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OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

Week 2

Professor Sarah Bunin Benor
(Hebrew Union College)

'Jewish Languages: Commonality and Diversity'

Sarah Bunin Benor is Vice Provost and Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Linguistics at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (LA). She received her Ph.D. from Stanford University in Linguistics in 2004. Her books include *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism* (Rutgers University Press, 2012) and *Hebrew Infusion: Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps* (Rutgers University Press, 2020). Dr. Benor is founding co-editor of the *Journal of Jewish Languages*, director of the Jewish Language Project, and creator of the Jewish Language Website and the Jewish English Lexicon.

Abstract: From Yiddish and Ladino to Bukharian and Judeo-Greek, Jews around the world have spoken distinctly from their non-Jewish neighbors. This session explores the linguistic diversity of the Jewish people with an emphasis on shared traits. While speaking varieties of their local language, Jews have incorporated elements of Hebrew and Aramaic, influences from other ancestral languages, archaisms, and innovations. Through texts and music videos, this engaging talk explains how Jews have simultaneously been a part of and apart from their surrounding society. The session ends with information about the endangered status of many longstanding Jewish languages and the emergence of new ones, like Jewish English and Jewish French.

Tuesday, 3 May 2022

6.00 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom

Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEuf-2qrT8pHdz4uDX8oocR9hxjz49fIKE9>

ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

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