



The Center for the Study of Conversion & Inter-Religious Encounters Annual Conference

June 20th – 23rd 2016

CONVERSATION

Monday, June 20th, 2016 (Rotem Hall)

9:45 Reception

10:15-10:30 Opening Remarks:

Harvey Hames, CSOC Director, General History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

10:30-12:30 Session 1 | Conversion & Family

Chair: **Nimrod Hurvitz**, CSOC, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Conversion and Ideology: Variations of the Theme"
Keren Abbou Hershkovits, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Conversion through Concubinage in the Cairo Geniza Documents" **Moshe Yagur**, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Family Ties and Religious Conversion seen through Legal Sources from the Early Islamic Period"
Uriel Simonsohn, CSOC, Middle Eastern History, University of Haifa

Respondent: **Edward Fram**, Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 15:00 Session 2 | Conversion Interactions

Chair: **Ephraim Shoham-Steiner**, CSOC, Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Jewish-Christian Dialogue in 18th Century German Hebraism"

Ofri Ilany, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"The Relationship between the Jewish Leadership and the Muslim Government in 12th Century Egypt - New discoveries from the Cairo Geniza" **Amir Ashur**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Respondent: **Uriel Simonsohn**, CSOC, Middle Eastern History, University of Haifa

15:00 – 15:30 Coffee break

15:30 – 17:30 Session 3 | Utopian Spaces

Chair: **Harvey Hames**, CSOC Director, General History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Between Jews and Christians: Messianism in Early Modern Maps of the Holy Land"

Pnina Arad, CSOC, The Open University of Israel

"Conversion of Place and Intertextual Utopia in Antonio León Pinelo's *El Paraíso en el Nuevo Mundo*"
Cynthia Gabbay, CSOC and the J. R Elyachar Center for Studies in Sepharadi Heritage, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Back to Jerusalem: A Chinese Christian Vision of Globalization" **Gideon El'azar**, CSOC, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Respondent: **Miriam Eliav-Feldon**, Chairperson, The Historical Society of Israel, Tel Aviv University

Tuesday, June 21st, 2016

9:30 – 11:30 Session 4 | Top-down Conversions

Chair: **Nimrod Hurvitz**, CSOC, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Connections and Loyalties in the Early Islamic Era – the Muakha" **Bat Chen Druyan**, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"An Analysis of a Mass Conversion Event: the Case of Lecce in 1495" **Nadia Zeldes**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"The Catholic Community in Ethiopia during the Gondarine Period: A Socio-Historical and Intellectual Profile (1632-1668)" **Leonardo Cohen Shabot**, CSOC, The Open University of Israel

Respondent: **Isaac Lubelsky**, The Open University of Israel

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Session 5 | Inter Cultural Imaginings

Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom**, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"The Cultural History of Muslim-Christian Polemics in the Crusading Near East"

Uri Zvi Shachar, CSOC, General History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"The Ambiguous Figure of the Jew in Javanese Literature" **Ronit Ricci**, CSOC, Comparative Religion and Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Respondent: **Jeremy Cohen**, Jewish History, Tel Aviv University

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 Session 6 | Problematicizing Conversion in Israel

Chair: **Claude B. Stuczynski**, CSOC, General History, Bar-Ilan University

"Wink-Wink" Conversion, "Win-Win"

Conversion: Dramaturgical Collaborations in Contemporary Giyyur in Israel"

Michal Kravel-Tovi, Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University

Respondent: **Tomer Persico**, Shalom Hartman Institute



Wednesday, June 22nd, 2016

9:30 – 11:30 Session 7 | Self Fashioning

Chair: **Harvey Hames**, CSOC Director, General History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Power Struggles, Democracy and Religion - Religious Conversion in the Indian Secular State"

Ayelet Harel-Shalev, CSOC, Conflict Management & Resolution Program and Politics & Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Noa Levy, Politics & Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Conversion and Secularization: Transition options from Judaism to Christianity and the making of modern Jewish identities"

David Sorozkin, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Soon in Our Days...." Temple Mount as a Junction of National- Religious Beliefs"

Sarina Chen, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Respondent: **Guy Ben-Porat**, Public Policy & Administration, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

11:30 – 12:00 Coffee break

12:00 – 13:30 Session 8 | Messianism & Millenarism

Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker**, Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Between Dream and Experience – Comparing the Two Stories of the King of the Khazars Conversion to Judaism in *The Kuzari*" **Ehud Krinis**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Umar Ibn al- Khattab's Conversion: Narrative, History and Society" **Alon Dar**, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Respondent: **Nimrod Hurvitz**, CSOC, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:30 Session 9 | The State and Modernity: Challenges

Chair: **Ephraim Shoham-Steiner**, CSOC, Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Almost a Christian": Uncertainties and Decisive Factors on the Threshold of Baptism in Late Medieval Germany"

Ahuva Liberles Noiman, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"¿Qué cosa es, señor, mandar su alteza quitar los vestidos moriscos? Conversion, Clothing and Moriscos in Early Modern Spain" **Carla Ramos Garcia**, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University; CORPI, CSIC-CCHS

"Self-Hate, Identity and Conversion: The Case of Jewish Supporters of the BDS"

Yair Neuman, Education, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, **Dan Assaf** and **Yochai Cohen**

Respondent: **Jackie Feldman**, Sociology and Anthropology, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Thursday, June 23rd, 2016

9:30 – 11:00 Session 10 | Narrating the Conversion of Leaders

Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker**, CSOC, Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Elijah the Prophet in Medieval Europe: Master Converter or Defender of Obstinate Refusal?"

Chana Shacham-Rosby, Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Prophecy, Conversion and 'Religion' in the Letters of Benedictus Sebastian Sperling"

Alexander Van der Haven, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Respondent: **Roni Weinstein**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 13:30 Session 11 | Spheres of Confrontation

Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom**, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"On Falling Angels and Flying Maidens: Between Judaism and Christianity and between Myth and Reality in Medieval Europe"

Avital Davidovich-Eshed, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University

"Alonso Fernández de Madrigal, and the Christian Biblical Criticism of the 15th century"

Yosi Yisraeli, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University

"Contextualizing Balthild's Ring Conversion and Hegemony in Seventh-Century East Anglia"

Yaniv Fox, CSOC, General History, Bar-Ilan University

Respondent: **Claude B. Stuczynski**, CSOC, General History, Bar-Ilan University

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 Concluding Remarks:

Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, CSOC, Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Ram Ben-Shalom, CSOC, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



A Jesuit conversing with a Japanese nobleman- Circa 1600

Barkan Hall Zlotowski Student Administration Building (70),
BGU Marcus Family Campus, Beer-Sheva

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