

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Programme for Michaelmas Term 2022



OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

THE DAVID PATTERSON LECTURES

Catherine Lewis Lecture Room
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street

Most lectures will be presented in a hybrid format which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room (refreshments to follow)

No need to register if attending in person.

Thursdays 6.00-7.00 pm (UK time)

Week 1, 13 October

Professor Ruth von Bernuth (University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill)

'Luther in Yiddish: Translating Biblical Literature in Early Modern Europe'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZYlc-yorjluE9BPMYPRFx79D08u6j1_nLXM

Week 2, 20 October

Dr Moshe Lavee (University of Haifa)

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

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZUlfu6grD8uHteXU7dojlbk8juO0Yr-SkT8>

Week 3, 27 October

Dr Ossnat Sharon Pinto (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)

'An Impostor's Diary: David HaReuveni and the Complex Nature of 'Truth''

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZYlcu2upz4uGde4lAtzRpOg6DmOzP23rUFJ>

Week 4, 3 November

Dr Ilana Wartenberg (Tel Aviv University)

'Medieval Hebrew Treatises on the Jewish Calendar: a Reflection of History, Culture, Religion and Science'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZcpdeiurjMsH9bY44jgwsdWSAHXQ6e--384>

Week 5, 10 November

Dr Francesca Valentina Diana (University of Pisa)

'On Rabbis, Travellers and Amulets: Untold Stories from the Archive of the Jewish Community of Pisa'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZlpcO2urTgtE9FBFQWuWP7EPth9V_jM5nYW

Week 6, 17 November

Dr Sarah Gimenez (INALCO, Paris)

'Identity and Alterity in Pre-War Judeo-Spanish Literature (Salonika, 1900-1940)'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZMlceyuqjloGtWD5y7d3qXres5nuasLMVG8>

Week 7, 24 November

Dr Jean Baumgarten (CNRS-EHESS, Paris)

'The Book of Customs (*Sefer ha-Minhagim*) (Venice 1593) by Shimeon Guenzburg and Its Dissemination in the Ashkenazi World'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZUoduGpqqzkoGN33OjtppkHPughW7nw9Lfca>

Week 8, 1 December

Dr. Avital Pilpel (University of Haifa) and **Dr. Shahar Gindi** (Beit Berl College)

Book launch: 'Chess in the Jewish Community of Palestine and Israel: A History'

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZlpc-yqqjMpGNeCWhTLBrn0WfDheqMj7Yo4>





Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies Michaelmas Term 2022

Books in Judeo-Languages: Popular Reading and Scholarship

Convenors: Jean Baumgarten

The seminars will be **in person** only and held at the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room at the Clarendon Institute on Wednesdays from 3-5pm



Comites Latentes, Depositum of the Basel Historical Museum in the Basel University Library, CL 173

Week 1, 12 October

Jean Baumgarten (CNRS-EHESS, Paris)

'Re-Creating the Zohar in Old Yiddish? The *Nahalat Tsevi* (Frankfurt-on-the-Main, 1711)'

Week 2, 19 October

Ilana Wartenberg (Tel Aviv University)

'Scientific and Philosophical Glossaries in Judeo-Italian and Hebrew: The case of Ms. Mich. Add. 39 from the Bodleian Library'

Week 3, 26 October

Francesca Diana (University of Pisa)

'Women as Readers of Judeo-Spanish Musar: From the *Sefer eshet hayil* (Livorno, 1753) to the *Sefer Dat Yehudit* (Livorno, 1827)'

Week 4, 2 November

Ossnat Sharon-Pinto (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

'What Lies Beyond the Horizon? Early Modern Jewish Conceptions of Distant Space'

Week 5, 9 November

Sarah Gimenez (INALCO, Paris)

'Judeo-Spanish Proverbs: Between Oral and Written Tradition: I.S. Révah's Paremiological Corpus (Salonica, 1936)'

Week 6, 16 November

Moshe Lavee (University of Haifa)

'The Iftitahat: A Previously Unknown Judeo-Arabic Homiletic Genre'

Week 7, 23 November

Ruth von Bernuth (University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill)

'A Moral Education: The Yiddish Ben Sira in Ms. Opp. 1261'

