Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Programme for Michaelmas Term 2026















Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HG

Send corrections or additions to Priscilla Lange at academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk

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

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

Week 1, 15 October
No David Patterson lecture this week.
Instead the Tenth Edward Ullendorff Memorial Lecture will take place at 6pm. Please see further information elsewhere in this programme.

Week 2, 22 October
Dr Hillel Feuerstein (Hamburg University)
Farther Away, Larger Still: Rumors, Traditions, and Reports about the Zohar in the Aftermath of the Spanish Expulsion
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/m474jMhBTkKRJ0eLr1L6Bw

****Week 3, 29 October (in person only), 5pm** *(Joint session with the Voltaire Foundation)*
Professor Shmuel Feiner (Bar-Ilan University)
The emotional experience of Jewish secularisation

Week 4, 5 November
Dr Ben Notis (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
A Snippet of Stars: The Night Sky in the Poetry of Solomon Ibn Gabirol
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/jiNr5nVrTPOITwhqG4NEwQ

Week 5, 12 November
Professor Gary Rendsburg (Rutgers University)
The Bible Does Not Come with Pictures: Egypt Does!
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xubicgrpQhq09mTM0SJMlQ

Week 6, 19 November
Dr David Segev (Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Viterbo)
Beyond the Conversion: A New Intellectual Biography of Israel Zoller (1881-1956)
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/N3f7DuaNQ2-D4JucQ27_eQ

Week 7, 26 November
Professor Laurent Mignon (Oxford)
Mario Levi's *Jacques Brel*: On Literature and the Weight of Language
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/pM7Jq891R1Sp17jqgX9bJw

Week 8, 3 December
Professor Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)
Seeking Justice, Mourning the Dead, and Living to Spite Their Enemies: Soviet Jewish Life after the Holocaust, 1945–1953
In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eAmCUqPNQbqiOSJAWUkVaQ

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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.

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MODERN HEBREW ULPAN

All classes are open to members of the public for registration (please see further information below) and will be held online via Zoom. Classes last for one hour and are free of charge. Members of the public are advised that in some classes teaching may be adjusted to meet University requirements. Please note that these classes progress each term and do not repeat again at the beginning of the next term. Please contact Ms Priscilla Lange for further information at academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk.

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

Tutor: Mrs Esther Yadgar

Absolute Beginners: Mondays @ 12:00-13:00 UK Time: For Michaelmas Term 2026, please register **here**. The first class will take place on Monday, 12 October 2026.

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

Lower Intermediates: Mondays @ 13:00-14:00 UK Time: For Michaelmas Term 2026, please register **here**. The first class will take place on Monday, 12 October 2026.

**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 Michaelmas Term 2026, please register **here**. The first class will take place on Tuesday, 13 October 2026.

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

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BABYLONIAN TALMUD
Wednesdays from 6.00-7.00 pm via Zoom only (UK time)
Tutor: Dr. Norman Solomon

Please note that the first class in Michaelmas term took place on Wednesday, 7 October (Week 0).

Interested persons are welcome to join Dr. Norman Solomon's ongoing Talmud class on Wednesdays. The tractate for study in Michaelmas Term is Chullin. 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

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OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES

APPLICATIONS FOR CLASSES BEGINNING IN MICHAELMAS 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 (*TBC*)
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)

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OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES

Jewish Music Class

Yiddish Song Cultures, from the 1300s to the 21st Century

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

Tutor: Dr Diana Matut

This year-long course presents the history of Yiddish sung epic poetry, ballads and songs from the medieval period to the 21st century. We will focus on approximately one song per week, explore its cultural context, musical performance practices, textual transmission, changes and adaptations.

Everybody is welcome to join the course, translations from Yiddish to English will be provided. During the first term (Michaelmas 2026) we will focus on pre-modern Yiddish song cultures from the medieval period to the 18th century.

The first day of class for this course will be **Monday, 19 October 2026** (Week 2 of Michaelmas Term).

Please note: There will be no Jewish music class on 12th of October and 9th of November 2026. These classes will be held on December 7th and 14th 2026 at the same time.

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

Applications for this class are now closed.

