professionalization Sessions

In Michaelmas Term I organised a practice session for students presenting at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual meeting of 2018 and in Trinity Term I organised two practice sessions for students presenting at an international workshop on the Dead Sea Scrolls at Leuven University and at a postgraduate workshop in Oxford. In Hilary Term I I convened a professionalization session on writing conference abstracts to help students prepare for their submissions for the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting of 2019.

Other Events

In response to requests by students I organised Oriel College’s first Hanukkah party in November 2018. People from different colleges and faculties as well as family members, young and old, attended the party and we had a lovely celebration with speeches by students and faculty.

In February I organised a group visit to the British Museum for students and faculty and we had a private tour in the successful “I am Ashurbanipal” exhibit followed by a roundtable with eminent scholars from the field. No less than 40 undergraduate and graduate students travelled by bus to London to see the exhibit.

New Appointment

We are very pleased to announce that Laura Quick (B.A. Cardiff; M.A. Durham; D.Phil. Oxon), has been appointed as Associate Professor of Theology and Religion: Hebrew Bible/Old Testament in the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Dr Quick joins us from Princeton University, where she has been an Assistant Professor of Religion and Judaic Studies. She will take up the post on 1 August 2019 and will hold a Tutorial Fellowship at Worcester College. She is the author of Deuteronomy 28 and the Aramaic Curse Tradition (Oxford University Press, 2017), which was supported by a grant from the Clarendon Fund. She is currently working on projects looking at scribal culture in ancient Israel and Judah, and at the clothed and adorned body as an agent in the communication of social and sexual identities.

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

The Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies has been at the forefront of teaching, research and challenging intellectual enquiry ever since its foundation by David Patterson in 1972. Today, Hebrew and Jewish studies at Oxford are more wide-ranging, more influential and more exciting than at any time in the history of the University.

Committed to excellence, it has fostered exchange of ideas and promoted interdisciplinary discourse across the different fields and periods of Jewish life, history, languages and literature. It has acted as a hub for international collaboration to the highest standards of academic excellence. Over the years, OCHJS has attracted numerous leading international scholars who have benefited from the outstanding resources offered by Oxford University and its colleges, libraries and museums. They have contributed, in turn, through the resulting new insights and publications, to the fostering of Jewish Studies worldwide.

The Centre’s mission is to support at the highest level the full scope of Hebrew and Jewish Studies from antiquity to the contemporary world. The Centre aims:

- To fund education at undergraduate and graduate levels within the University of Oxford, both by funding teaching for degrees in Jewish Studies and by bringing Hebrew and Jewish Studies into a wide range of other degrees.
- To fund research and publication at the highest international level through the work of its own Fellows, as a focus for visitors from around the world who come to Oxford to pursue their own research agenda, and by enabling the University of Oxford to convene groups of Visiting Fellows to work together in Oxford for limited periods on specific topics.
- To convey the fruits of research and teaching by engagement with a wider public, exploring new avenues for the wider dissemination of research and
education in Hebrew and Jewish Studies, whether through the provision of library and archival resources or through public lectures, more popular forms of publication, or other visual and audio-media.

Building on this past experience, the University of Oxford, through its Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, seeks to enable further international advanced research. The Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies brings to Oxford every year for a period of six months two groups of Visiting Fellows from a large network of universities and research institutes across the world. The groups are composed of international leaders as well as promising young post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers. Each core group is carefully built and selected to address a particular research topic in a specific field of Jewish Studies, from Jewish history (from antiquity to the present), to Hebrew and Jewish languages, Jewish culture and heritage, and the place of Judaism in the past and present worlds. Seminars, lectures, conferences and working groups offer a forum to address ground-breaking research issues and integrate these into the Oxford academic community. Visiting Fellows become members of colleges of the University for the duration of their stay, and the OCHJS promotes the publication of their research.

News and Successes from our Members

The Parkes Institute, University of Southampton

The Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations at the University of Southampton has had a productive and busy year. We were very pleased to welcome new members to the Parkes Institute: Prof Dan Brown, Prof Mark Cornwall, Dr George Gilbert, Prof Neil Gregor, Dr Corey Schultz and Dr Kati Straner. Dr Maite Ojeda-Mata and Dr Dominic Williams are to be congratulated on new positions at the University of Valencia and the University of Northumbria respectively. However, Autumn 2018 brought the devastating news of the loss of our colleague and friend, Professor Andrea Reiter, after over thirty years in connection with the university. Andrea will be hugely missed by us all.

The Parkes Institute has been thinking about new directions in teaching and research to ensure a strategic approach to the range of our activities. Our research programme has been very rich and diverse this year. Our seminar series runs every two weeks over the academic year, and we had some fascinating lectures on Jewish/non-Jewish relations from antiquity to the present on subjects ranging from Jewish humour to civil rights. Our named lectures were delivered by Geoffrey Khan (Parkes Lecture), Antony Polonsky (Parkes Lecture) and Rodney Reznek (Rein Lecture). We were also pleased to host the Clinton Silver Visiting Fellowship, coordinated by Dr Claire Le Foll, which this year focused on the theme of Jewish migration. In May-June 2018, our two fellows in residence were Dr Nir Cohen (Bar Ilan University) and Dr Sebastian Musch (University of Osnabrück). Our doctoral seminar is a dedicated space for our PhD students to share their work-in-progress, convened this year by Dr Claire Le Foll and Prof Joachim Schlör. This is a really important part of our doctoral training programme, which has been developed to support our PGRs and provide them with feedback and space for discussion, alongside opportunities to get involved in public engagement as well as our international doctoral conference. This conference also connects with
our international partners, particularly with the University of Cape Town, the University of Sydney, and Tulane University.

We have also undertaken some major outreach events this year. Our annual city-wide commemoration on Holocaust Memorial Day in partnership with Solent University included a talk by a survivor of the genocide in Rwanda, a musical performance of Jewish folk songs, a drama performance about the life and untimely death of Franceska Mann, and reflections and readings from local sixth form colleges. There were also engaging exhibitions showcased on the evening, especially responses from local students to Holocaust testimony based on workshops led by the Parkes Institute team and developed by Katie Power, and a beautiful exhibition examining James Parkes’ tireless support for Jews before, during, and after the Holocaust curated by Chad McDonald using documents and photographs from the University’s Special Collections and generously funded by the SWWDTP.

**James Parkes Exhibition**

In June, the Parkes Institute held a major summer public event: ‘Rediscovering the King of Lampedusa’ at the Nuffield Studio Theatre. ‘The King of Lampedusa’ was the most famous Yiddish play performed in London. It is based on a true story - an Italian garrison surrendering to a young Jewish pilot from the East End of London when he landed on the Italian island of Lampedusa during the Second World War.

Music from the original score of the play had been discovered by Katie Power as part of her doctoral research into Yiddish theatre, and Abaigh McKee demonstrated considerable skill as musical director in arranging this score for a string quartet, which played really beautifully, including Abaigh on the viola. Alongside academic talks, there were also rehearsed readings of scenes from the play, involving Parkes staff, students and friends. The whole evening was inspiring and showcased how it is possible to share research and reach new audiences in a really creative way.

**Rediscovering the King of Lampedusa**

We also held an annual summer school in June on the theme of ‘intolerance’. 50-60 very engaged college students were in attendance and this was an important event for promoting Jewish Studies to potential undergraduates of various universities. The day included lectures and seminar sessions on topics ranging from antisemitism to memorialisation, as well as a panel at the end of the day on university life and applications. The feedback showed just how worthwhile such events can be.

We hope to build on this in the coming year and welcome partnerships!

**Dr Helen Spurling, (Director of the Parkes Institute) and the Parkes Institute Team**

[https://www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes/index.page](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes/index.page)
Jewish Studies in Australia

Jewish Studies Down Under: a look at the Australian Association for Jewish Studies

Australia’s Jewish story dates right back to 1788, when the First Fleet of British convicts and soldiers, including Jews, landed at Port Jackson to establish the very first settlement on the continent. Academic work on Jewish interests dates back to the mid-nineteenth century, but an organised approach to Jewish Studies scholarship and networking only came to life in 1987. Four prominent Australian Jewish scholars pledged to establish an independent association for researchers working on Jewish-themed topics from across the disciplines and showcase their research. With its first annual conference and the launch of its journal “Menorah” in 1988, the newly formed Australian Association for Jewish Studies set about connecting Australian scholars across the disciplines working on Jewish topics with professional opportunities, and with each other.

