Welcome to the annual conference of the British Association of Jewish Studies, which will take place this year in London at UCL. The theme of the conference is ‘The Jews and the Sciences’, although there are also sessions on more general themes in Jewish Studies, ranging from Antiquity to the modern period. Sessions and registration will take place within the main UCL campus in Bloomsbury, in the Foster Court building (off Malet Place) and the Medawar Building (behind Foster Court).

The BAJS conference will be preceded by the annual conference of the Institute of Jewish Studies in conjunction with the UCL AHRC-funded major research project on medieval calendars. This conference is open to the public free of charge, and we encourage BAJS conference participants to attend it. This conference will take place on Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th June 2012, on the theme of ‘Time, astronomy, and calendars in Jewish tradition’. Details of the programme can be accessed at http://www.ucl.ac.uk/hebrew-jewish/newsandevents/past-events/medieval-calendar (or contact me for further details).

I look forward to welcoming you to the BAJS Conference.

Sacha Stern (BAJS President, 2012)

Wednesday 27th June

From 12:30: Registration
Foster Court Room 331

1:30 – 3:00 Session 1

APPROACHES TO RABBINIC SOURCES
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre

Ulrich Charpa
Relating Models of Scientific Change to the Talmud: Problems and Options
Rocco Bernasconi
Overlaps in wording between Mishnah and Tosefta

**JUDAISM AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

*Foster Court Room 101*

Norbert Samuelson  
**Light and Enlightenment**  
Andrew Wilshere  
**Emmanuel Levinas’s critique of the scientific attitude**  
Miriam Feldmann Kaye  
**Lamdanut as Epistemology in a Postmodern Era**

3:00 – 3:30 Tea

3:30 – 6:00 Session 2

**JEWS AND JUDAISM IN ANTIQUITY**

*Foster Court Room 101*

George J. Brooke  
**The Reception of Genesis in Late Second Temple Times**  
Jonathan Stökl  
**Schoolboy Ezekiel**  
William Horbury  
**Eusebius on the Bar Kokhba War**  
Nicholas de Lange  
**Reflections on Jewish identity in Late Antiquity**  
Martin Goodman  
**'Rome in Jerusalem'**

**SCIENTIFIC TOPICS IN EARLY RABBINIC SOURCES**

*Foster Court Room 351*

Lutz Doering  
**A (Different) Kind of Magic: The ‘Ways of the Amorites’ according to Tosefta**  
Shabbat 6–7  
Aron Sterk  
**Berakhot 9.2a and Stoic Meteorology**  
Dan Levene  
**The rabbis' knowledge of copper alloying, implicit in laws of purity and impurity**  
Norman Solomon  
**The eight-month foetus: a study of the absorption of a scientific hypothesis into the halakhic system**
GERMAN JEWISH SCIENTISTS
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre

Corinna R. Kaiser
The ‘Doktor-Rabbiner’ and His Contribution to German Academia
Shaul Katzir
Science, Technology and Jewishness in the Career of Hermann Aron (1845-1913)
Lida Barner
Patents to exploit: Jews as inventors in Weimar and Nazi Germany
Frank Dabba Smith
Ernst Leitz of Wetzlar: A German Camera Manufacturer’s Problematic Affinity For Jews During the Years of Nazi Rule
Ute Deichmann
The contribution of Jewish scientists to modern science in Germany – a Jewish contribution?

6:15 – 6:45 Reception (hosted by the Institute of Jewish Studies)

6:45 – 8:00 Plenary lecture (jointly with the IJS/AHRC conference)
Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre

Charles Burnett
How was the science of the stars assimilated into Latin and Hebrew in the second quarter of the twelfth century?