Week 8, 30 November

No seminar. See OSAJS conference

ALL ARE WELCOME





Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies
Michaelmas Term 2022

Books in Judeo-Languages: Popular Reading and Scholarship

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

30 November–1 December 2022

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street
Oxford, OX1 2HG

Convenor: Jean Baumgarten (CNRS, Paris)

*Entrance free. No registration for in-person attendance necessary.
Please click [here](#) to register to join via Zoom.*

Please find the programme with abstracts on our website here: <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/books-in-judeo-languages-popular-reading-and-scholarship-final-conference-of-mt22-osajs/>

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

*Entrance free. No registration for in-person attendance necessary.
Please click [here](#) to register to join via Zoom.*

Wednesday, 30 November 2022

9:15–9:30 – Welcome: Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (President of OCHJS)

9:30–9:45 – Introduction: Jean Baumgarten

9:45–11:15 – Panel 1: Yiddish Translations and Adaptations

Chair: Ossnat Sharon-Pinto

Ruth von Bernuth – ‘“Nice to Read and Not Only for Women, Boys, and Girls”: Joseph Maarssen’s *Yehoshua ben Sirak* (Amsterdam, 1712)’

Jean Baumgarten – ‘Kabbalistic Sources in the Old Yiddish Ethical Treatise: The *Kav ha-Yashar* by Tsvi Hirsh Koidanover (Frankfurt, 1705)’

11:15–11:30 – Tea and Coffee Break

11:30–13:00 – Panel 2: Literary Encounters in Judeo-Arabic

Chair: Laurent Mignon

Moshe Lavee – ‘Judeo-Arabic Homilies: Mediating Scholarship to the Wider Public’

Paul B. Fenton – ‘A Rare Algerian Print from 1854: The Travels of Israel Benjamin and Its Judaeo-Arabic Translation’

13:00–14:00 – Lunch Break (*lunch provided for invited presenters only*)

14:00–15:30 – Panel 3: Orality and Literacy in Judeo-Spanish

Chair: Sandra Hajek

Francesca Valentina Diana – ‘Re-educating the Jews: Sephardic Literary Encounters in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean Basin’

Sarah Gimenez – ‘Study of Judeo-Spanish Written and Oral Sources: The *Me’am Lo’ez* and the Book of Proverbs Gathered by I. S. Révah’

16:00-16:15 – Closing Session

Moshe Lavee – ‘Digital Humanities and Jewish Languages’

19:00 – Dinner (*for invited presenters only*)

Thursday, 1 December 2022

9:30-11:00 – Panel 4: Glossaries in Jewish Languages

Chair: Ruth von Bernuth

Ilana Wartenberg – ‘Scientific and Philosophical Glossaries in Judeo-Italian and Hebrew: the Case of Ms. Mich. Add. 39 from the Bodleian Library’

Sandra Hajek – ‘Hebrew-Old French Biblical Glossaries as Testimonies of the Jewish Educational Tradition in Medieval Northern France’

11:00-11:30 – Tea and Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 – Panel 5: Jewish Languages in Contact

Chair: Ilana Wartenberg

Alessandro Guetta – ‘*An Ancient Psalm, a Modern Song*: The Shift from Judeo-Italian to Standard, Literary Italian in the Jewish Translations from Hebrew in the Early Modern Period’

Laurent Mignon – ‘Judeo-Turkish: An Anomaly Among Jewish Languages?’

13:00-14:00 – Lunch Break (*lunch provided for invited presenters only*)

14:00-15:30 – Panel 6: Near and Far in Old Yiddish Texts

Chair: Jean Baumgarten

Ossnat Sharon Pinto – ‘Far-Off Lands in Early Modern Jewish Imagination: Deciphering *Gelilot Eretz Yisrael* (Lublin, 1635)’

Oren Roman – ‘Old Yiddish Epic and Synagogue Liturgy’

16:00-16:30

César Merchán-Hamann – Presentation of Manuscripts and Early Printed Editions in Jewish Languages from the Bodleian Library* (for presenters only)

**Please note that presenters will need to walk to the Weston Library in order to view the manuscripts.*



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*****

Tuesdays: 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.