Today, the Australian Association for Jewish Studies has transformed from humble beginnings into a strong network of scholars from every state and territory of Australia, and hundreds of international members and supporters from all over the world. The annual conferences, which initially alternated between the major Australian Jewish centres of Sydney and Melbourne, have been held in every state capital. The association’s journal, renamed the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, has continued to provide high-quality contributions to the international Jewish studies literature, and is noted globally as one of the premier academic Jewish Studies sources. An association Newsletter is also released to members three times a year, promoting scholarly news and opportunities.

The AAJS values its international partnerships and connections, and invites BAJS members to take up the academic opportunities Australian Jewish Studies have to offer. The 2020 Australian Association for Jewish Studies conference, to be held at the Sydney Jewish Museum from 9-10 February, is now accepting Proposals for Papers: see http://www.aajs.org.au/AAJS2020CallforPapers.pdf. The annual Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, double-blind peer-reviewed and indexed on EBSCO, also welcomes submissions of articles and book reviews on any subject within the scope of Jewish Studies. Enquiries and submissions should be sent to Associate Editor Dr Jan Lanicek (University of New South Wales) - j.lanicek@unsw.edu.au.

On behalf of the AAJS committee, I look forward to welcoming our British friends and their work onto the Australian scene!

Jennifer Creese (The University of Queensland) Secretary, Australian Journal of Jewish Studies
Jennifer.creese@uqconnect.edu.au

Wolfson Prize nomination for book on German Jews and the First World War

Checking the departmental pigeonhole for post, late essays and piles of new marking is not usually the most rewarding of tasks. A glance in the pigeonhole last January, however, proved to be rather more edifying. At the top of the tray was a letter from the Wolfson Foundation informing me that I was one of six historians to be shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize 2018. As I hadn’t realised that I had even been nominated, this was surprising news to say the least.

Back in 2012, when I first started to write my book – A Deadly Legacy: German Jews and the Great War – I could never have conceived of such a reception. My initial aim had been to produce a ‘total history’, if such a thing is even
possible, of German Jews in the First World War. In many respects, this was to be a prequel to my first monograph, which had explored the various ways in which the Jewish war dead had been remembered and forgotten since 1918. What I hoped to show through the new project was the deep involvement of many German Jews in the conflict. At home, the Jewish communities had helped to run soup kitchens for the needy, to rally support with propaganda campaigns and to provide support for the bereaved, while on the frontlines Jews served in the trenches, in the air and under water in the submarine campaigns.

The book’s conclusions, which have proved unsettling for some reviewers, is that many German Jews played a full role in the First World War, including in some of the conflict’s more unsavoury aspects. Max Bodenheimer and Franz Oppenheimer led the Committee for the East’s calls to Germanise vast swathes of Eastern Europe. Walther Rathenau, who had helped to secure supplies of raw materials early on in the war, had no qualms in calling for the use of slave labour in 1916. And Davis Trietsch, a prominent voice in Germany’s Zionist movement, produced countless propaganda posters and pamphlets that all justified the country’s wartime exploits.

What is clear is that German Jews never stood on the side lines looking in at the unfolding conflict but were fully involved in shaping Germany’s difficult wartime culture. The shock for German Jews at the war’s end, however, was that their support counted for very little. The wartime culture that they had once backed was turned against them, as a wave of antisemitism swept over Germany.

In the end, Peter Marshall’s magnificent history of the English reformation deservedly won the 2018 Wolfson History Prize. Later in the year, though, my book was also shortlisted for the 2018 Cundill History Prize, which recognises the best scholarly works of history that have wider appeal. Although the prize itself went elsewhere, to be on the shortlist was again a massive surprise and huge honour. For a book on Jewish history to appear on the shortlists of two of the largest history book prizes demonstrates above all the positive state of Jewish studies both in the UK and beyond.

Tim Grady, June 2019
University of Chester

Parkes Postgraduate Conference

‘Multidisciplinary Approaches to Jewish/non-Jewish relations’, Parkes International Summer Graduate Seminar, July 2018

During two days, the University of Southampton hosted the first Parkes Graduate Seminar, with a full-on and very varied programme. The event was co-organised by the doctoral candidate Aibagh McKee and Dr Claire Le Foll, and supported by the Royal Historical Society, the Parkes Institute and the Faculty of Humanities. The opening remarks by Professor Clare Mar-Molinero (Associate Dean for Internationalisation), Professor Chris Howls (Director of the Doctoral College), Professor Shirli Gilbert and ourselves underlined the internationalisation and graduate studies initiatives championed by the Parkes Institute.

Over fifteen PhD students from Britain, Germany, Russia, Lithuania, Canada and the United States, as well as our own students, presented their research. They also had the opportunity to attend three professionalization panels dedicated to ‘Careers outside academia’, ‘How to publish your PhD’ and ‘Applying for jobs and grants’ and animated by British and international scholars, including colleagues from partner institutions (Dr Avril Alba from the University of Sydney and Dr Kathrin Pieren from London Jewish Museum). A highlight was the thought-provoking and stimulating keynote on ‘The archive as a multidisciplinary space’ given by Dr Hannah Holtschneider (University of Edinburgh). Participants and the wider audience were also invited to enjoy an evening of cultural discovery dedicated to Jewish music, thanks to the lecture-recital and performance of two doctoral students, accompanied by musicians. We were offered an exceptional and very professional interpretation of Yiddish and Polish songs by Izabella Goldstein as well as excerpts from the music from the Yiddish play The King of Lampedusa by the Shund Meydlekh String Quartet.

This unique event that mixed engaging academic discussions, professionalization and culture was both useful and very enjoyable. Thank you to all the Parkes colleagues involved (Shirli Gilbert, James Jordan, Helen Spurling and Katalin Straner) and to Katie Power and Nicola Woodhead for assisting with the event.
Report by Claire Le Foll and Abaigh McKee
University of Southampton

Conference Participant Reports on the Parkes Postgraduate Conference

I am about to complete my PhD in Music at the University of Manchester. My thesis on ‘Singing Songs of the Jewish Underworld: Between pre-World War Two street music and 21st century performance’ is situated at the intersection of ethnomusicology, musicology, music performance and Jewish studies.

Coming to Southampton for the Graduate Seminar was a rewarding experience for me. I enjoyed the quality and the diversity of the presentations, with topics on issues in history, music, identity and urban studies among others. It was also very instructive to learn about different career pathways, inside and outside academia and attend workshops on publishing and other ‘tricks of the trade’.

My presentation at the Seminar was entitled ‘Between Applied Ethnomusicology and Historical Enquiry: Songs of the Jewish thieves and prostitutes as a source to explore Polish-Jewish relations.’ I sang eight songs in Yiddish and Polish and talked about my research. In my presentation I argued that songs of the Jewish underworld collected at the beginning of the 20th century in deprived Jewish neighbourhoods of Warsaw and other now-Polish cities, might serve as a source to learn about the urban poor and about Polish-Jewish relations of that time. I also pointed out that scholars-practitioners may use their practice not only to enrich their academic research, but also as a tool for impact outside academia. For me as a performer, the Seminar was an exciting opportunity to sing the songs I research to people working in Jewish Studies and see how the stories I sang resonated with such an audience.

Izabella Goldstein
The University of Manchester

I portrayed the Jewish/non-Jewish relationship as a conduit for the construction of places that facilitated Jewish visibility and vitality in the city. The establishment and ease of these relations were, however, dependent on Jewish economic and social capital, and communal places in, and individual experiences of, the urban landscape were thus largely determined by class and status.

The papers at the conference reflected on the Jewish/non-Jewish relationship from Antiquity to post-modernity, and many of them looked at Jewish/non-Jewish connections and their effect on Jewish everyday life. I appreciated the opportunity to better contextualise my thesis, and to place it into the current, on-going historiography.

The professionalization sessions provided opportunities to discuss the strategies and processes of publication, post-doc applications, academic interviews and non-academic job hunting with publishers, early career researchers, staff members of the Parkes Institute and non-academic employees. The sessions were tremendously informative and helpful. Dr Hannah Holtschneider’s keynote on ‘The Archive as a Multidisciplinary Space’ also had an impact on my work, specifically on how to approach my source material.

As I enter the last year of my PhD, the sessions attended and networks created in Southampton will be of great support for the finalisation of the thesis, and indeed my post-PhD career.

Maja Hultman,
University of Southampton

Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies.

After four years of functioning as Honorary Secretary to the European Association, I relinquished this role in July 2018, though continue to serve as trustee to the EAJS, and am a member of its Executive Committee. In January 2019, I succeeded Sir Ben Helfgott as Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies.

