

# Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

## Programme for Trinity Term 2026



Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies  
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HG  
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# OXFORD CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES

## THE DAVID PATTERSON LECTURES

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

**Thursdays, 6.00 pm (UK time) \*\*Unless otherwise stated**

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.

### **Week 1, 30 April**

Prof. Dr Maciej Motak (Politechnika Krakowska)

Jewish Architects and Builders in Krakow During the Second World War (1939–1945) – Professional Activity, Fate, Legacy

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/n8pyWOcqQkmwSi\\_5-afv7g](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/n8pyWOcqQkmwSi_5-afv7g)

### **Week 2, 7 May**

Dr Dafna Ben Zvi (Sapir Academic College, Negev)

Returning Forward in Israeli Children's Literature: A Philosophical-Psychoanalytic Contemplation

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6zku\\_FxUS7ipn1Wj3X9yPw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/6zku_FxUS7ipn1Wj3X9yPw)

### **Week 3, 14 May**

Dr Elly Moseson (Harvard University)

On the Vernacular in Jewish Magical Literature

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/5ij7ZYsGTfjvXKAwIwzeA>

### **Week 4, 21 May**

Dr Piergabriele Mancuso (The Medici Archive Project)

Between Ghetto and Court: The Life and Works of Jona Ostiglio in Seventeenth-Century Medici Florence

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/LAR-57LNRnywb6wap-hXSQ>

### **Week 5, 28 May**

Dr Dean Irwin (University of Lincoln) and Natasha Jenman (Oxford)

Book launch: In the Footsteps the Lincoln Jewry: Walking Tour

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uhLVEArbTxGMqNZSEg4V0Q>

### **\*\*Week 6, Wednesday, 3 June, 5pm (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO USUAL DAY AND TIME)**

Professor Elisheva Baumgarten (Hebrew University)

Shared Words: Jews, Christians and Prayer in Medieval Europe

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Kb3OztMcSt-Ly27G8tqmvw>

### **Week 7, 11 June**

Dr Camilla Recalcati (Hebrew University)

Book Launch: The Egyptian Background of the Septuagint: Evidence from Genesis, Exodus, and Leviticus

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/J-RH7ueCQE6nwISaYj1gEA>

### **Week 8, 18 June**

Dr Yogev Elbaz (Tel Aviv University)

The Forgotten Periphery: Israel and South Arabia, 1962–1976

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/dMzGqY5ETC6djzzjW5vHBg>



## 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\*\*\***

**Tutor: Mrs Esther Yadgar**

**Absolute Beginners:** Mondays @ 12:00-13:00 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2026, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Monday, 27 April. Please note that this class is no longer accepting students and this link is for students who started in Michaelmas Term 2025.

**Lower Intermediates:** Mondays @ 13:00-14:00 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2026, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Monday, 27 April.

**Upper Intermediates:** Tuesdays @ 13:00-14:00 UK Time: For Trinity Term 2026, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Tuesday, 28 April.

\*\*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:** Tuesdays @ 13:00-14:00 UK Time: For Hilary Term 2026, please register [here](#). The first class will take place on Tuesday, 20 January.

\*\*\*Upper Intermediates: Conversational Hebrew; reading of short articles followed by conversation

Please note that these classes progress each term and do not repeat again at the beginning of the next term.

All classes will be held via Zoom throughout the term and last one hour. 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.

Please contact Ms Priscilla Lange at [academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk](mailto:academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk) if you have any queries.





## 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 6. 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 TRINITY TERM ARE NOW CLOSED.

Please find information below regarding languages taught and their teachers. 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

### **The Sound of the *kley zemer*. Jewish instrumental music after 1800 – Part 2**

Online course via Zoom on Mondays 18:15 to 19:15 (UK time)

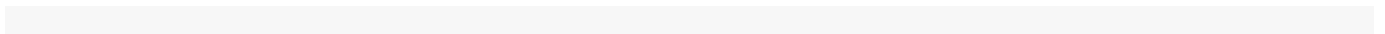
The first day of this course will be Monday, 27 April 2026.

