

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies



Programme for Trinity Term 2025



**OXFORD CENTRE FOR
HEBREW & JEWISH STUDIES**

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG
Thursdays, 6.00 pm (UK time)

Week 1, 1 May
No lecture.

Dr Keren Fraiman and Dr Dean Bell (Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago)
Judaism in the 21st Century: Key Themes and Emerging Trends
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/XUbXt0DhS8OWf9O0CRurpA>



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.



MODERN HEBREW ULPAN

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

Tutor: Mrs Esther Yadgar

*****Please note***** that new students are not being accepted for **Absolute Beginners** and **Lower Intermediates** in Trinity Term 2025. They will be accepted for the next academic year which will commence in October 2025.

Absolute Beginners: Mondays @ 12:30-13:30 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2025, please register [here](#). Please note that this link is **only** for those students who have already taken the class in the last two terms. The first class will take place on Monday, 28 April.

Lower Intermediates: Mondays @ 14:00-15:00 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2025, please register [here](#). Please note that this link is **only** for those students who have already taken the class in the last two terms. The first class will take place on Monday, 28 April.

Upper Intermediates: Tuesdays @ 12 noon-13:00 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2025, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Tuesday, 29 April.

Lower intermediate ACADEMIC Modern Hebrew: Thursdays (time and place to be confirmed). **In person only**. The first class will take place on Thursday, 1 May. For registration for this class, please email Esther Yadgar at esther.yadgar@ames.ox.ac.uk

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 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.

******Lower Intermediate Academic Modern Hebrew:** Aimed at students and academics who wish to be able to read academic works in Modern Hebrew. The class will emphasise

vocabulary needed for reading scholarly articles and works for research purposes in Modern Hebrew, especially in Theology and Antiquity.

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)

Tutor: Dr. Norman Solomon

Interested persons are welcome to join Dr. Norman Solomon's ongoing Talmud class on Wednesdays. The text for study in Trinity Term is the Berakhot 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 TRINITY TERM ARE NOW CLOSED.

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](#) (Professor Don Stilo)
[Judeo-Italian](#) (Dr Marilena Colasuonno)
[Judeo-Moroccan](#) (Haviva Fenton)
[Judeo-Neo-Aramaic](#) (Dr Dorota Molin)
[Judeo-Persian](#) (Dr Ilan Moradi)
[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

Jewish Music Class for Trinity Term 2025

Yiddish Musics: The 20th and 21st Century (Third Part)

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

Yiddish Musics: The 20th and 21st Century (Third Part)

Tutor: Dr Diana Matut

This course will continue to explore 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 for this class are now closed.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Priscilla Lange at academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk





OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

Week 3
Tuesday, 13 May
6 pm

ONLINE VIA ZOOM ONLY

Dr Carlos Yebra López
(California State University, Fullerton)

Book Launch
Ladino On the Internet: Sepharad 4

In order to participate in this lecture, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/HawN_0a3QzqXvazYWzrUgQ



BRICHTO ISRAELI ARTS & CULTURE EVENT

Week 5
Wednesday, 28 May, 6pm

In person only at

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

Join us at the OCHJS where a famed Israeli poet, Professor Shimon Adaf (Ben Gurion University), will be reading his poetry and he will be in discussion with Yoav Ronel and Esther Yadgar.

Refreshments to follow





BRICHTO ISRAELI ARTS & CULTURE EVENT

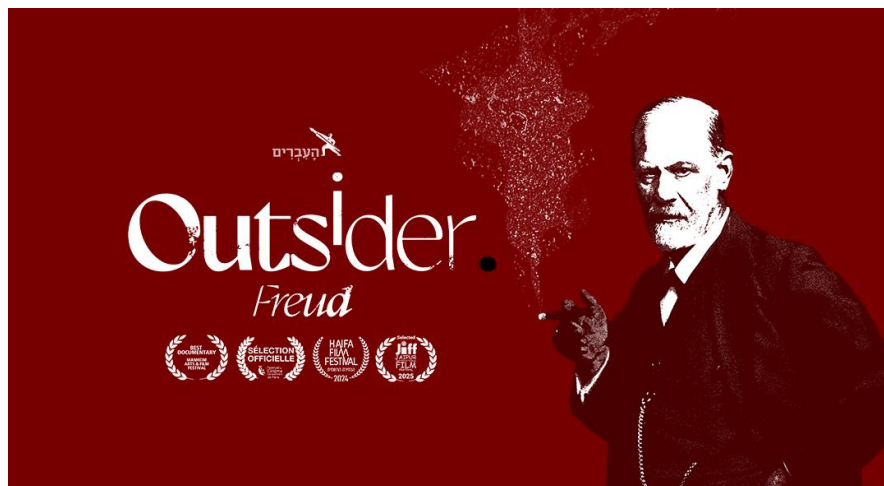
Screening of documentary *Outsider.Freud*

