

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies



Programme for Michaelmas Term 2021

OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

THE DAVID PATTERSON LECTURES

Thursdays 6.00-7.00 pm (UK time)

Clarendon Institute Building, Walton Street (unless otherwise stated)

Week 1, 14 October ****ONLINE LECTURE****

Dr Kerem Tinaz (Koç University); Dr Oscar Aguirre-Mandujano (University of Pennsylvania);
in conversation with Professor Laurent Mignon (Oxford)

'Book Launch: Sephardic Trajectories'

In order to register for this lecture, please click on the link and

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkce-ppzguGdHwjFJu70u47E6BeFxIYRDL>

Week 2, 21 October

Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger

'More on Christian Hebraism in Medieval England: New Evidence from a Manuscript from
John Selden's Collection'

Week 3, 28 October ****Please note that this lecture will take place simultaneously in ORIEL COLLEGE and ONLINE****

Professor Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa)

'Partings of the Ways: Exit ramps and Divorce papers'

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/separation-anxieties-telling-the-stories-of-how-christianity-came-to-be-tickets-162794138651>

Week 4, 4 November

Dr Lucy Pick (University of Chicago)

'Encounter in Toledo? Maimonides, Samuel ibn Tibbon, and Michael Scot'

Week 5, 11 November

Dr Daniel Waller (Oriël)

'The Art of Magical Narrative: Persuasive Storytelling in Jewish Aramaic Spell Texts from Late
Antique Babylonia'

Week 6, 18 November

Dr Adam Shear (University of Pittsburgh)

'Medieval Hebrew Books: The View from the Sixteenth-Century Printshop'

Week 7, 25 November

Dr Jeremiah Coogan (Keble)

'The Anxieties of Shared Books in Late Ancient Palestine'

Week 8, 2 December

No lecture this week. See below **THE FOURTH ALFRED LEHMANN
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

Refreshments to follow

ALL ARE WELCOME





THE FOURTH ALFRED LEHMANN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The following lecture will be given by

Professor Francesca Trivellato (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton)

‘Jewish Invisibility Before (and After) Adam Smith’s Invisible Hand’

**Week 8
Thursday, 2nd December**

5.00 pm (UK time)

**At the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room
Clarendon Institute Building
Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG**

Refreshments to follow

ALL ARE WELCOME

Abstract:

This talk revisits the links between medieval and modern antisemitism by discussing the fears generated in European Christian societies first by forced baptisms and later, by the granting of citizenship rights to Jews –two phenomena that threatened to dissolve clear and identifiable boundaries between Christians and Jews. It connects these fears to religious and economic changes across three epochs: the Middle Ages, the Counter-Reformation, and the post-Emancipation period. Overall, it shows how the expansion of private financial markets reproduced new and old antisemitic tropes by raising the specter of Jewish “invisibility.”





LANGUAGE CLASSES

BIBLICAL HEBREW

Weeks 1-8, Beginners and Continuers

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

All classes will be held via Zoom throughout the term. 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*****

Mondays: Absolute Beginners: **12:30**

Thursdays: Lower Intermediates: **12:30**

Thursdays: Upper Intermediates: **13:30**

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.



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.





OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES

We are pleased to announce 2021-22 as the inaugural year of the new Oxford School of Rare Jewish Languages (OSRJL) of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (OCHJS), in collaboration with other institutions across Europe and beyond including [ILARA](#). Beginning in October 2021, OSRJL will offer a range of free online language classes on eleven vernacular languages, spoken and/or written by Jews from the Middle Ages until today, taught by leading academics at universities in Europe and elsewhere.

Jewish languages are an essential part of the Jewish history, creativity, culture, and identity. Usually written using the Hebrew alphabet and including Hebrew and Aramaic words to express specifically Jewish concepts, these languages share common features even when their linguistic definitions vary. Although these Jewish languages were originally used as means to communicate with the world outside Jewish communities, such vernaculars became the languages of Jewish families, the means of expressing emotions and daily concerns, and, in many cases, vehicles for literature and science as well as tokens of Jewish identity.