If you would like to register for this course, please contact Ms Priscilla Lange at [academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk](mailto:academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk)

Tutor: Dr Diana Matut

In Trinity Term 2026, Dr Diana Matut will teach the following Jewish music course entitled, 'The Sound of the *kley zemer*. Jewish instrumental music after 1800 – Part 2'.

Although vocal music is intimately linked to the Jewish experience, instruments and instrumental music have been part of Jewish culture since Biblical times. This term, we will explore the history of instruments in Jewish contexts, their usage, prohibitions and surrounding social and religious discussions as well as Jewish instrumental music written after 1800. This is the second of two parts exploring instrumental musics after 1800.





## OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

**Week 4**  
**Wednesday, 20 May**  
**6pm**

**Dr Bernardino Pitocchelli**  
(Università di Napoli Federico II)

Textual and Material Investigations on the Judeo-Italian Bible  
of Oxford–New York

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

**In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/nf1E5BYaTHaEH59JTleXxA>



## OXFORD BIBLICAL HEBREW SUMMER SCHOOL 2026

We are happy to announce that the Oxford Biblical Hebrew Summer School will take place online from August 24 – August 28 & September 1-4, 2026. The classes will be held online via Zoom.

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

The course corresponds to two full terms of intensive teaching for a full-time university student. It is open to students with or without experience of the language. For the former, it offers a chance to review and consolidate what they have previously learnt. For the latter, it will provide a strong foundation from which to begin formalized study of Biblical Hebrew.

The cost of the school is £290 per student for 27 hours of language instruction, including all video recordings of the lectures. This does *not* include any textbooks/workbooks, which the student will be expected to acquire for him/herself.

Closing date for applications: Friday 10 July 2026 (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](mailto: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.

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

**Weeks 1-3, 5-8, Tuesdays from 2 to 3.30 pm  
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:** Prof. Meron M. Piotrkowski

**Week 1, 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Eshbal Ratzon (Tel Aviv University)

“The Dead Sea Scrolls and Their Decipherment”

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Os9GADgZQ0uXcwgK0HzcnQ>

**Week 2, 5<sup>th</sup> May**

Camilla Recalcati (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

“The Septuagint and the Fayumic Communities”

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/e4Tb48cySm6W4gbRrF-mpg>

**Week 3, 12<sup>th</sup> May**

Patrick Sanger (Universitat Munster)

“Strabo and the Jews of the Cyrenaica: Ios. ant. Iud. 14, 114–118 in Context”

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JQ9JZ\\_D3Qs2IqXKm4ah4eQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JQ9JZ_D3Qs2IqXKm4ah4eQ)

**Week 4, 19<sup>th</sup> May**

No Seminar

**Week 5, 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Lucia Prauscello (Oxford/ All Souls)

“‘Fiery grief’? The semantics of  $\pi\rho\rho\acute{o}\omega$  in three inscriptions from Leontopolis (JIGRE 32, 37 and 83), the Septuagint and Paul”

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/8GSesbl0Se2zj196pBhGZQ>

**Week 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

Itai Kagan (Oxford)

“The Hasmonean Megillah: Origins and Transformations of the Antiochus Scroll”

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/i5FpFTMkRmSjM0ZjMTJ6uw>

### **Week 7, 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Rebekah van Sant-Clark (Oxford/Worcester)

“Ambiguity and the Poetics of Prophecy in the book of Isaiah”

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/TS8nkF-1RWqSG2wWpS-ayg>

### **Week 8, 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Judith Göppinger (University of Würzburg)

“Why Deeds Matter Most - Exempla in Flavius Josephus’ Antiquitates Iudaicae”

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/emsTvnExR\\_mYb\\_yueaRqbw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/emsTvnExR_mYb_yueaRqbw)



## **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.

In Week 5, there will be no reading group but please join the Medieval Anglo-Jewish Texts and History group which will meet in person from 10am to 4pm on Thursday, 28 May in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG.

