

**OXFORD SEMINAR IN ADVANCED JEWISH STUDIES**

**Jewish Books in Amsterdam 1600-1850:  
Authors, Producers, Readers and the Construction of Jewish Worlds  
January to June 2015**

**Project Leaders: Professor Shlomo Berger, University of Amsterdam  
and Dr César Mércan-Hamann, OCHJS/Bodleian Library**

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIPS  
CLOSING DATE: 8 JANUARY 2014**

Amsterdam was the centre of Jewish printing in Europe from 1650 to 1800. While printers in the city served the demands of a local Jewish book market, they also printed Jewish books written outside the Netherlands and later distributed all over Europe. The extensive collection of Amsterdam printed material, in Hebrew, Spanish, Portuguese, Yiddish and Dutch, assembled in the Bodleian Library and the Leopold Muller Memorial Library, has not been thoroughly studied up to now, and research into this material is expected to yield significant results for the study of Dutch and European Jewish cultural history in the early modern period. These collections reflect the concerns of Sephardi and Ashkenazi communities in the Dutch Golden Age, when the relative liberalism of Dutch society also stimulated a wave of Christian interest in Jews and Judaism, leading to a novel collaboration between Christian Hebraists and Jewish scholars and book producers.

The central question to be tackled in the Seminar will be the role of books in the lives of authors and readers, highlighting the texts which were significant for Jewish readers as well as the books which are important for study of Jewish cultural and intellectual history in this period. The Seminar will welcome scholars who study particular authors, texts or books, as well all those who deal with structures of readership or genres, or other issues affecting the preparation of texts for publication, such as editing, correcting and typesetting, and the provision of finance. The Seminar will investigate both the intended and the actual readers of these books, discussing editions of the Bible and rabbinic literature; the literature which defined the character of intellectual life and the book industry in Amsterdam, and the lives of relevant figures within the Jewish community of the city, such as the family Proops, who were major book producers and sellers during the eighteenth century; and the relation of Dutch Christian Hebraism to the European world of Christian intellectual engagement with Judaism, looking at the transnational networks of Jewish and Christian scholars who shared these books.

Weekly seminars will be convened through the duration of two Oxford terms, 19 January to 13 March and 27 April to 19 June 2015. These will offer a forum for the fellows to address central research topics related to the overall theme of the Seminar.

Visiting Fellows will receive free accommodation provided by the Centre and a stipend of 750 pounds sterling (*pro rata*) per calendar month during the period of their tenure. Travelling expenses up to 500 pounds sterling will also be provided.

Applications by senior scholars, and by scholars at postdoctoral and advanced doctoral level, are all welcome.

**Closing date for applications: 8 January 2014**

For more detailed information see: <http://www.ochjs.ac.uk/academics/visiting-academics/visiting-fellows/>

Or contact:

Professor Shlomo Berger (S.Z.Berger@uva.nl)  
Dr César Mércan-Hamann (cesar@ochjs.ac.uk)