Examples of extremely important, immaterial Jewish heritage, some of these Jewish languages are in danger of extinction while others are already dead, known only from early writing. Therefore, OSRJL responds to a real need: European academia offers very few learning opportunities for most of these rare Jewish languages, whereas new research programmes stress their fragility and immense role in Jewish life and culture.

The OSRJL will be the first online school of its kind. By offering free, online teaching of rare Jewish languages and their cultural and historical contexts, along with public lectures and an educational blog series (forthcoming [here](#)) on the same topics, OSRJL aims to preserve, spark interest in, enable access to, and reflect on the nature and role of Jewish languages as rich linguistics facets of Jewish life and history.

Student places are available by application only and are offered at no cost to students. Spaces are limited and priority will be given to current university students, but other members of the public are welcome to apply.

Languages taught and their teachers through OSRJL will include the following. Click on the language name for class descriptions and more information.

[Baghdadi Judeo-Arabic](#) (Dr Assaf Bar Moshe)

[Classical Judeo-Arabic](#) (Friederike Schmidt)

[Judeo-French](#) (Dr Sandra Hajek)

[Judeo-Greek](#) (Dr Julia Krivorutchko)

[Judeo-Italian](#) (Dr Marilena Colasuonno)

[Judeo-Neo-Aramaic](#) (Dr Dorota Molin)

[Judeo-Persian](#) (Dr Ofir Haim)

[Judeo-Tat](#) (Prof Gilles Authier & Dr Murad Suleymanov)

[Judeo-Turkish](#) (Prof Laurent Mignon)

[Karaim](#) (Prof Henryk Jankowski)

[Ladino](#) (Dr Ilil Baum & Dr Carlos Yebra López)

[Yiddish](#) (Dr Beruriah Wiegand)

APPLICATIONS FOR CLASSES BEGINNING IN MICHAELMAS TERM ARE NOW CLOSED. We will not accept any further applications for classes beginning in said term. We will update the website (<https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/language-classes/oxford-school-of-rare-jewish-languages/>) with application forms for classes beginning in Hilary and Trinity terms soon. Please do not use old application forms to apply for classes beginning later in the year; such forms will not be accepted. **Please note that the schedule below is subject to change.**

Class Title	Michaelmas Term 2021**	Hilary Term 2022**	Trinity Term 2022**
Advanced Baghdadi Judeo-Arabic	Tuesdays @ 15:45-16:45	(Time TBC)	(Time TBC) Yearlong Course
Beginners Baghdadi Judeo-Arabic	Wednesdays @ 14:00-15:00		Yearlong Course
Classical Judeo-Arabic <i>(requires basic knowledge of Modern Standard Arabic)</i>	Fridays @ 11:30-12:30	Two-Term Course	Not being offered
Judeo-French	Not being offered	Thursdays @ 17:00-18:00	Not being offered
Judeo-Greek	Not being offered	Not being offered	Wednesdays @ 16:00-17:00
Judeo-Italian	Wednesdays @ 18:30-19:30		Yearlong Course
Judeo-Neo-Aramaic	Not being offered	Tuesdays @ 14:30-15:30	Two-Term Course
Judeo-Persian	Not being offered	Tuesdays @ 16:00-17:00	Not being offered
Judeo-Tat	Tuesdays @ 17:00-18:00		Yearlong Course
Judeo-Turkish	Not being offered	Not being offered	Thursdays @ 17:00-18:00
Karaim	Not being offered	Wednesdays @ 17:00-18:00	Not being offered
Beginners Ladino	Tuesdays @ 10:00-11:00		Yearlong Course

Beginners Ladino	Thursdays @ 15:30-16:30	(Time TBC)	(Time TBC) Yearlong Course
Beginners Yiddish	Mondays @ 14:30- 15:30		Yearlong Course
Beginners Yiddish	Thursdays @ 12:00-13:00		Yearlong Course
Advanced Beginners Yiddish	Mondays @ 15:45- 16:45		Yearlong Course
Intermediate/Advanced Yiddish	Mondays @ 17:00- 18:00		Yearlong Course