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1\\_kA4K1pQYuNqpOW9EnROw](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/1_kA4K1pQYuNqpOW9EnROw)





## MEDIEVAL ANGLO-JEWISH TEXTS AND HISTORY

Week 5

Thursday, 28 May 2026, from 10am to 4pm

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



## MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT SEMINAR

In Association with:

The Centre for the Study of the Bible, Oriel College

Thursdays, 3 pm to 4 pm

Weeks 3 and 5

Online via Zoom

**Convenors:** Miri Freud-Kandel and Ghila Amati

This seminar series is held under the joint auspices of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies & the Centre for the Study of the Bible. It is designed to create a forum for considering recent developments in modern Jewish thought. In particular, these seminars are intended to provide a forum for discussing recently published books in the field. Please find further information on the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies website at <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/modern-jewish-thought-seminar/>

### Week 3, 14 May

Professor Alan Brill (Seton Hall University) will discuss his book *A Jewish Trinity: Contemporary Christian Theology through Jewish Eyes*

To register and join online please click here:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/95-QrSUOR\\_63Bo4ON1e6sQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/95-QrSUOR_63Bo4ON1e6sQ)

### Week 5, 28 May (Postponed from Week 2)

Professor Lenn E. Goodman (Vanderbilt University) will talk about his book *A Guide to the Guide to the Perplexed: A Reader's Companion to Maimonides' Masterwork*

To register and join online please click here:

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

All are welcome.





## ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR

Weeks 1-2, 4-5

Time: Tuesdays, 2:15 – 4:00 pm

Place: St. Anne's College, Seminar Room 5

Convenors: Yaacov Yadgar and David Borabeck

**Lectures are open to all.**

### **Week 1, Tuesday, 28 April**

Raef Zreik, What's the problem with the Jewish State?

The paper will deal with a very old theme: The Jewish and Democratic State of Israel. Despite the fact that following the war of annihilation on the people of Gaza, and ethnic cleansing policies in the West Bank, only few still buy into the terminology Jewish and Democratic State, still this paper aims to unpack some misconceptions that are related to this debate. The paper will suggest replacing all three keywords in the title in order to reveal the real problems and the inherent violence underpinning the Israeli project. I suggest talking about Zionist (instead of Jewish), Liberal (instead of Democratic), Movement (instead of State). When things are presented in this alternative way, then we will find out that the problem is political, not logical, it is historical and not merely conceptual. As such, not logical-philosophical acrobatics can solve it.

Raef Zreik, is a Professor of moral and political philosophy at Tel Aviv College and Prof. of Jurisprudence at Ono Academic college and senior researcher at Jerusalem Van Leer Institute. Recent publications include: *Kant's Struggle for Autonomy* (2023), 'War and Self-Defense: Reflections on the War on Gaza' in *Analysis and Kritik* (2024); 'Zionism and Political Theology' in the journal *Political Theology* (2023); The Tyranny of Truth and the Tyranny of Opinion: Thinking with Hannah Arendt' in *Theoretical Inquiries in Law* (2025).

### **Week 2, Tuesday, 5 May**

Elad Lapidot, Levinas and Decolonial Israel

My talk reflects on the relations between post-Holocaust Jewish thought and decolonial thought through the work of French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas. Recently thinkers criticized Levinas for his Eurocentrism. In my recent book, *State of Others. Levinas and Decolonial Israel* (Indiana UP, 2025), I argue that Levinas anticipated this critique and from the 1960s on sought to develop the foundations for decolonial Jewish thought – and for decolonial Zionism. To demonstrate this claim, my talk will analyze Levinas's entire intellectual project as articulated around a fundamental turn between the period prior to 1968 and the post-68 period. The turn relates to Levinas's understanding of the relationship between Judaism and Western civilization – and to his position with respect to the State of Israel and to the Palestinian question.

Elad Lapidot is Professor for Jewish Thought at the University of Lille, France. His work is guided by questions concerning the relation between knowledge and politics. Among his publications: *State of Others. Levinas and Decolonial Israel* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2025), *Politics of Not Speaking* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2025), *Jews Out of the Question. A Critique of Anti-Anti-Semitism* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2020), Hebrew translation with introduction and commentary (with R. Bar) of Hegel's *Phänomenologie des Geistes*, Vol. 1 (Tel Aviv: Resling Publishing, 2020).