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 Sukkah Chapter 4. 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. New students should register their interest directly with Dr Solomon at normansolomon@btinternet.com



OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES

APPLICATIONS FOR CLASSES BEGINNING IN MICHAELMAS TERM ARE NOW CLOSED.

We will not accept any further applications for classes beginning in this term.

Please check the OCHJS website to find out when applications open again for classes starting in Hilary Term 2023: <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/language-classes/oxford-school-of-rare-jewish-languages/>

Languages taught and their teachers through OSRJL 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 G. Krivoruchko)
[Judeo-Italian](#) (Dr Marilena Colasuonno)
[Judeo-Moroccan](#) (Haviva Fenton)
[Judeo-Neo-Aramaic](#) (Dr Dorota Molin)
[Judeo-Persian](#) (Maximilian Kinzler & Dr Ofir Haim)
[Judeo-Provençal](#) (Dr Peter Nahon)
[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)
[Old Yiddish](#) (Dr Diana Matut)
[Yiddish](#) (Dr Beruriah Wiegand)



OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURES

The following lecture will be given by
Professor Siam Bhayro
(University of Exeter)

‘Judaean-Syriac: Fragmentary Evidence for Jewish-Christian Scholarly
and Technical Collaboration in the Middle Ages’

Week 7

Tuesday, 22nd November 2022
6.00 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom

Please register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZMsdu2rqTkuE9eASJTEhHF1QxtCnUGmLmvH>

ALL WELCOME



JEWISH MUSIC COURSE

The Oud, the Singer and her Lover...An Introduction to Sephardic Song Cultures – New Music Course

Mondays, 17:00-18:00 UK Time, Online via Zoom

Tutor: Dr Diana Matut

No repertoire of the diverse Jewish song cultures is as surrounded by myths and mystification as the Sephardic (or Judeo-Spanish) one. Between medieval-style interpretation, romantic Orientalism and tres culturas festivals, its living traditions often have been neglected and its vast repertoire condensed to a few repeatedly performed songs.

This seminar is a basic introduction to Sephardic song cultures, presenting performance practices (including women's singing traditions); song genres and styles, such as romances, calendar and life cycle songs, canticas and coplas; the history of research and collections; the revival and its festivals; as well as art-music and fusions. Field recordings and modern interpretations will be analysed and discussed.

Please note that the first day of class for this course will be **Monday 24 October 2022 (Week 3 of Michaelmas Term 2022)** and that the course will continue until **12 December (Week 10)**. **If you have any queries, then please write to Priscilla Lange at academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk.**

Please find further information in this [application form](#) and above. *Applications for this course are now closed.*



Jews and Nature: An Introduction to Jewish Environmental History

Tutor: Dr Netta Cohen

Course Information

Michaelmas Term 2022, 12 October- 30 November

Wednesdays, 2:00 to 3:00 pm

Weeks 1-8: Room 207, Clarendon Institute Building, Walton Street

This class is open to students and the general public. All are welcome to attend!

Course Description

For many decades Jewish European history focused on the intellectual and cultural heritage of this minority group. Following general historiographic trends during the late 20th century, Jewish history scholars have gradually begun to consider other historiographical perspectives and methodologies in their work including micro-history and global history, thus placing greater emphasis on economic, social, and gender history. This course aims to add another layer to recent historiographic developments by introducing to its students the new and innovative subfield of environmental history. Discussing Jewish history via the environmental lens does

not only mean tracing the link between Jews and nature's catastrophes (such as pollution, global warming etc.) but also analyzing Jewish history through nature's connectivity to every-day life experiences. In this context we will ask what role did nature play in the Jewish past? Did Jews interact with nature throughout the centuries, or did they tend to avoid it? How did Jews experience the natural environment through their daily practices and how did this change over time and space? Is kashrut related to ecology? Is nature holy or secular? Can Jewish tradition teach us something about the current environmental crisis? By examining these questions, we will aim to understand the evolution of Jewish (mainly European) approaches towards the natural environment. In each session we will focus on a different nature-related theme while uncovering its position in Jewish tradition and culture at various historical moments from the early modern period until today.