Week 6, Wednesday, 4 June 2025, 6pm
Maison Française d'Oxford
2-10 Norham Road Oxford OX2 6SE

Join us at the Maison Française where the director and producer of *Outsider.Freud*, Yair Qedar, will introduce and discuss the documentary.

Please get your free Eventbrite tickets here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/screening-of-documentary-outsiderfreud-tickets-1318580723439?aff=oddtcreator>



Israel and Ione Massada Fellowships Programme

In Association with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

2025 MASSADA ANNUAL LECTURE

SAVE THE DATE:

Professor Mouna Maroun
Tuesday 10 June 2025 at 17:15

Distinguished Arab-Israeli Neurobiologist,
Rector of the University of Haifa, and Former Chair of
the National Steering Committee for Expanding Access
to Higher Education for Arabs, Druze and Circassians

Sultan Nazrin Shah Centre - Worcester College, Oxford
Registration: www.worc.ox.ac.uk/massada25

The talk will be followed by a drinks reception for all attendees



ISRAEL AND IONE MASSADA
FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME
WORCESTER COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



OXFORD CENTRE FOR
HEBREW & JEWISH STUDIES

Free registration
for University
members





**OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES
BODLEIAN LIBRARY**

**Hebrew Manuscript Studies:
Codicology, Palaeography, Art History**

**SUMMER WORKSHOP
23 June-4 July 2025**

The Hebrew Manuscript Studies: Codicology, Palaeography, Art History summer workshop, will take place from 23 June to 4 July 2025. The workshop is led by Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (OCHJS and Corpus Christi College) and César Merchán-Hamann (OCHJS and Bodleian Library). The workshop is organised in collaboration with the Bodleian Library, which will allow access to original manuscripts in situ for the teaching sessions.

The Summer Workshop in Oxford proposes a comprehensive and specialised programme in which basic yet in-depth methodological introduction and research guidance will be provided to the fields of Hebrew Manuscript Studies mentioned above, as well as to history of the book and collections, art history, conservation and digital palaeography

Lecturers will include Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger, Professor Sarit Shalev-Eyni, Dr Agata Paluch and Dr César Merchán-Hamann.

Applications are now closed



**OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TAUBE DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH
STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW**

**12th Annual
Oxford Summer Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism (OSI)**

30 June-4 July 2025

**Jewish Citizenship and Belonging –
Between Identity, Responsibility and Sacrifice**

The theme for OSI 2025 is 'Jewish Citizenship and Belonging: Between Identity, Responsibility and Sacrifice'. The last few years have witnessed the frightening intensification of antisemitism in many corners of the world and the academy has frequently helped to fan some of the flames of anti-Jewish rhetoric. Rather than facilitating bigotry and ugly stereotypes, there is a crucial need to strengthen balanced, critical scholarship that can enrich understanding of Jews and

Judaism in insightful ways. In this light, the theme of OSI 2025 responds to the acute challenges for Jews and Judaism worldwide that arose in the aftermath of the October 7th 2023 Hamas terror attack on Israel and the ongoing human tragedy that has evolved since then in the region.

Applications are now closed



OXFORD BIBLICAL HEBREW SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

The Oxford Biblical Hebrew Summer School will take place online from August 26 – September 5, 2025. This year the school is being offered online (via Zoom).

The school offers nine days of intensive teaching in Biblical Hebrew. Each weekday, there will be 3 hours of teaching, delivered in two separate 90-minute sessions, from 11.30-13.00 and 14.00-15.30 UK time.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 11 July 2025** (places are limited)

Please see the leaflet with further information [here](#).

The application form and further information may be downloaded [here](#)

Please complete and return the application form by email to Dr Stephen Herring: stephen.herring@ames.ox.ac.uk or mail to OBHSS, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HG

Successful applicants will be notified as soon as possible upon submission of application.