Thursday 28th June

9:00 – 11:00 Session 3

JEWLS AND SCIENCES IN THE MIDDLE AGES
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre

Kenneth Seeskin
Judaism and the Limits of Science: Has Anything Changed Since the Time of Maimonides?
Daniel Davies
Can a Bedbug Move the World? Some mediaeval arguments for the void
Gabriele Ferrario
The Jews and Alchemy in the Middle Ages. New sources for a debated relationship.
Lenka Uličná
Abraham ben Azriel - the first Czech linguist?
JEWS AND SCIENTISTS IN THE MODERN PERIOD
Foster Court Room 101

Anthony S. Travis
Between Textile Printing and High Technology: Jewish Chemists and Entrepreneurs and the Emergence of the Synthetic Dyestuffs Industry
Laurent Mignon
A Way With Symbols: Hoca İshak Efendi
Gail Levin
Science and Zionism: New Documentation on Albert Einstein's first trip to America
Michael Berkowitz
Kodachrome, Polaroid, night-vision, X-rays, and other Jewish adventures in photographic science

RACE, GENDER, AND IDENTITY
Foster Court Room 112

Dwor, Richa G.
Adaptiveness and Culture: Race and Belonging in Amy Levy’s Reuben Sachs
Lindsey Taylor-Guthartz
Fields of Contestation and Opportunity: An Analysis of Two New Orthodox Jewish Women’s Communal Rituals
Yulia Egorova
On DNA, culture and historical memory: theorizing ‘Jewish genetics’
Seth Kunin
Myth, Memory and the Individual in Crypto-Judaism.

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee

11:30 – 1:00 Session 4

JEWS AND SCIENCES IN ANTIQUITY
Foster Court Room 101

Jonathan Ben-Dov and Eshbal Ratson
The Cosmological Oath in 1 Enoch 69:13-25 and Later Jewish Texts
Helen R. Jacobus.
The Zodiac Calendar in the Dead Sea Scrolls (4Q318) in relation to Babylonian Horoscopes
Yael Epstein
The Science of Medicine and the Medical Professionals in the Jewish Society in the Land of Israel During the Mishnah and Talmud Period (70-400CE)

SCIENCE AND KABBALAH
Avishai Bar-Asher
That which Hath Wings Shall Tell the Matter [Ecc. 10:20]:
Ornithomancy in 13th Century Kabbalah
Assaf Tamari
The Clinical Gaze of Lurianic Kabbalah

JEWS AND SCIENCES IN THE 20TH CENTURY
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre

Agata Bielik-Robson
Freud’s Scientific Ethos: Psychoanalysis and the Religion of Reason
Naftali Loewenthal
Psychotherapy, Hasidic Teachings and Haredi Jews
Maja Gildin
Identifying the Eligible Refugees: British Jewish Leaders and the "Science" of Immigration Practices in the 1930s

1:00 – 2:00 lunch

2:00 - 4:30 Session 5

DARWINISM AND JUDAISM
Foster Court Room 112

Geoffrey Cantor
Darwin among the Jews
Daniel R. Langton
Hans Jonas, Mordecai Kaplan, and Darwinism
Rachel Pear
Inter-faith anti-Darwinism

MEDIEVAL JEWISH SCHOLARSHIP
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre

Ronny Vollandt
Revisiting the calendar controversy documents as a source for Saadia’s biography
Gregor Schwarb
Yeshu'ah Ben Yehudah’s Tafsīr Torah Ṣiwwah Lanu
Mickey Engel
Elijah del Medigo and his theory of intellect
Milan Žonca
Israel ben Abraham: An Ashkenazic translator of Latin scholastic texts?
Nadia Vidro
A Judaeo-Arabic Grammar of Classical Arabic

JUDAISM AND ENLIGHTENMENT
Foster Court Room 101
Andrea Schatz
“Utterly Unknown”? Grace Aguilar and the Jewish Enlightenment Bible
Rosa Reicher
Re-inventing of the „Science of Judaism“: the Case of Gershom Scholem
Khayke Beruriah Wiegand
Spinoza and Kabbalah in the Work of Isaac Bashevis Singer: A Yiddish Writer Caught Between Modern Philosophy and His Jewish Religious Heritage
Eric Jacobson
What can be understood by the phrase The Banality of Evil? Residual questions from the Eichmann Trial fifty years on.