Course Dates and Topics

Week 1: Introduction to Environmental History

Week 2: When Environmental History Meets Jewish History

Week 3: Jewish Spaces and Places

Week 4: Nature in the Holy Land

Week 5: Jewish Food, Agriculture and the Environment

Week 6: A 'Jewish Nature' – Environment and Race

Week 7: Environmental Knowledge – Natural Sciences and Jews

Week 8: Past, Present and Future of Jewish Environmentalism



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**

Convenors: Alison Salvesen and Harald Samuel

Week 4, November 1

Nili Samet (Bar-Ilan)

'Qohelet in Its Relation to the Jewish Literature of Its Time'

Week 5, 8 November

Meredith Warren (Sheffield)

'Invisibility, Erasure, and a Jewish Tombstone in Roman Britain'

Week 6, November 15

Sacha Stern (London)

'The Christian Calendar in Toledot Yeshu and Other Early(?) Jewish Sources'

Week 8, 29 November

Kim Czajkowski/Benedikt Eckhardt (Edinburgh)

'Universitas Iudaeorum: The Legal Status of Jewish Communities and Its Implications'

Seminars will be followed by coffee, tea and biscuits in the Common Room (situated in the basement)



SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST AND MEMORY

Thursdays, 2.15pm

The Clarendon Institute, Room 207

Convenors: Zoë Waxman, Lucinda Armstrong, Peter Bergamin

Week 1: October 13

Peter Bergamin (Mansfield College, Oxford)

'The Limits of Artistic Freedom in the Spa-camp: Protest in Viktor Ullman's Der Kaiser von Atlantis'

Week 3: October 27

Leah Schreiber (UCL)

'Hasidic Life in the Warsaw Ghetto – Daily life and attitudes examined through the prism of Hasidic Values'

Week 4: November 3 (CANCELLED)

Ben Barkow

'Walking in West Cornwall with my great Aunt Hilde, gassed and burned in Auschwitz: Some Poems'

NB. This Seminar will be at 5pm.

Week 5: November 10

Caroline Sturdy Colls (Staffordshire University)

'The Evolution of Mass Murder: Forensic Archaeological Perspectives on Mass Violence at Treblinka Labour and Extermination Camps'

Week 7: November 24 (CANCELLED)

Paris Chronakis (Royal Holloway, University of London)

'Crossing the wine-dark sea Greek Jews and a Mediterranean history of the Holocaust'





MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT SEMINAR

Wednesdays at 5pm
Online via Zoom

Conveners: Miri Freud-Kandel and Daniel M. Herskowitz

This seminar series is held under the joint auspices of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies, the Faculty of Theology & Religion, & the Centre for the Study of the Bible. It is designed 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. Please find further information on the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies website at <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/modern-jewish-thought-seminar/>

Week 3, October 26

Shaul Magid, Dartmouth College, will discuss his book *Meir Kahane: The Public Life and Political Thought of an American Jewish Radical* (2021).

In order to participate in this lecture, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrf-ipqD0sGdSlVrwOW5-k8YiFDi-hVoIw>

Week 5, November 9

Rachel B. Gross, San Francisco State University, will discuss her book *Beyond the Synagogue: Jewish Nostalgia as Religious Practice* (2021).

In order to participate in this lecture, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkcentrTIqH9SCWC_FHdwzxcfarrAhnbtG

Week 7, 23 November

Randi Rashkover, William and Mary College, will discuss her book *Nature and Norm: Judaism, Christianity, and the Theopolitical Problem* (2020).

In order to participate in this lecture, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtcOuhqjsoEtB2IdGzbKJco0AB63zXp1pe>

All are welcome.





ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR SERIES

Tuesdays, 2.15pm

The following seminars will be given at 2.15pm on Tuesdays, at St. Anne's College Seminar Room 5, unless noted otherwise.

A coffee and tea reception will be offered from 2pm.

Conveners: Alissa Symon and Yaacov Yadgar

Week 2, 18 October (Seminar Room 10)

Dr Tilde Rosmer (Zayed), 'The Islamic Movement in Israel'

The Islamic Movement in Israel was established in the early 1980s by and for Palestinian citizens of Israel. It has a non-violent approach focusing on providing its community with grassroots Islamization, as well as catering to this community's socio-economic needs. Its trifecta of goals is to protect Palestinian land, religious sites, and people. In response to the shifting realities of the Israeli social and political context, the leaders and activists of this movement continuously adjusts (and sometimes disagrees on) its methodology and interaction with the state. The movement split in 1996 due to disagreement whether to participate in national elections or not and it has since had two branches. In 2015 the Northern branch of the movement was outlawed, whereas the Southern branch is today part of the Israeli government coalition. Thus, today its supporters are left with the choice between criminalization and integration.