All this information can also be found on our website here: <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/oxford-biblical-hebrew-summer-school-2025/>

For general enquiries about the course, please email Dr Stephen Herring: stephen.herring@ames.ox.ac.uk





**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 (**unless otherwise stated**)
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 (followed by coffee, tea and biscuits in the Common Room, situated in the basement of the Clarendon Institute).

Convenor: Meron Piotrkowski

Week 1, Tuesday 29th April

Noah Hacham, "3 Maccabees: Text and Context"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Dm8AWPKgQzC_Oh8xTYINBg

Week 2, Tuesday 6th May

Noa Yuval-Hacham, "Jewish Art in Ancient Synagogues: Internal Discourse or External Polemic?"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/DU_U8EzcSICXmQfe-3D47A

Week 3, Tuesday 13th May

Bruce Griffin, "The Transmission of the LXX at Oxyrhynchus"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/4LcfMmjyS8i8-QZ5Hpnn4Q>

Week 4, Thursday 22nd May (Wolfson College)

Special Session, In person only

AWRC Workshop: "From Josephus to the Rabbis"

Location: Wolfson College (The Buttery); 9:00am-17:00pm – for further details see below.

Week 5, Tuesday 27th May

Arjen Bakker, "Contemplating Cosmogony: Time and Reading in Philo of Alexandria"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/RPdj8mEaS72PpgmRwklNXQ>

Week 6, Wednesday 4th June, *Please note the changed date and time*****

4pm-5:30pm

Sarah Pearce, "Philo on the Meaning of Home"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/g-GpiTkDRN-3wlpUiWrr5Q>

Week 7, Thursday 12th June, *Please note the changed date and time*****

12:30pm-2pm

Nicholas de Lange, "The Poetics of Symmachus the Translator"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/shGHZj3NRXe4QV9cKA29NQ>

Week 8, Tuesday 17th June

Hindy Najman, "Alternate Frameworks for Apocalypticism: History, Time, and Law in Ancient Judaism"

Please register at this link to participate via Zoom:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/TSg5NfUITS2V_5cI2inhFA



READING JEWS IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Trinity Term, 3 meetings

Mondays 13:00-14:00 (Weeks 2-4)

In-person: Room 207, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG and online via
Zoom: see link below.

Convenors: Prof. Meron Piotrkowski and Ya'el Nu'emah-Kremer

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of Jews during Late Antiquity, highlighting their multifaceted roles within the broader Mediterranean and Near Eastern worlds. Through a close examination of literary and non-literary sources—such as papyri, inscriptions, and Rabbinic texts—we will investigate key themes in the life of Jews and Jewish communities between the Roman and Sassanian worlds, and under the rule of other religious, legal, and social frameworks.

The three sessions of Trinity Term will focus on the following topics:

Week 2, 5 May: Heresies and Heretical Beliefs

Week 3, 12 May: Guest Lecture by Dr. Shlomi Efrati: "'And Rested the Seventh Day': Sabbath's Rest in Jewish, Christian, and Greco-Roman Exegesis and Polemics"

Week 4, 19 May: Violence Against Jews and Jewish Violence

*****NEW ZOOM LINK*****

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:

<https://huji.zoom.us/j/84737887668?pwd=VzbTEHTSn8s5boKwOEBRG2rMfh1j9e.1>





FROM JOSEPHUS TO THE RABBIS WORKSHOP

*In Association with the Ancient World Research Cluster, the Centre for the Study of the Bible
and the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies*

Trinity Term

Thursday, May 22 09:30-17:00 (Week 4)

In-person: Wolfson College (The Buttery), Linton Rd, Oxford OX2 6UD

Convenor: Prof. Meron Piotrkowski

This workshop, entitled “From Josephus to the Rabbis,” seeks to engage critically with the arguments presented in the substantial volume of essays published in 2024 in *A Vision of the Days: Studies in Early Jewish History and Historiography in Honor of Daniel R. Schwartz*, edited by Robert Brody, Noah Hacham, Meron Piotrkowski, and Jan Willem van Henten. The event aims to provide a forum for critical discussion of the themes, methodologies, and historical interpretations presented in the volume and will culminate in a keynote address by Professor Schwartz, in honour of whose significant contributions to the study of Second Temple Judaism and history the essays were written. The workshop will feature an international group of scholars from the UK, continental Europe, and Israel, presenting on a range of topics including ancient Jewish historiography, Jewish papyri from Egypt, Jewish-Hellenistic literature (including Philo), the reception of Josephus in Syriac and modern literature, and the development of rabbinic traditions. There is no need to register in advance for the workshop.

