

# Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

## Programme for Hilary Term 2023



# 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, 19 January

**Dr Fitzroy Morrissey** (All Souls)

'Between Judaism and Islam: Samuel Miklos Stern and 20th-century Jewish Orientalism'

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEldO6gpzozjH9CqPFR2c9ZdsZzG6B3Z1574>

### Week 2, 26 January

**Dr Emily Rose**

'The Expulsion of Jews from England (1290): It is Not What You Think'

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpdu-tpjstH9bcLwpArWwR1ns1Euo\\_Nwa0](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpdu-tpjstH9bcLwpArWwR1ns1Euo_Nwa0)

### Week 3, 2 February

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

'Circle within a Circle: The Sphericity of the Sefirot in Thirteenth Century Kabbalah'

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuuhrijMsHNY3CFhvajxE3W2QmudONA7r>

### Week 4, 9 February

**Professor Susanne Marten-Finnis** (University of Portsmouth/University of Bremen)

'One Hundred Years of Modern Jewish Art Criticism in Berlin. Rachel Wischnitzer - El Lissitzky - Ilya Ehrenburg'

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcpcO6hqzItG9LkwHIYajwN91kYecGDuy8c>

### Week 5, 16 February

**Professor Tzahi Weiss** (The Open University of Israel)

'The Emergence of the Sefirotic Literature'

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEldOCsrjIpGN311P2xVqFwUQ-IpSNYdkkl>

### Week 6, 23 February

**Professor David Aberbach** (McGill University)

'Mendele's *Natural History* (*Toldet HaTeva*) and the Ecology of Jewish Nationalism'

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYocuisqz4pGdwILqCR48xU8jueX0kOQQcg>

### Week 7, 2 March

**Professor Oded Lipschits** (Tel Aviv University)

'New Light on Jerusalem and its Surroundings during the Reign of King Manasseh'

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuduygqj8iHtKU7pq6MFdxr9p6mN\\_FdDLZ](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuduygqj8iHtKU7pq6MFdxr9p6mN_FdDLZ)

### Week 8, 9 March

No lecture this week.







## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Hilary 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](mailto:normansolomon@btinternet.com)





## OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES

APPLICATIONS FOR CLASSES BEGINNING IN HILARY 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 Trinity 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

**Dr Peter Nahon**  
**(University of Neuchâtel)**

‘Dialects of the Jews in the South of France: From Written Sources to Spoken Varieties’

**Week 4**  
**Tuesday, 7 February**

6.00 pm (UK time), online via Zoom and  
in person at the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room, Clarendon Institute Building,  
Walton Street, Oxford

Former research on Judeo-Romance dialects from the South of France (Jewish varieties of Occitan) has long focused primarily on partial documentation: a handful of texts all coming from a narrow part of the Provençal area. New research has shown, in the past few years, that this linguistic field is considerably wider. Judeo-Occitan linguistic varieties are attested in a geographical area spanning from Gascony to Nice. As for Judeo-Provençal proper, most of the surviving texts have not yet been published and linguistically studied. Moreover, Judeo-Provençal and other cognate varieties, long deemed extinct, still survive in the form of a vast array of linguistic features now used within their French dialects by descendants of their speakers. These varieties are now duly described through recent and extensive fieldwork. The comparative analysis of these spoken remnants and the largely understudied written sources sheds new and considerable light on Jewish linguistic variation in southern Gallo-Romance.

Please register here to attend via Zoom only:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkf--  
prjgqE9wkLLvOqU4EG05B6zCazv\\_5](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIkf--prjgqE9wkLLvOqU4EG05B6zCazv_5)

**ALL WELCOME**





# OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURES

## JEWISH MUSIC COURSE

### Yiddish Music for the Stage

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

**Tutor: Dr Diana Matut**

Yiddish singing was never exclusively tied to religious or social functions, but also served another important purpose - entertainment. With the advent of modernity, Yiddish became a language of the stage and performances the domain of (semi-)professional singers and instrumentalists on a previously unknown scale.