Week 3, 25 October

Dr Michael Pinto-Duschinsky (Oxford and Brunel) retired, 'Israel, Germany, the Holocaust and the Luxembourg Agreement of September 1952: was the Ben Gurion government justified in accepting Adenauer's 'shilumim'/'reparations'/'wiedergutmachung'?'

Michael is former politics fellow of Merton College and Pembroke College, Oxford and Brunel University, advisor to the policy planning staff of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, honorary academic advisor to Claims for Jewish Slave Labour Compensation and survivor of four camps and ghettos in Nazi-occupied Hungary.

In September 1952, West German and Israeli negotiators made an agreement for West Germany to provide and for Israel to accept financial and material aid as a post-Holocaust action. Following intense, sometimes violent controversy, the Knesset voted only by the narrow margin of 61 votes to 50 to accept the deal. In her talk to the Israel Studies Seminar of 26 October 2021, Dr Kathrin Bachleiter, author of *Collective Memory in International Relations* [Oxford University Press, 2021], analysed the pragmatic interests of both sides.

While Israel's severe weaknesses in the early years of the new state in the late 40s and early 50s as well as its lack of friends among major governments the history of the postwar period arguably justified its acceptance of West German financial aid, Michael will stress the high price paid by Holocaust victims for Chancellor Adenauer's carefully qualified wording concerning German responsibility. To this day, Germany does not recognise that slave labour in Auschwitz and elsewhere was illegal.

He also is critical of at least part of the Israeli record concerning Holocaust victims.

Approaching the history from the viewpoint of his fellow Holocaust survivors, Michael recognises the sincerity of some in Germany but is critical of the country's general reputation for having come to terms with its past. His work has involved direct contacts over a long period with diplomatic actors and scholars. He has also had a role in negotiations.

Week 4, November 1

Dr Gabriel Schwake (Sheffield), 'Dwelling on the Green Line: Privatize and Rule in Israel/Palestine'

Concealed within the walls of settlements along the Green Line, the border between Israel and the occupied West-Bank, is a complex history of territoriality, privatisation and multifaceted class dynamics. Since the late 1970s, the state aimed to expand the heavily populated coastal area eastwards into the occupied Palestinian territories, granting favoured groups of individuals, developers and entrepreneurs the ability to influence the formation of built space as a means to continuously develop and settle national frontiers. As these settlements developed, they became a physical manifestation of the relationship between the political interest to control space and the ability to form it. Discussing a socio-political and economic story from an architectural and urban history perspective, this lecture focuses on how this production of space can be seen not only as a cultural phenomenon, but also as one that is deeply entangled with geopolitical agendas.

Week 5, November 8

Dr Suzanne Schneider (Brooklyn Institute for Social Research), 'The Divine People? Mapping the political-theological coordinates of post-liberalism'

The rise of right-wing "populist" parties has generated considerable anxiety over the future of liberal democracy in countries ranging from India and Turkey to Israel, Hungary, Brazil, and the United States, among others. This talk will attend to the political-theological dimensions of what has variously been called post-liberalism, illiberal democracy, or populism (a usage the speaker will contest) by considering the ways in which champions of the post-liberal project understand the relationship between three fundamental political concepts: the law, the state, and the people. Looking in particular at the work of the American scholar Patrick Deneen and the Israeli thinker Yoram Hazony, it will outline the central attributes of the post-liberal vision: a natalist understanding of political community, the denigration of individual freedom, the displacement of "the law" by "the people" as the central legitimating concept, and the embrace of counter-majoritarian and authoritarian measures to enforce the desired moral order. The state, in this schema, is paradoxically required to support and sustain the supposedly organic and homogenous nation that precedes it and indeed justifies its existence. In this way post-liberals differ markedly from libertarian conservatives and represent a new chapter in relations between virtue and the state.