Programme:

09:00-09:30 Gathering and Coffee

09:30-09:45 Welcoming Remarks (Meron Piotrkowski)

09:45-12:00 Session 1

CHAIR: JUDITH OLSZOWY-SCHLANGER (OCHJS)

PART I: MODERN PERSPECTIVES

Martin Goodman (Wolfson), Isaac D’Israeli on Jewish History after 70 CE: The First Two Centuries

Tessa Rajak (Somerville), Moshe Schwabe and the Hebrew Gymnasium

10:45-11:00 Coffee Break

PART II: THE RABBIS AND RABBINIC LITERATURE

Robert Brody (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), What Did the Rabbis Think About Priests?

Noah Hacham (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), On Exile: Between Philo and Rabbinic Literature

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-14:30 Session 2

CHAIR: HINDY NAJMAN (ORIEL)

PART I: REASSESSING JOSEPHUS: TEXTS, TRADITIONS, & TRANSFORMATIONS

David Friedman (Cambridge/St.Edmund's), Josephus' Inconsistent Accounts of Judean (Dis)unity

David Taylor (Wolfson), The Reception of Josephus in Syriac Sources

Meron Piotrkowski (Wolfson), Josephus on Papyrus: On the Oldest Surviving Manuscript of the 1st century Jewish Historian

14:30-15:00 Coffee Break

15:00-17:00 Session 3

CHAIR: MARTIN GOODMAN (WOLFSON)

PART II: REASSESSING JOSEPHUS: TEXTS, TRADITIONS, & TRANSFORMATIONS

Jan Willem van Henten (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Josephus and the Flavians Revisited: The Case of the Antiquities

15:45-16:45 Keynote Lecture

Daniel Schwartz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Who's to Blame for the Catastrophe? Josephus and the Birth of Jewish Post-Destruction Discourse

16:45-17:00 Closing Remarks

HINDY NAJMAN, MERON PIOTRKOWSKI, NOAH HACHAM



MONEY TALKS: SECOND TEMPLE HISTORY THROUGH THE LENS OF ANCIENT JEWISH COINS IN THE ASHMOLEAN COLLECTION

Trinity Term, 4 meetings

Thursdays 11:00-12:00 (Weeks 1, 2, 3, 5) *unless otherwise stated**

**In-person: The Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology
University of Oxford, Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2PH**

Convenor: Prof. Meron Piotrkowski

This course explores key episodes in the history of the Jews during the Second Temple period through the study of ancient Jewish coins, which were struck by various leaders of the time. We will examine these coins alongside selected passages from ancient Jewish texts – such as those by Josephus, the Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran, and other contemporary writers – to uncover the stories the coins tell. Together, we will consider whether these numismatic sources confirm, challenge, or enrich the historical record. Students will have the rare opportunity to see, handle, and closely examine original coins. Please note: This course takes place in the Heberden Coin Room at the Ashmolean Museum.

****The space is limited to 15 people. To reserve a spot, please contact Prof. M. Piotrkowski at meron.piotrkowski@ames.ox.ac.uk. Spaces will be allocated based on availability, so we encourage early registration.****

The four sessions of Trinity Term will focus on the following topics:

Week 1, 1 May: The Hasmonean Dynasty

Week 2, 8 May: The Coins of Herod the Great

*****Week 3, 14 May Wednesday:** Judea under Roman Rule

Week 5, 29 May: The Jewish Revolts against Roman and Rebel Coinage



WORKSHOP

Jewish Documents from Ancient and Medieval Egypt

Week 6, Friday June 6

9-11 am

Bodleian Library – Weston, Horton Room (1st floor)

In person only: The participants will study original marriage contracts from two fabulous Oxford collections: the papyri from late antiquity and 10th-11th century ketubbot from the Cairo Genizah. Places are limited to 20 only. Priority will be given to University of Oxford students; if spaces are still available, only people with University and/or Library cards will be permitted to attend.

To register, please write to Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger at judith.schlanger@ames.ox.ac.uk



MEDIEVAL HEBREW READING GROUP

Weeks 1-4, 6-8

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 5 the Medieval Hebrew Reading Group will join the Medieval Anglo-Jewish Texts and History seminar (please see further information below); this will not be available for online participants.