In this seminar we will trace the rise of Yiddish musical theatre from folk singers, vaudeville, cabaret, operettas and operas from Eastern and Western Europe to America and Palestine. The focus will be on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, but we will also look at Yiddish music for the post-war stage, including early twenty-first century productions including Alan Bern's version of Glikl von Hameln and his Megile fun Vaymar, the Yiddish versions of The Threepenny Opera and Fiddler on the Roof, Michael Wex's Baym Kabaret Yitesh and many others.

Please note that the first day of class for this course will be Monday, 16th January 2023 (Week 1).

*Applications are now closed for this course.*





# OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURES

## YIDDISH MUSIC FOR THE STAGE

### Music Event

#### Week 2

Monday, 23 January 2023

#### OPEN CLASSROOM:

Dr Alan Bern introduces his composition  
'Megile fun Vaymar' (The Megile of Weimar).  
A Purimplay for the 21st Century

6-7 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom only

Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcuCtrTsoG9NwNAui9IbjnJZsjmvXTmp3>

Libretto: Itzik Manger & Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, adapted by Yuri Vedenyapin & Alan Bern

In his *Megile Lider*, the great Yiddish poet Itzik Manger (1901-1969) fused biblical narratives and 19th-20th-century Yiddish culture to create a wild and dramatic retelling of the Book of Esther.

Manger's masterpiece served as the basis for this project: a contemporary *purimshpil* created by Alan Bern and a team of international artists. This large-scale production blends traditional Yiddish genres with the creative spirit of the 1920s and 30s - the newest link in a centuries-old chain of *purimshpiln*.

Dr. Alan Bern is the co-founder and chair of Other Music Academy e.V. and creator and artistic director of Yiddish Summer Weimar. He is a composer/arranger, pianist, accordionist, educator, cultural activist and philosopher. He is the recipient of the prestigious Weimar Prize and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

As co-founder and director of 'Brave Old World,' 'The Other Europeans' and 'Diaspora Redux,' he performs on international stages. He wrote music for and performed with Itzhak Perlman for *In the Fiddler's House*.

OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC





## OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

**Dr Beruriah Wiegand (University of Oxford)  
Professor Ber Kotlerman (Bar Ilan University)**

**Reading Workshop:  
'Contemporary Yiddish Poetry and Prose from Oxford and Bar Ilan'**

**Week 4  
Thursday, February 9 2023**

4 to 5.30 pm (UK time), in person (see below) and online via Zoom

**Please register here to attend via Zoom:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlfuqhqTosHdbmC0mJPSZ3mQVSeRE7IoOQ>**

**In person at:  
Catherine Lewis Lecture Room  
Clarendon Institute Building, Walton Street, Oxford**

This will be a celebration of two contemporary Yiddish writers, one based at the University of Oxford and one at Bar Ilan University. Beruriah Wiegand will read from her two collections of Yiddish poetry in Yiddish and English, plus some more recent work. Ber Kotlerman will read some of his Yiddish poetry, as well as some extracts from his prose work. The two writers will be available to answer questions about their work at the end of the reading.

**ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**





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

**Convenors:** Alison Salvesen and Harald Samuel

**Week 4, 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Michael Graves (Wheaton College)

‘The Question of Rabbinic Midrashic Texts as Documents’

**Week 5, 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Noam Mizrachi (Tel Aviv):

‘Priestly Garments at the Heavenly Temple: Scriptural Interpretation, Poetics and Politics in the Late Second Temple Period’

**Week 6, 21<sup>st</sup> February (Oriol College, Harris Lecture Theatre)**

Sébastien Morlet (La Sorbonne-Paris IV): Second Grinfield Lecture

‘The Linguistic Plurality of the Bible: Christian Views’

*NB: to be held in Oriol College, Harris Lecture Theatre*

**Week 8, 7<sup>th</sup> March**

Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv):

