Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

OCHJS

The David Patterson Lectures
Week 2

Dr Moshe Lavee
(University of Haifa)

'Exploring Intertextuality: Detection of Inter-religious Contacts in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Sources'

Moshe Lavee is Senior Lecturer of Talmud and Midrash in the Department of Jewish History and Bible in the University of Haifa. Lavee is the director of the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of the Cairo Genizah, the BSc program in Digital Humanities and the eLijah-Lab for DH applications in Jewish Studies. His thematic studies focus on demarcation of identity and Gender in Rabbinic Literature. In the last decade, his work on the reception of Aggadic Midrash as documented in the Genizah developed into the study of Judeo-Arabic homiletics. In the field of Digital Humanities Lavee works on projects aimed at full textual availability of manuscripts, as well as and supervised cataloguing and analysis of intertextual relations based on text reuse detection methods. His book *The Rabbinic Conversion of Judaism* was published by Brill in 2018, and his poetry book *Yet between Thy Teeth* was published by Pardes in 2020.

Abstract: Text Reuse Detection algorithms, designed originally for the study of genetics and plagiarism are proven immensely helpful for the study of interrelated texts within and across divergent cultural corpora. The model is very simple: a given text is examined against a large corpus of potentially related texts, and all common words and expressions are automatically identified. In recent years we have been exploring the use of such tools in eLijah-Lab at the University of Haifa. At first we used them within the limited realms of Jewish Studies: supervised identification of fragments from the Cairo Genizah; supervised cataloguing of anthological manuscripts, and the study of rabbinic interrelated texts. However, the generic nature of the method enables us to expand it also for comparative studies: orthographic flattening and adaptation of Judeo-Arabic and Arabic texts to search (and find) Islamic sources used by Jewish medieval theologians and philosophers; "Stripping" Jewish and Christian texts to the skeleton of cited verses is promising the potential of expanding the methods and comparing Hebrew, Aramaic and rabbinic texts with Latin, Greek and Svriac Patristic texts.

Thursday, 20 October 2022
6-7pm (UK time)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room (refreshments to follow)

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlc-yorjIuE9BPMYPRFx79D08u6j1_nLXM

ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Refreshments to follow

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