

# Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

## Programme for Michaelmas Term 2024



# OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

## THE DAVID PATTERSON LECTURES

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre  
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

All lectures will be presented in a hybrid format which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre. Refreshments to follow. All welcome to attend.

**Thursdays, 6.00-7.00 pm (UK time)**

### **Week 1, 17 October**

No lecture this week.

### **Week 2, 24 October**

No lecture this week.

### **Week 3, 31 October**

Dr Stephanie Dalley (AMES), The Assyrian God Anshar: Loyalty and Perjury

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcldeihrTlqG93rYCKRr2rWpm5H00Fr3vRm>

### **Week 4, 7 November**

Dr Gabriela Benner (University of Porto), Camille Pissarro before Impressionism: Four birthplaces

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkduisrjkpHNf2zexbgzD4UjgzQ1G7DEE6>

### **Week 5, 14 November POSTPONED to Michaelmas Term 2025**

Professor Yoram Meital (Ben-Gurion University), Beyond Bricks and Mortar: Synagogues and Jewish Life and Heritage in Cairo

### **Week 6, 21 November**

Dr Dean Irwin (University of Lincoln), Jews and Christians as Neighbours in Medieval English Towns

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpc-ypqz0pHNc1allmITevP6QC0N6e6ixN>

### **Week 7, 28 November**

Josua Walbrodt (Kurpfälzisches Museum, Heidelberg), The Studying of Oriental Languages in the Mirror of Frontispieces of Early Modern Printed Grammar Books

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqc-Gorj8pH9KworE7i07GO3Zimj1EV4oe>

### **Week 8, 5 December**

Dr Karen E. H. Skinazi (University of Bristol), Contemporary Mizrahi and Sephardi Literature in the Diaspora

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-uorTMpH9fCo8zcyY6RWKyXF6Ql1Dub>





## LANGUAGE CLASSES

### **BIBLICAL HEBREW**

**Weeks 1-8, First and Second Years**

*Thursdays: First Year:* 6.00-7.00 pm

*Second Year:* 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@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.herring@ames.ox.ac.uk).



### **MODERN HEBREW ULPAN**

**Weeks 1-8, Absolute Beginners\*, Lower Intermediates\*\* and Upper Intermediates\*\*\***

*Absolute Beginners:* Mondays @ 12:30-13:30 UK Time: For Michaelmas Term 2024, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Monday, 14 October.

*Lower Intermediates:* Mondays @ 14:00-15:00 UK Time: For Michaelmas Term 2024, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Monday, 14 October.

*Upper Intermediates:* Tuesdays @ 12 noon-13:00 UK Time: For Michaelmas Term 2024, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Tuesday, 15 October.

**Tutor: Mrs Esther Yadgar**

All classes will be held via Zoom throughout the term and last one hour. Please contact Ms Priscilla Lange at [academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk](mailto:academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk) if you have any queries.

\***Absolute Beginners:** Learning the alphabet, speaking, reading and writing, continuing simple verbs and short sentences

\*\***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 are ongoing and do not begin at the beginner's level each term. All are welcome and please note that these classes are free of charge. Members of the public are advised that in some classes teaching may be adjusted to meet University requirements.





## BABYLONIAN TALMUD

Wednesdays from 6.00-7.00 pm via Zoom only (UK time) **(unless otherwise indicated, please see below)\*\***

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 Ketubot Chapter 3. 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).

**\*\*Please note that several Wednesday sessions (Oct 2, 16 and 23) will be omitted as they coincide with Festivals Eves.\*\***



## 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 2025: <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.

- [Haketia](#) (Dr Carlos Yebra López)
- [Baghdadi Judeo-Arabic](#) (Dr Assaf Bar Moshe)
- [Classical Judeo-Arabic](#) (Friederike Schmidt)
- [Judeo-French](#) (Dr Sandra Hajek)
- [Judeo-Greek](#) (Dr Julia G. Krivoruchko)
- [Judeo-Hamadani](#) (TBC)
- [Judeo-Italian](#) (Dr Marilena Colasuonno)
- [Judeo-Moroccan](#) (Haviva Fenton)
- [Judeo-Neo-Aramaic](#) (Dr Dorota Molin)
- [Judeo-Persian](#) (TBC)
- [Judeo-Provençal](#) (Dr Peter Nahon)
- [Judeo-Tat](#) (Dr Murad Suleymanov)
- [Judeo-Turkish](#) (Professor Laurent Mignon)
- [Karaim](#) (Professor Henryk Jankowski)
- [Kivruli](#) (Dr Hélène Gérardin)
- [Ladino](#) (Dr Carlos Yebra López)
- [Old Yiddish](#) (Dr Diana Matut)
- [Yiddish](#) (Dr Beruriah Wiegand)





# OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

## Jewish Music Course

### Yiddish Musics: The 20th and 21st Century

Mondays, 18:15-19:15 UK Time, Online via Zoom

#### **Yiddish Musics: The 20th and 21st Century**

This course focusses on the development of Yiddish musics mainly after Second World War.

