

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies



Programme for Trinity Term 2021

OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

THE DAVID PATTERSON LECTURES

For information on how to join the lectures online, please follow the links below.

Thursdays 6.00-7.00 pm (UK time) unless otherwise stated

ALL WELCOME

Week 1, 29 April ***Please note that this lecture will start at 5pm*******

Professor Abigail Green (Oxford); Professor Simon Levis Sullam (Università Ca' Foscari Venezia); Professor Jessica Marglin (University of Southern California); Professor Derek Penslar (Harvard University)

'Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism'

In order to book for this lecture, please click on the link and **please note that this lecture will start at 5pm**: <https://www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk/event/jews-liberalism-antisemitism/>

Week 2, 6 May

Dr Daniel Herskowitz (Oxford) in discussion with Prof. Judith Wolfe (University of St. Andrews), Prof. Elliot R. Wolfson (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Prof. Peter Trawny (University of Wuppertal)

Book launch: 'Daniel M. Herskowitz's *Heidegger and His Jewish Reception*'

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsdOCrrz8rHNXJxnFG92vJkg_x5yNfg6a

Week 3, 13 May

Dr Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad (Cambridge)

'Accounts of Arab-Jews in Israel': <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vdu-orzsuE9aP-sNBEWtejxXcQopDwurm>

Week 4, 20 May

Professor Justin Cammy (Smith College), 'The Life and Destruction of the Vilna Ghetto: Sutzkever and Yiddish Memory Writing'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcu6qrjMqEtFQ-pJQM2adqYHrfgUOLpXB>

Week 5, 27 May

Professor Leah Garrett (CUNY), Book launch: 'X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War Two': <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvd-qoqT0iH9AzJFeLXuIMMqCaWNv-7x-G>

Week 6, 3 June

Professor Erich Gruen (Berkeley) and Professor Alison Salvesen (Mansfield) with closing remarks by Professor Martin Goodman (OCHJS), 'The Septuagint In the Hellenistic World'

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-does-the-septuagint-mean-for-the-wider-hellenistic-world-tickets-148887828503>

Week 7, 10 June**CANCELLED******

Professor Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa), 'Partings of the Ways: Exit Ramps and Divorce Papers': <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speakers-lectures-tickets-150072104705>

Week 8, 17 June

Professor Alan Silman (Oxford), 'Matrilineal or Patrilineal Descent: How Modern Genetic Studies Have Shone Light on Jewish History'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0kdu-hrDstE9TImA2Z4JhRyf0Z28HwAzng>





LANGUAGE CLASSES

BIBLICAL HEBREW

Weeks 1-8, Beginners and Continuers

Thursdays: Beginners: 6.00-7.00 pm
Continuers: 7.00-8.00 pm

Please register with the tutor, **Dr Stephen Herring**, at stephen.herring@orinst.ox.ac.uk.



MODERN HEBREW ULPAN

Weeks 1-8, Absolute Beginners* , Lower Intermediates and Upper Intermediates*****

Wednesdays: Absolute Beginners: 4.30-5.30 pm
Lower Intermediates: 5.30-6.40 pm
Upper Intermediates: 6.40-7.40 pm

All classes will be held via Zoom throughout the term. Please register with the tutor, **Mrs Esther Yadgar**, at esther.yadgar@orinst.ox.ac.uk for a link to the class.

***Absolute Beginners:** Learning the alphabet, speaking, reading and writing

****Lower Intermediates:** Starting from present and past tenses, simple verbs. We will continue reading short paragraphs and move on to future tense and other forms of verbs

*****Upper Intermediates:** Conversational Hebrew; reading of short articles followed by conversation

Please note that language classes do not begin at the beginner's level each term.



YIDDISH CLASSES

Weeks 1-3 and 5-9, Not-Quite Beginners and Intermediate/Advanced

Mondays: Not-Quite Beginners: 3.45-4.45 pm
Intermediate/Advanced: 4.50-5.50 pm

Please register with the tutor, **Dr Beruriah Wiegand** (Corob Lecturer in Yiddish, OCHJS), at beruriahwiegand@gmail.com.