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THE TENTH EDWARD ULLENDORFF MEMORIAL LECTURE



Week 1, Thursday 15 October 2026
6:00 pm (UK time)

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
Massada Fellow, Worcester College, Oxford

The Fascinating and Multifaceted 3,300-year Evolution and Regenesis of Hebrew

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG. Refreshments to follow.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/eEoIx2_NT2a017QS34Nx4Q

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, D.Phil. (Oxon.), is listed among Australia's top 30 'living legends of research' by The Australian newspaper (2024). He received the Rubinlicht Prize for his outstanding contribution to Yiddish scholarship in 2023. He is the author of *Revivalistics: From the Genesis of Israeli to Language Reclamation in Australia and Beyond* (Oxford University Press, 2020), the seminal bestseller *Israelit Safa Yafa* (Israeli – A Beautiful Language; Am Oved, 2008) and *Language Contact and Lexical Enrichment in Israeli Hebrew* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

Abstract
Hebrew was spoken after the conquest of Canaan (c. thirteenth century BC) and was the language of the Iron Age kingdoms of Israel and Judah during in c.1200-586 BC. It was a continuation of Canaanite, a Northwest Semitic language. Following a gradual decline (for example, Jesus was a native speaker of Aramaic rather than Hebrew), Hebrew ceased to be spoken by the second century AD. The Bar-Kokhba Revolt against the Romans in Judaea in AD 132-5 marks the symbolic end of the period of spoken Hebrew. For more than 1700 years thereafter, Hebrew was a sleeping beauty. It served as a liturgical and literary language, and occasionally a lingua franca for Jews of the Diaspora, but not as a mother tongue.

The formation of the "Revival Language" known as "Israeli" and "Modern Hebrew" was facilitated at the end of the nineteenth century by native Yiddish speaker Eliezer Ben-Yehuda (1858-1922), school teachers, authors and other intellectuals. They understood the "trinity" of modern nation-statehood (langue-land-lens, i.e. language, territory, heritage) and sought to further the Zionist cause. Earlier, during the Haskalah (enlightenment) period of the 1770s-1880s, writers such as Méndele Móykher-Sfórim (originally Shalom

Abramowitsch) produced works and neologisms which eventually contributed to Revived Hebrew. However, it was not until the beginning of the twentieth century that the language was first spoken.

This accessible, entertaining and scholarly talk will demonstrate the multi-layered and multi-sourced nature of Revived Hebrew.

ALL WELCOME!

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THE SIXTH ALFRED LEHMANN MEMORIAL LECTURE

Week 3, Wednesday, 28 October 2026
5 pm (UK time)

Professor Dr Simone Lässig
TU Braunschweig

German Cities, Jewish Spaces: Representation, Belonging, and Cultural Change (1830s-1860s)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Room, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG. Refreshments to follow.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Y2cE90WJQ_2ldtWnqfSf-Q

Professor Dr Simone Lässig is professor of modern history at Braunschweig University and the author of the book *Jewish Life and Social Change in Central Europe: Coping with Modernity* (forthcoming at Cambridge University Press, Spring 2027).

Abstract
Jewish urban spaces were in the grip of great changes in the late Sattelzeit. This presentation focuses specifically on changes in synagogues from both an internal and an external perspective. For Jews, synagogues were becoming laboratories for adopting new cultural norms and practices. And from the outside, the meanings assigned to synagogues within urban topographies were also being transformed. By focusing on the new synagogues built up to the 1860s, I highlight German Jews' agency and explain their developing collective confidence during this period despite their ambiguous legal status.

ALL WELCOME!

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Presentation of Festschrift to Professor Tessa Rajak

