"Conversion Sermons as a Source for the History of Conversion"
Yaacov Deutsch, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

“A Coincidence of Opposites: When the Worst is also the Best”
Irven M. Resnick, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Respondent: Uri Zvi Shachar, Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

16:45-17:15 Coffee Break

17:15-19:30 Session 7
Royal & other Agents of Conversion
Chair: Daniella Talmon-Heller, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"Royal Policy and Conversion of Jews to Christianity in Thirteenth-century Europe”
John Tolan, RELMIN, Université de Nantes

"Royal Support for Converted Jews in France, 1285–1328”
Jessica Marin Elliott, RELMIN, Université de Nantes

"Converting the Jews through Mary in Visigothic Iberia”
Kati Ihnat, University of Bristol

Respondent: Asya Bereznyak, CSOC, Hebrew University

20:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 28 May
8:00-18:00 Conference Tour:
"From Apollo to Ali” - Conversion of Space:
“Then” and "Now"

17:00-18:00
Ora Limor (CSOC, The Open University of Israel) discussing “Paul's Conversion” with Paula Fredriksen (Boston University and HU)

18:00-20:00 Conference Dinner

Thursday, 29 May (Rotem Hall)
9:00-11:15 Session 8 – Methodological Approaches to Conversion Narratives
Chair: Paula Fredriksen, Boston University / Hebrew University

“Favor et Odium Fidei”
Kenneth Stow, University of Haifa

“Conversion Narratives in Modern Greek Folklore”
Julia G. Krivoruchko, University of Cambridge

11:15-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-14:00 Workshop
Case Study 1
Yaniv Fox (Research Fellow, CSOC, Open University) & Paola Tartakoff
Case Study 2
Yossi Israeli (Research Fellow, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University) & Alexander van der Haven

14:00-15:30 Lunch

15:30-17:30 Workshop
Case Study 3
Keren Abbou-Hershkovits (Research Fellow, CSOC, Haifa University) & Linda G. Jones
Case Study 4
Nadia Zeldes (Senior Research Fellow, CSOC, Hebrew University) & Giorgos Plakotos / Henriette-Rika Benveniste

17:30-18:00 Conclusions
Harvey Hames

"Are Jewish-Christian Disputations a Source of Conversion?"
Alex J. Novikoff, Fordham University

Respondent: Claude Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan University and Board Member, CSOC

20:00 Dinner

26-29 Iyar 5774
26-29 May 2014

International Conference of The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters
In cooperation with The Israeli Centers of Research Excellence & Israel Science Foundation & Council for Higher Education

Debating Conversion in Different Historical Contexts

Oren Hall
Krcman Building (26) ground floor
The Marcus Family Campus, Beer-Sheva
Monday, 26 May

9:30-10:00 Registration + Light Refreshments
10:00-10:30 Greetings:
Rivka Carmi, President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
David Newman, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Harvey Hames, Director, The Center for the Study of Conversion & Inter-Religious Encounters

10:30-12:45 Session 1
Inquisition

Chair: Daniel J. Lasker, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Fear of Conversion to Judaism in Thirteenth-Century Christian Segregatory Legislation"
Paola Tartakoff, Rutgers University
"Converting Bodies, Embodying Conversion in the Medieval and Early Modern Period: The Production of Religious Identities in the Spanish and Venetian Inquisitions"
Henriette-Rika Benveniste, University of Thessaly & Giorgos Plakotos, University of the Aegean
"The Republic and its Enemies: Tyrants and Conversos in the Time of Alfonso de Palencia"
Yanay Israeli, University of Michigan
Respondent: David Sorotzkin, Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:15 Session 2
Conversion in an Urban Setting

Chair: Ora Limor, CSOC, The Open University of Israel
"Conversion on Trial: The Hoorn Trial of Three Converts to Judaism"
Alexander van der Haven, Haifa University
"What Happened to the "New Christians"? The "Viennese Geserah" of 1420/21 and the Forced Baptism of the Jews"
Martha Keil, Institut für jüdische Geschichte Österreichs
"The Permeability of Intercommunal Boundaries in Early Abbasid Iraq"
Philip I. Ackerman-Lieberman, Vanderbilt University
Respondent: Uriel Simonsohn, CSOC, Haifa University

16:15-16:45 Coffee Break

16:45-19:00 Session 3
Converts & the Idea of Conversion

Chair: Ram Ben-Shalom, Hebrew University and Board Member, CSOC
"Jewish Converts, Catholic Apologetics and early 17th Century Hebraism: Rome and Paris as Production Centers of Hebraistic Knowledge"
Yossef Schwartz, Tel Aviv University
"Conversions from Christianity to Islam in Persia during the Safavid Period (1501-1736)"
Giorgio Rota, Institut für Iranistik, Vienna
"Conversion as a Historiographical Problem"
Ryan Wesley Szpiech, University of Michigan
Respondent: Nimrod Hurvitz, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, 27 May

9:00-11:15 Session 4
Law and Conversion

Chair: Rami Reiner, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Tosafist Attitudes toward Converts to Judaism and toward Prospective Converts: Between Northern France and Germany"
Ephraim Kanarfogel, Yeshiva University
"The Law of the Faith and Faith in the Law: Normative Sources and Conversion History"
Roy Flechner, University College Dublin
"To Baptize or not to Baptize: Questions of Jewish Conversion in Early Canon Law"
Jessie Sherwood, RELMIN, Université de Nantes
Respondent: Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Board Member, CSOC

11:15-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:30 Session 5
Cases from the Genizah

Chair: Yair Neuman, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Slave and Freed Women Converts to Judaism and Islam in Medieval Egypt"
Craig Perry, Emory University
"The Donor and the Gravedigger: Portraits of Two Proselytes from the Cairo Geniza Documents, and their Social Significance"
Moshe Yagur, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Respondent: Amir Ashur, Senior Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:45 Session 6
Conversionary Sermons

Chair: Zur Shalev, Haifa University
"Conversion and Danger: Muslim Juridical Debates over the Conversion of ‘Infidels’ to Islam during the Friday Sermon in the Mamluk Period"
Linda G. Jones, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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