François Guesnet, University College London
Recipients of the BAJS bursaries from the Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities 2019

Yakov Z. Mayer is a postdoc researcher in Ben Gurion University of the Negev. His main field of research is the history of the Hebrew book. Mayer focuses on the material history of the Talmud, including the history of manuscripts and early printings. His dissertation deals with the Leiden MS of the Palestinian Talmud as a key to the first printing of the Talmud in Venice and the connections between Jewish and non Jewish printers in early modern Venice. In a recent research project he studies the historical and social contexts of the production and the reception of specific Talmud manuscripts, such as the Talmudic manuscripts collection of the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, and the Talmudic fragments from the Cairo Genizah.

Irit Offer Stark is a 2018-2020 NY David Hartman Center Fellow and 2018-2019 Gruss Scholar-in-Residence at NYU School of Law. Since 2015 she has been a research fellow at the Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. She holds a PhD in Jewish Philosophy and an MA (magna cum laude) from Bar-Ilan University (She won the Bar Ilan President's scholarship and the Rotenreich Fellowship for outstanding doctoral students in the Humanities), a teaching certificate and BA in Jewish Philosophy and Bible Studies from the Revivim Honors Program at the Hebrew University, and an LLB (summa cum laude) from Ono Academic College (graduate of the Rector's scholarship for outstanding students program). She is also a graduate of the Hadas Program at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem.

Irit is a former post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Health Law and Bioethics at Ono Academic College, and a teaching fellow at the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies. She teaches and participates in a research group in the field of Law, Halakhah and Bioethics at various institutions, including Bar-Ilan University Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law, and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital NYC.

Dr. Offer-Stark's research deals with the Philosophy of Halakha, Jewish Law, Health Law and Bioethics.

*Articles by Irit Offer Stark: https://hartman.academia.edu/IritOfferStark

BAJS Essay Prize Winner 2018

My dissertation sprang from an interest in Soviet nationality policy, which I studied during my second year at the University of Manchester. Under the inspirational guidance of my supervisor, Dr Ewa Ochman, I spent September and October considering how to direct this
interest and how to make use of supporting primary sources. A trip to Manchester Central Library proved fruitful. I learnt of the existence of the Manchester Council for Soviet Jewry Archive, which housed records of an activist group committed to aiding the rights of Soviet Jewry during the 1970s. I spent the next few weeks reading up on the intersecting histories of late-Soviet nationality policy and Soviet-Jewish emigration. The period November through February 2017 was spent scrutinising archival sources - these had rarely, if ever, been previously examined - and continuing to bulk up my research with supporting secondary literature. Later, I turned to scholarship on western Soviet-Jewish activism and its place within the related field of British-Jewish history. By spring 2018, I had largely determined the parameters of the dissertation. This was oriented within the Brezhnev era and identified a distinction between 'domestic' and 'international' Soviet-Jewish activism. The dissertation would cut out, altogether, what I had originally planned as a third chapter on the subjective, testimonial experiences of Soviet-Jewish emigrés. The gap in my work provides an avenue for future scholarship.

I was enormously pleased with the resulting effort, which was, ultimately, the product of long hours spent at Manchester Central Library, the University of Manchester's 'Main Library' and, for periods when I was at home in London, the British Library. I start my postgraduate studies in the history and politics of the United States at University College London in September.

Fergus Selsdon Games, University of Manchester


Lucille Cairns Memorial Lecture

The Centre for the Study of Jewish Culture, Society and Politics and St Aidan’s College with the support of the School of Modern Languages at Durham University established a lecture in memory of Prof Lucille Cairns. The inaugural lecture took place on 6 June 2019 and was delivered by Prof Judith Still FBA, Chair of French and Critical Theory at the University of Nottingham. We publish the abstract below.

“Watching What We Eat: Disorderly Eating in Contemporary Women’s Writing”

Lecture in Memory of Lucille Cairns (1963-2017)

Lucille had a range of interests in modern and contemporary French writing (particularly women’s writing) and film, including, notably, Queer and Jewish texts – all somehow both political and intensely personal, the two crisscrossing without merging or separating, enabling passionate and analytical criticism. On this occasion I shall be particularly inspired by her final project Eating Disorders in Contemporary French Women’s Writing to ask some questions about disorderly eating. Eating disorders, grave and painful as they are for individuals and their loving-loved ones, also play a social role as symptom and alibi – screening a widespread agonistic relationship with food and the way that food marks the body. This has been particularly noticeable/noticed for Western women under late capitalism, and so I shall focus on this sex, place and this period as Lucille did – although I believe attention to the long and broad history of self-starvation, gluttony, and other relationships to food and drink that we label aberrant, is valuable in helping the analyst identify what is particular about ‘our’ present moment. Women today, in some parts of the world at least, are urged to consume, but not to consume ‘too much’; they are encouraged to be seen, but in ‘the right way’; to take (a) part, but still stay in ‘their place’. Contradictory patriarchal and capitalist imperatives do not add up to setting the goal of a golden mean of modest consumption (healthy eating with little treats) as might sometimes be fondly imagined, but,
ideally, to sickening, anxiogenic and profitable spirals of gorgeous consumption and strict self-denial for us all. Quite how these play out (and quite how much suffering balances out the pleasure) will depend in part on group or individual location in socio-political structures (class, ethnicity, sexuality) – codes that cut the subject and the body – as well as personal circumstances. Eating today is disorderly, albeit to differing degrees, I shall argue, not only in its ‘chicken and egg’ impact on Western human minds and bodies, but also in its devastating consequences globally, including on other animals and the natural world. It is true that the pathologizing of specific eating disorders seems at least to offer therapeutic help to those in pain, indeed in mortal danger – although Lucille’s analysis of various autobiographies and autofictions shows how cruel the medical establishment can be, particularly to women whose illness is ‘their own fault’. I shall dip into a range of Anglophone and Francophone women’s writing to suggest that bingeing and self-starvation, and the relationship to fat and flesh in or on the body, relate not only to individual disorder but to the socio-political generation of the disorderly.

Obituary: Professor Andrea Reiter

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of our much-loved and respected colleague, Professor Andrea Reiter, on Wednesday 14th November 2018, aged 61. Andrea was Professor of German in Modern Languages and Linguistics at the University of Southampton, and a long-standing member of the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations.

Andrea first came to Southampton in 1981, when she spent two years as a Lektorin in what was then the German Department. She met a young lecturer in the Music Department, Dr (later Professor) Bill Drabkin, and they were married in 1984 shortly after she completed her PhD at the University of Salzburg, Austria. Andrea had a number of temporary posts in Austria and Ireland and then in the Politics Department in Southampton before being appointed to a Research Fellowship (1994) and then a full-time lectureship in Modern Languages (2002). She became a Reader in German in 2008 and was promoted to a personal chair in 2014.

Andrea was a notably committed researcher in the areas of Holocaust and Exile literature and Post-War Austrian literature. She wrote four substantial monographs on Austrian and German literature, edited six books, and produced over 70 articles, book chapters and reviews. She wrote her doctoral thesis on a group of right-wing ideologues operating in Upper Austria (not far from her birthplace in Linz); this was followed by a comprehensive account of the German-language memoirs of Holocaust survivors, and a book about a German-Jewish journalist and translator who went into exile in America after the Nazis seized power. Her most recent book, Contemporary Jewish Writing: Austria after Waldheim (Routledge, 2013) is about contemporary Austrian Jewish writers and intellectuals who returned to Vienna after the Holocaust, or moved there to escape persecution elsewhere and explores the dichotomy between outsider and insider. Her very considerable contributions to these fields brought her widespread international esteem and will leave an important and enduring legacy. Andrea was a wonderful colleague and friend and we will feel her loss deeply.
Research Projects and Research Grants

Samuel Everett (Cambridge University) and Ben Gidley (Birkbeck)

‘Culture, Religion, and Social Model: Paris and London in comparison’ seed meeting

In May 2019, the Ambafrance-funded seed meeting “Culture, Religion, and Social Model: Paris and London in comparison” brought together senior professors and early career researchers in the social sciences and humanities from both sides of the Channel at the French Embassy in London to interrogate the premises and methodologies with which we might work as a network to conduct comparative work on religious minorities (particularly Muslims and Jews) in and across the two cities.

Researchers from: Université de Strasbourg, Université de Toulouse, Université de Picardie, EHESS, Sciences Po Paris and Sciences Po Bordeaux discussed the issue with colleagues from Cambridge, SOAS, UCL, King’s College, Warwick University, Birbeck University, Durham University, University of London Institute in Paris, University of Sussex and the University of Sheffield.