For further information about this reading group or for any other queries, please email Dr Joseph O'Hara at joseph.ohara@ccc.ox.ac.uk.

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8ZAPFFDXQoiaPc397ILBA>



MEDIEVAL ANGLO-JEWISH TEXTS AND HISTORY

Week 5

Thursday, 29 May 2025, from 9:30 am to 5.00 pm

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre

Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

Convenors: Professor Judith Olszowy-Schlanger and Dr Dean Irwin

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 IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

in association with: The Centre for the Study of the Bible, Oriel College

3:30pm (UK time) (** unless otherwise stated)

Online via Zoom only (**unless otherwise stated)

Conveners: Dr Miri Freud-Kandel and Dr Ghila Amati

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.

Week 2, Wednesday, 7 May

Professor Jerome Yehuda Gellman (Bar Ilan University), will discuss his book 'The People, The Torah, the God: A Neo-Traditional Jewish Theology?'

To register and join online please click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/TofFAzalRdyW676-ywM0Ng>

****Week 4, Wednesday, 21 May, 3pm, In person only**

In a change of format this week, join in-person for a second roundtable discussion on The Binding of Isaac/Ishmael with Julie Siddiqi

Part of a series on The Sisterhood? Feminist Critiques of Patriarchy and Inter-Faith Dialogue

In person: Open to members of the University

Location: Gibson Building, Faculty of Theology & Religion, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Rd.

Week 6, Wednesday, 4 June

Professors George Y. Kohler (Bar Ilan University), and Samuel Kessler (Virginia Commonwealth University) will discuss their co-edited volume 'Modern Jewish Theology: The First One Hundred Years, 1835-1935'

To register and join online please click here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/w58JEytNThKxZ5ZrFn_rpw



SEMINAR IN MODERN HEBREW LITERATURE

Online via Zoom (unless otherwise stated)
Mondays at 1pm, Weeks 4, 5 and 8**

Convenor: Dr Yoav Ronel

This seminar will offer lectures on Modern Hebrew Literature, featuring recent scholarly discussions. While open to the public, one of the seminar's primary goals is to create a forum for ongoing discussions about the current state of Hebrew Literature and its critique. The seminar will primarily take place online, with some lectures offered in a hybrid format.

Week 4, Monday, 19 May (Online only)

Tafat Hacohen Bick, Van Leer Institute: "Can a Musarnik tell a story? Aesthetics, Musar, and the Birth of Modern Hebrew Literature"

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/63XUNpDKRSCb_3dIIV7YLO

****Week 5, Monday, 26 May (Hybrid event; Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street)**

Yaacov Z. Meir, The Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Haim Weiss, Ben Gurion University: "Nehemia and the State of Israeli Literature"

Hybrid event both in person at the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford, and online via Zoom

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/sMaPNLCCS2i3Ckzdm3ATuQ>

Week 8, 16 June (Online only)

Amir Benbaji, Ben Gurion University. "Melitsah in the History of Hebrew Literary Theory"

In order to attend this reading group via Zoom, please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tvtDOnZ1RUe8oargeIHl5Q>



ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR

Time: Tuesdays, 2:15 – 4:00pm

Place: St. Anne's College, Seminar Room 1 (**unless otherwise stated)

More details: [All Events](#) | [Middle East Studies \(ox.ac.uk\)](#) and at [OxTalks](#)

Convenors: Professor Yaacov Yadgar and Dr David Borabeck (University of Oxford)

Week 1, Tuesday 29 April, Seminar Room 1

Dr Ferit Belder (University of Oxford)

Israeli Far-Right amid the Erosion of the 'Legitimate Circle of Politics'

The seminar explores the discursive mapping of far-right constituents within the most right-wing coalition in Israel's history, formed under Benjamin Netanyahu's premiership after the five elections held between 2019 and 2022.

The Religious Zionism Party and Jewish Power have consistently been at the centre of heated debate – not only because their leaders hold critical ministerial positions, including finance and national security, which gained heightened relevance in the aftermath of October 7th, but also due to their self-positioning within Israel's shifting political landscape and their anti-establishment push for political and legal changes, even before these events.

The seminar examines their shared and divergent motivations during the 2021 and 2022 elections, with a focus on the division of labour between these two factions. Drawing on campaign data from X (formerly Twitter) by key leaders Betzalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben Gvir, it offers a comparative analysis of their articulation of the key issues such as legitimacy, sovereignty, and the judiciary.