4:30 – 5:00 Tea
5:00 – 7:15: Visit to the British Library (pre-registration only)
5:00 – 7:15: BAJS Committee meeting
7:30: Conference Dinner

Friday 29th June

9:00 – 10:00 BAJS AGM
Foster Court Room 101

10:00 – 12:30: Session 6

READING SCIENCE IN EARLY RABBINIC SOURCES
Medawar Lankester Lecture Theatre
Daniel H. Weiss
Embodied Cognition and Classical Rabbinic Literature
Hedva Abel
The Scientific Aspects of the Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael
Holger Zellentin
Critical Science or a Critique of Science? The Babylonian Talmud on Palestinian Dream Interpretation
Katharina Keim

Cosmology as Science or Cosmology as Theology in the Pirke deRabbi Eliezer
Laliv Clenman

A Rabbinic Science of Genealogy?

JEWISH MEDICINE IN THE MIDDLE AGES
Foster Court Room 101

Gerrit Bos and Guido Mensching
Medieval Jewish Medico-Botanical Glossaries and Synonym Lists: Languages, Sources and Terminology
Renate Smithuis
How to exorcise the spirit of a dead husband and other useful recipes from the Cairo Genizah
Siam Bhayro
A Judaeo-Syriac Medical Fragment from the Cairo Genizah
Clara Jauregui
From Jews to Conversos in the late medieval crown of Aragon: the case-study of the physician Francesc de Pedralbes (c. 1377-1453)
Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim
India as a source of knowledge in the Hebrew Book of Asaf

JEWISH LANGUAGES AND THE SCIENCES
Foster Court Room 112

Stephen Cohen
The struggle to invent a coherent chemical language in Yiddish
Dr Jörg Schulte
Saul Tchernichowsky and the Tradition of Scientific Poetry
Lily Kahn
Possessive constructions in Hasidic Hebrew narrative literature
REGISTRATION FORM

DINNER AND VISIT TO BRITISH LIBRARY

I have registered / I wish to register for the BAJS Conference 2012: (please fill in this section even if you have already registered)

Name……………………………………………………………………………………………………
Address………………………………………………………………………………………………
Email……………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Registration Fee for BAJS Conference - Please circle or tick one of the following rates (please fill in this section if you have not yet registered)

Standard (Wednesday-Friday) £40
Student/Unwaged (Wednesday-Friday) £15
Daily Rate (Thursday) £25
Daily Rate (Wednesday/Friday, half days) £15
Daily Rate (Wednesday/Thursday/Friday) - Student/Unwaged £5
If Daily Rate, please state which day(s) …………………………………………………

2. Conference Dinner

Meals will not be arranged by the BAJS Conference this year, but there will be one Conference Dinner on Thursday 28 June at 7:30 pm. All food will be kosher. The cost per person is £25.00. A concessionary rate is available on request, and will be awarded on a discretionary basis (please write separately to sacha.stern@ucl.ac.uk).

I wish to register for the Conference Dinner YES/NO

If ‘yes’ and for more than one people, please indicate the number:

Please return this form, together with your payment, by 18 May 2012 to Sara BenIsaac (BAJS Conference 2012), Dept. Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, UK, s.benisac@ucl.ac.uk. For payment details, see below.
3. Visit to the British Library

A visit to the British Library, to view manuscripts and printed books relevant to the Jews and the Sciences, has been arranged for Thursday 28 March at 5:00 – 7:15 pm. No transport arrangements will be made, but the British Library is only 10-15 minutes’ walk away from UCL. Visitors can arrange transportation, if they wish, at their own expense. Visitors will meet Ilana Tahan (Lead Curator, Hebrew and Christian Orient Studies, British Library) in the foyer of the British Library, at the main information desk, at 5:00 pm; Ms Tahan will be leading the visit. Participants are requested to leave coats and other personal belongings in the lockers located in the Lower Ground Floor.

There is no charge for the visit, but the number of visitors allowed is very limited. If you wish to register, please write to sacha.stern@ucl.ac.uk; places will be awarded on a first-come-first-serve basis. Please note that only pre-registered visitors will be issued with badges and allowed into the British Library for the visit.

Payment details (Registration and Conference Dinner fees)

Cheques should be made payable to ‘INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES’.

For online payments, the bank account details are:

HSBC Bank, 90 Baker Street, London W1U 6AX
Acc name: INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES
Acc no: 01305387
Sort code: 40-01-06
IBAN: GB31MIDL40010601305387
SWIFT/BIC: MIDLGB2105F
When paying online, please indicate clearly the reference ‘BAJS 2012’.