Week 5, Tuesday, 10 November
5:00 pm

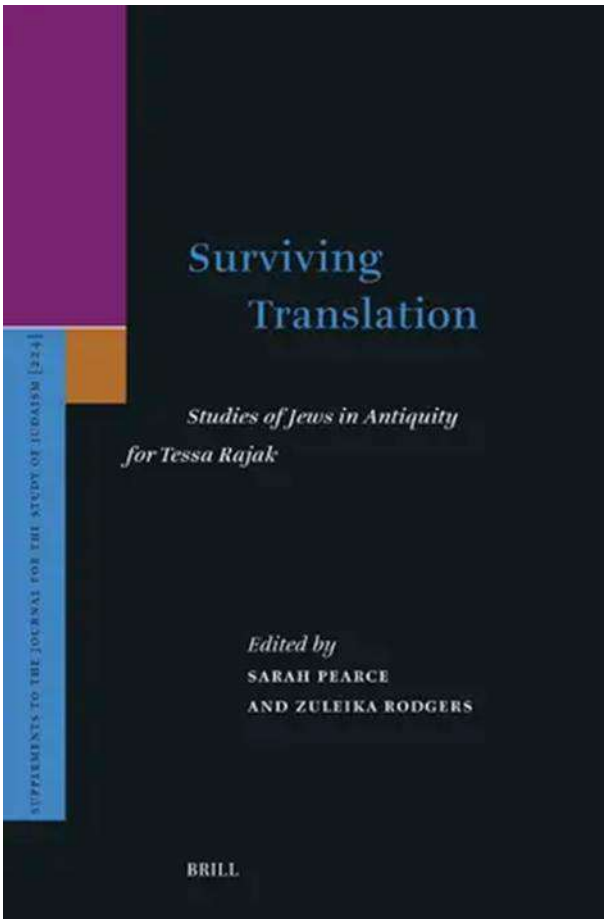
Prof Sarah Pearce (University of Southampton), Prof Zuleika Rodgers (Trinity College Dublin) and Prof Meron Piotrkowski (AMES)

Surviving Translation
Studies of Jews in Antiquity for Tessa Rajak

Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG and online via Zoom
Reception with refreshments to follow

A tribute to the life-work of Tessa Rajak, evaluating and engaging with major themes to which she has made ground-breaking contributions to the field of Hellenistic Judaism.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-8YhIMHpTj-hmLmrLEzFdA



Series: Supplements to the *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, Volume: 224
Volume Editors: Sarah Pearce and Zuleika Rodgers

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PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES of the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MEDIEVAL ANGLO-JEWISH TEXTS AND HISTORY

Week 4
Thursday, 5 November 2026, from 10am to 4.00 pm

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

Convenors: Dr Dean Irwin (University of Lincoln) & Prof. Judith Olszowy-Schlanger

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

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SEMINAR ON THE HOLOCAUST AND MEMORY

Weeks 2, 5 and 7

Thursdays, 2.15pm to 4pm (in-person only)
Room 207, Clarendon Institute
Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

Convenors: Zoë Waxman and William Jones

ALL WELCOME

Week 2: October 22
Caroline Sharples (University of Roehampton, London)
'"Just the beginning": The 1943 Kharkiv Trial and the Challenge of Disposing of Nazi Perpetrators'

Week 5: November 12
Beatrice Leeming (University of Cambridge)
'(Sur)Passing the Baton? Survivors, Descendants and Moral Authority in Holocaust Memorial Sites since 1990'

Week 7: November 26
Stephanie Hesz-Wood (Royal Holloway, University of London)
'Memory and the Architecture of Marginalisation: A Spatial and Oral History of Drancy'

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

Wednesdays
Weeks 4 and 6, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Online via Zoom only

Conveners: Miri Freud-Kandel

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 4, November 4
Professor Adam Ferziger (Bar Ilan University) will discuss his book *Agents of Change: American Jews and the Transformation of Israeli Judaism*
To register and join online please click here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/lnNm7NjqQCmGNa__9NILLQ

Week 6, November 18
Professor Miriam Udel (Emory University) will discuss her book *Modern Jewish Worldmaking Through Yiddish Children's Literature*
To register and join online please click here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/yb3ihFgySTqjJ5L37RE3bA

All are welcome.

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LECTURE SERIES ON
MODERN JUDAISM IN THE SHADOW OF ANTI-JUDAISM AND ANTISEMITISM
in association with Theology & Religion

Weeks 1-8
Mondays, 11am
Room 207
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

Led by Miri Freud-Kandel

Open to all members of the University

Week 1 - The Civic Bargain: Is the Jew indeed 'more man than Jew'
Week 2 - Debates on Jewish eligibility for citizenship: shaping moves towards Reform
Week 3 - Judaism as a Religion: Reform Judaism in the shadow of universalism
Week 4 - Orthodoxy: Same challenge, altered context. Judaism as more than a religion.
Week 5 - American Judaism: from Pittsburgh to Pittsburgh

Week 6 - Zionism: Jewish messianism and nationalism rethought
Week 7 - The Shoah: Jewish faith rethought
Week 8 - The Sisterhood: Feminist critiques of patriarchy and inter-faith as a path forward?

