THE RED SEA AS SPACE FOR RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC EXCHANGE

2.1.2018-10:00-10:30 | Opening Remarks - Five Hundred Years since the arrival of the first Portuguese Embassy to Ethiopia: -The Red Sea as Space for Religious, Cultural, and Economic Exchange

Dr. Leonardo Cohen, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

10:30-12:00 | First Panel: the Early Involvement of the Portuguese Maritime Empire in the Red Sea

Chair- Avi Rubin, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Andreu Martínez d'Alòs-Moner ,University of Gondar
The “lizard-like sea”: The Red Sea in the Views of Early Portuguese Chroniclers

André Ferrand Almeida , Universidade Catolica de Portugal – Centro de Estudos de História Religiosa
Faith, Commerce and Empire: the idea of a Christian Alliance with Ethiopia and the Portuguese imperial strategy in the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea during the sixteenth century

12:00-14:00 Lunch
14:00-15:30 | Second Panel: Christian Identities in the Regional Context of the Red Sea (Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries).

Chair: Lynn Schler, Ben-Gurion University of The Negev

Steven Kaplan, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Zar’a Ya’eqob, Ahmad Gragn, and Prester John: Continuity and Disruption in Constructing Ethiopian Christian Identity

Leonardo Cohen, Ben Gurion-University of the Negev
Patriarch Mendes’s Futile Struggle for the Return of the Portuguese Army to the Red Sea

16:00-17:30 | Third Panel: Religious Identity and Religious Conversion across the Red Sea

Chair: Irit Back, Tel-Aviv University

Haggai Erlich, Tel Aviv University
Crossing the Red Sea: Jews, Christians, Muslims in History

Menashe Anzi, Ben- Gurion University of the Negev
The Coffee Trade and the Jews of Mocha

Dinner
3.1.2018-

10:30-12:00 | **Fourth Panel: Red Sea Navigation during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries**

**Chair:** Nimrod Hurvitz, Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Nancy Um, Binghamton University
**Ethiopia, Yemen, and the VOC: Rethinking Dutch Interests in the Southern Red Sea in the late 17th and early 18th Centuries**

Chiara Zazzaro, University of Naples
**Shipwrecks and Red Sea Navigations in the First Half of the Eighteenth Century**

12:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 | **Fifth Panel: The Red Sea in the Nineteenth Century: Imperial Ventures and Missionaries**

**Chair:** Haggai Ram, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Mishy Harman, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
**Like Selling Ice to the Eskimos: The Tale of the First Protestant Mission to Ethiopia**

Avishai Ben- Dror, The Open University of Israel and the Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
**Rethinking the "Scramble for Africa": Non-European Imperial Ventures in Late Nineteenth-Century Red Sea Basin**

15:30-16:00 | **Concluding remarks**

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