Week 6, November 15

Professor Hillel Cohen (Hebrew University), 'Haters, Love Story: on the relations between Mizrahi Jews and Palestinian Arab'

The prominence of Mizrahi Jews as perpetrators of violent acts against Palestinians that have topped the headlines in recent years was the starting point of my recent study. The media coverage and public denunciation of these incidents are usually accompanied by reference to the attackers' Mizrahi origins, frequently invoking controversy among the commentators: Does 'Mizrahi culture' generate excessive violence towards Palestinians? Are the Israeli media racist,

denouncing Mizrahi Jews more than they do others? Or maybe this violence has to do with class and religious perceptions rather than ethnic origin?

In this talk I will start with suggesting a definition to Mizrahi acts, i.e., what makes a certain act or view (violent or otherwise) to be defined as 'Mizrahi'; then move on to present Mizrahi views and acts regarding the 'Palestinian Question' from the outset of Zionism to present. The changes over time will be discussed in the light of the influence of the Ashkenazi-Zionist hegemony over Mizrahim and Arabs alike, as well as vis a vis Palestinian acts and ideas regarding ethnic relations within the Yishuv and the Jewish society in Israel.

Week 7, November 22

Dr Maya Mark (Ben Gurion), 'Menachem Begin's stand on the imposition of the Military Government, 1948-1966'

The Military Government over the Arab citizens of Israel was established several months after the founding of the state, and ended late in 1966. Although it was initially driven by security considerations and fears concerning the Arab citizens' involvement in hostile activities, its political and economic usefulness to the government and particularly to the ruling party, Mapai, became increasingly apparent over time.

The talk will focus on the campaign waged by Herut, a right-wing National-Liberal party, to abolish the Military Government. Launched in 1959, this campaign was a major rallying cry of the party and its leader Menachem Begin. A critical analysis suggests that Herut derived certain political benefits by campaigning for the annulment of the Military Government, the most important of which was undermining its political rival, Mapai. However, it also establishes that Herut paid a price for its campaign, suffering criticism from within the right-wing political camp and wrestling with allegations from the left-wing political camp. Nevertheless, Begin pursued the cause of abolishing the Military Government while articulating an explicit commitment to democracy, liberty and full civic equality between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

The analysis of Herut's stand on the Military Government far exceeds the parameters of the campaign itself. Firstly, it is an important chapter in the story of the ideological and political rivalry between the labor movement and the revisionist movement. Secondly, the argument over the issue of the Military Government reflects on the ideological baggage and political perceptions of the Israeli Left and Right during the second decade of statehood. And thirdly, given that this was a distinctly liberal campaign conducted by Herut and driven by a profound commitment to liberal values, it provides an important perspective on the fundamental principles of political thought on Israel's Right. In this sense, it lays a foundation for future discussion on ideological shifts within the Israeli right that played out in later periods.

Week 8, November 29

Dr Netta Schramm (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), 'Zionist Neutral? The Sardonic Zionism of Yeshayahu Leibowitz and Ovadia Yosef'

Back in the days when the Israeli labour party enjoyed its dominance, two prominent agenda-setters in Israel shared an unpopular position: Zionism does not define nor embody Judaism. Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, two Orthodox Jews affiliated with different social and religious milieus, were unhappy about the theological overtones existing in most, or even all, streams of Zionism. They devoted their lifework to shaping and critiquing Israeli social and political policies because of religious sentiments. But Leibowitz and Yosef also refused to

turn their “thin” Zionism into a strong ideology. In previous accounts of their positions, Leibowitz is hailed as the first post-Zionist, and Yosef is signaled as the architect of a Mizrahi, Haredi, and Zionist statism. However, turning to their sermons, lectures, and interviews and paying attention to the vocal registers of Leibowitz’s irony and Yosef’s parody shows both these assumptions seem inaccurate. The Iraqi-born Chief Rabbi and the Ostjuden science professor preferred to stick to sardonic statements and even used the same line of arguments (“we are fed up of being ruled by goyim,” as Leibowitz put it) to walk the tightrope between adamant Zionists and anti-Zionists. To sum up, their “pro-zionist” talk was closer to “Zionist neutral” than was previously supposed.