## **Week 2, Wednesday, 6 May**

Bashir Bashir, *The Political Theory of Israel/Palestine: a Shift from Minoritarian to Majoritarian Politics?*

This talk critically explores the value of alternatives to ethnonational partition by demonstrating the limits of the decades long and dominant frame of majority vs. minority. The majority vs. minority frame (e.g., Ethnic Democracy; Jewish and Democratic) was viewed for decades as an allegedly superior frame to alternatives to partition for, among other things, favoring the two-states solution and reconciling Israeli Jewish majoritarianism with the rights of the Palestinian Arab minority(ies). Israeli Jewish majoritarianism has by now received much critical attention, especially following the rise of discourses like multiculturalism and indigeneity. Critics often object to the inherent contradiction in the alleged compatibility of the Jewish and democratic character of the State of Israel. My critique in this talk partly sympathizes with these liberal and multicultural critics but seeks to offer a new and unique objection, namely that the majority vs. minority frame itself is in fact inadequate for conceptualizing Israel/Palestine. More specifically, I show, the majority vs. minority frame presupposes two groundless assumptions, namely the moral desirability and practical feasibility of territorial and demographic partition and segregation.

Bashir Bashir is associate professor in the department of sociology, political science and communication at the Open University of Israel and a senior research fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. During the academic year (2024-2025), he was a fellow at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. His primary research interests are nationalism and citizenship studies, liberalism, democratic theory, decolonization, the politics of reconciliation, and alternatives to partition in Palestine/Israel. Among other numerous publications, he is the co-editor of *The Holocaust and Nakba: A New Grammar of Trauma and History* (Columbia University Press, 2018); and *The Arab and Jewish Questions: Geographies of Engagement in Palestine and Beyond* (Columbia University Press, 2020). His writings have appeared in English, Hebrew, Arabic, Italian, German, Portuguese, and Japanese.

## **Week 4, 19 May**

Stav Shufan-Biton, *“Just Follow the Magic”: Ritual Holy Time among Jews as a Minority Community in Comparison to Their Position as a Cultural Majority in Israel*

In this lecture, I examine how Israeli Jews living outside Israel experience holy time, focusing on Shabbat, Jewish holidays, and local religious and civil holidays such as Halloween and Christmas. Drawing on ongoing ethnographic research based on interviews and observations conducted within Israeli Jewish communities in Cambridge and London, the findings show that cultural distance and a sense of temporariness enable the selective adoption of Jewish mitzvot alongside openness to local ritual practices. Interviewees with flexible religious identities, particularly those identifying as secular or traditional, actively choose rituals they perceive as enjoyable and meaningful. These include Jewish practices such as Hanukkah, Purim, or partial Sukkot decorations, as well as local practices such as trick-or-treating on Halloween, Christmas decorations, singing carols learned at school or kindergarten, and exchanging gifts. At the same time, some halakhic practices that were part of everyday life in Israel, including the weekly Friday night Kiddush, fasting or reduced activity on Yom Kippur, and partial observance of Passover, tend to be less consistently maintained in the new context.

Building on Ammerman's framework of lived religion, the analysis highlights how enjoyment, curiosity, and a sense of magic, alongside child centered and family-oriented logics, shape ritual participation and contribute to a reconfiguration of ethnic and religious boundaries in everyday life.

Stav Shufan-Biton is a sociologist and currently a Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Research Fellow in the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests focus on the sociology of religion, the sociology of time, and Israeli society. Her doctoral dissertation examined understandings of the weekend among Jews in Israel and resulted in several peer reviewed publications, which are available online. She currently studies experiences of sacred time among religious

minorities, including Jews and other groups, across the UK, with support from the Argov Centre for the Study of Israel and the Jewish People.

