

BAJS OXFORD July 2019

What is Commentary?

Conference Programme

PRESIDENT OF BAJS 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, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

YAEL FISCH

JRF ORIEL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE HUMANITIES; VISITING SCHOLAR OCHJS

ARJEN BAKKER

LECTURER IN HEBREW BIBLE, ORIEL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD; PROGRAMME COORDINATOR OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE HUMANITIES

ADMINISTRATORS

MARTINE SMITH-HUVERS

REGISTRAR, OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

STEFANIA BEITIA

ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR HINDY NAJMAN AND THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE IN THE HUMANITIES

BAJS OXFORD 2019 – Overview of Schedule

Monday, 22 July

8:00	Registration Opens at St. Anne's	
9:00-10:30	Session 1	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Session 2	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	(by reservation only)
14:00-15:30	Session 3	
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
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	(by reservation only)

Tuesday, 23 July

9:00-10:30	Session 4	
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 Mekhilta: Toward Comparative Midrash'	
12:30-14:00	Lunch	(by reservation only)
14:00-15:30	Session 5	
16:30-18:30	Reception (Joint BAJS/SOTS event) at Foyer B Presentation of Book Prize and Essay Award Sponsored by: The Centre for the Study of the Bible in the Humanities, Oxford * Brill Academic Publishing	
19:00-22:00	Dinner	(by reservation only)

Wednesday, 24 July

9:00-10:30	Session 6	
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00-12:30	Session 7	
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 Library	

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 Pirquei 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'

Heather Munro, Durham University: 'The Creation of 'Haredi' and the Development of Extreme Religious Observance in Judaism'

ST ANNE'S: SEMINAR ROOM 8

Manuscripts, Masorah, and Reading Traditions of the Hebrew Bible 1

Chair: Geoffrey Khan, University of Cambridge

Nicholas Posegay, University of Cambridge: 'The Voices of Kings: Naming Hebrew Vowels in the Masoretic Tradition'

Estarra 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'

Elizabeth Stell, University of Oxford: 'Dream Interpretation as Commentary in Ezekiel's Exagoge'

Jelle Verburg, University of Oxford: 'The Septuagint and Rabbinic Commentary'

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 Hōkhmah'

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 Halakhah'

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'

Marten Krijgsman, University of Oxford: 'Mesopotamian Commentary Texts: The Politics of Enūma Eliš and the Roots of Jewish 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'

Ari Geiger, Orot Israel College: 'Jewish biblical Commentary Between Peshat and polemics: Rashbam on Genesis 18-19 in the Context of Jewish-Christian Controversy'

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'

Susannah Rees, University of Oxford: 'The Changing Face of Cosmetics: The Reception of Cosmetics in the Story of the Watchers'

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 Sikchos'

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

Kim Phillips, University of Cambridge: 'A Brief Guide to Spelling: Scribal Expertise as Reflected in Genizah Serugin MSS'

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

Edward Maza, University of Oxford: 'Rewriting Genesis: Biblical Reception and the case of Barnett Newman'

Ffion Jones, University of Oxford: 'Twentieth Century Musical Re-Tellings of the Genesis Narratives'

Efrat Biberman, Beit Berl College: 'Visual Commentary and its Vicissitudes: The Case of David Ginton'

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'

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'

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 Mekhilta: Toward Comparative Midrash'

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?'

Rebekah Van Sant-Clark, University of Oxford: 'Interpretation as Commentary in The Afterlife of Isaiah 40:1-11'

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’

Jaelyn 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: Peshet 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'

Roe 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'

Alinda Damsma, University of Oxford: 'The Prophet versus the Witches: Ezekiel 13:17-23 in Targum Jonathan to the Prophets'

St Anne's: Danson Room (Hartland House, ground floor)
Biblical Women in the Zionist imagination

Chair: Glenda Abramson, University of Oxford

Rose Stair, University of Oxford: 'Embodied Values: on Biblical Women in Cultural Zionist Visual Art'

Joel Swanson, University of Chicago: 'The Young Woman Who Cried Little Sobs: Storytelling, Narrativity, and Zionist Gender Politics in Gustave Kahn's Contes Juifs'

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-embodiment 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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