

BAJS Conference 2012

## **THE JEWS AND THE SCIENCES**

University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT

Wednesday 27th—Friday 29th June 2012

### **Programme**

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 25<sup>th</sup> – 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**

## **JEWS 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?**

## **JEWISH 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**

## **JEWES 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**

*Foster Court Room 112*

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 20<sup>TH</sup> 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 Saadiah's biography**

Gregor Schwarb

**Yeshu'ah Ben Yehudah's *Tafsīr Torah Šiwvah 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**

**BAJS ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**  
**WEDNESDAY 27TH — FRIDAY 29TH JUNE 2012**

**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](mailto: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.benisaac@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.benisaac@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](mailto: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'.