OXFORD HOLOCAUST STUDIES READING GROUP

Tuesdays of even weeks at 1pm

Lecture Theatre, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

*****Please note that this Reading Group is open only for University students and early career researchers interested in the Holocaust*****

This reading group is a place for students and researchers to discuss our research within a supportive community. The group will meet four times a term to discuss issues around our research, some of the main Holocaust historiographical issues, and the latest research and publications in the field. Please email barnabas.balint@magd.ox.ac.uk or cailee.davis@st-annes.ox.ac.uk if you wish to be added to the circulation list.

Week 2 (18th October) – Welcome Back Tea

To celebrate the beginning of yet another academic year, we would like to invite everyone to an informal welcome back session. Please join us for some tea and light refreshments as we discuss our summer research travels and share any progress on our PhD projects.

Week 4 (1st November) – Challenging Narratives: Hong Kong

This week, we will re-evaluate contemporary historical understandings regarding the Holocaust and southeast Asia. As a recent article by Cheuk Him Ryan Sun explains, the British colony of Hong Kong was one of the last ports that Jewish refugees transited through before their arrival in Shanghai. By using recently declassified materials, Sun argues that Hong Kong played a more complicated role than ambiguous refuge for Jews fleeing Nazi persecution: one that provided shelter, but whose colonial administration was responsible for the internment and expulsion of Jewish refugees. Sun’s paper challenges previous conceptions of Hong Kong’s role in the refugee crisis by analysing local and historiographical factors that contributed to Hong Kong being overlooked. Adopting a Global Holocaust framework and following refugees’ paths of escape, he reveals Hong Kong as more than just a transit port, expanding our understandings of the critical role that southeast Asia played in the histories of the Holocaust.

Sun, Cheuk Him Ryan. (2022). “The Holocaust and Hong Kong: an overlooked history”, *Holocaust Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/17504902.2022.2057118

Week 6 (15th November) – Photographs, Testimony, and Exhibition Design

This week, we will be exploring the use of photographs as testimony. Using an article by Alice Tofts and Maiken Umbach, we will discuss the legibility of photos taken by Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and how these photographs are deployed in contemporary exhibition design. The authors focused on four case studies, comprising photos taken in Poland, Germany, and the UK, and interviewed survivors about their significance. Testimonies and personal photos, they conclude, reveal different but complementary aspects of Jewish experiences during the Holocaust, and, if read together, can enrich the way in which modern audiences engage with this difficult history. Interestingly, many of the photographs discussed in this article are from the collection at the Imperial War Museum, including previously unseen private photographs which were included as part of the new exhibition in the Holocaust Galleries.

Umbach, Maiken, & Alice Tofts. (2022). "Private photos and Holocaust testimony: A complex relationship", *Holocaust Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/17504902.2022.2074208

Week 8 (Monday, 28th November) – Representations of the Holocaust in Fiction

To close the term's reading group, we will hear from Stephen Potts about his upcoming novel on the IMT Nuremberg and read two excerpts from the novel, to consider how the Holocaust is represented in contemporary fiction.

Stephen Potts (Magdalen, Medicine, 1979) works part time as a doctor while also pursuing a writing career. His current project is a novel, based heavily on fact, about the conflict between the US Army psychiatrist and psychologist who were assigned to the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1945-6. It was here that the nature and scale of the Holocaust was first made clear to the public, with detailed evidence laid before the court in damning documents, oral testimony and documentary films. The novel is a work in progress which Stephen plans to complete this year. It draws heavily on published accounts of the trial. The whole book currently runs to 140,000 words.

At the Reading Group, we will read the following two sections: Serving the indictment (9 pages) and the opening of the trial (20 pages).





**PROGRAMME OF
THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE
ORIEL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

Biblical Hebrew Reading Group

**Mondays at 11:30–12:30pm, Oriel College, Harris Seminar Room;
note exception for 1st Week**

These sessions will be in-person; no hybrid will be available.

Convenor: Dr. Cian Power (Oriel)

1st Week, 10 October

Induction: Oriel College, Harris Lecture Theatre at 11:30–1:00

2nd Week, 17 October

Göran Eidevall (Uppsala)

Hosea 9:1–9

3rd Week, 24 October

Cian Power (Oriel)

Exodus 18:13–27

4th Week, 31 October

Dorota Molin (Oriel)

A Practical Introduction to the Babylonian Pronunciation Tradition and How to Use It

5th Week, 07 November

Benjamin Suchard (Leuven)

Ezek 9:1–11

6th Week, 14 November

Harald Samuel (Mansfield)

Joshua 20

7th Week: no meeting due to SBL Annual Meeting

8th Week, 28 November

Holger Gzella (Munich)

Canticles 2

Consult at the **Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit passcode** to enter the Harris Seminar Room. For questions, please contact Stefania Beitia (stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk).





Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar

Mondays at 2:30–4:30pm, Oriel College, Harris Seminar Room
(note exception for 1st Week)

Convenors: Dr. Dorota Molin (Oriel), Dr. Cian Power (Oriel), Dr. Harald Samuel (Mansfield)

1st Week, 10 October 2022

Induction: Oriel College, Harris Lecture Theatre at 11:30–1:00

2nd Week, 17 October 2022

Göran Eidevall (Uppsala)

“Ephraim” as a key to the textual universe of Hosea 4–14

3rd Week, 24 October 2022

Cian Power (Oriel)

Tearing the Kingdom from the King: QR’ and a Metaphor for Forfeiting Royal Authority in Samuel–Kings

4th Week, 31 October 2022

Dorota Molin (Oriel)

Engaging with the Bible written, re-written and oral in pre-Masoretic Babylonia: philological evidence from the Incantation Bowls

5th Week, 07 November 2022

Benjamin Suchard (Leuven)

Resolving conflicts between the ktiv and qre dialects in Biblical Aramaic

6th Week, 14 November 2022

Harald Samuel (Mansfield)

What a difference a nun makes: Morphosyntax between Diachrony and Register

7th Week: no session due to SBL Annual Meeting

8th Week, 28 November 2022

Holger Gzella (Munich)

Yiqtol as a Preterite in Job: An Unsolved Problem?

Consult at the **Oriel College porter’s lodge for the 4-digit passcode** to enter the Harris Seminar Room. In-person attendance at these sessions is strongly encouraged, though online attendance is possible.

For questions, please contact Stefania Beitia (stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk)





Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar: Writer's Workshop

Thursdays at 10:00–12:00pm; Oriel College, Harris Seminar Room

We will circulate details (e.g., links to materials in Dropbox) in advance. Participants are encouraged to pre-circulate questions to Dr. Lasater and the presenter.

Convenor: Dr. Phillip Lasater (Worcester)

*****These sessions will be in-person, and by invitation, for faculty and students.*****

3rd Week (27 October 2022)

Rebekah Van Sant-Clark

Wilderness as Exile in the Book of Lamentations

Elizabeth Stell

Reading and Contextualising the Text: Tragedy, Performance, Liturgy

6th Week (17 November 2022)

Sarah Wisialowski

Stopping Time: The Function of Prayer in Jewish Hellenistic Texts

Yovella Ball

Reading Law Codes with the Psalms

Consult at the **Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit passcode** to enter the Harris Seminar Room.

For questions, please contact Stefania Beitia (stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk)





VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS: Michaelmas Term 2022

VISITING FELLOWS

OSAJS -- Books in Judeo-Languages: Popular Reading and Scholarship

Dr Jean Baumgarten (CNRS-EHESS, Paris)

Dr Sarah Gimenez (INALCO, Paris)

Dr Francesca Valentina Diana (University of Pisa)

Dr Moshe Lavee (University of Haifa)

Dr Ossnat Sharon Pinto (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Prof Ruth Von Bernuth (University of N. Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Dr Ilana Wartenberg (Tel Aviv University)

VISITING SCHOLARS

Prof Yoav Alon (Tel Aviv University)

Dr Carmen Caballero-Navas (University of Granada)

Dr Hila Dayfani (Tel Aviv University)

Prof Lilach Rosenberg-Friedman (Bar-Ilan University)

Prof Aaron Koller (Yeshiva University)

Prof Dr Susanne Marten-Finnis (University of Portsmouth/University of Bremen)

Dr Ilan Moradi (Beijing Normal University)

Dr Gila Prebor (Bar Ilan University)

Prof Emily Rose (Harvard University)

Prof Nili Samet (Bar Ilan University)

Dr Shira Stav (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Dr Judith Weiss (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Prof Tzahi Weiss (The Open University, Israel)



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 welcome





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