‘The ‘Authentic’ Protocols of the Trial of Jesus?: Reconstructing the Earliest Version of Toledot Yeshu’

**Seminars taking place at the Clarendon Institute will be followed by coffee, tea and biscuits  
in the Common Room (situated in the basement)**



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# GRINFIELD LECTURES ON THE SEPTUAGINT 2023–24



SÉBASTIEN MORLET

Professor of Greek language and literature,  
Sorbonne Université

**“The plurality of the biblical text - past and present”**

*(First series)*

**6<sup>th</sup> Week, Hilary Term 2023**

**In person and online via Zoom**

Monday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2.30–4 p.m.

**1. The linguistic plurality of the Bible: Ancient Jewish views**

*Oriel College, Harris Seminar Room (Hebrew Bible seminar)*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcsf-CuqjwpE9ed9WaFtbsv5SguRHrbPZE5>

Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2–3.30 p.m.

**2. The linguistic plurality of the Bible: Ancient Christian views**

*Oriel College, Harris Lecture Theatre (Jewish Studies seminar)*

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctf-2pqjkoGdZhUrmc9mh8\\_4caFCiruXAw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZctf-2pqjkoGdZhUrmc9mh8_4caFCiruXAw)

Thursday Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4–5 p.m.

**3. The views of ancient Greek Christian commentators on the ‘other’ translations of the Bible**

*Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Walton Street, Lecture Theatre*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckf-yhpjwsEt3OiPbv5Sna4EEBF79qwoml>

Prof. Sébastien Morlet’s research is devoted to ancient Jewish and Christian texts written in Greek, with a focus on their relation to Greek *paideia* and philosophy. He is the author of *La Démonstration évangélique d’Eusèbe de Césarée. Étude sur l’apologétique chrétienne à l’époque de Constantin* (2009), *Christianisme et philosophie: les premières confrontations* (2014), *Les Chrétiens et la culture: conversion d’un concept* (2016) and *Symphonia. La concorde des textes et des doctrines dans la littérature grecque jusqu’à Origène* (2019). He is preparing the volume «2 Règnes» (2 Kingdoms) in the Bible d’Alexandrie series.





## SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST AND MEMORY

**Mondays, 2.15pm**  
**The Clarendon Institute, Room 207**

**Convenors:** Zoë Waxman and Barnabas Balint

### **Week 1, January 16**

Robert Thompson (UCL)

'A "full-time job as a listener": Christian Responses to Jewish Testimony in the Immediate Aftermath of the Holocaust'

### **Week 3, January 30**

Esther Yadgar (University of Oxford)

'Holocaust in Present Tense - Second and Third Generations Time Lapses when Talking about Their Parents' Holocaust Stories'

### **Week 5, February 13**

Daniel M. Herskowitz (University of Oxford)

'Hannah Arendt and the Controversy of "Eichmann in Jerusalem" '

### **Week 7, February 27**

Ben Barkow

'Walking in West Cornwall with my Great Aunt Hilde, Gassed and Burned in Auschwitz: Some Poems'

All welcome





## OXFORD HOLOCAUST STUDIES READING GROUP

**Mondays of even weeks at 2pm  
in The Clarendon Institute, Room 207 (unless otherwise stated)**

**\*\*\*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](mailto:barnabas.balint@magd.ox.ac.uk) or [cailee.davis@st-annes.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cailee.davis@st-annes.ox.ac.uk) if you wish to be added to the circulation list.

**Week 2 (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 5-7pm) - Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Mala Tribich MBE & Lord Eric Pickles**

Please see below under Week 2, **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023**

**Week 4 (6th February) - Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Holocaust Studies Reading Group HMD Workshop: Teenage Victims of Nazi Persecution**

Please see below under Week 4, **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023**

**Week 6 (20th February) - Presentation of Work and Discussion: Martha Kashti (Linacre) - 'The impact of the trial and sentencing of Adolf Eichmann on the British Jewish Community'**  
In this session, we will hear from current Master's student Martha Kashti (Linacre) about her dissertation research on the impact of the trial and sentencing of Adolf Eichmann on the British Jewish Community. This will be followed by a brief Q & A and discussion session.