The entire spectrum of Yiddish (mainly vocal) music making will be considered and organized according to topics such as: nostalgia, belonging and uprootedness; building the canon of Yiddish song performances; contemporary song cultures and cultural translations; Yiddish film music and music in Yiddish films; Yiddish activism; inner-Hasidic developments (women's, religious and children's songs); new Yiddish opera and theatre song - to name but a few.

This year-long course will also include the possibility for participant observation while exploring strategies of Yiddish song writing and/or song translations from or into Yiddish. It will explore, question and debate the "post" of "post vernacular" and "postmodernity".

We will also welcome at least one guest per term. Invited are song writers, musicians and Yiddish activists.

Knowledge of Yiddish is helpful, but not required to take this course.

*Applications are now closed for this course.*





# OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

Week 4  
Tuesday, 5 November  
5pm to 7pm

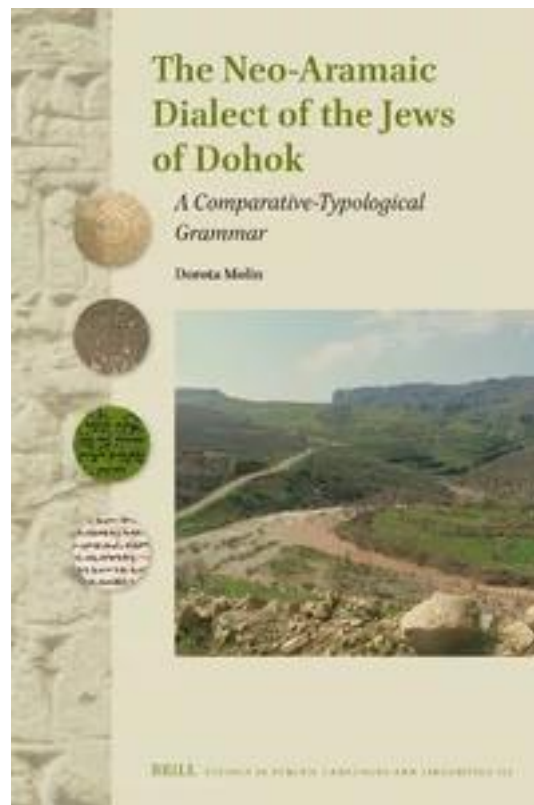
## BOOK LAUNCH

**Dr Dorota Molin**  
(AMES/OCHJS)

*The Neo-Aramaic Dialect of the Jews of Dohok:  
A Comparative-Typological Grammar*

Online via Zoom and in person at the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre,  
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

**In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:**  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqfuuuqjwGd1LpC8pdK1wDr\\_-u7VdsoZu](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqfuuuqjwGd1LpC8pdK1wDr_-u7VdsoZu)





**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO PREVIOUS DATES AND TIME**  
**HEBREW MOVIE NIGHTS**

**Wednesdays of Weeks 4, 6 & 8 at 6:00 pm**

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG.

Refreshments provided and everyone is welcome to attend.

We are continuing a new and fun tradition at the Centre - movie nights in Hebrew (with English subtitles). This term we will pay our respects to one of Israel's greatest cinematographers, Ronit Elkabetz.

**WEEK 4, WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6**

*To Take a Wife* (2004; running time: 1 hr and 37 minutes)

Free tickets to secure a place: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/film-screening-to-take-a-wife-tickets-1061489416419?aff=oddtcreator>



**WEEK 6 WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20**

*Shiva* (2008; running time: 1 hr and 43 minutes)

Free tickets to secure a place: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1085848816039?aff=oddtcreator>



**WEEK 8 WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4**

*Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem* (2014; running time: 1 hr and 55 minutes)



**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**

**Weeks 1-6, Week 8, Tuesdays from 2 to 3.30 pm  
Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre  
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street Oxford, OX1 2HG**

Unless otherwise stated\*\*, lectures will be presented in a hybrid format which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre (followed by coffee, tea and biscuits in the Common Room, situated in the basement of the Clarendon Institute).

