

**Tenth Annual
Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Judaism**

Authority and Leadership in Modern and Contemporary Judaism

2 July-6 July, 2023

Oxford Centre for Jewish and Hebrew Studies
in conjunction with the
Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies, Lehigh University

PROGRAMME



Marc Chagall, Deborah, stained glass, St. Stephan's Church, Mainz, Germany (1978-1985)

Sunday July 2

- 12:00 pm Lunch: Glen Callater Room, HB Allen Centre, Keble College, Oxford
- 1:30-3:00 pm Personal introductions, welcome to the OSI
Chair: Miri Freud-Kandel
- 3:00-4:30 pm Break to settle into rooms
- 4:15 pm Coffee in Glen Callater Room
- 4:30-6:00 pm Framing Our Themes
Chair: Hartley Lachter
Presenting: Rose Stair
Responding: Jodi Eichler-Levine
- 6:30 pm Snacks and Schmooze at HB Allen Centre (optional)
- 7:30 pm Opening OSI dinner, Oxford Jewish Congregation (OJC)

Monday July 3

8:30 am onwards Breakfast available in Glenn Callater Room

10 am-12 pm **Session 1 Leadership in National Contexts**

Chair: Adam Ferziger

Guido Bartolucci, *Separate Republics? Power and Authority within Jewish Communities in Italy during the Early Modern Period*

Miri Freud-Kandel, *Leadership as Mission? A Model for the British Chief Rabbinate*

Responding: Jodi Eichler-Levine, Marcela Menachem Zoufala

12-1 pm **Lunch**

1:00-3:00 pm **Session 2 Charismatic Authority *and* Leadership from
"Below"**

Chair: Jodi Eichler-Levine

Marcin Wodziński, *How to Marry Charisma? Dynastic Leadership in Hasidism*

Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli, *"Who will lead us? I'll lead myself right now, thank you very much!": Lived Judaism and Leadership from the bottom up*

Responding: Hartley Lachter, Laura A. Leibman

3:00-3:30 pm **Coffee Break**

3:30-5:30 pm **Session 3 Authority, Law, and Liberty**

Chair: Hartley Lachter

Orit Avishai, Religious Liberty in Polarized Times: Yeshiva University vs. Pride Alliance

Michal Raucher, The Poseket-Rabbi: How Women Orthodox Rabbis Perform Authority over Jewish Law

Responding: Noemie Duhaut, Adam Ferziger

6:00 pm Optional schmooze and snacks, HB Allen Centre

7:30 pm Optional dinner at OJC

Tuesday July 4

8:30 am onwards Breakfast available in Glenn Callater Room

10 am-12:00 pm **Session 4 Magic, Mysticism, and Leadership**

Chair: Miri Freud-Kandel

Andrea Gondos, Spiritual Power, Charismatic Leadership, and Jewish Magic: The Case of the Ba'alei Shem in Early Modern East-Central Europe

Hartley Lachter, Leading from the Margins: Michael Laitman's Deployment of Kabbalistic Esotericism as a Strategy for Social Influence

Responding: Maoz Kahana, Martina Perotta

12:00-1:00 pm: **Lunch**

1:00-3:00 pm **Session 5 Gender, Age and Authority among Jewish Americans**

Chair: Adam Ferziger

Laura A. Leibman, Suits and Boots: Women's Charity Leagues, Textiles, and Naughty Schoolchildren

Jodi Eichler-Levine, Girls and Giant Killers: Gender and Authority in the Work of Emily Solis-Cohen (1886-1966)

Responding: Guido Bartolucci, Orit Avishai

3:40 pm Optional outing—tour of Christ Church College

6 pm Optional dinner at OJC

7:30 pm Optional outing—Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, at the Oxford Castle

Wednesday July 5

8:30 am onwards Breakfast available in Glenn Callater Room

10:00 am-12 pm **Session 6 Innovation, Halakha, and the Transnational Turn**

Chair: Jodi Eichler-Levine

Martina Perotta, *The God-Intoxicated Consciousness': A Philosophy of Halakhic Authority and Innovation in the Works of David Hartman*

Adam Ferziger, *Agents of Religious Change: American Immigrants and the Emergence of Moderate Israeli Judaism -- a Transnational Perspective*

Responding: Tanya Zion-Waldoks, Michal Raucher

12-1:00 pm **Lunch**

1:00-3:00 pm **Session 7 International Questions Across Centuries**

Chair: Miri Freud-Kandel

Noemie Duhaut, *How does one become a Jewish internationalist? Authority and leadership in nineteenth-century international Jewish politics*

Maoz Kahana, *Close the door and change the world: A leadership model for Lithuanian Jewry, from Vilna Gaon to the present day*

Responding: Marcin Wodzinski, Andrea Gondos

3:00-3:30 pm **Coffee Break**

3:30-5:30 pm **Session 8 Contemporary Spaces—Mizrahim and Haredi Feminists**

Chair: Hartley Lachter

Marcela Menachem Zoufala, Mizrahim's Ambiguous Role as "Arab Brothers" in Peacebuilding Initiatives in the "New Middle East"

Tanya Zion-Waldoks, Haredi feminist activists' narrative "temporal labor" as a means of legitimizing leadership and claiming authority in collective Jewish spaces and legacies

Responding: Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli, Miri Freud-Kandel

6:00 pm Snacks and schmooze (optional), HB Allen Centre

7:30 pm Celebratory closing dinner (OJC)

Thursday July 6

9:00-11:00 am Closing wrap up session

Chair: Jodi Eichler-Levine

Co-Convenors

Miri Freud-Kandel, University of Oxford
Jodi Eichler-Levine, Lehigh University
Hartley Lachter, Lehigh University
Adam S. Ferziger, Bar-Ilan University

Participants, OSI 2023

Professor Orit Avishai, Fordham University
Professor Guido Bartolucci, University of Bologna
Dr. Noémie Duhaut, Leibniz Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz
Dr. Andrea Gondos, Freie Universität
Dr. Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli, Bar Ilan University
Professor Maoz Kahana, Tel Aviv University
Professor Laura A. Leibman, Reed College
Ms. Martina Perotta, University of Trento
Professor Michal Raucher, Rutgers University
Ms. Rose Stair, University of Oxford
Ms. Alicia Vergara Murillo, University of Oxford (student helper)
Professor Marcin Wodziński, University of Wrocław
Dr. Tanya Zion-Waldoks, Hebrew University
Dr. Marcela Zoufala, Charles University

Administration

Madeleine Trivasse
Priscilla Lange
Alexandra Farkas
Mandy Fraley
Maria Ioannidou

Special thank-you to Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, President of the OCHS, for her ongoing support and encouragement

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Love at First Sight: The Vera, Silvia and Arturo Schwarz Collection of Israeli Art, The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, 2001