**All are welcome. Members of the public are advised that in some classes teaching may be adjusted to meet University requirements.
Times listed above are taken as UK time.**





BRICHTO ISRAELI ARTS & CULTURE LECTURE

The following lecture will be given in Trinity Term 2021 by

Dr Ronit Irshai (Bar Ilan University)

‘Jewish and Muslim Feminisms in Israel – Nomos, Narrative and Multiculturalism’

Week 4

Wednesday, 19 May

6.00 pm (UK time) via Zoom

To register please follow this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsd-6prDIvEt1Kf72LrFNJYwhq4CfU7mK->

Abstract

This lecture is based on a work in progress which I conduct together with Dr. Tanya Zion-Waldoks and Adv. Bana Shoughry. We examine the legal struggles of Jewish and Muslim feminism in Israel and consider the complex intersection between gender, culture, state and law. Theoretically, we adopt the notion of nomos and narrative, drawn from Robert Cover’s seminal work, and develop it to propose a new theoretical model, the “narrative ripeness test” which evaluates the state of the relationship between culture and law and gages the possible effects of state intervention, or lack thereof. As a case study, the lecture deals with the 2017 appointment of a Palestinian-Muslim woman to position of qadi (judge in a Muslim Shari’a court of law) vis-à-vis the Jewish feminist struggle to appoint women to administrative and religious roles in Rabbinic courts.





LUNCHTIME SEMINARS IN JEWISH STUDIES

The following seminars will take place via Zoom at 1.00 pm (UK time)

Week 3

Wednesday May 12

Professor David Aberbach
(McGill)

‘The Hebrew Bible and Modern National Literature’

To join this seminar, please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pcuquqjsvGdQDfm7MdeREPrv43O7-R2wO>



Week 5

Wednesday May 26

Dr Hila Dayfani
(Oriental College)

‘The Challenge of the Unidentified Fragments from Qumran: 4QpaleoGenExodlas a Test Case’

To join this seminar, please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEQu6przgsGtX73QmzbYww8ohAieqgcbeA>



**ACADEMIC PROGRAMME
OF THE CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES
of the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

**SEMINAR ON JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE
IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN PERIOD**

Tuesdays from 2 to 3.30 pm

For information on how to join the seminars online, please follow the links below

Convenors: Martin Goodman and Alison Salvesen

Week 1, April 27

No seminar

Week 2, May 4

Dr Kristin de Troyer (Salzburg) [LXX Forum], 'Bestowing Honour and Wearing the Appropriate Clothes: the Book of Esther in Greek'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-uqpjkuHtZPq5NDzuoNLNbYuihlqxG>

Week 3, May 11

Dr Joseph Scales (Birmingham), 'Before the Synagogue? The Emergence of Jewish Communal Spaces in 1st century Galilee'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvdGopzjkG9fIw270IWmbP7g3F85eYzw2>

Week 4, May 18

No seminar

Week 5, May 25

Dr Rodrigo de Sousa (Aix-en-Provence) [LXX Forum], 'The Septuagint and Early Jewish Literary Cultures'

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApfuyurzojHNW0rDcexxfMigZT_mWcyQj

Week 6, June 1

Dr Hallel Baitner (Wolfson), 'Greater than the Former? Continuity and Innovation in the Architectural Depictions of the Second Temple'

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZApdumpRt0qHdf5OB5_sXPzxBPdA3irX3Ff

Week 7, June 8 **CANCELLED******

Professor Adele Reinhartz (Ottawa) [Speaker's Lecture], 'What Does the New Testament Tell Us about the 'Parting of the Ways'?''

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/speakers-lectures-tickets-150072104705>

Week 8, June 15

Dr Benjamin Williams (Oriental Institute and Leo Baeck College), 'The Parable of the Disappearing Gladiators: Interpreting a Late Antique Cultural Reference in Midrash Genesis Rabba'

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvdOqvpjgpH9TexmCusIfNEy-5HHt9uy7Q>





BIBLICAL CRITICISM AND THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Thursdays, 2.00-3.00 pm (UK time), on Zoom

To register, please email cehb@orinst.ox.ac.uk.