**Convenor:** Meron Piotrkowski

**Week 1, 15 October (via Zoom only)\*\* (CANCELLED)**

David Edwards (New College of Florida)

Josephus at Work in Rome: Material and Embodied Approaches to Composition

**Week 2, 22 October (via Zoom only)\*\***

Dr. Oren Ableman (The Israel Antiquities Authority)

Who was the 'Wicked Priest'? Reading History in Polemical Texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO-tqTksE9Qz1p4vIU\\_WjVzDc7AdVo0E](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAocO-tqTksE9Qz1p4vIU_WjVzDc7AdVo0E)

**Week 3, 29 October**

Wenyue Qiang (Oxford/St Cross College)

Biblical Hermeneutics of the Law of Burial in the Temple Scroll

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAodeCgrjIqE9U6Ib63YR1ewOy-diUeMxI>

**Week 4, 5 November**

Dr. Saskia Dönitz (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt)

From Josephus to Yosippon – Jewish History-Writing in the Early Middle Ages

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudOGtqTMpGNedskcThCSmGhFGD8UuAMXD>

**Week 5, 12 November**

Prof. Tessa Rajak (Oxford/Somerville)

The Voice of Lamentation in the *Jewish War*?

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdO-tqzgpHtJAH\\_TRXY5Mjapn5jQn2Uae](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdO-tqzgpHtJAH_TRXY5Mjapn5jQn2Uae)

**Week 6, 19 November**

Sarah Wisialowski (Oxford/Oriel)

Seventy Years of Silence: Prophetic Time and History in Daniel

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkd-ivpj0qGN3r2UTI65OSPcYaLhJ-lnwX>



## **Week 7, 26 November**

No seminar

## **Week 8, 3 December**

Ya'el Nu'emah Kremer (Oxford/Queens)

A Greek Jewish Curse Tablet from Antioch: Old and New Reflections

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tdOGppjsqHd30bx5JOqiypoD8lt91cmpz>



## **MEDIEVAL HEBREW READING GROUP**

**Weeks 3, 4, 5, 6 (in person only), 7**  
**Thursdays 10:00-11:00 am**

**In-person:** Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG and **online via Zoom:** see link below.

**Convenors:** Judith Olszowy-Schlanger and Joseph O'Hara

This reading group is an opportunity to practise reading directly from images of medieval Hebrew manuscripts in an informal setting. No advance preparation is required and all skill levels are welcome!

This year we will look at documents and manuscript excerpts from a broad range of the many genres found in medieval Hebrew texts, including scientific, literary, and legal. We will consider their palaeography, language, and historical context, and learn practical skills for reading unfamiliar handwriting, dealing with damaged texts, and interpreting dates and unusual vocabulary.

There will be coffee, tea and cake from 11am in the Common Room of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies for those attending in person.

Please note that in **Week 6 (21 November)** we will hold a practical manuscripts handling session in the Bodleian Library (this is not available for online participants). This will be a longer session from 9:30am-12:30pm; as space is limited, please register your interest in advance. For further information about this session or for any other queries, please email Dr Joseph O'Hara at [joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk).

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvce-vrTgqGtCodFoJU00oXJmyJexWW2zo>





**EARLY MODERN WORLD SEMINAR**  
History Faculty  
Co-organized with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

**Week 5**  
**Wednesday, 13 November, 11.15am-12.45pm**

Dr Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg (NYU)  
Letters, Archives, Precedent? Early Modern Rabbinic Responsa and Their Afterlives

Please note that this seminar will not be in person and will now take place via Microsoft Teams only. Please use this link to join: [tinyurl.com/mpthu7xm](https://tinyurl.com/mpthu7xm)

Please find further information on OxTalks here: <https://talks.ox.ac.uk/talks/id/e12598b3-a16f-498c-8639-c025262132f2/>



**MEDIEVAL ANGLO-JEWISH TEXTS AND HISTORY**

**Week 6**  
**Thursday, 21 November 2024, from 2 to 5.30 pm**  
**Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre**  
**Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG**

**Convenors:** Judith Olszowy-Schlanger with Dean Irwin (University of Lincoln)

This group convenes once a term to read together unpublished Hebrew and Latin documents from Medieval England as sources for the history of the Jews before the expulsion of 1290.