Dr Ferit Belder is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey. He earned his MSc from SOAS, University of London, in 2016, and completed his PhD at Istanbul University in 2019. His doctoral research analyzed the political behavior of ultra-Orthodox political parties in Israel through the framework of societal security.

During his PhD studies, he was a visiting researcher at Bar-Ilan University from November 2017 to July 2018. His academic expertise focuses on Israeli politics, including elections and political parties; the identity-security relationship; Israel-Palestine relations; and Jewish settlements. He is currently conducting his postdoctoral research, titled Identifying Multiple Frames of the Israeli "Settlements", at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

His work has been published in journals such as Middle Eastern Studies, International Affairs, and the Contemporary Review of the Middle East, among others. Dr Belder has also presented his research at various academic conferences.

****Week 2, Tuesday 6 May, Seminar Room 5**

Dr Yair Berlin (University of Cambridge)

Love, Pride, Fear, and Happiness: Zionism as a Case Study for 'National Emotions'

What emotional traits are essential for building a nation? More broadly, are there such things as 'national emotions,' and if so, what are they? In this lecture, I will explore these questions by analysing the Zionist case through the lens of the history of emotions. I will examine emotions where the national dimension is evident, such as honour and love of the homeland, alongside emotions that may seem less directly national, like fear and happiness.

Yair completed his PhD through the Program for Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies at Bar-Ilan University, focusing on religious emotions in the Lithuanian Haredi community. He is currently a British

Academy Newton International Fellow at the University of Cambridge and a Research Associate at Sidney Sussex College. His research focuses on the emotional dimensions of the Zionist 'negation of the diaspora.'

Week 3, Tuesday 13 May, Seminar Room 1

Professor Boaz Huss (Ben-Gurion University)

Steiner in Zion: The Reception of Anthroposophy in Israel

Anthroposophy, the alternative spiritual movement founded in 1913 by Austrian Esotericist Rudolf Steiner, has become a significant presence in contemporary Israeli society. Two branches of the Anthroposophical society operate in Israel, along with an Anthroposophical Kibbutz in the upper Galilee. Waldorf education, based on Steiner's pedagogical principles, is highly popular, with hundreds of Waldorf kindergartens, schools and training centers across the country. Additionally, several Anthroposophical remedial homes and villages support people with special needs.

The widespread success of Anthroposophy in Israel raises intriguing questions. How did the spiritual teachings of Rudolf Steiner, which are rooted in western esoteric traditions and incorporate numerous Christological themes, resonate withing Israeli Jewish society? How do Israeli Anthroposophists engage with Steiner's negative views on Judaism and Zionism?

The lecture will explore the reception history of Anthroposophy in Israel, focusing on the efforts of Israeli anthroposophist to reconcile their Jewish and Israeli identities with their Anthroposophical beliefs and practices.

Boaz Huss is the Aron Bernstein Chair in Jewish History in the Department of Jewish Thought and serves as the chair of the Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University. His research focuses on the history of Kabbalah, Western esotericism, New Age culture, and new religious movements in Israel. Huss's recent publications include *The Cosmic Movement: Sources, Contexts, Impact* (Bialik Press, 2021, co-authored with Julie Chajes) and *Mystifying Kabbalah: Academic Scholarship, National Theology, and New Age Spirituality* (Oxford University Press, 2020). His forthcoming book, *The Secret Doctrine of the Jew: Jewish Theosophists and the Kabbalah*, is scheduled for publication in 2025 by the State University of New York Press.

Week 4, Tuesday 20 May, Seminar Room 1

Rakefet Anzi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

"A Man Learns Only from What His Heart Desires": Hebrew Textbooks Reimagined

By situating Hebrew textbooks for adults within their historical and social contexts, this lecture sheds light on the intricate relationship between pedagogy, national identity, and the challenges faced by immigrants adapting to a new homeland.

Employing the concept of Entangled Histories, it connects global pedagogical knowledge of language instruction with the unique adaptations developed in Mandatory Palestine and the State of Israel for adult learners. Through an examination of Hebrew textbooks, their authors, and their integration into Hebrew classes for adults, often conducted as evening lessons, my research highlights the interplay between imported methodologies and local innovations. The lecture explores how Hebrew textbooks became a medium for navigating the tension between preserving cultural heritage and fostering integration into a rapidly evolving society.