**Week 8 (6th March) - Vivien Sieber, *Kino and Kinder: A family's journey in the Shadow of the Holocaust***

For the last session of term, we welcome visiting speaker Vivien Sieber to present her recent book '*Kino and Kinder: A Family's Journey in the Shadow of the Holocaust*'. The narrative of the book moves between Brno, Vienna, London, Newcastle, Windermere, the Isle of Man, and Canada as it follows the lives of one refugee family. The book provides many details about life in Vienna, Austria and Central Europe before World War Two and in post-war London, with over eighty unique original photographs.





## **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Ordinary People, Extraordinary Stories**

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, DPhil student Barnabas Balint has convened a series of events at the University of Oxford bringing together survivors of the Holocaust and Genocide, leading figures in the fight against antisemitism, public campaigners, and expert academics from across the UK in discussion and reflection. Dedicated to the late Barbara Winton, the series reflects on the history, memory, and contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. All events are open to all; booking is not required but helpful for numbers. For queries, please contact [barnabas.balint@magd.ox.ac.uk](mailto:barnabas.balint@magd.ox.ac.uk).

### **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Representations of the Holocaust in Film**

*Week 1, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 4pm*

*TORCH Seminar Room, Radcliffe Humanities Building*

As the Holocaust recedes in living memory, its representation in television and film only increases. From courtroom dramas like *Denial* (2016) and action films such as *Defiance* (2008) and *Operation Finale* (2018), to comedies like *JoJo Rabbit* (2019) and more serious treatments such as *Schindler's List* (1993) and *Son of Saul* (2015), films about the Holocaust continue to capture the public imagination. This panel will discuss Holocaust cinema as the canon continues to diversify in genre-bending, post-memorial ways.

- Speakers: Cailee Davies (St Anne's College, University of Oxford) and Rosalind Hulse (Royal Holloway, University of London)
- Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/506007862137>

### **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Mala Tribich MBE & Lord Eric Pickles**

*Week 2, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 5-7pm*

*Magdalen College Auditorium*

For Holocaust Memorial Day 2023, Magdalen College will host an event led by the College President, Dinah Rose KC, to reflect on the history, memory, and contemporary relevance of the Holocaust. We will welcome Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich MBE, who will share her testimony of the Holocaust and her life in the UK after the war. Following this, the UK Government Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues, Lord Eric Pickles, will offer some reflections, before an in-conversation discussion between the President and two speakers.

- Speakers: Mala Tribich MBE (Holocaust Survivor), Lord Eric Pickles (UK Government Special Envoy for post-Holocaust issues), Dinah Rose (Magdalen College).
- Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/506011934317>

### **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Speaking Across the Divide - Derek Niemann and Noemie Lopian**

*Week 3, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 4-6pm*

*Worcester College Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre (SNSC) Auditorium*



Dr Noemie Lopian, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, has teamed up with Derek Niemann, the grandson of an SS officer. In a highly unusual and indeed possibly unique partnership, Noemie and Derek are sharing their stories as a warning of the perils of extremism and to inspire greater understanding. Their ongoing speaking tour began in 2019. They have talked at schools, universities, and synagogues, as well as being keynote speakers at a range of public events.

- Speakers: Derek Niemann and Noemie Lopian, chaired by Carys Howell (Worcester College, University of Oxford)
- Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/506015053647>

### **Oxford Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 - Holocaust Studies Reading Group HMD Workshop: Teenage Victims of Nazi Persecution**

*Week 4, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2-3pm*

*Clarendon Institute, Walton Street*

This workshop tells the individual stories of 12 teenage victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. It has been designed for mature teenagers and young adults and seeks to encourage discussion and empathy with young people's experiences of the Holocaust. Developed by Eli Sassoon and Barnabas Balint as part of the Youth Forum for the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, it presents a series of primary source excerpts and poses discussion questions for participants. At this session of the Holocaust Studies Reading Group, we will be one of the first groups to use the resource and reflect on its effectiveness.