**ALL WELCOME**



**SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST AND MEMORY**

**Thursdays, 2.15pm to 4pm**  
**Room 207, Clarendon Institute**  
**Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG**

**Convenors:** Zoë Waxman and Nicolas Garraud

**Week 1: October 17**

Julie Fitzpatrick (Royal Holloway, University of London)

*'In Cuba I began my career as a Cook' the intersection between Food, Class and the German Jewish female experience of pre-war migration*

**Week 3: October 31**

Nicolas Garraud (University of Oxford)

*The language of humour and laughter during the Holocaust: A new cultural history of the Warsaw ghetto (1939-1943)*

**Week 5: November 14**

Clara Djikistra (University of Cambridge)

*The experience of internment in French camps: Jews and "nomades" in Drancy, Poitiers and Montreuil-Bellay*

**Week 7: November 28**

Karen Skinazi (University of Bristol)

*Literary Representations of Sephardic Holocaust Memory*

**ALL WELCOME**



**LECTURE SERIES ON MODERN JUDAISM:  
THROUGH THE LENS OF OCTOBER 7  
in association with: the Faculty of Theology and Religion**

**Weeks 1-8**

**Mondays 11 am,**

**Room 207**

**Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG**

***\*\*Please note that these lectures are only open to members of the University of Oxford\*\****

The October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel was the worst massacre suffered by Jews since the Holocaust. Unleashing waves of anti-Zionism and antisemitism, the Jews' right to a national homeland has been challenged; Israel stands accused as a colonialist, genocidal state denying the rights of native Palestinians.

Lead by Dr. Miri Freud-Kandel, this lecture series explores critical questions faced by various strands of Jewish life and thought in the aftermath of October 7, such as:

- How did we get to this point?
- How did Zionism emerge?
- What were the formative influences shaping modern Jewish identity construction?
- The French Revolution promised a society in which religious discrimination would be eliminated. How did Jews respond to the opportunities heralded by Emancipation?
- At what cost to Jewish life, faith, and thought?
- Against a centuries-old legacy of Christian anti-Judaism, Enlightenment thought seemed to promise new beginnings. How did that play out?

**Week 1, 14 October**

The Civic Bargain: Is the Jew indeed 'more man than Jew'?

**Week 2, 21 October**

Debates on Jewish eligibility for citizenship: shaping moves towards Reform

**Week 3, 28 October**

Judaism as a Religion: Reform Judaism in the shadow of universalism

**Week 4, 4 November**

Orthodoxy: Same challenge, altered context. Judaism as more than a religion

**Week 5, 11 November**

American Judaism: from Pittsburgh to Pittsburgh

**Week 6, 18 November**

Zionism: Jewish messianism and nationalism rethought

**Week 7, 25 November**

The Shoah: Jewish faith rethought

**Week 8, 2 December**

The Sisterhood: Feminist critiques of patriarchy and interfaith as a path forward?



**MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT SEMINAR**  
**in association with: The Centre for the Study of the Bible, Oriel College**

**Wednesdays**  
**Weeks 4, 6 and 8 at 4pm to 5pm\*\***  
**Online via Zoom only**

**Conveners:** Miri Freud-Kandel and Daniel M. Herskowitz

**\*\*Please note new time\*\***

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, 23 October**

No seminar

**Week 4, 6 November**

Professor Rebecca J. Epstein-Levi (Vanderbilt University) will discuss her new book *When We Collide: Sex, Social Risk, and Jewish Ethics* (2023)

To register and join online click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAud-GtqjgJH9fkbiS54I5DuFlkwx48H9dm>

**Week 6, 20 November**

Professor Motti Inbari (UNC Pembroke) will discuss his new book *Ruth Blau: A Life of Paradox and Purpose* (2023)

To register and join online click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtf-2upjMpHdM-Vjllqm9jYa9TvS3RCIAP>



**\*\*\*Week 2, 22 October, St. Anne's College, Seminar Room 10 (Tim Gardam Building / New Library)**

Martin Goodman, Oxford

The Image of Herod in Modern Israel

**Abstract:**

Much is known from ancient authors and archaeological remains about the life and rule of Herod the Great (73-4 BCE), who was appointed king of Judaea by the Romans in 40 BCE. In later Christian mythology, Herod was depicted as an archetypal tyrant who had ordered a massacre of infants in Bethlehem at the time of the birth of Jesus, but Jewish tradition was oblivious of the Christian myth and showed little interest in Herod until the nineteenth century, when he began to be seen by some as an example of a powerful Jew who had negotiated a line between subservience to the ruling power and service to his people.

These Jewish depictions of Herod have mutated over the past two centuries under the influence of Zionist ideologies and in light of the establishment of the State of Israel and archaeological finds, and the image of Herod has been employed for markedly different and novel rhetorical purposes over recent years both by Israelis themselves and by others in relation to the actions of the Israeli state.