Shirli Gilbert
University of Southampton

South African Jews and the Holocaust-Israel-Apartheid triangle (British Academy funded project in collaboration with the University of Cape Town).

The impact of Holocaust and genocide education in four post-conflict countries in Africa (research project in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre, and Aegis Trust in Rwanda).

Hannah Holtschneider
University of Edinburgh

Points of Arrival
A series of five short films have been produced as part of Jewish Lives, Scottish Spaces, a joint research project between the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow which draws on the collections of the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC), the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, Edinburgh City Archives, Glasgow City Archives, the National Library of Scotland and the National Records of Scotland.

The films chart the lives of Jewish people who have come to Scotland since the late 19th century, and focus on where they came from, when and how they arrived, and their subsequent new life in Scotland. All of their stories are told by contemporary narrators, whose own lives are connected to the theme of migration. The people profiled are Isaac Hirshow, Annie Lindey, Hilda Goldwag, Dorrith Sim and Henry Wuga.

Isaac Hirshow (1883-1956) studied and worked in Warsaw, before emigrating with his wife and son to the Gorbals in 1922 to take up the position of cantor at the Chevra Kadishia synagogue. In 1925 he became cantor at Glasgow’s prestigious Garnethill synagogue, where he remained for the rest of his life. Isaac wrote new music for Garnethill services and became an influential and much-loved figure in the Jewish community. A restless and creative artist, in 1938 aged 45 he also became the University of Glasgow’s first
ever graduate in Music. The Cantata that Isaac produced as part of this degree is an important, although little-known, contribution to Jewish art music. Syrian-Kurdish musician Adnan Shamdin tells Isaac’s story, along with some powerful parallels to his own journey.

Annie Lindey (1886-1953) came to Edinburgh from Odessa when she was a young girl. Alongside being a successful businesswoman, she worked tirelessly for the Edinburgh Jewish community. Responding to a lack of welfare support for women, Annie founded the Ladies Benevolent Society, an organisation that supported poor families and single mothers in the Jewish community. She was first chair of the Ladies Guild, responsible for looking after synagogue religious items and caring for the sick and elderly.

Hilda Goldwag (1912-2008), is featured in a film narrated by artist and photographer Emma Newcome. Hilda was born into an artistic family in Vienna and graduated from art school. On the right is an image of her Austrian residency document, 1933 (copyright Scottish Jewish Archives Centre). In 1939 she fled to Glasgow to escape Nazi persecution. Hilda News 5 worked as a fabric designer and book illustrator, and in her sixties became a full-time painter. She wheeled her paints, brushes and easel around industrial Glasgow creating paintings that celebrate the less-represented side of her adopted city: its backstreets, factories and broken fences.

Dorrith Sim, née Oppenheim (1931-2012), arrived in the UK in 1939. Pictured here on her Kindertransport exit card (copyright Scottish Jewish Archives Centre), she was one of 10,000 mostly Jewish children escaping the spread of Nazism, travelling on what became known as the Kindertransport. Dorrith was taken in by an Edinburgh family and after the war she remained in Scotland, raising her own family and becoming an active part of refugee association networks. Dorrith wrote a book about her childhood journey and spoke regularly to school and community groups. Her words, along with illustrator Gerald Fitzgerald’s images, give a simple and moving account of the uncertainties and fears that surround the experiences of refugee children.

Henry Wuga (born 1924), speaks regularly at schools and public events in the UK and in Germany. Henry has been an outspoken campaigner for social justice and mutual understanding for most of his life. Arriving in Scotland as a teenage refugee from Nazi Germany, Henry went to school in Glasgow and afterwards began a successful career as a caterer. In telling his story, Henry draws unavoidable parallels with the lives and situation of contemporary refugees.

Lead researcher Dr Hannah Holtschneider, of the University of Edinburgh’s School of Divinity, said: “The films offer fresh perspectives on the history of migration to these shores, its impact on individuals, the reception the people received and the contribution immigrants have made in communities.”


Daniel Langton
University of Manchester

50 Jewish objects project: http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/50-jewish-objects-workshop-19/

Scriptural encounter project: http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/scriptural-encounter/

Marton Ribary has been awarded a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship for a project entitled "Computational modelling of law - Sustainable legal AI from Roman legal sources" tenable from 1 November 2019. The project will be hosted by the School of Law at the University of Surrey in co-operation with the Alan Turing Institute and Surrey’s Department of Computer Science. The research is primarily based on legal texts compiled by the order of Emperor Justinian (553 CE) with control text samples drawn from Rabbinic (Jewish) law of the same period.

50 Jewish Objects Project

The Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Manchester in summer 2019 received a grant to fund a post-doctoral researcher to carry out an innovative project on Jewish Heritage held in Manchester and in other institutions of the regional network of Jewish Studies in the Northern British Isles. (http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/n-uk-js-partnership/)

The project started on the 1st of October 2018, with my appointment as researcher-educator, and will run until the end of July 2021, for a total of 34 months. The aim of the project is to enhance our academic understanding of Jewish holdings in the partner Universities, and to narrate to a general audience the history of Jewish culture. The body of resources, made of approximately 50 objects, will be selected to allow their use for knowledge transfer, public engagement, study groups, professional training workshops and creative engagement/art events.

The corpus of analysis whose history is researched and narrated, will include manuscripts, printed books, letters, photographs, recordings, and objects of any kind, related to Jewish culture, society and life. Artefacts held at the John Rylands Library of Manchester will constitute the core of the focus. The Library collections include a Genizah fragment of Maimonides’ Mishneh Torah, the St John Gospel papyrus, a Yemenite Tikhal, a Hebrew amulet, the incunabulum of the Yossipon on parchment, an exchange of letters between Chaim Weizmann and C.P. Scott (Manchester Guardian). To complement and expand this selection, other relevant objects will be chosen from the Northern Jewish Partnership institutions. Academics from such institutions have already suggested some fascinating items.

The story of these items will be academically researched, but they will be selected and described with a view to allowing a coherent story to be told. In the narrative, each item constitutes an episode, at a particular time and place of Jewish (world) history; but each item is also connected to some of the others. A chain of episodes within an overarching thematic narrative, whose outlines are introduced at the beginning and occasionally summarised, will show the continuity and diversity of Jewish life and culture through the ages. The findings will be disseminated digitally, through social media and a series of blogposts, and will also be published in book-form at the end of the project. See http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/50-jewish-objects-blog/.

Some of the objects will be used for outreach activities. These will focus on captivating the
public’s interest and widening their understanding of artefacts. These events will showcase the project while disseminating knowledge to a general audience on key events and aspects of Jewish history and Jewish studies. Undergraduate and postgraduate students will engage with the objects and be exposed to objects-based research and teaching in hands-on workshops. They will expand their knowledge, shifting from the mainly text-centred focus of Jewish studies, into the methodological approaches of material culture studies.

The project also seeks the creative engagement of artists. Three resident-artists, commissioned specifically for this project, will respond to one or more artefacts from the John Rylands Library and to the academic research. They will deliver workshops or exhibitions to the public, showcasing their art and creativity. They will create a piece, such as visual art or a performance, which will constitute one of the legacies of the project. Additionally, ten local artists, affiliated to Manchester or other Northern Jewish Studies partnership areas, will be invited to set up performances of song, dance and stage, related to the project, aimed at different audiences and delivered in various settings, such as exhibition spaces, shopping centres and pubs.

Stefania Silvestri  
Centre for Jewish Studies  
University of Manchester

Sacha Stern  
University College London

Principal investigator, Fritz Thyssen Foundation research project ‘Qaraite and Rabbanite calendars’, in collaboration with Ronny Vollandt (LMU, Munich), with Nadia Vidro as research fellow.
BAJS Annual Conference 2020

World in Crisis: Reflections and Responses from Antiquity to the Present

University of Southampton and the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations

The annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies 2020 will seek to explore Jewish perspectives on a world in crisis, whether real or imagined, in different spaces from antiquity to the present. The theme aims to bring together scholars from diverse academic disciplines to assess Jewish responses to times of change and crisis throughout history. Crisis can be found or understood in a variety of arenas of life from the political to the existential, and can be traumatic and yet in some instances lead to innovation. The conference will explore Jewish perspectives of dramatic or perceived social, political, historical, ideological or religious change and transition, originating both from within Jewish worlds and without. Analysis of the varied spectrum of reactions to and representation of times of crisis can do much to shed light on diversity within the Jewish experience in different contexts, whether impacting an individual or a community. Papers will highlight the multiplicity of Jewish approaches to a world in crisis from resistance to rationalisation, whether literary or visual, and with an interdisciplinary perspective that characterises Jewish Studies. The conference is intended to provide a forum for reflection and critical contributions to significant, long-standing or contemporary issues of crisis and response, and the place of Jews, Judaism and Jewish Studies within this.