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ISRAEL STUDIES SEMINAR

Weeks 2, 4 to 8
Mondays, 4:00 pm
St. Anne's College, Seminar Room 5

Convenor: Yaacov Yadgar

Week 2, 19 October

Tali Jaffe-Dax, Seeing Through the Slash: Attentional Apartheid in the Mental Maps of Al-Quds/Jerusalem

How do Palestinians and Israelis see - and unsee - their place? Drawing on a cultural-topological analysis of sketch-maps and mental maps produced by Jewish-Israeli and Arab-Palestinian locals in Jerusalem/Al-Quds, I examine the socio-mental organization of ethno-national views of place. The analysis identifies two predominant epistemological prisms that sensitize local perception to particular ethno-national spatial relevancies: the residential templates of "village/neighborhood" and the cardinal directions of "east/west." I conceptualize this pattern as attentional apartheid: a discriminatory regime of perception that foregrounds one ethno-national landscape while backgrounding the other. Taking Al-Quds/Jerusalem as a case study, the talk considers how mundane, taken-for-granted categories are recruited as binary filters to reify and naturalize a polarized ethno-national experience of reality.

Hamutal (Tali) Jaffe-Dax is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and an Associate Member of St Antony's College. Previously, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A cultural, cognitive, and formal sociologist, she studies the socio-mental schemas that underpin social actors' sense-making. Specifically, her research explores how these shared frames for perception, attention, and classification inscribe, validate, and reinforce social hierarchies and cultural dominance. Her work centers on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a profoundly charged cultural battlefield over distinctions, boundaries, and definitions of space, time, and identity.

Week 4, 2 November

Idan Zivoni and Ofer Nur, Levantinism in Queer Times

This lecture will be divided into two 30 minutes presentations

Idan Zivoni, Levantinism Now
In this discussion, I wish to return to the signifier Levantinism. Yet to return to Levantinism – to reactivate it within contemporary Israeli public discourse, both in its specifically Jewish-Israeli sense and in the broader context of Jewish thought – does not necessarily entail a return to a Levantine identity. Rather, it calls for a restoration of the term Levantine, which Jacqueline Kahanoff, among others, helped bring into renewed circulation in the 1950s and 1960s. Cultural projects, however, require ongoing maintenance: each generation must find its own ways of sustaining words that have receded into the past. Each generation must, in turn, adapt language to its own time and place. This is the task proposed here: to reactivate Levantinism as a signifier while attempting to disentangle it from the derogatory meanings that have historically adhered to it – and that may continue to adhere to it, regardless of our efforts.

"Levantinism Now" thus entails a sensitive and intimate politicization of the signifier within the violently fractured Middle East of which Israel occupies a symbolic center. It means shifting from the signifier of an actual enemy toward that of a potential neighbor. No less importantly, it calls for a complex and non-defensive examination of the libidinal relations between East and West, and of the forms of proximity and distance that these relations contain.

Idan Zivoni is editor at Resling Publishing, an essayist, and a literary critic. He is a member of the "Seminar for Continental Philosophy" in Tel Aviv. His books include *Corpus Christi: Archaic Theater and Israeli-Palestinian Cinema* (2023), *In Favor of Levantinism: An Essay and Thirteen Conversations* (2024), and For *Gaza: An Essay on Being and Non-Being* (2026).