**Biography:**

Martin Goodman is Emeritus Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Oxford and an Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College. He is a Supernumerary Fellow and former President of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Among his books on Jewish and Roman history are *Rome and Jerusalem* (Allen Lane, 2007) and *Herod the Great: Jewish King in a Roman World* (Yale University Press, 2024).

**\*\*\*Week 3, 29 October, St. Anne's College, Seminar Room 7 (Ruth Deech Building)**

Michal Huss, Manchester:

'You cannot really live (or die) here': ongoing struggles over cemeteries and housing in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, 1957-2020

**Abstract:**

In the summer of 2020, protests erupted in Jaffa against a plan to build a homeless shelter on the site of the ancient Al-Isaaf Muslim cemetery, and in the following year, the community mobilized to protest a wave of housing demolitions. These were the latest in a long line of actions by the Muslim community opposing the sale and demolition of Muslim cemeteries and fighting to remain in their homes in Tel Aviv-Jaffa. This paper maps these struggles over every day spaces of living and dying from the 1950s to the present day and investigates how activists recently gained tangible achievements by framing their protests as an urban citizenship mobilization. The aim of the paper is twofold: it seeks to demonstrate the inter connections between the history of colonialism, partition, new state formation, and contemporary urban conflict; and to theorize the role of the built environment that facilitates daily life, rituals, and mourning, in shaping urban citizenship under post/coloniality. The paper builds on a participatory 'walk-along' ethnography, interviews with community leaders and activists, as well as archival tracing of court rulings, newspaper reports, and spatial plans. Utilizing this framework, it will show how activists invoked and reinterpreted the right-to-the-city ideas; deploying creative spatial performances and appealing to municipal governance to demand a deeper geo-temporal right-to-the-city that encompasses its religious and historical dimensions.

**Biography:**

Dr Michal Huss is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow and Lecturer in Architecture at the University of Manchester. She researches spatial in/justice and struggles over urban planning and the right to the city.

## **Week 4, 5 November**

Professor Yaron Peleg, Cambridge

New & Jew, Zionism and the Quest for National Culture

### **Abstract:**

The Zionist claim to Palestine was based on a very old story; so old that it became a myth. And since the distance between the Jewish present and the Jewish past was vast, the wish to make Palestine a home for a modern Jewish nation called for creating that nation anew. It was an immense claim that required an equally immense innovation. The lecture re-examines this well-known story by looking at some of the cultural innovations of Zionists--body culture, space, art, music--and considering their fraught legacy a century later.

### **Biography:**

Yaron Peleg is Kennedy-Leigh Professor in Modern Hebrew Studies at the University of Cambridge. His monographs include *New Hebrews; Making National Culture in Zion* (2025), *Directed by God, Jewishness in Contemporary Israeli Film and Television* (2016), *Israeli Culture Between the Two Intifadas* (2008), and *Orientalism and the Hebrew Imagination* (2005). Professor Peleg co-edited numerous scholarly anthologies, including most recently, *The Cambridge History of Modern Hebrew Literature and Israeli Visual Culture beyond 2010, a New Reader in Israeli Film, TV, Online Works* (both forthcoming in 2025). Professor Peleg is editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* (Taylor & Francis).

## **Week 5, 12 November**

Dr Davidi Borabeck, Oxford

To Ensure the Jewish Character of the Town through the Establishment of a Central Synagogue: Synagogues in Israeli Urban Internal Frontiers as Symbols of Sovereignty

### **Abstract:**

This paper will focus on synagogues in the urban internal frontier in Israel following the 1948 war and the Nakba. Following the 1948 war and the collapse of Palestinian urbanity, several administrative initiatives were held by the authorities to demonstrate sovereignty in these urban ethnocracies. Among these initiatives were the establishment of new synagogues.

Two significant features were highlighted in these newly constructed Israeli synagogues - their architectural design and location within urban space. Synagogues were built in monumental dimensions and were located in locations where they would overshadow other religious buildings and extract Israeli surveillance over the surviving Palestinians in the urban sphere. Thus, the synagogues, as well as the communities that gathered around them, were harnessed into the Zionist colonial policy in the urban sphere and served as national-sovereign agents.

This phenomenon is demonstrated through close analysis of archival documents in several urban frontiers in the State of Israel and point out the implications of this shift in various contexts by illustrating five examples of synagogues in Haifa, Jaffa, Ramla, and Natzrat-Illit.

These examples demonstrate the shift in synagogues role within Jewish society and theology - from places of worship and longevity to the destroyed Temple to symbols of Jewish sovereignty. Moreover, these synagogues demonstrate a shift in the role of religion in Jewish society following the establishment of the state of Israel.