Convenor: John Screnock

Week 1, 29 April

Mika Pajunen (Helsinki)

'Methodological Navigation in the Matrix of Manuscripts, Literary Works, and Textual Traditions'

Week 2, 6 May

Innocent Himbaza (Fribourg)

'4QLeviticusb as a Textual Witness to Leviticus'

Week 3, 13 May

Brent Strawn (Duke)

'Rethinking "Alternative" Sequences in the Psalms Manuscripts from Qumran'

Week 4, 20 May

Sarianna Metso (Toronto)

'Scribal Handling of Literary Transitions in the Manuscripts from Qumran'





ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR

Tuesdays 2.15 pm (UK time), online via Zoom

Convenor: Yaacov Yadgar (OSGA and DPIR)

Link to join Zoom Meeting (valid for all Israel Studies and Reconsidering Early Jewish Nationalist Ideologies seminars in Trinity term 2021)

<https://zoom.us/j/92898163373?pwd=Ym90S2pmMGRNdVppZnZLcEhNV2kyUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 9816 3373

Passcode: 538897

Week 1, 27 April

Ben Kasstan (University of Bristol)

' "Jews, open your eyes, wait, why hurry?" Public health and the Cultural Politics of Protection in Jerusalem'

Abstract

Drawing on an ethnographic study into child care and health in Jerusalem, this paper explores the cultural politics of protection that surrounds responses to public health intervention during outbreaks of infectious disease. This paper situates the voices of Orthodox and Haredi Jewish parents alongside activism and print cultures (*pashkevilim*) that circulated anonymous messaging in Jerusalem neighbourhoods – casting public health intervention against historical narratives of danger and deception. Pandemic responses interact with deeply-rooted tensions at the intersection of religion, health and state, as viral outbreaks play into long-running struggles over military conscription and the character of the 'Jewish state.'

Week 3, 11 May

Michal Shaul (Herzog College)

'Holocaust Memory and the Rehabilitation of the Ultraorthodox Society in Israel'

Abstract

The talk will discuss the shaping of Holocaust memory in the Ultraorthodox (Haredi) society in Israel and the survivors' role in this process. The reappearance of Ultraorthodox society on the historical map, after the severe blow it suffered in the Holocaust, in demographic, geographic, ideological, theological, and moral terms, was an enigma: How did it chart a new path after it lost the core of its future generation and was deprived of its best teachers, leaders, and rabbis? How did the miraculous revival of this group come to pass in the secular Zionist State of Israel, of all places, where it was a demographic and ideological minority? And how is it that the process of recovery, which took place with surprising speed, was led by Holocaust survivors who personally experienced the inferno and emerged from it broken, beaten, and mourning their dead? The goal of this discussion is to shed light on one aspect of the answer to this complex historical enigma and points out the special role played by the Ultraorthodox Holocaust survivors and by the Holocaust consciousness they passed on in the consolidation of Ultraorthodox society in Israel after the Holocaust. Along the way, the lecture will address a number of key questions, e.g.: Does the Ultraorthodox sector have unique patterns of memory? Did its Holocaust memory follow a

separate path of development, and, if so – to what extent? How does traumatic memory function as a mobilizing force? and so forth.

Week 5, 25 May

Paula Kabalo, Ben-Gurion University

'The "Third" Side of the Coin: A Bottom-Up History of Israel's War of Independence'

Abstract

At the centre of this study stands the organizational array of civic and voluntary entities that represented sectors and subgroups in the Jewish population of pre-independence and formative Israel as they coped with the blow occasioned by the war that engulfed them from late 1947 to early 1949.

As the war unfolded, the voices of ordinary civilians were heard, expressing along with their personal distress that of the rest of their community, and, above all, the hardships and struggle that were their lot and, at the same time, their proactive approach to this hardship and their unwillingness to be passive and static in view of their plight. By choosing the coping mechanism of self-associating, they demonstrated their capabilities for action and thus became a force to be reckoned with.

The purpose of choosing civic association as an axis for retelling the plot of Israel's War of Independence is to propose a path of research by which one may understand the depth of the war experience as it was undergone by the variegated community mosaic that makes up a society.

The study analyses the events of the Israeli War of Independence as a humanitarian crisis characterized by the devastation of quotidian life, loss of sources of livelihood, displacement and separation from the familiar community tapestry, and carrying on amid protracted uncertainty. Those who experienced the war had to contend with its implications as it proceeded and create paths to rehabilitation and recovery afterward.