Ofer Nur, Eros and Peace: Israel and Palestine in Queer Times

The talk is based on my book, Eros and Peace: Israel and Palestine in Queer Times. In it, I attempt to reform current queer theory so that it can sow the seeds of friendship among Israelis and Palestinians, based on the ancient Greek notion of philoxenia (the antonym of xenophobia). I explore how the central theoretical notions of queer theory (desire, friendship vs. family, destabilizing rigid binaries such as colonizer\indigenous or aggressor\victim and the ways gender fluidity can project onto national and religious fluidity) can conceptually offer remedy to our brutalized region, and also applied to real life. I call for making queer theory applied. Currently, under the leadership of the likes of Judith Butler, queer theory welded itself since the 1990s to postcolonial theory as is most assuredly manifested in the cult of Queers for Palestine. It became a subsidiary of the most belligerent brand of postcolonial activism. I claim that queer theory lost its way and became bitter, angry and insurrectionist. Being gay is the opposite of this. In the book I have a chapter titled "The Levant is queer" (which I hope to expand into a manifesto) which claims that the Levant is queer in its nature as a counter-essentialist hybrid of east and west, breaking reified binaries, not knowing too deeply what one'a identity might be and not fussing about it that much either, let alone kill and get killed for its sake. In my book I dedicate a chapter to Jacob Israel de Haan as the first queer post-zionist.

Ofer Nordheimer Nur teaches at the Multidisciplinary Program in the Humanities at Tel Aviv University. Primarily a historian, he received his Ph.D in 2004 at the department of history at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). His book, *Eros and Tragedy: Jewish Male Fantasies and the Masculine Revolution of Zionism* was published in 2014 at the Academic Studies Press.

Week 5, 9 November

Liora Sion, Constructing the Enemy: The Image of Palestinians in Israeli Soldiers' War Songs 1988-2025

This paper studies the process of enemy-making within an intractable conflict, examining how Israeli combat soldiers' war songs function as a cultural medium for constructing and performing enmity against Palestinians. Analyzing original, soldier-composed lyrics from the First Intifada (1987–1991), the Second Intifada (2000–2005), and the Gaza war (2023–2025), the study traces a shift from ambivalent depictions of Palestinians to open calls for their elimination.

Drawing on Carl Schmitt's theory of political enmity and Judith Butler's theory of performativity, I argue that enemy-making is not merely a product of formal military policy or top-down propaganda, but emerges through informal, emotionally charged, creative practices that sediment over time. Rather than a static or uniform label, the "enemy" is a dynamic, relational construct — continually enacted and re-enacted through self-conscious cultural performance. These songs reveal how military culture reproduces ethno-national hierarchies and normalizes extreme violence, transforming Palestinians from internal subjects into existential threats.

Liora Sion is an associate professor at the University of Copenhagen and head of Hebrew Studies at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies.

As a sociologist, her research focuses on ethnicity, citizenship, and militarization in Israel. Her recent work examines how Israeli soldiers perceive Palestinians through their war songs (2026), the passing and ethnic embodiment of Jewish Israelis and Palestinians (2024, 2025), and interfaith marriages, class, and ethnicity in Israel (2023).

Week 6, 16 November

Hagar Kotef, Torture's Trajectories: State Violence and What It Tells Us about Israel's Changing Political Order

Abstract: TBD

Hagar Kotef is a Professor of Political Theory in the Department of Politics and International Studies, SOAS, University of London. She is the author of *Movement and the Ordering of Freedom* (Duke University Press, 2015) and *The Colonizing Self: Or, Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine* (Duke University Press, 2020), which won the Spitz Prize, the C.B. Macpherson Award, and the Yale H. Ferguson Award. Her first book. Her next book, *The Civil Infrastructure of Torture: Administrating Violence in Israel/Palestine,* is forthcoming with Oxford UP. Kotef is the co-editor of *Theory&Event*.

Week 7, 23 November

Raphael Cohen-Almagor, Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Peace Negotiations, Mediation and Facilitation Between Israel and the PLO

Resolving the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict examines over three decades of negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), from the Oslo Accords (1993) to the present. It explains the recurring failures of the peace process and identifies conditions for success, analysing the roles of mediators, facilitators, and key negotiation junctures such as Oslo, Camp David, and the Abbas–Olmert talks. Drawing on more than one hundred interviews with senior policymakers and extensive archival research, the book develops an interdisciplinary framework for understanding diplomacy, conflict resolution, and negotiation. The book analyses structural, moral, and strategic barriers to peace and proposes practical mechanisms to address them. It argues that peace depends on mutual recognition, fairness, political will, and credible implementation. By moving from diagnosis to prescription, the book contributes original insights for scholars, diplomats, and policymakers seeking a just and sustainable resolution to one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

https://www.cambridge.org/gb/universitypress/subjects/politics-international-relations/international-relations-and-international-organisations/resolving-israeli-palestinian-conflict-critical-study-peace-negotiations-mediation-and-facilitation-between-israel-and-plo?format=PB&isbn=9781108735827