- Resource created by Eli Sassoon and Barnabas Balint
- Book: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/506017300367>



## **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 2, 25 January**

Professor Gilad Sharvit (Towson University) will discuss his book *Dynamic Repetition: History and Messianism in Modern Jewish Thought*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckceCuqD8iG926xaa37Ev4DUBPFQInUXdL>

#### **Week 4, 8 February**

Professor Sarah Hammerschlag (University of Chicago) will discuss her book *Modern French Jewish Thought: Writings on Religion and Politics*

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcumhqD0jH91n7\\_vGzpXzQQ-FWPPAtzvN](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqcumhqD0jH91n7_vGzpXzQQ-FWPPAtzvN)

#### **Week 6, 22 February**

Professor Alexander Kaye (Brandeis University) will discuss his book *The Invention of Jewish Theocracy: The Struggle for Legal Authority in Modern Israel*

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcO-hrzgH90u77kvaUWqE9rHkCF\\_KPQs](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUrcO-hrzgH90u77kvaUWqE9rHkCF_KPQs)

#### **Week 8, 8 March**

Professor Ayala Fader (Fordham University) will discuss her book *Hidden Heretics: Jewish Doubt in the Digital Age*

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdu6qqz0qGdTPXggLPq4IySdDeT-oZD4o>

All are welcome.



## **ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR SERIES**

### **Joint seminar of Political Science, Area Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies**

The following seminars will be given at 2.15pm on Tuesdays, at St. Anne's College Seminar Room 1, unless noted otherwise. A coffee and tea reception will be offered from 2pm.

**Conveners:** Yaacov Yadgar and Alissa Symon

#### **Week 1, 17 January**

Dr James Eastwood, Queen Mary

'Empty Cradles: Israel's Disappeared Children'

Thousands of families in Israel are demanding to know what happened to their children. In Autumn 2022, a first-of-its-kind exhibition at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, brought their story to an international audience in London. The disappeared children belonged to Jewish families who migrated to Israel from the Middle East and North Africa in the 1940s and 50s and were staying in temporary immigration camps. Over half of the children were from Yemen. The case has since become known as the Yemenite, Mizrahi, and Balkan Children Affair, a controversy which rages to this day in Israel. The state officially maintains that the children died, but the families were never shown bodies, graves, or death certificates. Instead, they believe their children were sent away to homes run by women's organizations and in many cases illicitly adopted, perhaps even abroad. This talk will give an overview of the objectives, content, and curatorial process behind the exhibition, exploring some of the methodological and ethical challenges it raised. It will also place the Yemenite, Mizrahi, and Balkan Children Affair in transnational context, drawing attention to comparisons and connections with other episodes of forcible child removal across the world.

## **Week 2, 24 January**

Prof. Menachem Hofnung (Emeritus), Hebrew University

'Invisible Settles: Resettling Palestinian Collaborators in Israel'

What are the social and economic costs of using cohorts of local informers to ensure military control of a hostile territory? In 1994, an Israeli NGO (B'Tselem) published a study that analysed the incidents of Palestinians murdered by their own people on suspicions of collaboration with Israeli intelligence during the first Palestinian uprising (Intifada 1987-1993). It has been estimated that 900 Palestinians were executed on these grounds.

Twenty years later an astounding phenomenon was documented. Hundreds of Palestinians are turning to the Israeli High Court of Justice and asking to be formally recognized as 'informers' (collaborators). This trend raises the following question, how did such a scorned tag become a highly desired title that many Palestinians are willing to petition the highest court of the enemy to officially gain the label of informer (collaborator)?