Between the Besht and Bulletproof Stockings: An Introduction to Hasidic Music

Online course via Zoom on Tuesdays 4-5pm (UK time)

Tutor: Dr Diana Matut

Hasidic music is often thought of as being merely synonymous with the singing of *nigunim* ('wordless' melodies). Modern Hasidism, however, can boast a tremendous musical culture, encompassing liturgy, traditional melodies used for learning in religious schools and Yeshivot, *nigunim* (distinct in various Hasidic groups), folk songs, vocal and instrumental wedding- and dance music as well as Pop, Rock, Hip Hop and Rap, modern choir compositions or music for film, radio and other media to name but a few.

Hasidic star musicians such as Lipa Schmeltzer or Matisyahu, 'boy groups' and child singers, singer-songwriters and women's bands have shaped and transformed the perception of Hasidic music-making and of Hasidism itself among Jewish and non-Jewish contemporaries. Music videos, conforming to modern aesthetics, are being placed prominently for promotional and missionary purposes on the internet while 'kosher' forms such as CDs and cassettes are still widely in use and concerts attract thousands of listeners.

Currently, women from several Hasidic communities claim their place as musicians, performing officially for all-female audiences only and recording professionally. However, less outward forms of female singing thrives among the Satmar community, where it is regarded as a return to traditions still remembered but lost as a communal practice.

This course will cover the following topics among others: The Heart and the Wellspring: Music in Hasidic Thought; Changing the world: Nigunim – ‘wordless’ melodies; To make a bride weep: Music of the Hasidic wedding; Women and Hasidic music: traditions and reclaimed spaces; Hasidic music industry and pop culture.

This course is free of charge.

Please note that this course is no longer accepting students.



OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURES

The following lecture will be given by

Professor Aaron Rubin (Penn State University)
‘Varieties of Judeo-Italian and their Characteristics’

Week 5, Wednesday, 10th November
6.00 pm (UK time)

Online Via Zoom

Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuc-2vpj8tEtCgdZpCvna-hMloWYEsEAPi>

ALL ARE WELCOME



OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURES

The following lecture will be given by

Dr. Carlos Yebra López (New York University)
‘The Digital Revitalization of Ladino in the 21st Century’

Week 7, Tuesday, 23rd November
6.00 pm (UK time)

Online Via Zoom

Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0ofumhqTIpH9C0DmpAqooDhVexp6uTjmIm>

ALL WELCOME



BABYLONIAN TALMUD

Wednesdays from 5.30-6.30 pm via Zoom (UK time)

Tutor: Dr. Norman Solomon

Interested persons are welcome to join Dr. Norman Solomon's ongoing Talmud class on Wednesdays from 5.30-6.30 pm. The text for study in Michaelmas Term is the first section of Qiddushin Chapter 1. The text will be studied in the context of Rabbinic Judaism and with regard to its historical setting. Some familiarity with Hebrew and Aramaic will be assumed. The class will be conducted by Zoom only throughout Michaelmas Term, possibly reverting to 'in person' in Hilary Term 2022. New students should register their interest directly with Dr Solomon at normansolomon@btinternet.com



LUNCHTIME SEMINAR IN JEWISH STUDIES

The following seminar will take place at 1.00 pm (UK time)

**Catherine Lewis Lecture Room
Clarendon Institute Building
Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG**

Wednesday 20th October

**Dr Alessandro Bruni
(Università Ca' Foscari Venezia)**

**'The Problem of Textual Arrangement in the Old Church Slavonic Version of
the Book of Daniel'**





**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

**Room 207, Clarendon Institute Building,
Walton Street Oxford, OX1 2HG (unless otherwise stated)**

Seminars held at the Clarendon Institute will be followed by coffee, tea and biscuits in the
Common Room

Convenors: Martin Goodman and Alison Salvesen

Week 1, October 12

Dr David Friedman (Cambridge)
'Demokratia in Philo and Josephus'