Raphael Cohen-Almagor received his doctorate from the University of Oxford. Raphael is Visiting Academic at UCL Faculty of Laws, Senior Associate Research Fellow, The Swedish Institute of International Affairs (UI), and member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University. In 2023-2025 he served as President of The Association for Israel Studies (AIS). A peace activist and scholar, his book *Resolving the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict: A Critical Study of Peace Mediation, Facilitation and Negotiations between Israel and the PLO,* is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. Until now he has published 19 books and more than 350 articles. Prof. Cohen-Almagor was the co-founder of Israel's Second Generation to the Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Organization, and founder of The University of Haifa Center for Democratic Studies, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute Medical Ethics Think Tank, and The Middle East Study Centre of Hull University. Raphael was the Yitzhak Rabin-Fulbright Visiting Professor at UCLA School of Law and Department of Communication; Visiting Professor at the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences, Johns Hopkins University; Fellow at The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (twice); Distinguished Visiting Professor to the Faculty of Laws, University College London; Perry World House Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, and The 2023 Olof Palme Visiting Professor, Lund University, Sweden. In 2024–2025, Raphael received the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies Fellowship and, for the second time, the Rockefeller Foundation Center (Bellagio) Fellowship. His work bridges political theory, ethics, and conflict resolution with a lifelong commitment to human rights, peace, social responsibility and democracy.

Week 8, 30 November

Eldad Ben Aharon, Turkish Relations at the End of the Cold War: The Geopolitics of Denying the Armenian Genocide

On 28 June 2026, the Israeli government formally recognised the Armenian Genocide, bringing to an end decades of official non-recognition.

But to understand the significance of this moment, we need to go back to the decade in which Israel's policy was fundamentally shaped: the 1980s. How formative were those years in establishing the relationship between Israel, Turkey, and the politics of Armenian Genocide recognition?

Israeli–Turkish Relations at the End of the Cold War: The Geopolitics of Denying the Armenian Genocide is the first book to pull back the curtain on this pivotal decade, revealing a period of clandestine diplomacy, strategic bargaining, and calculated international memory trade-offs that reshaped Middle Eastern alliances.

Drawing on previously untapped archival material and 30 oral history interviews, Eldad Ben Aharon reconstructs how the geopolitical upheavals of the 1980s transformed Israeli–Turkish relations and made the Armenian Genocide an increasingly important component of bilateral diplomacy. The story begins with the 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran, which fundamentally altered Israel's regional strategic environment. As Israel sought to avoid growing isolation in the Middle East, preserving its relationship with Turkey acquired new strategic importance.

The book follows this transformation through a succession of regional and international crises, from the 1980 Jerusalem Law and Turkey's military coup to the 1982 Lebanon War, Turkey's 1987 application to join the European Economic Community, and battles over Armenian Genocide recognition in the United States. In doing so, it challenges established explanations that place American Jewish organisations and Turkish Jews at the centre of Israeli–Turkish relations, bringing diplomats, state institutions, and geopolitical bargaining back into the story.

For the Oxford Israel Studies Seminar, the talk will use the book to show just how foundational the 1980s were in constructing the political and diplomatic architecture that shaped Israel's approach to the Armenian Genocide for decades to come.

The Israeli government's recognition in June 2026 offers a new vantage point from which to assess that history and the remarkable durability of the structures, interests, and memory politics forged during the final decade of the Cold War.