The findings of this research reveal an interesting juxtaposition: a Jewish population being encouraged to settle in the West Bank, while simultaneously a constant flow of informers and their extended families are being resettled within Israel (also funded by the state of Israel) thus, creating a completely different political and demographic reality than the one that existed just a generation ago.

## **Week 3, 31 January**

No seminar

## **Week 4, 7 February**

Prof Amos Morris- Reich, Tel Aviv

'The Fusion of Zionism and Science: The First Two Decades – And the Present Day?'

Focusing on the relationship between Zionism and science in the first two decades of the Zionist movement, the argument of this paper is threefold. First, that a relationship was established with the very inception of the Zionist movement. Second, it is characterized by a duality, a tension between a highly pragmatic scientific attitude, on the one hand, namely science conceived as 'engineering,' as the principal instrument of national construction, and simultaneously, on the other hand, science understood as working with the most fragile and inaccessible 'materials' or 'building blocks.' I will suggest that the Zionist movement was characterized by the quintessential place of programmatic and detailed planning and of striving towards pragmatically defined goals; at the same time, however, Zionism's ultimate goal, idealistic, utopian, and always just out of reach, remained unstated. While focusing on the first two decades of the Zionist movement, I suggest, thirdly, that because this intellectual structure was embedded in the socialization processes of Zionism from its very earliest phase, it remains critically important, in spite of the many additional historical events that followed, for the understanding of key facets of Jewish, and later Israeli, society to this day.

## **Week 5, 14 February**

Loaay Wattad, Tel Aviv

'The Political Fairy Tale: The Case of Little Red Riding Hood in Palestine'

This study seeks to analyse the ways in which Little Red Riding Hood was instrumentalized in the Palestinian critical and subversive discourse. Although this text is usually presented as a children's story, various media sources use it as a tool for social and political criticism of Palestinian society and Israeli policy toward Palestinians. One of the unique themes identified in the study highlights the absence of the grandmother's character. Considering the significance of this character as an essential part of the classical fairy tale, this absence grabs attention. Though

some Palestinian versions mention the grandmother's character, Red Riding Hood cannot reach her house and meet her because of the wall or the wolf soldiers. The focus on the grandmother's character enables the analysis of the question of absence and the ambivalent approach toward characters that represent the traumatic social history. When Brothers Grimm adapted the French fairytale to German, the character of the huntsman was added to save the little girl and her grandmother from the French wolf. In contrast, in most Palestinian versions of the story, the grandmother's absence places the authority in the hands of the little girl, who takes the resistance into her own hands.

### **Week 6, 21 February, Seminar Room 7**

Prof Anat Scolnicov, Winchester

'The Israel Supreme Court Religion and the Relationship of State and Religion in Israel'

Israel was originally to have a Constitution, but it never did as the issue proved divisive on religious grounds, among others. An unwritten constitution developed in its place. This is the legal context of current constitutional debates, including on the constitutional status of religion in Israel. The solution was the adoption of chapters or Basic Laws, that together would form a constitution. What are the Basic Laws - an exercise of a constitutional authority of the Knesset, if such existed? An exercise of legislative authority?

The status of religion in the state is a constitutional matter which directly affects religious freedom, and the establishment of religious is a pivotal constitutional matter. Religious courts derive their legal powers from the statutes enacted by the Knesset and must abide by the laws of the Knesset as interpreted by the Supreme Court, even if it conflicts with their religious interpretation. The religious courts, however, view their authority as emanating from a religious normative system. Attempts to rectify inequalities in religious law through state law directed at religious courts, are destined for a clash of normative hierarchies.

The talk will draw on the speaker's experience as a constitutional law barrister representing litigants in the Supreme Court, as well as on her academic research.