Rakefet Anzi is a PhD candidate in Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a 2024/25 Leo Baeck Fellow of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes. Her dissertation explores Hebrew language education for adults in Mandatory Palestine and early Israel (1930s–1950s), focusing on its role in shaping national identity and society-building.

She has been affiliated with the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Center and the Cherrick Center, contributing to research on German-Jewish history and the Yishuv. In May–July 2025, Rakefet will be a Junior Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

Alongside her research, she teaches at the Hartman High School for Girls in Jerusalem, blending her passion for history and education.



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

Biblical Hebrew Reading Group

**Weeks, 2-3, 5 & 7
Mondays, 11:30-12:30
Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College**

Convened by Cian Power

Week 2, 5 May

Hindy Najman (Oriel)
Psalm 19:1-10

Week 3, 12 May

Anna Angelini (Siena)
Jeremiah 31:31-40

Week 5, 26 May

Cian Power (Faculty of Theology and Religion)
Exodus 14:15-31

Week 7, 9 June

Judith Newman (Toronto)
Isaiah 44:1-8

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

For programme updates please see the website:

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



Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Seminar

**Weeks 1-8, please note variations in dates and time
Convened by Hindy Najman**

Consult at the **Oriel College** porter's lodge for the **4-digit code** to enter the **Harris Seminar Room & Harris Lecture Theatre**

Please direct any enquiries to ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk

Week 1

Friday, 2 May 10:00 – 15:00, H.B. Allen Centre, Keble College; 15:00 – 19:00, Harris Lecture Theatre and Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Oxbridge Day

Schedule TBD

Week 2

Monday, 5 May 14:30 – 16:30, Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Nature and Creation Lecture Series

Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Lea Niccolai (Cambridge)

Nature, Creation, and Hope in ancient Jewish and Greek writers

Week 3

Monday, 12 May 14:30 – 16:30, Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Nature and Creation Lecture Series

Anna Angelini (Siena)

Nature and its Laws in the Second Temple Period

Week 4

Monday, 19 May 14:30 – 16:30, Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Nature and Creation Lecture Series

Mark Wynn (Oriel)

Divine glory in nature: some theological and philosophical perspectives

Week 5

Monday, 26 May 14:30 – 16:30, Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College

Nature and Creation Lecture Series

Mark Harris (Harris Manchester)

Is “the sea” of the crossing (Exodus 14) to be found in nature or supernature?

Week 6

Thursday, 5 June 10:00 – 11:30, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Speaker’s Lectures Series

Judith H. Newman (Toronto)

The Anticipatory Past: Rethinking Time and Text in Jewish Antiquity

Week 7 (Three sessions)

Monday, 9 June 14:30 – 16:00, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Speaker’s Lectures Series

Judith H. Newman (Toronto)

Birth and Re-Creations

*Special Session - Wednesday, 11 June 17:00 – 18:00, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Book launch: *Scriptural Vitality: Rethinking Philology and Hermeneutics*, Hindy Najman (OUP 2025)

Followed by a drinks reception in the Provost’s Lodgings

Thursday, 12 June 10:00 – 11:30, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Speaker’s Lectures Series

Judith H. Newman (Toronto)

Transformational Encounters

Week 8

Monday, 16 June 14:30 – 16:00, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Speaker's Lectures Series

Judith H. Newman (Toronto)

The Latter Days

Tuesday, 17 June 12:00 – 13:30, Harris Lecture Theatre, Oriel College

Speaker's Lectures Series

Judith H. Newman (Toronto)

with Hindy Najman (Oriel)

The Future of Prayer and Hermeneutics in Biblical Studies

For programme updates please see the website:

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



VISITING FELLOWS

Professor Golda Akhiezer (Ariel University), Salo & Jeannette Baron Visiting Fellow

Professor Noah Hacham (Hebrew University), Salo & Jeannette Baron Visiting Fellow

Professor Susanne Marten-Finnis (University of Portsmouth), Leverhulme Emeritus Visiting Fellow

Dr Ilana Wartenberg (Tel Aviv University), OSRJL Visiting Fellow

VISITING SCHOLARS

Dr Menashe Anzi (Ben Gurion University)

Dr Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli (Bar-Ilan University)

Dr Emily Rose

JUNIOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Ms Rakefet Cohen-Anzi (Hebrew University)

Mr Zhao Chenxi (Zhengzhou University)

Ms Timea Crofony (Charles University)

Ms Delia Del Prete (Sapienza University of Rome)



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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