Dr. Eldad Ben Aharon is a Senior Researcher at the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF). His first monograph, *Israeli–Turkish Relations at the End of the Cold War: The Geopolitics of Denying the Armenian Genocide*, was published by Edinburgh University Press in 2025. Dr Ben Aharon's research explores the intersections of international security, memory politics, public and digital diplomacy, and international norms, drawing on insights from securitisation theory, foreign policy analysis, and oral history. His work has appeared in numerous academic journals, including *Global Studies Quarterly*, *European Journal of International Security*, *Intelligence and National Security*, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, *Oral History Review*, *The International History Review*, among others. He is currently completing a second monograph that extends this research into the twenty-first century, examining Israeli memory politics surrounding the Armenian Genocide from 2000 to 2026, which he further developed as a Visiting Scholar at New York University in spring 2026.

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

BIBLICAL HEBREW READING GROUP

Weeks 2, 3, 5, & 6
Mondays, 11:30–12:30
Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

Convened by Hindy Najman and Rebekah Van Sant

Week 2, 19 October
Daniel Machiela (University of Notre Dame), Genesis 14

Week 3, 26 October
Vladimir Oliviero (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), Judges 13:1–15

Week 5, 9 November
Jonathan Ben Dov (Tel Aviv University), 4Q418. End of column XXVIII: frag. 81 [transcript will be precirculated]

Week 6, 16 November
Gary Rendsburg (Rutgers University), 1 Samuel 28: 6–17

Consult the Oriel College porter's lodge for the 4-digit code to enter the Harris Seminar Room.

If you have any queries, please write to ocsb@oriel.ox.ac.uk

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HEBREW BIBLE / OLD TESTAMENT SEMINAR

Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, & 8
Mondays, 14:30–17:00
Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)
No seminar in Weeks 3 and 7

Convened by Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Week 1, 12 October
Induction for Hebrew Bible/Old Testament subject group, 14:30–17:00; followed by reception.

Week 2, 19 October
Daniel Machiela (University of Notre Dame), Further Thoughts on Textual Reuse and Poetics in Genesis Apocryphon 21.23–22.34, in View of the Versions

Week 4, 2 November
Workshop: Scripted Women: Female Voices Across Text, Liturgy, and Theatre; note time and location change: 9:00–17:45 (Harris Lecture Theatre). Organizers: Rahel Lampérth and Ya'el Kremer

Week 5, 9 November
Jonathan Ben Dov (Tel Aviv University), An Optimistic Reading of 4QInstruction

Week 6, 16 November
Gary Rendsburg (Rutgers University), Lessons Learned While Writing a Commentary on the Book of Samuel

Week 8, 30 November
John Screnock (Wycliffe Hall), The Art of Repetition in 4QPaleoExodus^{m}: Reading Scribal Changes in the Levantine Literary Tradition

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EARLY BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION SEMINAR

Weeks 1, 2, 4, 5, & 8
Thursdays, 10:00–12:00
Harris Seminar Room (Oriel College)

Convened by Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Week 1, 15 October
Vladimir Olivero (Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies), When Variants Speak: the Importance of Textual Criticism for Linguistics

Week 2, 22 October
Hindy Najman (Oriel), Hermeneutics and Poetics

Week 4, 5 November
Shoni Lavie-Driver (New College), Latin and Greek in Rabbinic Literature

Week 5, 12 November
Professionalization sessions: AAR/SBL papers, 10:00–14:00; Rebekah Van Sant (Worcester)

Week 8, 3 December
Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Cesár Merchan-Hamann (Bodleian Libraries), Reading Midrash: Weston Library session (registration required). Mekhilta de-Rabi Yishma'el (ff. 152v). Bodleian Library MS. Marshall Or. 24. Catalogue Identifier: Neubauer 151 [text to be precirculated].

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VISITING ACADEMICS

OSAJS FELLOWS

René and Susanne Braginsky Visiting Fellowships in Manuscript Studies
Dr Hillel Feuerstein (Hamburg University)

Salo and Jeannette Baron Visiting Fellowships in Jewish History
Dr Ben Notis (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

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 Felix Albrecht (The Göttingen Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Lower Saxony)
Professor Gary Rendsburg (Rutgers University)
Dr Emily Rose
Dr David Segev (Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Viterbo)

Junior Visiting Scholars

Miss Ada Cattani (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa)

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THURSDAY COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE

Every Thursday morning during term from 11.00 to 11.30am
in the Common Room, Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, OX1 2HG

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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Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HG
Tel 01865 610422
academic.administrator@ochjs.ac.uk