Week 3, October 26

Professor Adele Reinhartz (Ottawa)
'What does the New Testament tell us about the 'parting of the ways' (Speaker's Lecture)
****Please note that this lecture will take place simultaneously in ORIEL COLLEGE and
ONLINE**** (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/separation-anxieties-telling-the-stories-of-how-christianity-came-to-be-tickets-162794138651>)

Week 4, November 2

Dr Jeremiah Coogan (Keble)
'Origen's Hexapla and approaches to parallel texts in the Second Sophistic' (LXX Forum)

Week 6, November 16

Professor Alison Salvesen (Mansfield)
'Symmachus between Jews and Christians: the state of the question' (LXX Forum)





SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST AND MEMORY

Tuesdays, 5pm

The Clarendon Institute, Room 207
Walton Street Oxford, OX1 2HG

Convenors: Zoë Waxman and Peter Bergamin

Week 1: October 12

Paul Moore (University of Leicester)

'Those in Glasshouses Shouldn't Throw Stones': The German People and the Concentration Camps, 1933-1945

Week 3: October 26

Rosie Ramsden (University of Northumbria)

Queering Holocaust Studies: New Reading Practices for Understanding Representations of Queer Relationships in Women's Published Testimonies of the Holocaust

Week 5: November 9

Rachel Pistol (KCL)

Interpreting Second World War Internment History of the UK in a Digital Age

Week 7: November 23

Rebecca Clifford (University of Durham)

Child survivors, psychoanalysis and photography: one orphanage after the Holocaust





ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR

Tuesdays, 2:15-4.00pm The Board Room, The Middle East Centre, St Antony's College

Please note places are limited. The first 10 people to arrive at the seminar on the day will get a place; once capacity is reached we will not be able to accept any more audience members.

Please click on the individual links below for further details

Convenor: Yaacov Yadgar (OSGA/DPIR/St. Anne's)

Week 1, 12 October

[*Dear Palestine: a social history of the 1948 war*](#)

Shay Hazkani (University of Maryland)

Week 2, 19 October

[*Pathways toward a Jewish Israeli restorative ethics*](#)

Atalia Omer (University of Notre Dame)

Week 3, 26 October

[*A road towards atonement? Why only West Germany came to "atone" for the Nazi crimes*](#)

Kathrin Bachleitner (LMH)

Week 4, 2 November

[*Supporting denial: Israel's foreign policy and the Armenian genocide*](#)

Eldad Ben Aharon (PRIF)

Week 5, 9 November

[*Religion and state among the Palestinian-Arabs in Israel: a multicultural entrapment*](#)

Michael Karayanni (Hebrew University)

Week 6, 16 November

[*Israeli foreign policy since the end of the Cold War*](#)

Amnon Aran (City)

Week 7, 23 November

[*The Colonizing Self \(Or: Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine\)*](#)

Hagar Kotef (SOAS)

Week 8, 30 November

[*The Social Life of Hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel: A Global History*](#) (Online via Zoom)

Haggai Ram (Ben Gurion University)





MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT SEMINAR

Conveners: Miri Freud-Kandel and Daniel M. Herskowitz

Wednesdays at 5pm

Online via Zoom

This new seminar series has been inaugurated jointly under the auspices of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies & the Faculty of Theology & Religion to create a forum for considering recent developments in modern Jewish thought. In particular, these seminars are intended to provide a forum for discussing recently published books in the field.

All are welcome. In order to attend these seminars, please click on the links below to register.