### **Biography:**

David Borabeck is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies. His research focuses on the relations between nationalism, colonialism, religion, and ethnicity. In his dissertation, written under the supervision of Professor Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin and Dr Menashe Anzi, Borabeck examined the unique role of religion in the solidification of the Jewish-Israeli national collective and Zionist nation-building. Borabeck illustrates the uniqueness of this role as demonstrated by the

activity of the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs, which was comprised exclusively of Zionist Orthodox Jews (Religious-Zionist Jews) in the first decades of the state.

Borabeck's current study focus on the relations between sovereignty and sanctity in Israel/Palestine. His intention is to explore the triple relationship between religion, ethnicity, and nationalism through the recontextualisation of sacredness and sacred places in Israel in relation to the sovereign state. He does so through a spatial analysis of Jewish and Muslim sacred sites in Israel and the West Bank.

During his graduate studies in the Department of Jewish History at Ben-Gurion University, Israel, Borabeck received the Rottenstreich Fellowship for Outstanding Doctoral Students awarded by The Council for Higher Education of Israel, as well as a stipend from the Study of Modern Jewish Culture I-Core research group, and a faculty scholarship from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Additionally, Borabeck was a Doctorate fellow at Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters in Ben Gurion University and a postdoctoral fellow at the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies in Haifa University, Israel.

## **Week 6, 19 November**

Dr Sari Alfi-Nissan, Bar-Ilan University/Oxford

Abraham and Moses as Entrepreneurs: Educating for the Future with Narratives of the Past

### **Abstract:**

Over the past two decades, the entrepreneurial ethos has gained prominence in state education systems across many countries, aiming to construct an entrepreneurial identity among children and youth. The entrepreneurial ideal is frequently regarded in sociological literature as part of the neoliberal culture serving the global free market economy. The global entrepreneurial discourse promotes neoliberal values which include future orientation, personal autonomy and individualisation. Concurrently, state education systems strive to shape a national identity. In Israel, this objective is uniquely translated to promote an ethno-national, Zionist, Jewish-Israeli identity. The paradox between entrepreneurialism and ethno-nationalism raises an important question: How does the global entrepreneurial discourse, which advocates for a neoliberal, individualistic, and future-oriented identity, intersects with a state education system that seeks to establish a collectivist and ethno-national identity? The study followed the translation of the global entrepreneurial discourse into the local Israeli state education system (*mamlakhti*) among policymakers, educators, and within educational spaces through a multi-focal qualitative research. Findings reveal a hybrid entrepreneurial-nationalistic ideal emerging in Israeli education, merging neoliberalism and ethno-nationalism, and combining future orientation with Jewish-Israeli narratives and symbols. As neoliberal and ethno-national narratives are weaved together, the local discourse reclaims and reproduces social in/exclusion, marking social boundaries and perpetuating inequality. The research contributes to the understanding of how discourse (re)shapes the social, by showing how a global educational discourse is redesigned and translated within a socio-political context.

### **Biography:**

Dr Sari R. Alfi-Nissan is a postdoctoral fellow at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA). She completed her PhD at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Bar-Ilan University. Sari's research focuses on discourses of entrepreneurialism, youth aspirations, and the formation of self and identity in the iGeneration era. She was granted the Presidential Doctoral Fellowship of Excellence, the Rector Award of Distinction and won the University Presidential Award for Article Publications four consecutive years. She was a visiting researcher at the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research at the University of Kent, and is a member of Critical Sociology and Philosophy of Education (CRISP) research group at the University of Helsinki. Sari teaches various methodology courses, using qualitative and quantitative methods, and is also a novelist and a lecturer of Storytelling of Empirical Knowledge.



## Week 7, 26 November

Dr Menashe Anzi, Ben Gurion

Trade Networks Bridging Yemen, Israel, and Ethiopia: The Ḥibshūsh Family and Jewish-Muslim Commercial Relations in the 20th Century

### Abstract:

This lecture examines the commercial legacy of the Ḥibshūsh family, a prominent Yemenite Jewish dynasty that played a pivotal role in the Red Sea basin trade from the 1880s to the 1970s. Utilizing a rich archive of primary sources, this global micro-historical study illuminates the intricate Jewish-Arab commercial networks that flourished across geopolitical boundaries, encompassing Yemen, Mandatory Palestine, Israel, Ethiopia, and beyond. By analyzing the Ḥibshūsh family's extensive business operations, particularly in coffee trade and textile imports, we gain novel insights into Jewish-Muslim relations from a transnational, commercial perspective. This approach reveals the nuanced interactions between Arab-Asian, Israeli, and African communities in the Red Sea region, offering a fresh historical perspective within the contexts of colonial rule (Italian and British) and the Yemenite monarchy.