For initial enquiries, please contact the BAJS President Elect for 2020, Dr Helen Spurling, University of Southampton, at h.spurling@soton.ac.uk
BAJS Members’ Recent Publications:


Lester L Grabbe. “The Oral, the Written, the Forgotten, the Remembered: Studies in Historiography and their Implications for Ancient Israel.” In ‘Even God Cannot Change the Past’: Reflections on Seventeen Years of the European Seminar in Historical Methodology, edited by Lester L. Grabbe, 125-51. *LHBOTS* 663; *ESHM* 11; London/New York: Bloomsbury T & T Clark, 2018.


Hannah Holtschneider co-edited with Mia Spiro and Phil Alexander. Narrative spaces at the margins of British-Jewish culture(s), special issue of Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies 37, no. 3 (forthcoming).


**Marcel Stoetzer.** “Learning from the power of things: labour, civilization and emancipation in Horkheimer and Adorno’s *Dialectic of Enlightenment.*” *Marxism 21* 16, 2 (forthcoming).


Ongoing and Completed PhD projects:

University of Birmingham

Charlotte Hempel:


Tupa Guerra, *Encountering Evil: Apotropaic Magic in the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Ashley Lyon, *An Analysis of Selah in Antiquity*

Charlie Comerford (MRes), *New Wisdom Texts Discovered among the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Anna Shirav, *Before the Bible: Ezekiel Traditions from the Corpus of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Light of 4QPseudo-Ezekiel*

Matthew Hama, *Dualisms at Qumran and Beyond*

Michael DeVries, *Liturgical and Ritualised Warfare in the War Scroll and Related War Texts*

Rabbi Helen Freeman, *A Jungian Interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Nicholas Woods, *The Qumran Wisdom Texts and the Gospel of John (with Karen Wenell)*

Joseph Scales, *Religious Identity and Spatiality in Ancient Galilee* (with Karen Wenell and Gareth Sears)

Michael Bullock, *Strangers, Foreigners and Outsiders in Hebrew Bible* (with Carly Crouch)

University of Durham

Yulia Egorova

Heather Munro, Haredi Feminism

University of Edinburgh

Hannah Holtschneider with Peter Davies:

Lizzy Robinson-Self, *The Concentration Camp Poem: (Re-)Negotiating Boundaries*

Sophie Bayer, *Personal Letters in the Ernst Levin Collection, NHS Lothian Archive*

University of Manchester

Daniel Langton:


Robert Cantor, *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations in the UK, c. 1900-1999*

Sherry Ashworth, *The Reception of the Book of Esther in Nineteenth Century Novels*

McGonagle and Lebrun

Adi Bharat, *Representations of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Contemporary France*

**Dwight Swanson:**

Julianne Burnett, *Was Moses a Magician?*

Richard Liantonio, *The Basis of Divine Pleasure in the Psalms*

Lindy Williams, *Gardens in Ezekiel: A Changing Theology of Sacred Space in Response to the Challenge of the Exile*

**Ursula Tidd and Jerome Brillaud**

Fabienne Cheung, *Identity in play: Michel Leiris, Georges Perec, and Marcel Bénabou*

**Ewa Ochman and Jean-Marc Dreyfus**

Dominika Cholewinska-Vater *Contested loyalties in war: Polish-Jewish relations within the Anders Army*

**Erica Burman**

Eyal Clyne, *Orientalism in Israeli Academia*

**Moshe Behar**

Katharine Halls, *Marriage and Gender in the Egyptian Jewish Community, 1919-1960*

**Caroline Bithell and David Fanning**

Izabella Goldstein, *Songs of the Jewish Underworld in Pre-World War Two Warsaw*

**Peter Oakes and Todd Klutz**

Monica Pearl and Cathy Gelbin
Emma Berg Saavedra, *Jewishness, Zakar, and Writing: Yiddishkait as a Textual Identity*

University of Southampton

Shirli Gilbert:
Kasia Dziekan, *Between anti-Semitism and political pragmatism: Polish perceptions of Jewish national endeavours in Palestine between the two world wars*
Abaigh McKee, *Ballet music in Nazi-occupied Paris*
Scott Saunders, *Holocaust journeys to Poland from the UK*
Louise Leibowitz, *Our place: Jewish woman in apartheid South Africa*
Susan Wachowski, *Jewish identity in the GDR*
Ryan Hugh Ross, *The life and works of Julius Burger*

Helen Spurling:
Kate Tinson, *A Comparative Study of Moses in the Qur'an and Jewish Exegesis*

University College London

François Guesnet:
Nathan Kahn, *From Famine to Fame. Reorientations of the Eastern Ashkenasi Rabbinate in the Late 19th century*
Eleazar Rubin, *The Enigma of Tsimtsum in Habad Hasidism*
Ellery Weil, *Jews, Friends, and Countrywomen: Alliance Building in the Jewish Women's Movement at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*
Zuzanna Krzemień, *Shaping the Jewish Enlightenment: Solomon Dubno (1738-1813), an eastern European Maskil*

Sacha Stern:
Joseph Citron, *Mysticism as orthodoxy: R. Isaiah Horowitz’s Shelah as a vision of Jewish Pietism*
Yonatan Birnbaum, *Inclusivism in the Works of Twentieth Century Jewish American Orthodox Posqim*
Ofer Livnat, *Sifrei Evronot: medieval Jewish calendar manuals*
What is Commentary?

Conference Programme

PRESIDENT OF BAJ 2019

HINDY NAJMAN
ORIEL AND LAING PROFESSOR OF THE INTERPRETATION OF HOLY SCRIPTURE.
DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE HUMANITIES,
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STEFANIA BEITIA
ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR HINDY NAJMAN AND THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY
OF THE BIBLE IN THE HUMANITIES
BAJS OXFORD 2019—Detailed Schedule

Monday, 22 July
9:00-10:30  Session 1

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 3
Apocalyptic as Commentary in Disguise
Chair: Tessa Rajak, University of Oxford/University of Reading

Philip Alexander, University of Manchester: ‘Between Revelation and Commentary: The Apocalyptic Turn in the Middle East in the Early Centuries of Islam’
Helen Spurling, University of Southampton: ‘The Representation of the Arabs in Jewish Apocalyptic Commentary’
Katharina E. Keim, University of Manchester: ‘Scriptural Commentary and Apocalyptic in Pirqei deRabbi Eliezer’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 10
Early Medieval Commentary
Chair: Anna Sapir Abulafia, University of Oxford

Smilen Markov, Regent’s Park College: ‘Symbolism and Logic in Arethas’ Commentary on the Apocalypse’
Miruna Belea, Heidelberg and École Pratique des Hautes Études: ‘A Case-study on ‘Midrashic’ Commentaries in Ma’ayan HaHokhma’
Sacha Stern, UCL: ‘The impact of the Byzantine Easter Cycle on Early Medieval Jewish Time Reckoning’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 206
Hebrew Bible
Chair: Hywel Clifford, Ripon College Cuddesdon

Thea Gomelauri, University of Oxford: ‘When Commentary is not Commentary: The Reception Commentary of 1 Kings 1’

Jordan Edwin Cardenas, University of Oxford: ’Intentional Incoherence: 1 Samuel 1.1. and 17.12’
Moritz Adam, University of Oxford: “‘All is transience, says Qoheleth” (Eccl 1:2): Reading the Book of Ecclesiastes as Beyond Absolute Moral Categories’

Ohad Sorek, Tel Aviv University: ‘Towards Hebraic Architecture: The Structure of Eden As a Case Study of Possible Architectural Commentary’
Clarendon Institute: Common Room

Tradition, Trauma, and Transition: Yiddish Three Generations after the Khurban (Holocaust/Shoah)

Chair: Kriszta Eszter Szendroi, UCL
Kriszta Eszter Szendroi, UCL; Lily Khan, UCL; Gabriella Licsko, Ben Gurion University: ‘Contemporary Haredi Yiddish Language Use and Ideology: The Kaleidoscope of Yiddish in the Haredi World in Israel’
Jaclyn Granick, University of Oxford: ‘a velt mit veltlekh: Illuminating Yiddish and Greater Jewish Worlds Through Yiddish’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 8