Week 4

3 November, Wednesday 5:00 pm (online)

Prof. Naomi Seidman will discuss her book *Sarah Schenirer and the Bais Yaakov Movement: A Revolution in the Name of Tradition* (Littman 2019)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83324540465?pwd=OFV6V1MyTmdPdDlnNFUya1N1eWM5UT09>

Week 6

17 November, Wednesday 5:00 pm (online)

Prof. Michael Fishbane will discuss his book *Fragile Finitude: A Jewish Hermeneutical Theology* (Chicago, 2021)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwocOugqjoiG93gVSALpetE0oaQPIUOHPy0>

Week 8

~~1 December, Wednesday 5:00 pm (online)~~ ****Postponed to Week 2, 26 January 2022, 5pm****

Prof. Tamar Ross will discuss the publication of a new edition of her book *Expanding the Palace of Torah: Orthodoxy and Feminism* (Brandeis, 2005, 2021)





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/smp5735kudo0xjx/AAAk657Z7NWyjTAupEx0aSEha?dl=0>

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

Please note the irregular meeting times this term.

Week 1, Thursday 14 October, 15:00-16:30

Professor Michah Gottlieb (NYU), *The Jewish Reformation: Bible Translation and Middle-Class Judaism as Spiritual Enterprise*

Pre-reading:

- Michah Gottlieb, *The Jewish Reformation: Bible Translation and Middle-Class Judaism as Spiritual Enterprise* (OUP, 2021). Selected chapters:
 - “Introduction: The Jewish Reformation”
 - “A Man of No Party: Hirsch’s *Nineteen Letters on Judaism as Bible Translation*”
 - “Conclusion: The Jewish Counter-Reformation”

Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-jewish-reformation-bible-translation-and-middle-class-judaism-tickets-181033695657>

Week 3, Friday 29 October, 14:00-15:30

Professor Leora Batnitzky (Princeton), *Rethinking Christian and Jewish Exceptionalisms*

Pre-reading:

- Leora Batnitzky, “Rethinking Christian and Jewish Exceptionalisms” (*Modern Theology*, 2021)

Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rethinking-jewish-and-christian-exceptionalisms-tickets-181073053377>

Week 5, Friday 12 November, 12:30-14:00

Making the Desert Bloom: Between the Bible and Modern Hebrew Poetry

Pre-reading:

- Yehuda Amichai, "Jews in the Land of Israel" (1971) [in Hebrew and English]
- Hayim Nahman Bialik, "The Last Dead of the Desert" (1896) [in Hebrew and English]
- Excerpts from the book of Isaiah
- Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, "Our Homeland, the Text... Our Text, the Homeland: Exile and Homecoming in the Modern Jewish Imagination" (*Michigan Quarterly Review* 31, no. 1, 1992)
- Hindy Najman, "Towards a Study of the Uses of the Concept of Wilderness in Ancient Judaism" (from *Past Renewals: Interpretive Authority, Renewed Revelation and the Quest for Perfection in Jewish Antiquity*, Brill, 2010)

Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-the-desert-bloom-between-the-bible-and-modern-hebrew-poetry-tickets-181083885777>

Week 7, Friday 26 November, 12:30-14:00

Cynthia Baker's *Jew* in dialogue

- Cynthia Baker, "Introduction" and "Terms of Debate" (from *Jew*, Rutgers University Press, 2017)
- Short responses:
 - Daniel Boyarin, "Yeah Jew!" (Marginalia Forum on Cynthia Baker, *Jew*, 2017)
 - Annette Yoshiko Reed, "Jew and the Making of the Christian Gaze" (Marginalia Forum on Cynthia Baker, *Jew*, 2017)

Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cynthia-bakers-jew-2017-in-dialogue-tickets-181102782297>



**RECONSIDERING EARLY JEWISH NATIONALIST IDEOLOGIES
SEMINAR**

There will be no seminars in Michaelmas 2021.
This seminar will reconvene in Hilary 2022





VISITING SCHOLARS: Michaelmas Term 2021

Professor Alessandro Maria Bruni
Dr Jeremiah Coogan
Dr Hila Dayfani
Ms Michal Friedlander
Ms Belena Miruna
Dr Lucy Pick
Professor Adam Shear
Dr Daniel Waller



THURSDAY COFFEE AND CAKE

Every Thursday morning during term from 11.00 to 11.30am in the Common Room.

An opportunity to meet and catch up with others working in Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

All are very welcome



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