By contemplating civic associations in the War of Independence, one extends the discussion to new conceptual and theoretical domains: ways in which communities cope with crises and, foremost, studies that track the functioning of social networks and civic associations in order to explain why one group displays resilience while another evidences weakness and fragility. Even if such patterns of self-instigated action not always yielded the hoped-for results, they provided casualties of disaster with an instrument with which they challenged the situation imposed on them, and became active casualties whose voices are heard – stakeholders and community members who had a say and whose distress neither blurred their identity nor rendered them into passive objects on history's chessboard.

Week 7, 8 June

Rachel Rojanski (Brown University)

' "A Foreign and Grating Language"? Yiddish In Israel - A History'

Abstract

Challenging the commonly held view that Yiddish was suppressed and even banned by the Israeli authorities, Rachel Rojanski offers a radical new interpretation of the interaction between Yiddish and Israeli Hebrew culture. Based on detailed archival research, this talk will follow the development of Yiddish in Israel and present Yiddish culture's vibrant growth in Israel's first decades. It will argue that although the Israeli leadership made promoting Hebrew a high priority, it did not have an explicit policy on Yiddish. The language's varying fortunes in Israel

over the years were shaped less by governmental policy than by social and political developments as well as by the state's changing cultural climate.



RECONSIDERING EARLY JEWISH NATIONALIST IDEOLOGIES SEMINAR

Tuesdays 2.15 pm (UK time), online via Zoom

Convenors: Peter Bergamin (Mansfield) and Yaacov Yadgar (St. Anne's)

Link to join Zoom Meeting (valid for all Israel Studies and Reconsidering Early Jewish Nationalist Ideologies seminars in Trinity term 2021)

<https://zoom.us/j/92898163373?pwd=Ym90S2pmMGRNdVppZnZLcEhNV2kyUT09>

Meeting ID: 928 9816 3373

Passcode: 538897

Week 2, 4 May

Prof Aron Shai (Tel Aviv University)

'The Road Not Taken: The Sephardi Vision of Jewish-Arab Co-Existence in Palestine'

Abstract

A close examination of one unique Jewish group that was active at the turn of the century, between the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of Great Britain in the Middle East, a group that was preoccupied with Jewish-Arab relations and the Balfour Declaration, reveals an interesting complex picture. It appears that not all the Jews of the *Old Yishuv* supported the Declaration, and not all the Arabs denounced it and were opposed to the arrival of the Jews to Palestine. Among the inhabitants of the *Old Yishuv*, some Sephardi Jews in Jerusalem and Tiberias, for example, wanted to rectify Jewish-Arab relations and correct the severe damage the Balfour Declaration had inflicted on the Arab/Palestinian cause and consequently on peaceful Jewish-Arab co-existence. After all, it was argued, a prosperous and promising Jewish-Palestinian community was definitely in the Jewish interest. Indeed, some Arabs, if not the masses, looked favourably upon the Zionist project and hoped it would succeed.

Week 4, 18 May

Dr Daniel M Hershkowitz (Oxford)

'Between Exclusion and Intersection: Heidegger's Philosophy and Jewish Volkism'

Abstract

The German philosopher Martin Heidegger's idiosyncratic and deeply philosophical account of the German volk stood at the heart of his political support of National Socialism. This, however, did not prevent some of his Jewish thinkers to identify with the volkish elements in his philosophy and find them pertinent for describing their own condition as Jews in the modern world. This paper will try to explain how these Jewish readers drew on Heidegger's thought while differentiating between his loathsome and anti-Jewish practical politics and his volkism, which was seen as fitting and useful for the Jewish case.