While existing scholarship on Israel's engagement with the Red Sea region and Africa has predominantly focused on political, and security dimensions, this study shifts the lens to long-established Jewish business networks. It explores how Yemenite Jewish entrepreneurs, exemplified by the Ḥibshūsh family, maintained and adapted trade routes connecting Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, and Israel before and after the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

This research contributes significantly to our understanding of Israel's economic history and its commercial ties in the region. By examining how the Ḥibshūsh family navigated shifting political landscapes while sustaining cross-cultural business relationships, we gain deeper insights into the role of Yemenite Jews in shaping Israel's early economic connections in the region; the continuity and adaptation of pre-state Jewish trade networks in the post-1948 era; and the interplay between Israel's diplomatic efforts and private commercial initiatives in Africa.

Through this focused study, we illuminate a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of Israeli-African relations, demonstrating how commerce served as a bridge between cultures and nations in this strategically vital region.

### Biography:

Menashe Anzi is a Senior Lecturer in the Jewish History department at Ben-Gurion University, Israel. His areas of specialisation include the history of Yemenite Jews, the relationship between Jews and Muslims in Islamic cities, and the trade networks and Jewish migration along the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. His book *The Ṣan'ā'nīs: Jews in Muslim Yemen, 1872–1950* (2021, Zalman Shazar Center, in Hebrew), has won him the Ben-Zvi Institute prize for 2022.

## Week 8, 3 December

Professor Abigail Green, Oxford

'Last child of the Risorgimento'? Zionism and the legacies of 1848

### Abstract:

Isaiah Berlin famously described the new state of Israel as the "last child of the European Risorgimento". This paper seeks to unpick that claim by exploring the relationship between the revolutions of 1848 and the foundation of the State of Israel exactly one hundred years later. The paper will set the ideological connection that directly links Zionism to the revolutions through the work of Moses Hess, and through the affinity early Austrian Zionists felt with the ideas of Adolf Fischhof, alongside the personal connections that linked so many of key figures within international Jewish politics in the first half of the twentieth century to the revolutionary caesura: Zionists, such as Louis Brandeis, Nathan Straus, Henrietta Szold, and Victor Basch (president of the Ligue des Droits de l'Homme from 1926-1944), but also anti-

Zionists like Lucien Wolf, Paul Nathan (founder and Vice-President of the Hilfsverein Deutscher Juden) and, in an ambivalent position, the President of the JCA Franz Philippson.

Biography:

Abigail Green is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of Brasenose College. Her latest book is *Jewish Country Houses* (edited with Juliet Carey, and out with Profile Books and Brandeis University Press in November 2024). The paper emerges from her current project. Children of 1848: Liberalism and the Jews from the Revolutions to Human Rights.



## **PROGRAMME OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION AND THE ORIEL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BIBLE**

### **Biblical Hebrew Reading Group**

**Weeks 2, 4-7**  
**Mondays 11:30-12:30 pm**  
**Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College**

**Convenor: Dr Cian Power**

#### **Week 2, October 21 *CANCELLED***

Jacob Wöhrle (Tübingen)  
Genesis 2:4-9

#### **Week 4, November 4**

Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge)  
Exod 38:1-8; 40:6-7, 29-32 (MT) // Exod 38:22-27; 40:6-7, 26-27 (LXX)

#### **Week 5, November 11**

Friedhelm Hartenstein (LMU)  
Psalm 77:8-21

#### **Week 6, November 18**

Katherine Southwood (St John's)  
Job 16:6-17

#### **Week 7, November 25**

Cian Power (Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford)  
2 Chron 30:1, 5-13, 18-20

Consult at the Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit passcode to enter the Harris Seminar Room. For any enquiries, please write to [ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk)

**For programme updates please see the website:**

**<https://www.centreforbible.riel.ox.ac.uk/events/biblical-hebrew-reading-group/>**





## Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar

Weeks 1-6, 8 (no session Week 7)

Mondays 14:30-16:00

Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College (unless otherwise stated<sup>\*\*\*</sup>)

Convenor: Hindy Najman

Please consult at the **Porter's lodge** at Oriel College to get the **4-digit code** to access the area where the Harris Seminar Room is located.

