

Eastern Jews and Christians in Interaction and Exchange in the Islamic World and Beyond: A Comparative View

The workshop is on premodern interreligious Jewish-Christian relations in the Islamic world in the Middle East, Ethiopia, the Caucasus, India and Southeast Asia since the rise of Islam to early modernity (700 – 1800 CE).

The workshop is intended as a platform for scholarly and institutional collaboration on the research of the history of Eastern Jewish-Christian relations in the context of the broader field of the history of interreligious contacts.

Wednesday, 22 June 2016

VENUE: RA'ANANA, JCMCENTER AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

09:30 - 10:00 WELCOME ADDRESS & INTRODUCTION
Mustafa Kabha (JCMcenter, Ra'anana)
Eyal Ginio (Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem)

10:00 - 11:30 PANEL 1
Jewish-Christian Relations in the East:
Defining the Field: On the State of Field
Chair: Alexandra Cuffel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Discussants:

Ethiopia
Steven Kaplan (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Georgia
Constantine Lerner (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Middle East
Uriel Simonsohn (Haifa University, Haifa)

Armenia
Michael Stone (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Middle East
Sarah Stroumsa (JCMcenter, Ra'anana/Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

South India
Scaria Zacharia (Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

11:30 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:30 PANEL 2
Interreligious Exchange as Reflected in
Polemic Literature
Chair: Sarah Stroumsa (JCMcenter, Ra'anana/Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Retelling Others' Histories as Strategies in Eastern Jewish-Christian Polemic
Alexandra Cuffel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Jewish-Christian Relations in Morocco at the Beginning of the 17th Century: Jewish-Christian Polemics
Michal Ohana (Ben-Gurion University, Be'er Sheva)

"Oil, which shall not Break my Head": Jewish-Christian Interaction in 11th Century Baghdad
Yosaif Mordechai Dubovick (Achva College/Herzog College, Israel)

13:30 - 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00 - 16:30 PANEL 3
Ideologies and Practices of Conversion and Proselytizing
Chair: Uriel Simonsohn (Haifa University, Haifa)

Christianization of Georgia and Ruffin's "History of the Church"
Constantine Lerner (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Conversion between Judaism and Christianity in the Cairo Geniza 'Classical Period'
Moshe Yagur (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Aśu the Convert Slave Girl or a Nāyar Land Owner?
Ophira Gamliel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

16:30 - 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 - 18:30 PANEL 4
What's Next? Practical Issues for Future Collaborations
Chair: Haim Saadoun (Open University, Ra'anana)

Discussants:

Eyal Ginio (Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem)

Mustafa Kabha (JCMcenter, Ra'anana)

Thursday, 23 June 2016

VENUE: JERUSALEM, THE BEN-ZVI INSTITUTE

10:00 - 11:30 PANEL 5
Muslim, Christian and Jewish Traders across the Long Distance Trade Routes
Chair: István Perczel (Central European University, Budapest)

Jewish and Non-Jewish Traders in the India Book
Mordechai Akiva Friedman (Tel Aviv University)

Christians, Muslims and Jews in the Indian Ocean: Transfer of Knowledge, 18th-20th Centuries
Menashe Anzi (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

The Afghan Genizah: A Glimpse into an Archive of a Jewish Family from 11th Century Bāmiyān
Ofir Haim (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

11:30 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

12:00 - 13:30 PANEL 6
Interface between People, Religions, Cultures and Ideas
Chair: Steven Kaplan (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Shared Ideas and Customs of Profanation and Purification among Jews and Christians of Precolonial Kerala: Rereading the Canons of the Synod of Diamper (1599)
Scaria Zacharia (Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

Writing the History of the Jews in Armenia
Michael Stone (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Beta Israel Monastic Sites North of Lake Tana: Preliminary Results of an Exploratory Field Trip to Ethiopia in December 2015
Bar Kribus (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) &
Verena Berhan-Krebs (Martin Buber Fellow, Jerusalem)

13:30 - 15:00 LUNCH BREAK

15:00 - 16:30 PANEL 7
Inventing Identities of the “Other” in Communal Chronicles
Chair: Ronit Ricci (Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

Sufi Perspectives on Jews and Christians as Expressed in the Early Shādhili Literature
Giuseppe Cecere (University of Bologna)

Between Heretics and Jews: Inventing Jewish Identities in Ethiopia
Sophia-Dege Müller (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

An Indian Christian's Perspective on Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Alexander of the Port's Poems on the Arabic, the Syriac and the Hebrew Languages
István Perczel (Central European University, Budapest)

16:30 - 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

17:00 - 18:45 PANEL 8
Oral Traditions and Historiography
Chair: David Shulman (Hebrew University, Israel)

Jewish and Christian Folksongs
Scaria Zacharia (Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

Jews in Armenian Sources: Mythical Ancestors, Heretics, Wise Men and More
Zara Pogossian (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

Incorporating Oral Sources into a Bibliographical History
Alexandra Cuffel & Ophira Gamliel (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)

EASTERN JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN INTERACTION AND EXCHANGE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD AND BEYOND A COMPARATIVE VIEW

Sponsors



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The Ben-Zvi Institute
for the Study of Jewish
Communities in the East



המכון לחקר היחסים בין יהודים, נוצרים, מוסלמים (מי"ם)
Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, Muslims (JCM center)
معهد دراسة العلاقات بين اليهود والنصارى والمسلمين

Partners



The Ministry of Education,
the Pedagogical Secretariat,
the Center for Oriental Jewish Heritage



22 June 2016 10:00 – 6:30
JCMcenter, Open University,
Ra'anana

23 June 2016 10:00 – 6:30
Ben-Zvi Institute,
Jerusalem