Manuscripts, Masorah, and Reading Traditions of the Hebrew Bible

Chair: Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge
Nicholas Posegay, University of Cambridge: ‘The Voices of Kings: Naming Hebrew Vowels in the Masoretic Tradition’
Estara Arrant, University of Cambridge: ‘Between Tradition and Environment: Textual and Linguistic Features of Children’s Torah Copies in the Cairo Genizah’
Samuel Blapp, University of Cambridge: ‘Voices from the Past - Primary Evidence for the Development of the Pronunciation of Biblical Hebrew’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 6

Rabbinic Literature

Chair: Yael Fisch, University of Oxford
Judith V. Bresinsky, Freie Universität Berlin: ‘The Amah Haivriyah [mQidushin 1:2]: Stop Gap or Role Model The Obscure Laws of Becoming a Wife’
Holger Zellentin, University of Cambridge: ‘Between Commentary and Polemics: The Qur’an and the Rabbinic Tradition’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: LECTURE ROOM

Jewish Hellenistic Texts

Chair: James Aitken, University of Cambridge
Michael Avioz, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Josephus’ Qualities as an Interpreter’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 207

Modern Jewish Literature

Chair: Andrea Schatz, KCL
Anat Koplowitz-Breier, Bar-Ilan University: “‘Turn It Over and Over Again” (Avot, 5:22): American-Jewish Women’s Poetry on Lot’s Wife’
Gitit Holzman, Levinsky College of Education: ‘Commentary of Lost Scriptures: Franz Kafka Esoteric Concept of Judaism’
Dennis Sobolev, University of Haifa: ‘Reversed Narrative Commentary in Modern Jewish Fiction: the Strugatsky Brothers’
10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30  Session 2

ST ANNE’S: MARY OGILVIE LECTURE THEATRE
Commenting on the Mishnah in the Early Modern Period: a Jewish and Christian Pursuit
Chair: César Merchán-Hamann, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford
Joanna Weinberg, University of Oxford: ‘The Annotated Mishnah in Early Modern Europe’
Piet van Boxel, University of Oxford: ‘Johann Wagenseil and a Rabbi Reads Tractate Tamid’
Theo Dunkelgrün, University of Cambridge: ‘Abendana Abandoned: the Unfinished Commentary to the Latin Mishna Translation in Cambridge University Library (c. 1663-1674)’
Ada Rapoport-Albert, UCL: ‘How Mishnaic is Immanuel Hai Ricchi’s Mishnat Hasidim (Amsterdam, 1727)’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 8
Josephus and Commentary
Chair: Zuleika Rodgers, Trinity College Dublin
Tessa Rajak, University of Oxford/University of Reading: ‘Whiston’s Josephus translation’
Honora Chapman, California State University: ‘νεκρὸς οὐ δάκνει’: Commenting on Pompey the Great’s Tomb in Egypt’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 207
Kabbalah
Chair: Alinda Damsma, University of Oxford
Ronit Meroz, Tel Aviv University: ‘The Use of Visual Images in Zoharic Midrash’
Idan Breier, Bar-Ilan University: ‘The Biblical Commentary as an Ideological Tool during the Sabbaetean Polemic’
Agata Paluch, Freie Universität Berlin: ‘Copying, Compiling, Commonplacing: Jewish Esoteric Literatures in Early Modern Multiple-Text Manuscripts’
Gene Matanky, Tel Aviv University: ‘Abridged Kabbalistic Literature as Commentary: The Afterlife of Reshit Hokhmah’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: LECTURE ROOM
1919 Global Jewish Hopes
Chair: Anat Koplowitz-Breier, Bar-Ilan University
Avital Ginat, Tel Aviv University: ‘"They Have Time - We Haven’t": The Struggle with the British Military Government Regarding the Fulfillment of the Promise for a Jewish National Home’
Kinga Czechowska, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń: ‘Jewish question as a part of Polish-British relations in 1930’s’
ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 6
Modern Jewish Philosophy
Chair: Charlotte Hempel, University of Birmingham
Rosa Reicher, University of Frankfurt: ‘Beyond Textuality and Truth: Gershom Scholem’s Dispute of Commentary’
Dorit Lemberger, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Unlocking the Symbolism of Writing: Levinas on Literary Hermeneutics’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 10
Professionalisation for Early Career Scholars (PG & ECR Community)—Panel Discussion
Chair: Marton Ribary, UCL
Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge
Hindy Najman, University of Oxford
Philip Alexander, University of Manchester

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 3
Rabbinic Literature: Feminist Commentary
Chair: Ronit Irshai, Bar Ilan University
Cecilia Haendler, Freie Universität Berlin: ‘Borrowing, Authority and Subject Formation in Hallah Jargon – a Reflection on Writing a Rabbinic Feminist Commentary’
Ronit Nikolsky, University of Groningen: ‘A Woman’s Life According to the Halakhic Proems in Tanhuma Buber’
Natalie Polzer, University of Louisville: ‘Warts, Moles, Over-Sized Breasts – Ambivalence and Gendered Disgust in Rabbinic Halakah’

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Session 3

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 207
Early Biblical Interpretation
Chair: Elizabeth Stell, University of Oxford
Hans Decker, University of Oxford: ‘Multum in Parvo: Brevity as Commentary’
Sarah Wisialowski, University of Oxford: ‘Leaders as Exemplars in the Community at Qumran’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 10
Polemics and Commentary 1
Chair: Anna Sapir Abulafia, University of Oxford
Zvi Stampfer, Orot Israel College: ‘What A Wonder: A Pharisee-Sadducee Interpretational Polemic as Appears in the Medieval Biblical Commentaries’
Yohanan Kapah, Orot Israel College: 'The Influence of Jewish-Christian Polemic on the Interpretation of a Jewish Bible in Portugal in the Fifteenth Century'

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 6
Bodies of Knowledge
Chair: Laura Quick, Princeton University/University of Oxford
Lindsey Askin, University of Bristol: ‘Healthy Priests in Leviticus’
Arjen Bakker, University of Oxford: ‘Cycles of Reading and Praise: Enoch, Isaiah, and the Dead Sea Scrolls’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 3
Modern Israel and Commentary
Chair: Yaacov Yadgar, University of Oxford
Heather Munro, Durham University: ‘Ashkenazi Hegemony in the Haredi World: Commentary from the Inside’
Stuart Cohen, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Biblical Exegesis in the Service of Military Motivation in Contemporary Israel’
Adam S. Ferziger, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Religion, Gender, and the Israeli Army: The Relationship between Target Audience and Commentary Style’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: COMMON ROOM
Modern Hebrew Literature
Chair: Marjorie Lehman, JTS
Glenda Abramson, University of Oxford: ‘The Galloping Horse and Occam’s Razor: S Y Agnon’s German Story’
Tova Cohen, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Female Re-Interpretations of Canonical Jewish Texts: 19th Century Hebrew Women Writers’
Menachem Katz, Hemdat Academic College: ‘S.Y. Agnon as an Interpreter of the Talmud’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: LECTURE ROOM
Commentary in Hasidic Traditions
Chair: Joanna Weinberg, University of Oxford
Ada Rapoport-Albert, UCL: ‘The Evolution of a Bratslav Tradition as Commentary’
Naftali Loewenthal, UCL: ‘The Exegesis of the Late Lubavitcher Rebbe in his Likutei Sikhos’
Ora Wiskind, Michlalah College Jerusalem: ‘Hasidic Commentary on the Torah: From Literary Genre to Living Practice’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 8
Manuscripts, Masorah, and Reading Traditions of the Hebrew Bible 2
Chair: Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge
Joseph Habib, University of Cambridge: ‘The Use of Karaite Commentaries for the Study of Accents and Pausal Forms’
Benjamin Outhwaite, University of Cambridge: ‘The Earliest Pentateuch in the Cairo Genizah’
16:00-17:00  AGM (Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre)

17:30-19:00  Keynote Lecture (St Anne’s: Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre)

Chair: Hindy Najman, University of Oxford
Anna Sapir Abulafia, University of Oxford
‘Protection and Coercion of Jews in Gratian’s Decretum’