### **Week 5, Tuesday, 26 May**

Itzhak Benyamini, *The Citizen Crushed by the Political* - An Israeli perspective

In this lecture, I intend to present the main arguments of my latest book, "A Psycho-Political Analysis of Netanyahu's Israel - The Israeli Anxiety" which has been recently published by Routledge. I will therefore seek to describe the contemporary collapse of the boundary between private and public in the liberal-democratic politics in the West, focusing on my personal experience as an Israeli citizen.

I argue that in Western politics, following the ancient Greek tradition, the relationship between the citizen and the political realm is dual; the political cannot claim the citizen solely to itself. The citizen, on its part, belongs to the political, but not entirely. At the same time, the pre-political, individual existence is already contained within the liberal political order. This is an aporia that should not be resolved as it stands at the root of liberal democracy.

I argue that because of the prolonged political crises in Israel, the citizens, especially the ones who object to the current right wing-religious regime, find themselves trapped within the political grip that does not leave them private space, not even a phantasmatic one. The elimination of the very possibility of existing as a citizen, consumed and at the same time sheltered within the political, is one of the indicators of the deterioration of Israeli politics into dictatorship.

Dr. Itzhak Benyamini teaches at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem and in the Psychotherapy Program at Tel Aviv University. His last books in English are *Lacan and the Biblical Ethics of Psychoanalysis* (Palgrave, 2024), and *A Psycho-Political Analysis of Netanyahu's Israel - The Israeli Anxiety* (Routledge, 2026).



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

## BIBLICAL HEBREW READING GROUP

Weeks 2–8, Mondays, 11:30–12:30 **\*\*unless otherwise stated**  
Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

Convened by Hindy Najman and Cian Power

### Week 1 (Monday, 27 April)

No session: Conference 'My Tongue is the Pen of a Skillful Scribe' (Psalm 45:2): Poetics, Performance, and Philology (26–27 April, Oriel College)

### Week 2 (Monday, 4 May)

Oliver Geffen (Oriel): Genesis 21:9-20

### Week 3 (Monday, 11 May)

Johan Lundberg (Oxford): Genesis 24:1-9

### **\*\*Week 4 (Monday, 18 May)**

Weston Library manuscript session, Part I: B XII Recto MS.Heb.e.62 Ben Sira 42:11-42:23 (text will be pre-circulated); sign-up form to be circulated. Please note that this session will meet from **13:00-14:00**

### Week 5 (Monday, 25 May)

Pia Regensburger (Oriel): Exodus 3:4-15

### **\*\*Week 6 (Monday, 1 June)**

Weston Library manuscript session, Part II: B XII Recto MS.Heb.e.62 Ben Sira **42:15 - 43:5** (text will be pre-circulated); sign-up form to be circulated

### Week 7 (Monday, 8 June)

Joseph Harrison (St. Edmund Hall): Isaiah 13:20-22; 34:11-16

### Week 8 (Monday, 15 June)

Avishai Bar-Asher (Hebrew University of Jerusalem):  
§§247–251 in *the Synopse zur Hekhalot-Literatur* (text will be pre-circulated)

Consult the Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit code 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.ox.ac.uk/events/biblical-hebrew-reading-group/>





## HEBREW BIBLE/OLD TESTAMENT SEMINAR

Weeks 1-4, 6, & 8, Mondays, 14:30–17:00  
Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

Convened by Hindy Najman (Oriel)

### **Week 1 (Mon., 27 and Thurs., 30 April)**

No session: Conference 'My Tongue is the Pen of a Skillful Scribe': Poetics, Performance, and Philology, 26–27 April.

**Thursday, 30 April:** Oxbridge Day, Divinity Faculty, University of Cambridge. Graduate organizers for Hebrew Bible/Old Testament: Ruthanne Brooks and Rahel Lampérth.

