



Ascetic Trends in the Abrahamic Religions in the 13th Century

Monday-Wednesday, November 18-20 2019

The Marcus Family Campus, Be'er-Sheva – Beit Daniel, Zichron Ya'akov



Monday, November 18, Be'er-Sheva

09:30 Opening Reception

10:00 **Oded Yisraeli**: Opening Remarks

Greetings:

Prof. Amit Schejter, Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences

Prof. Haim Kreisel, Head, The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought

Prof. Avriël Bar-Levav, Head, The Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians, Muslims

First Session: **Neighboring Religions**

Chair: **Guy Stroumsa**

Naama Cohen Hanegbi: **A Healthy Approach to Asceticism - Latin Medicine, Abstinence and Temperance**

Shalom Sadik: **Ascetic Argument in Abner of Burgos Critic of Judais**

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Second Session: **Asceticism in Jewish Cultures**

Chair: **Joseph Ziegler**

Ehud Krinis: **Bahya Ibn Paqūda's Inward Asceticism**

Ephraim Kanarfogel: **Ascetic Practices among Northern French Tosafists during the Second Half of the Thirteenth Century**

Judah Galinsky: **Asceticism in Northern France - the Case of R. Isaac of Corbeil**

15:45 Coffee break

16:15 Third Session: **Asceticism and Mysticism**

Chair: **Nimrod Hurvitz**

Louise Nelstrop: **Deification and Asceticism in Richard Rolle's Mysticism**

Haviva Pedaya: **Asceticism in Provençal Kabbalah**

Paul Fenton: **Asceticism among the Judaeo-Sufis of Medieval Egypt with Special Reference to R. Abraham Maimonides Chapter on Zuhd**

Conference will conclude at 18:00

Tuesday, November 19, Be'er-Sheva

09:00 Fourth Session: **Asceticism in Practice**

Chair: **Boaz Huss**

Avishai Bar-Asher: **Sacrifice and Self-Sacrifice in late thirteenth-Century Magical Kabbalah**

Elisha Russ Fishbane: **The Maimonidean Roots of Egyptian Pietism: Asceticism from Theory to Practice**

Elisheva Baumgarten: **Piety and Asceticism in Comparative Contexts: What Did Jews and Christians Know About Each Other's Habits?**

Ephraim Shoham-Steiner: **Penance and the Mortification of the Body in Medieval Ashkenazi Pietism**

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Field Trip

Conference will conclude at 19:00

Wednesday, November 20, Zichron Ya'akov

09:15 Fifth Session: **Asceticism and Social Leadership**

Chair: **Michael Ebstein**

Oded Yisraeli: **Vows and Oaths, Asceticism and Celibacy in Nahmanides' Thought**

Krijn Pansters: **Returning Every Good to the Lord: The Ascetic Exemplarity of Francis of Assisi**

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Sixth Session: **Asceticism and Exegesis**

Chair: **Tzahi Weiss**

Adam Afterman: **Ascetic Ideals and Mystical Transformation in the Writings of Bahya ben Asher**

Haim Kreisel: **Levi ben Avraham and his Ambivalent Attitude to Asceticism**

Samuela Pagani: **The Interpretation of rahbaniyya ("monasticism") in the Qur'anic Exegesis of Ibn Barrajan (d. 1141).**

13:30 Lunch

14:45 Seventh Session: **Family, Tribe, Nation**

Chair: **Ora Limor**

Daniel J. Lasker: **Karaite Mourning for Zion in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries**

Jeremy Brown: **'Exile Atones for Sin': National History as Passion in Medieval Kabbalah**

16:15 Coffee break

16:45 **Closing Session**

Chair: **Avriël Bar-Levav**

Moshe Idel: **Was there Asceticism in the Ecstatic Kabbalah?**

Concluding remarks

Conference will conclude at 18:00

Participants

Adam Afterman Tel Aviv University | **Avishai Bar-Asher** Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Avriël Bar-Levav** Open University of Israel | **Elisheva Baumgarten** Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Jeremy Brown** McGill University | **Naama Cohen Hanegbi** Tel Aviv University | **Michael Ebstein** Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Paul Fenton** Université de Paris Sorbonne | **Elisha Fishbane** New York University | **Judah Galinsky** Bar-Ilan University | **Nimrod Hurvitz** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Boaz Huss** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Ephraim Kanarfogel** Yeshiva University | **Haim Kreisel** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Ehud Krinis** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Daniel J. Lasker** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Ora Limor** Open University of Israel | **Moshe Idel** Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Louise Nelstrop** University of Oxford | **Samuela Pagani** Università del Salento | **Krijn Pansters** Tilburg University | **Shalom Sadik** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Ephraim Shoham-Steiner** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Guy Stroumsa** Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Tzahi Weiss** Open University of Israel | **Oded Yisraeli** Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | **Joseph Ziegler** University of Haifa