Please direct any enquiries to [ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk)

### Week 1, October 14

Induction session

14:00-16:00, Harris Lecture Theatre

*Followed by reception in Harris Seminar Room*

### Week 2, October 21 **CANCELLED**

Jacob Wöhrle (Tübingen)

"There was no Human to till the Ground": The Formation and the Religious Historical Background of the Non-Priestly Creation Account Genesis 2-3

### **\*\*\*Week 3, October 28**

Hugh Williamson (Christ Church)

The Valley of Vision: A Speculative Reconsideration of Isaiah 22:1-8a

This lecture will be held in the British Museum

Further details to be disseminated via email for the trip

### Week 4, November 4

*The Making of the Tabernacle and the Construction of Priestly Hegemony*

Book Launch for Nathan MacDonald (Cambridge)

14:30-17:00, Harris Lecture Theatre

*Followed by reception in the Harris Seminar Room*

For this event's schedule and list of speakers, please see OCSB's event page:

<https://www.centreforbible.ox.ac.uk/events/book-launch-the-making-of-the-tabernacle-and-the-construction-of-priestly-hegemony-by-nathan-macdonald/>

### Week 5, November 11

Friedhelm Hartenstein (LMU)

Exodus: Event, Memory, Expectation: On the Symbolic Potential of the Biblical Exodus Narrative

### Week 6, November 18

Katherine Southwood (St John's)

The Refusal to Recognize Job as a Reliable Witness and the Significance of Epistemic and Hermeneutical Injustice for Wisdom and Law

### Week 8, December 2

*Ambiguities of Exile*

**Joint Conference, University of Oxford and King's College London**

Convened by Andrea Schatz (KCL) and Rebekah Van Sant (Oriel)

*Further details will be circulated closer to event*

**For programme updates please see the website:**

<https://www.centreforbible.oriel.ox.ac.uk/events/hebrew-bible-old-testament-seminar/>



## **EARLY BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION SEMINAR**

**Convenor:** Hindy Najman

### **Week 4 (Thursday, November 7)**

Weston Library, 10:00-12:00

Manuscripts of the Hebrew Bible and Old Testament

Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Peter Toth (Bodleian Library)

*Further details to be circulated via email closer to event*

### **Week 5 (Tuesday, November 12)**

Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College, 11:30-13:00

Friedhelm Hartenstein (LMU) and Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Biblical Hermeneutics and Philosophical Poetics

### **Week 8 (Thursday, December 5)**

Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College, 10:00-12:00

John Screnock (Wycliffe)

Methods for Tracking Hebrew through Time: Historical Linguistics, Periodization, the Nature of Language, and Dating Ancient Texts

**For programme updates please see the website:**

<https://www.centreforbible.oriel.ox.ac.uk/events/early-biblical-interpretation-seminar/>



## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

### **Varieties of Judaism Lectures (Undergraduate Lectures)**

**Weeks 1-8**

Tuesday, 10:00-11:00, Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

### **Professionalisation Session: SBL Practice Presentations (for students only)**

Convened by Hindy Najman and Rebekah Van Sant

**Week 6, Tuesday, Nov 19**

17:00-19:00, Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

## **Postgraduate Set Texts Classes**

Instructor: Cian Power

Thursdays, 14:00-16:00

*For further details please be in touch with Cian Power*

## **Special events**

### **Hanukkah Party**

**Week 8, Tuesday, December 3**

17:00-18:30

Provost's Lodgings, Oriel College

*All are welcome – RVSP form to be circulated*

### **How to Ace Your Interview** (open to all):

A workshop with Susan Black (Oxford University Careers Service)

**Week 8, Friday, December 6**

14:30-16:00

HB Allen Centre Lecture Theatre, Keble College

*For more information about this session please contact [OxfordNTSeminar@gmail.com](mailto:OxfordNTSeminar@gmail.com).*



## **VISITING FELLOWS**

### **SALO AND JEANNETTE BARON VISITING FELLOW IN JEWISH HISTORY**

Dr Karen E.H. Skinazi (University of Bristol)

### **YISHAI SHAHAR VISITING FELLOW IN JEWISH ART HISTORY**

Dr Gabriela Benner (University of Porto)

## **VISITING SCHOLARS**

Professor Jonathan Jacobs (City University of New York)

Professor Susanne Marten-Finnis (University of Portsmouth)

Dr Mei-Tal Nadler (The Open University of Israel)

Dr Emily Rose

## **JUNIOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS**

Ms Timea Crofony (Charles University)

Mr Zhao Chenxi (Zhengzhou University)





## THURSDAY COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE

Every Thursday morning during term from 11.00 to 11.30am  
in the Common Room, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street.

An opportunity to meet and catch up with others working in Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

**All welcome**



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