19:30-22:00  Dinner

Tuesday, 23 July

9:00-10:30  Session 4

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 3
British Jewry

Chair: Glenda Abramson, University of Oxford
Martin Goodman, University of Oxford: ‘Isaac d’Israeli on the history of the Jews’
Aron Sterk, University of Lincoln: ‘“A Supercilious Gravity and a Noble Haughtiness”: Sex, Scandal and Deism and The Portuguese Jewish Fellows of the Society of Antiquarians and the Royal Society of London in the 18th century’
David Tollerton, University of Exeter: ‘Performed Without Commentary: Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremonies and Explanatory Gaps Regarding Jewish Tradition’
Laura Arnold Leibman, Reed College: ‘Biblical Commentary in Material Form: Anglo-Jewish Identity and the Coconut Kiddush Cup’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 8
The Shape of Commentary: Communication Strategies from Papyri to Early Printed Books

Chair: Stephen Harrison, University of Oxford
Martina Landolfi, Université de Strasbourg: ‘Reading Commentaries According to the Theory of Transformation’
Felicia Toscano, Università degli Studi di Salerno: ‘The mise en page of Medieval and Renaissance Commentaries on the Classical Authors’
Federica Rossetti, Université de Strasbourg: ‘Forms of Printed Commentary in Early Modern Period (1470-1600)’
CLARENDON INSTITUTE: LECTURE ROOM

**Jewish Art**
Chair: Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, University of Oxford
Ffion Jones, University of Oxford: ‘Twentieth Century Musical Re-Tellings of the Genesis Narratives’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: COMMON ROOM

**Un/settled Relations? Religion, Minorities and the Tropes of Jewish-Muslim Difference: Book Panel**
Chair: Ben Gidley, Birkbeck University
London: Yulia Egorova, Durham University
Nathan Devir, University of Utah
Samuel Everett, University of Cambridge

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 207

**Hebrew Bible**
Chair: Laura Quick, Princeton University/University of Oxford
Paul Joyce, KCL: ‘What is the Justification for Writing Yet Another Commentary?’
Ken Brown, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz: ‘Commentary in and around the Bible: Paratextual Commentary on the Sin of Moses’
Hywel Clifford, Ripon College Cuddesdon: ‘All Commentary is Ideological and Ethical: Approaches to the Shema and Monotheism’
Alexander Rowe, University of Oxford: ‘A Commentary on Clines's ‘Metacommentating Amos’’

ST ANNE'S: MARY OGILVIE LECTURE THEATRE

**Rabbinic Literature**
Chair: Holger Zellentin, University of Cambridge
Marton Ribary, UCL: ‘Computational commentary of Rabbinic and Roman legal texts’
Alex Tal, University of Haifa: ‘Commentary as a Screen: Modern Talmudic Commentaries and Translations, their Acceptance and Impact’
Gregg E. Gardner, University of British Columbia: ‘Commentary as a Collective and Multidisciplinary Enterprise: Mishnah Pe’ah as a Test Case’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 206

**Modern Jewish Thought**
Chair: Arjen Bakker, University of Oxford
Richard Brown, University of Sheffield: ‘Jew(ets): Dialogue as Commentary in Haskalah Hermeneutics’
Clara Collier, University of Oxford: ‘Philosophy of Language as Biblical Commentary Between Mendelssohn and Herder’
Daniel Herskowitz, University of Oxford: ‘Between Barth and Heidegger: Michael Wyschogrod’s Biblical Hermeneutics’
**ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 6**

**Early Modernism**
Chair: Jacqueline Vayntrub, Yale University

Andrea Schatz, KCL: ‘Commentary in Early Modern Interpretations of Exilic History’

Yehonatan Elazar-DeMota, Asser Institute: ‘Nação Legal Consciousness: Discussions on Slavery and Slave Trade in Seventeenth-century Amsterdam’

John Ritzema, KCL: ‘Giannozzo Manetti’s Apologeticus as Commentary on the Psalter, on Jerome, and on Himself.’

Stefania Silvestri, University of Manchester: ‘Interpreting a Jewish object: A Circumcision Wimple as Religious and Affective Artefact’

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**ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 10**

**Revolutions in Interpretations: East and West Meet in Land of Israel in the 20th Century**
Chair: Yaacov Yadgar, University of Oxford

David Moshe Biton, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘Between "Zionism" and "Shivat Zion" - Return to Zion: A New Interpretation in Light of the Thoughts and Actions of the Moroccan Sages in the Land of Israel’

Elhai Salomon, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘A Poetypographic Interpretation of Poetry and Space: Placement and Representation in Poetical Space through the Traumas of Holocaust and Migration in Twentieth-Century Hebrew-Jewish Poetry’

Nathaniel Hershkovitz, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘Kabbalah, Nationalism, and the Tension between Meta-Hermeneutics and the Interpretive Method: The Case of Rabbi Ovadia Hadaya and the Satmar Rebbe’

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10:30-11:00   **Coffee Break**

11:00-12:30   **Keynote Lecture (St Anne’s: Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre)**

Chair: Hindy Najman, University of Oxford
Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Tel Aviv University

‘Between Origen and the Mekhila: Toward Comparative Midrash’

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12:30-14:00   **Lunch (by reservation only)**
14:00-15:30  Session 5

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 207

Practical Halakhah as a (Creative) Commentary: Talmud, Halakhic Codes, and Modern Rabbinical Courts
Chair: Helen Spurling, University of Southampton
Avishalom Westreich, College of Law and Business and Amihai Radzyner, Bar Ilan University: 'Creativity and its Borders: Israeli Rabbinical Courts as Halakhic Commentators (Joint Paper)'
Shoval Shafat, Bar Ilan University: 'The Gap between Amoraic Commentary and Tannaitic Sources: The Case of the Halakhic Legal Term "Liability under the Law of Heaven" (Hiyuv Be-Dinei Shamaim)'
Irit Offer-Stark, New York University: 'Interpretation as a Tool for Promoting Values in Halakhic Rulings: A Study of Modern Halakhic Rulings in the Field of Bioethics'

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: SEMINAR ROOM 206

Polemics and Commentary, II
Chair: Zvi Stampfer, Orot Israel College
Miriam Sklarz, Orot Israel College: "The Holy One of the Lord": Aaron in Nahmanides' Commentary in Light of the Jewish-Christian Polemic'
Ben Zion Rosenfeld, Orot Israel College: 'Rashi's Introduction to the Bible: A New Direction in Understanding Rashi's Biblical Commentary'
Haim Perlmutter, Orot Israel College: 'Nachmanides' Introduction to his Bible Commentary as A Jewish Theological Polemic'

ST ANNE'S: SEMINAR ROOM 10

"Beyond Orality": Book Review Panel
Chair: Paul Joyce, KCL
Laura Quick, Princeton University / University of Oxford
Aulikki Nahkola, Newbold College
Ken Brown, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz
Jacqueline Vayntrub, Yale University: Response

ST ANNE'S: SEMINAR ROOM 8

Reflections on the Role of Reception
Chair: Aryeh Amihay, UC Santa Barbara
Regina M Schwartz, Northwestern University: 'Loving the Neighbor and Shakespeare' Kenneth Seeskin, Northwestern University: 'Commentary and its Perils'
Peter Gent, University of Oxford: 'Commentary as a Latourian Actor'
John Sawyer, University of Edinburgh: 'The Role of Reception History in Biblical Commentaries'
ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 6

**Modern Literature**
Chair: Anat Koplowitz-Breier, Bar-Ilan University
Chen Strass, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: ‘The Surface of Space, The Surface of Narrative: Reading Space in Modern Hebrew Literature’
Gal Manor, Levinsky College of Education: ‘Hebrew as Commentary in the Poems of Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning’
Caroline Lion, University of Birmingham: ‘Jessica of the Merchant of Venice as Post-Holocaust Prophetes’

ST ANNE’S: MARY OGILVIE LECTURE THEATRE

**Rabbinic Rewriting and Processes of Literary Formation**
Chair: Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Tel Aviv University
Yakir Paz, Hebrew University Jerusalem: ‘The Torah as an Authorless Text in Rabbinic Literature’
Yael Fisch, University of Oxford: ‘Rethinking the List of Changes: Scriptural Pluriformity and the Rabbinic Legend of the Septuagint’
Yakov Z. Mayer, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘Individualizing the Talmud: Talmud Copies from the Geniza in Context’

CLARENDON INSTITUTE: LECTURE ROOM

**Modern Judaism and Politics**
Chair: Yulia Egorova, Durham University
Menachem Klein, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Interpretations of Time and Space in Jerusalem by Alternative Collective Memories Agents’
François Guesnet, UCL: ‘Jewish Intercession and the Abolition of Torture in Poland-Lithuania, 1776’
Carol Langley: ‘Two Jewish Gentlemen from Egypt Walk into a 1930s Tel Aviv Bar’
Shirli Gilbert, University of Southampton: ‘Jewish Identity in Apartheid and Post-Apartheid South Africa’

