

Fifth Annual
**OXFORD SUMMER INSTITUTE
IN MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY JUDAISM
(OSI – MCJ)**

2 July – 9 July 2018

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
in conjunction with the
Phillip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies, Lehigh University



Garments of Reconciliation - Andi Arnovitz (2009)

**Gender and Judaism:
Perspectives from the Study
of Comparative Religion and Transnationalism**

PROGRAMME



MONDAY, JULY 2

Morning Arrival

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm **SESSION 1: Opening**

Miri Freud-Kandel, Hartley Lachter, Adam Ferziger

Welcome, explanation of concept, expectations

Round table self-introductions/research focus of each participant

3:30pm Coffee Break

4:00pm **SESSION 2: Gender in Nineteenth Century Europe**

Chair: Miri Freud-Kandel

Adam Sutcliffe – 'Gender, Tenacity and Hebraic Virtue in Nineteenth-Century European Culture'

Respondents: Agnes Veto, Jessica Cooperman

Discussion

7:00pm **Welcome Dinner**

Greetings: Martin Goodman



TUESDAY, JULY 3

8:00am Breakfast

10:00am **SESSION 3: Rabbinic Judaism and Christian Theology**

Chair: Hartley Lachter

Agnes Veto – 'Fluid Masculinity: A New Approach to Rabbinic Constructions on Gender'

Daniel Herskowitz – 'Can a Male Saviour Save Women? Debating Jesus' Gender'

Respondents: Martin Goodman, David Sperber

Discussion

12:30pm Lunch

2:00pm **SESSION 4: Women's Leadership in Orthodox Judaism, Protestantism, Catholicism**

Chair: Miri Freud-Kandel

Adam Ferziger – 'Female Clergy in Male Space: The Sacralization of the American Orthodox Rabbinate'

Respondents: Lindsay Simmonds, Ronit Irshai

Discussion

4:00pm Coffee Break

4:30pm **SESSION 5: Sectarianism and Messianism**

Chair: Adam Ferziger

Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar – 'Old Order Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Women: Responses to the Smartphone'

Yitzchak Kraus – 'Women and Redemption: The Mission for Women of the "Seventh Generation" according to the Teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson'

Respondents: Harley Lachter, Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz

Discussion

7:30pm Dinner

9:00pm Movie Night



WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

8:00am Breakfast

10:00am **SESSION 6: Theology**

Chair: Daniel Herskowitz

Hartley Lachter – "'Enthroned in Yonder Heavens": Kabbalah and Divine Masculinity in Early Mormon Theology'

Respondents: Sarah Imhoff, Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar

Discussion

12:00pm Lunch

1:00pm Departure to Oxford for punting/Individual Touring

5:30pm Dinner – Oxford Jewish Congregation – 21 Richmond Rd.

7:30pm *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – Oxford Castle Theatre

Return to Eynsham after the Performance



THURSDAY, JULY 5

8:00am Breakfast

10:00am **SESSION 7: Law and Interpretation in Judaism and Islam**

Chair: Adam Ferziger

Karen Bauer – ‘Science, Pseudo Science, and Common Sense in Modern Shiite Interpretations of Women's Roles’

Ronit Irshai – ‘Jewish Orthodox Feminism – Between Nomos and Narrative’

Respondents: Yitzchak Kraus, Lea Taragin-Zeller

1:00pm Lunch

2:00pm **SESSION 8: Literature and Art**

Chair: Sarah Imhoff

Sandra Chiritescu – ‘Women’s Chains and Liberation: Sonya, the *agune*, and Phyllis, the divorcée, in Blume Lempel’s *Ballad of a Dream*’

David Sperber – ‘Connecting Feminism and Traditional Judaism: Mierle Laderman Ukeles’s Jewish Feminist Art, 1970s through 1980s’

Respondents: Adriana Jacobs, Jessica Cooperman

4:00pm Coffee Break

4:30pm **SESSION 9: What We Have Learned to this Point:
Open Discussion**

Moderator: Hartley Lachter

7:00pm Dinner



FRIDAY, JULY 6

8:00am Breakfast

9:30am **SESSION 10: The UK**

Chair: Rivka Neriya Ben-Shahar

Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz – ‘Magic or Piety? Exploring Definitions of Jewish Women's Ritual Practice’

Lea Taragin-Zeller – ‘Religious Sisterhood: Encounters of Gender, Religion and Belonging in the UK’

Respondents: Miri Freud-Kandel, Agnes Veto

Discussion

- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Transfer to Wolfson College, Oxford
- 7:00pm **Optional Shabbat Program - See separate schedule**



SUNDAY, JULY 8

- 8:30am Breakfast
- 10:00am **SESSION 11: Text Workshop: The Israeli Debate**
Chair: Ronit Irshai
Adam Ferziger – ‘An Israeli Religious-Zionist Dissection of the Confluence between Feminism, Post-Modernism, and the IDF’
Respondents: Sara Hirschhorn, Yaacov Yadgar
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 2:00pm **SESSION 12: Body, Identity and the American Jew**
Chair: Lea Taragin-Zeller
Jessica Cooperman – ‘“Real Jews,” “Poor Jehudas,” and Ideals of Jewish Masculinity in the World War I American Expeditionary Forces’
Sarah Imhoff – ‘The Early Queer Life of Jessie Sampter?’
Respondents: Jaclyn Granick, Angelina Palmen
- 4:00pm Free time
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 7:30 **SESSION 13: Localism, Transnationalism, Gender, and Judaism**
Chair and Opening Comment: Adam Ferziger
Respondents: Yaacov Yadgar, Sarah Imhoff
- 9:00pm Informal Get-Together – Eagle and Child Pub



MONDAY, JULY 9

- 8:00am Breakfast - OJC
- 9:00am **SESSION 14: Summary Session and Topics for the Future**
Moderators: Adam Ferziger, Miri Freud-Kandel, Hartley Lachter



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Convenors:

Adam Ferziger (Bar-Ilan University)
Miri Freud-Kandel (University of Oxford)
Hartley Lachter (Lehigh University)



Participants:

Karen Bauer (Institute of Ismaili Studies)
Sandra Chiritescu (Columbia University)
Jessica Cooperman (Muhlenberg College)
Martin Goodman (University of Oxford)
Jaclyn Granick (University of Oxford)
Daniel Herskowitz (University of Oxford)
Sara Hirschhorn (University of Oxford)
Sarah Imhoff (Indiana University)
Ronit Irshai (Bar-Ilan University)
Adriana X Jacobs (University of Oxford)
Yitzchak Kraus (Bar-Ilan University)
Rivka Neriya-Ben Shahar (Sapir College)
Angelina Palmen (University of Oxford)
Lindsay Simmonds (London School of Jewish Studies)
David Sperber (Yale University)
Adam Sutcliffe (King's College London)
Lea Taragin-Zeller (University of Cambridge)
Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz (London School of Jewish Studies)
Agnes Veto (Vassar College)
Yaacov Yadgar (University of Oxford)



Administration

Tara Coyle
Sue Forteach
Martine Smith-Huvers



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