### **Week 2 (Monday, 4 May)**

Event with Kathryn Stevens (Corpus Christi, Oxford), *Babylonian Chronographic Texts from the Hellenistic Period* (2025), 14:30-17:00 (Harris Seminar Room, reception to follow)

### **Week 3 (Monday, 11 May)**

Meron Piotrkowski (Wolfson College, Oxford), 'And you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land' (Leviticus 25:10): Sovereignty and Identity in Jewish Coinage from the Hasmoneans to the Revolts

### **Week 4 (Monday, 18 May)**

Guy Stiebel (Tel Aviv University), 'There is a New Thing Under the Sun:' Recent finds from the Excavations at Masada

### **Week 6 (Monday, 1 June)**

Orit Peleg-Barkat (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), 'A Song of Ascents...Let Us Go to the House of the LORD' (Psalm 122:1): Ascending to the Temple in Late Second Temple Period Jerusalem

### **Week 8 (Monday, 15 June)**

Avishai Bar-Asher (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), 'To Gaze at the King and the Throne': Heavenly Chanting, Ritual Magic, and Prayer in Late Antique Visionary Literature (the Hekhalot Literature)

Consult the Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit code 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.oriel.ox.ac.uk/events/hebrew-bible-old-testament-seminar/>





## EARLY BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION SEMINAR

Thursdays 10:00-12:00 **\*\*unless otherwise stated**  
Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College **\*\*\* unless otherwise stated**

Convened by Hindy Najman (Oriel)

**\*\*\*Week 1 (Wednesday, 29 April, 10-12:00)**

Owen Walker Room (Oriel): Book discussion with Emmylou Grosser (University of the Free State). Readings will be pre-circulated.

**Week 2 (Thursday, 7 May)**

Nathanael Vette (KCL)

““By Way of Sidon Through the Decapolis” (Mark 7:31): Mark’s Jesus and the Restoration of the Land of Israel”

**Week 3 (Thursday, 14 May)**

Hywel Clifford (Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford)

““God who is one” (Philo, Opif. 100): Presocratic philosophy in early Jewish exegesis”

**Week 5 (Thursday, 28 May): Postgraduate Research Presentations**

Max Benster (Oriel), “Between God and Adam: ancient Jewish anthropology and divine participation”

Elisabeth Wouters (Oriel), “Antithesis as a rhetorical strategy? A philological and hermeneutical analysis of dichotomies within the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs”

**Week 6 (Thursday, 4 June)**

John Ritzema (Oxford)

“Theophany and the Cult”

**\*\*Week 8 (Thursday, 18 June): Time change: 9:00-11:00**

Céline Debourse (Harvard University), “‘Doing the Tablet’: Grappling with Ritual Text in First Millennium BCE Mesopotamia”

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

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





## **BABYLONIAN CHRONOGRAPHIC TEXTS FROM THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD**

**Monday, 4 May, 2:30-5:00pm, Harris Seminar Room, Oriel College  
Reception at 5:00pm in the Large Senior Common Room**

Hindy Najman (opening remarks)  
Tobias Reinhardt (chair)  
Paul Collins  
Céline Debourse  
Jacob Dahl  
Frances Reynolds

Respondents:  
R. J. (Bert) van der Spek  
Irving Finkel  
Kathryn Stevens

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



## **VISITING ACADEMICS**

### **OSAJS FELLOWS**

#### **OSRJL Visiting Fellowships in Rare Jewish Languages**

Dr Elly Moseson (Harvard University)  
Dr Bernardino Pitocchelli (Università di Napoli Federico II)

#### **Salo and Jeannette Baron Visiting Fellowships in Jewish History**

Dr Yogev Elbaz (Tel Aviv University)  
Dr Camilla Recalcati (Hebrew University)

#### **Yishai Shahar Visiting Fellowship in Jewish Art History**

Dr Piergabriele Mancuso (The Medici Archive Project)

### **VISITING FELLOWS**

Dr Dean Irwin (University of Lincoln), Visiting Fellow in Anglo-Jewish Medieval History  
Professor Susanne Marten-Finnis (University of Portsmouth), Leverhulme Emeritus Visiting Fellow

### **VISITING SCHOLARS**

Dr Dafna Ben Zvi (Sapir Academic College, Negev)  
Dr Emily Rose





## 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 and a wonderful venue for personal meetings and informal exchange of ideas. Our common room is always full and welcoming!

## ALL WELCOME



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