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 3

**Hebrew Bible**
Chair: Arjen Bakker, University of Oxford
Edith Lubetski, Yeshiva University: ‘The Challenges of Compiling a Biblical Bibliography: Case Study—Book of Esther’
Albert (Dov) Friedberg: ‘“Moses undertook to Expound (Be‘er) this Teaching” (Deut 1:5): What Exactly is Be‘er?’
Meir Lubetski, Baruch College: ‘Saadia’s Solution to Baffling Phrases’
CLARENDON INSTITUTE: COMMON ROOM

Jewish America
Chair: Adam S. Ferziger, Bar-Ilan University
Mia Spiro, University of Glasgow: "Between Two Worlds": Retellings of the Dybbuk in New York
Jaclyn Granick, University of Oxford: 'American Jews and Development in Interwar Eastern Europe'
Eli Lederhendler, Hebrew University Jerusalem: 'Jewish Historiography as Commentary: Zionist Historians in the American Diaspora'

16:30-18:30   Reception (joint BAJS/SOTS event)
at St. Anne's, Foyer B
Presentation of Book Prize and Essay Award
Sponsored by: Brill Academic Publishing * The Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities, Oxford * Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

19:00-22:00   Dinner (by reservation only)

Wednesday, 24 July

9:00-10:30   Session 6
St Anne’s: Seminar Room 3
Dead Sea Scrolls
Chair: Arjen Bakker, University of Oxford
Charlotte Hempel, University of Birmingham: 'The Dotted Line between Life and Scroll: Instagram-Twitter-Facebook and Qumran'
Annie Calderbank, University of Oxford: "I shall make my glory reside over it" (11Q19 29.8-9): Divine Presence and the Temple in the Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism'
Francis Borchardt, Lutheran Theological Seminary: 'Truth Making in Comments: Pesher Habakkuk through the Lens of Actor Network Theory'
Michael Wogman, Institute for Asian and African Studies of Moscow Lomonosov State University: 'Calendars and Commentary in the Book of Jubilees'
St Anne’s: Seminar Room 6
Middle Ages
Chair: Zvi Stampfer, Orot Israel College

Nadia Vidro, UCL: ‘Medieval Scribes and the Writing of Calendar Tables’
Oded Yisraeli, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: ‘Commentary as a Tool for Cultural Change: Historical Contexts of Nahmanides’ Commentary on the Torah’

Israel M. Sandman, UCL: ‘Translating Medieval Hebrew Semitechnical Terms: Interpretation, Elucidation, Commentary’

Yuval Sinai, Orot Israel College: ‘The Maimonidean Interpretation of Aristotle’s “Corrective Justice” and “Distributive Justice”

St Anne’s: Danson Room (Hartland House, ground floor)
Translation as Commentary: The First Translation of the Bible
Chair: Alison Salvesen, University of Oxford

James Aitken, University of Cambridge: ‘Translation as Commentary on Hebrew Themes in Greek Sirach’

Marieke Dhont, University of Cambridge: ‘Interpretation, Exegesis, and Translation Processes in the Septuagint’

Ben Wright, Lehigh University: ‘Conceptualizing Translation as Commentary in the Letter of Aristeas’

Clarendon Institute: Lecture Room
Judaism-Christianity
Chair: Paul Joyce, KCL

Andrew Crome, Manchester Metropolitan University: “Overcome with Awful Rapture”: Emotions, Commentary, and the Representation of English Jews in Early Nineteenth-Century Christian Missionary Periodicals

Dimitrije Stanojevic, Trinity International University: 'Real and Essential Spiritual Knowledge: In Search of the Orthodox Christian Commentary'

ST ANNE’S: SEMINAR ROOM 8
Ritual Commentary
Chair: Matthieu Barbier, CNRS

Naphtali S. Meshel, Hebrew University Jerusalem and Anand Mishra, Heidelberg University: ‘What Is This Commentary? New Discoveries from the Archive of Rav Yehuda Hindu’a’

Hillel Mali, Hebrew University: ‘Ashes to Ashes: Periphery and Center in the Temple Service’

Clarendon Institute: Seminar Room 207
Afterlife of Midrashic Poetics
Chair: Gregg E. Gardner, University of British Columbia

Benjamin Williams, University of Oxford: ‘“In the Clothes of Men”: Commenting on Ruth in Sixteenth-Century Safed’

Asher Albo, Tel Aviv University: ‘“The Blood is the Soul”: The Use of poetic language in commentaries on the Soul (nefesh)’

Yael Balaban, Beit Berl College of Education: ‘Literature as a Modern midrash: Shulamith Hareven’s Thirst:
The Desert Trilogy

10:30-11:00  Coffee Break

11:00-12:30  Session 7

St Anne’s: Seminar Room 8
Jewish Thought and the Law
Chair: Yakir Paz, Hebrew University Jerusalem
Aliza Bazak, Tel Aviv University: ‘Shaming in Rabbinical Court Rulings: A Modern Commentary on Medieval Rabbinic Sanctions in Divorce Cases’
Yaron Catane, Bar-Ilan University: ‘The Legislator’s Intention in Jewish Law’
David C. Flatto, Hebrew University Jerusalem: ‘The Hermeneutics of Heresy’

St Anne’s: Mary Ogilvie Lecture Theatre
Rabbinic Literature
Chair: Hindy Najman, University of Oxford
Robert Brody, Hebrew University Jerusalem: ‘Commenting on the Babylonian Talmud’
Aryeh Amihay, UC Santa Barbara: “Jose, Who Kept Silent, Shall Exile”: Silence as Commentary
Daniel Caine, Hebrew University Jerusalem: ‘The Talmud as a Mishna Commentary’
Moshe Pinchuk, Netanya Academic College: ‘Talmud Yerushalmi of the French’

Clarendon Institute: Lecture Room
Commentary on the Myths in Writings of the Kabbalists
Chair: Martin Goodman, University of Oxford
Shemer Arieli, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘The Medieval Kabbalist as a Mythical Interpreter of the Bible’
Roee Horen, Ben Gurion University of the Negev: ‘The Debate in Hasidism over the Interpretation of Isaac Luria’

Clarendon Institute: Seminar Room 207
Midrash and Targum
Chair: Ben Williams, University of Oxford
Natalie Polzer, University of Louisville: ‘Rabbinic Historical Imagination and Midrashic Artistry: The Destruction of the Temple in Avot de Rabbi Natan A and B’
St Anne’s: Danson Room (Hartland House, ground floor)

**Biblical Women in the Zionist imagination**
Chair: Glenda Abramson, University of Oxford
Joel Swanson, University of Chicago: ‘The Young Woman Who Cried Little Sobs: Storytelling, Narrativity, and Zionist Gender Politics in Gustave Kahn’s Contes Juifs’
Lynne Swarts, University of Sydney: ‘Lilien’s Women: Reception, Representation and Gender in the Female Images of the First Zionist artist, Ephraim Moses Lilien’

St Anne’s: Seminar Room 6

**Hasidism and Hermeneutics**
Chair: Ronit Meroz, Tel Aviv University
Benjamin Brown, Hebrew University Jerusalem: ‘Justifications for Revolution: Hasidic Thinkers Defending their Method of Interpretation’
Iris Brown, Ono Academic College: ‘Interpretive Axis: The Klausenburger Rebbe as Case Study’
Aviezer Cohen, Herzog College: ‘Interpretation as Impressionism - Hermeneutics in Hassidic Writings and its Halakhic implications’

St Anne’s: Seminar Room 3

**Subversive Readings**
Chair: Andrea Schatz, KCL
Ronit Irshai, Bar-Ilan University: ‘Feminist Interpretation in Jewish Studies: Feminist Midrashim as a Case Study’
Khayke Beruriah Wiegand, University of Oxford: ‘“Eyl khanun, klayb oys an ander folk” (God of Mercy, Choose a Different People): Yiddish Poetry as Subversive Commentary on Traditional Jewish Sources’
Efraim Sicher, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev: ‘Erotic and Religious: Subversive Feminist Jewish Artists Re-embody Judaism’

12:30-13:30   Lunch (By reservation only)

14:00-15:00   Keynote Lecture (Weston Lecture Hall)
Chair: Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge
Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, University of Oxford ‘Material Commentaries: Modes of intellectual Transmission’

15:00-17:00   Manuscript Viewing at the Weston
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