### **Week 7, 28 February**

Ayala Panievsky, Cambridge

'Rituals of Loyalty: When Israeli Journalists Face Digital Hate'

The Israeli news media has transformed significantly in recent years, due to an unprecedented wave of anti-media populism and online harassment. In this talk, I examine how and why Israeli journalists use their military service as a shield in response to online violence and digital hate, and what may be the implications for the future of media and democracy in Israel. What I call 'the military-as-alibi strategy' is highly consequential, I would argue. First, it excludes Israeli citizens who are exempt from military service (mostly Palestinian citizens of Israel and ultra-orthodox Jews). Second, it affirms the populist presumption that "good journalists" are not to be measured by the quality of their reporting, but rather by external loyalty tests that allegedly demonstrate their commitment to the national cause. Drawing on analyses of interviews with 20 Israeli journalists under attack, media coverage and social media content, this talk frames the military-as-alibi strategy within the local context of a militarised society, but also as part of journalists' global struggle to win the hearts of their audiences in challenging times. Journalists' references to their military backgrounds will be interpreted as a strategic ritual of loyalty. I will conclude by proposing an alternative strategy for Israeli journalists under attack: if journalism is indeed a public good (Pickard, 2019), then 'good journalism' should be considered 'good citizenship' in and of itself. This approach could free journalists from surrendering to nationalist loyalty tests, and lay more viable and inclusive foundations for journalists-audiences relationships in the future.

## Week 8, 7 March

Dr Moshe Behar, Manchester

'Settler Colonial Studies, Secessions of Colonialism, and Ethnonationalism: An Edward Saidian Consideration?'

Recent years have witnessed the framework of Settler Colonialism gaining hegemonic explanatory dominance among attempts to elucidate the Palestine/Israel trajectory. Scrutiny of many texts in this (newly-awoken) domain ultimately reveals that a modest number of new insights have been added to those already published by (anti-Zionist) Arabs and Israelis between 1962 (the foundation of Israel's *Matzpen*) and 1974 (the PLO's adoption of its Ten Point Programme). Whereas the pre-1974 Settler Colonial school was 'historical', the 21<sup>st</sup> century one appears somewhat 'ahistorical'. This draft-verdict grows out of what I view as three lacunas detectable equally in these 'old' and 'renewed' schools spotlighting the Palestine/Israel case: (i) insufficient attention to comparative *anti*-colonialisms; (ii) obliviousness vis-à-vis the (post-WW1) phenomenon of ethnonationalism; and (iii) a puzzling epistemological detour around social constructivism. In his seminal 1999 essay, *The One State Solution*, Edward Said advocated for a single binational state. In the aftermath of his 2003 passing two asymmetric schools emerged: (i) a miniature Saidian one warranting the label 'bi-national'; and (ii) a non-Saidian liberal and Eurocentric school which is home to practically all affiliates of 'Settler Colonial Studies'. These schools make dissimilar sense of the concept 'de-colonisation' and of notions of individual and collective rights.







**Faculty of Theology and Religion  
in Collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Bible**

**Biblical Hebrew Reading Group**

The reading group will be at the usual time of 11.30-12.30 pm on Mondays in the Harris Seminar Room at Oriel College

**Convenor:** Dr Cian Power

**1st Week, January 16th**

No session this week

**2nd Week, January 23rd**

Annie Calderbank (Oriel) and Harald Samuel (Mansfield) – Numbers 8.5-19

**3rd Week, January 30th**

Sarah Wisialowski (Oriel) and Dorota Molin (Oriel) – Daniel 9.20-27

**4th Week, February 6th**

Jiani Sun (Oriel) and Cian Power (Oriel) – Isaiah 57.1-13

**5th Week, February 13th**

Noam Mizrahi (Hebrew University) – TBC

**6th Week, February 20th**

John Thuppayath (Oriel) and Cian Power (Oriel) – Job 3.1-12, 16-18

**7th Week, February 27th**

Christine Rosa De Freitas (Oriel) and Phillip Lasater (Worcester) – Qohelet 4.4-12

**8th Week, March 6th**

Herald Gandhi (Worcester) and Harald Samuel (Mansfield) – Jonah 2.3-4, Psalm 18.5-7; 102.1-2, 11

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](mailto:stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk)).





