

# International Conference

## The Halakhah: An Unchanging Canon? On the Halakah in Changing Circumstances

16:00-17:30 Tenth Session:

“The Enlightened at such a Time Will Keep Silent” (Amos 5:13)?

Philosophy and Halakhah

Chair: **Judah Galinsky**, Bar-Ilan University

**Martin Lockshin**, York University (Canada)  
Does Halakhah Really Uproot Scripture?

**George Y. Kohler**, Bar-Ilan University  
Hermann Cohen on the Problem of the Heteronomy of Halakhah

**Aviram Ravitsky**, Ariel University  
The Logical Structure of the Rational and Traditional Precepts in the Thought of Sa'adya and Qirqisānī: Logic and Law in the Karaite-Rabbanite Controversy in the 10th Century

17:45-19:00 Concluding Session

Chair: **Haim Kreisel**, Ben-Gurion University

Greetings: **Rivka Carmi**, President, Ben-Gurion University

**Daniel Sperber**, Bar-Ilan University  
"The Boundary says to Tem: 'Beware of going up from here on!": The Tension Between Tradition and Innovation

**Rami Reiner**, Ben-Gurion University  
Concluding Remarks



8-10 Iyar 5776

16-18 May 2016

Barkan Conference Room

Zlotowski Student Administration Building

The Marcus Family Campus Beer-Sheva



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought

All the lectures in Hebrew unless noted otherwise

## Monday May 16, 2016

### 18:00 Opening Session

Chair: **Rami Reiner**, Ben-Gurion University

Greetings:

**Zvi Hacohen**, Rector, Ben-Gurion University

**David Newman**, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University

**Haim Kreisel**, Chair, Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought

**Vered Noam**, Tel-Aviv University

The Halakha: Between Poetry and Magic

## Tuesday May 17, 2016

### 9:15-11:15 Second Session: The Halakhah: The Early Period

Chair: **Michal Bar-Asher Siegal**, Ben-Gurion University

**Yonatan Adler**, Ariel University

Chalkstone Vessels and Early Halakhah: What we Know, what we Think we Know, and what Remains to be Learned

**Lutz Doering**, University of Muenster (Germany)

"The weightier matters of the Law"(Matthew 23:23): Taxonomy in the Discourse about Law and Halakhah in the Gospel of Matthew (English)

**Cana Werman**, Ben-Gurion University,

Tannaitic Literature in Light of Priestly Literature

**Yair Furstenberg**, Ben-Gurion University

From Pharisaic Tradition to Tannaitic Mishnah: Transmission and Halakhah in the Teachings of Early Tanaaim

### 11:45:13:15 Third Session: The Talmud: An Interreligious Meeting Point?

Chair: **Yuval Harari**, Ben-Gurion University

**Robert Brody**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Does Babylonian Halacha Betray Iranian Influence?

**Geoffrey Herman**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Persian Fire Worship and its Possible Afterglow in the Law and Legend of the Babylonian Talmud

**Uziel Fuchs**, Herzog College and Bar Ilan University

Is Meta-Analysis Feasible in the Study of Halakhah? On the Transition of the Talmud into a Halakhic Code During the Geonic Period

### 14:30-16:30 Fourth Session: Commerce, Wine and Halakhah:

#### A Tribute to the Research of Prof Haym Soloveitchik

Chair: **Ephraim Shoham Steiner**, Ben-Gurion University

**Simcha Emanuel**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Torat Eretz Israel in Europe: New sources

**Pinchas Roth**, Bar-Ilan University

Sacred Community? Self Image and History of Halakhah in Provence

**Adiel Schremer**, Bar-Ilan University

Halakah from a Historical Perspective: Haym Soloveitchik and the Historical Study of the Halakha

**Haym Soloveitchik**, Yeshiva University (USA)

Reply

### 17:00-18:30 Fifth Session: Halakhah in an Age of Change: Towards Modernity

Chair: **Zeev Gries**, Ben-Gurion University

**Ted Fram**, Ben-Gurion University

Rabbi Joseph Caro and the Humanists

**Ephraim Kanarfogel**, Yeshiva University (USA)

The Approaches of Ashkenaz Rabbinic Authorities in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods to the Adjudication of Fines

**Elchanan Reiner**, Tel-Aviv University

On the Old Polish Halakha

### 19:30-21:30 Sixth Session: The Halakhah in Israeli Public Life

Chair: **Chaim (Harvey) Hames**, Ben-Gurion University

Panel with the participation of:

**Yael German**, Knesseth Member, Yesh Atid Party

**Noam Solberg**, Judge, Israel Supreme Court

**Shlomo Riskin**, Rabbi of Efrat, Chancellor of Ohr Torah Stone Institutions

## Wednesday May 18, 2016

### 9:15-10:45 Seventh Session:

#### "Jewish and Democratic": Halakhah and the Israeli Legal System

Chair: **Uri Ehrlich**, Ben-Gurion University

**Michael Wygoda**, Ministry of Justice, Jerusalem

Jewish Law and Israeli Law

**Amihai Radzyner**, Bar-Ilan University

The Impact of Supreme Court Rulings on the Halakhic Status of the Official Rabbinical Courts in Israel

**Arye Edrei**, Tel-Aviv University

Halakha in Israeli Court?: Justice Menachem Elon and the Mishpat Ivri Project

### 11:15-12:45 Eight Session:

#### The Esoteric, the Exoteric and the Revealed: Kabbalah, Aggadah and Halakhah

Chair: **Jonatan Meir**, Ben-Gurion University

**Boaz Huss**, Ben-Gurion University

'The Letter Kills But the Spirit Gives Life' – Kabbalah Toward Halakhah

**Oded Israeli**, Ben-Gurion University

Halakhah, Science and Mystery – Kabbalah in Nachmanides' Halakhic Writings

**Adiel Kadari**, Ben-Gurion University

The Halakha of Elijah – Heavenly Knowledge, Piety and Danger

### 14:00-15:30 Ninth Session: Women and Halakhah

Chair: **Nicham Ross**, Ben-Gurion University

**Elisheva Baumgarten**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Child Marriage in the Jewish Communities of Medieval Northern Europe: Between the History of Halakhah and Social History

**Judith Hauptman**, Jewish Theological Seminary (USA)

The Impact of Feminism on Halakhah: Changing Women's Status from Chattel to Equal (English)

**Ronit Irshai**, Bar-Ilan University

Between Feminist and Gender Analysis in the Research of Halakhah