Week 6

No seminar

Week 8, 15 June

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan (University of Technology, Sydney)

'Lederhosen, Dirndl and a Sense of Belonging: Jews and *Trachten* in pre-1938 Austria'

Abstract

In June 1938, only four months after the so-called *Anschluss*, the Nazi administration in Salzburg region announced a ban on Jews and other non-Aryans dressing in local *Volkstrachten*—both authentic and popularised styles. This *Trachtenverbot* highlighted specific forbidden garments—*Lederhosen*, traditional fulled-wool jackets, white *Wadenstutzen*, alpine hats and *Dirndl*—and anyone in breach of the rules was subject to a fine of 133 marks or a period of 2 weeks in prison. Although at the time of the *Anschluss* the majority of Austrian Jews lived in Vienna and did not wear *Trachten* on a regular basis, the donning of these symbolically 'German' garments played a central role in the lives of many. Countless surviving photographs from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries depict Austrian Jews attired in *Volkstrachten* and their popularised form of *Trachtenmoden* while relaxing on holiday or else taken in urban photographic studios. With their multi-layered, symbolic meanings, such forms of attire were an important material factor of self-fashioning and identification among Austrian Jews—especially in the wider context of the question of 'Austrian nationality' during the time of the multi-ethnic Dual Monarchy and post-1918 First Austrian Republic. Using visual and written sources, this paper explores the function of folk styles in the process of self-fashioning and Jewish identification in the early twentieth century.



MODERN JEWISH STUDIES READING GROUP AND WORKSHOP

Everyone is welcome to join our online events this term. Please follow the Eventbrite links to register for the sessions and to receive the links to the Zoom events. There are pre-circulated readings for each meeting, which can be downloaded here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9aojvtvvqltq9pd/AAD9oVCT84i1JqATj_d64z5a?dl=0

Please feel free to email rose.stair@wolfson.ox.ac.uk with any questions.

******Please note the irregular meeting times this term******

Thursday 29 April (Week 1), 3:30-5:00 pm

Dr Miri Freud-Kandel (University of Oxford). Respondent: Professor Hindy Najman (University of Oxford)

'Revelation, Modern Judaism and Boundary Marking'

Pre-reading:

- Miri Freud-Kandel, "Louis Jacobs, Revelation, and the Ongoing Battle to Defend Jewish Orthodoxy" (from *Defending the Faith: Global Histories of Apologetics and Politics in the Twentieth Century*, ed. Todd H. Weir and High McLeod, 2020)
- Hindy Najman, "Reboot" (from *Losing the Temple and Recovering the Future*, Hindy Najman, 2014)

Register for this session here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/revelation-modern-judaism-and-boundary-marking-tickets-151936240385>

Friday 14 May (Week 3), 12:00-1:30 pm

Reading group: Disability Studies and Jewish Studies

Pre-reading:

- Julia Watts Belser, "Disability Studies and the Destruction of Jerusalem" (from *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem*, Julia Watts Belser, 2018)
- Ilana Szobel, "Choreographing the Disabled Body: Performing Vulnerability and Political Change in the Work of Tamar Borer" (2019)

Register for this session here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/reading-group-disability-studies-and-jewish-studies-tickets-151937213295>

Friday 28 May (week 5), 12:00-1:30 pm

Professor Benjamin Pollock (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

'Franz Rosenzweig on the Secrets of Biblical Narrative Form'

Pre-reading:

- Franz Rosenzweig, "The Secret of Biblical Narrative Form" (1928)

Register for this session here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/franz-rosenzweig-on-the-secrets-of-biblical-narrative-form-tickets-151937646591>

Friday 11 June (week 7), 12:30-2:00 pm

Professor Paul Franks (Yale University)

'Contraction: The Metaphysical and Political Significance of a Biblical-Midrashic-Kabbalistic Theme'

Pre-reading:

- Paul Franks, "The Midrashic Background of the Doctrine of Divine Contraction: Against Gershom Scholem on Tsimtsum", from *Tsimtsum and Modernity*, eds. Agata Bielik-Robson and Daniel Weiss (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2021).

Further background reading:

- Hayyim Vital, "The Tree of Life: The Palace of Adam Kadmon," Gate 1, chs. 1-2
- Gershom Scholem, "Isaac Luria and His School" [Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, Lecture 7]
- Gershom Scholem, "Reflections on Jewish Theology," especially, pp.282-83.

Register for this session here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/contraction-the-metaphysical-and-political-significance-tickets-151937979587>



SEMINAR IN MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

Jewish Country Houses at the Modern Jewish History Seminar

Convenors: Abigail Green, David Rechter, Zoe Waxman

This seminar series will not run in Trinity Term 2021



Visiting Scholars

Professor David Aberbach

Dr Peter Bergamin

Dr Jeremiah Coogan

Dr Myrna Martin

Dr Daniel Waller

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