**Faculty of Theology and Religion  
in Collaboration with the Centre for the Study of the Bible**

**Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar**

**Convenor:** Alison Salvesen (OCHJS)

Mondays at 2:30–4:30pm, Oriel College, Harris Seminar Room

**1st Week, 16 January**

No seminar session this week

**2nd Week, 23 January**

Alison Salvesen (OCHJS)

'The Significance of the Septuagint and later Jewish Greek versions for Biblical Studies'

**3rd Week, 30 January**

No seminar session this week

**4th Week, 6 February**

Michael Graves (Wheaton College)

'The Significance of the Latin Bible for Biblical Studies'

**5th Week, 13 February**

No seminar session this week

**6th Week, 20 February**

Sébastien Morlet (Sorbonne Université)

First Grinfield Lecture on the Septuagint, 2022–2024: 'The linguistic plurality of the Bible: Jewish views'

**7th Week, 27 February**

No seminar session this week

**8th Week, 6 March**

Ignacio Carbajosa (San Damaso/Campion Hall)

'From Manuscripts to Critical Editions: the struggle to make Peshitta useful for textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible'

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](mailto:stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk))





## Ethical Reading Seminar

Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford  
Oriental Centre for the Study of the Bible  
Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford  
Corpus Christi Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity

Wednesdays 12:00-13:30  
MBI Al Jaber Auditorium  
Corpus Christi College

Participants should feel free to bring their own lunch to the seminar.  
Tea & coffee will be provided

**Conveners:** Constanze Güthenke (Corpus Christi) and Hindy Najman (Oriental); Co-conveners:  
Henner Petin (Corpus Christi) and Rebekah Van Sant (Oriental)

### **Week 1, 18th January**

Henner Petin (Oxford) – Euripides Orestes: An Escape Tragedy?

Rebekah Van Sant (Oxford) – “We Have Transgressed and Rebelled. You Have Not Forgiven”:  
The Dialogic Poetics of the Book of Lamentations

### **Week 2, 25th January**

Gregory Hutchinson (Oxford) - Form in Classical Literature: Confessions of a Fan

### **Week 3, 1st February**

Adriana X. Jacobs (Oxford) - The Long Line

### **Week 4, 8th February**

Terence Cave (Oxford) - Redefining 'Form': The Autopoietic Turn

### **Week 5, 15th February**

Noam Mizrahi (Tel Aviv) - Poetic Construction and Merkabah Exegesis in the Twelfth Song of  
the Sabbath Sacrifice

### **Week 6, 22nd February**

Hans Decker (Zürich) - Idealism and Imagination: On the Miniature Form of the Proverb

### **Week 7, 1st March**

Dorota Molin (Oxford) - Are 'Fluid Forms' Forms? Lessons From Modern Middle Eastern  
Folklore

### **Week 8, 8th March**

Leah Whittington (Harvard) - Fictions of Repair: Patches, Insertions, and Imagined Forms

For any questions please contact: Stefania Beitia, PA to Professor Hindy Najman and  
Administrator for the Centre for the Study of the Bible ([stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stefania.beitia@oriel.ox.ac.uk))





## VISITING FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS: Hilary Term 2023

### VISITING FELLOWS

**Dr Magdalena Jánošíková** (Makor Manuscripts Visiting Fellow; The Polonsky Academy/The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

**Dr Peter Nahon** (OSRJL Visiting Fellow; University of Neuchâtel)

### VISITING SCHOLARS

**Prof David Aberbach** (McGill University)

**Prof Yoav Alon** (Tel Aviv University)

**Prof Ignacio Carbajosa** (Universidad Eclesiastica San Damaso)

**Dr Hila Dayfani** (Tel Aviv University)

**Dr Dvora Giladi** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Dr Danjing Ma** (Center for Israel Studies, Henan University)

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

**Dr Emily Rose**

**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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