

## Trauma and Coping with Trauma in World Religions

### Call for Outstanding Postdoctoral Candidates for the 2024-25 Academic Year

Trauma is defined as an event that is perceived as physically or psychologically threatening to a person or society, and which is accompanied by the experience of loss of control and helplessness. Religions provide a variety of tools for coping with personal and collective traumas, while empirical studies demonstrate that religious faith aids in recovering from traumatic events, both on the personal and on the collective level.

Traumatic experiences may also change religious views, the responsibilities of religious leaders, the resilience and functioning of religious communities, and even one's religious affiliation. Religious traditions and communities are shaped by traumatic events related to defeat in battle, conquest and exile, natural disasters, and forced religious conversion. Such events (e.g. the destruction of the Temple, the conquest of Baghdad by the Mongols, the fall of Constantinople to the Ottomans, the Spanish colonization of the Inca, the Shoah, 9/11, the Yom Kippur War) had an impact on the explanation of sacred texts, theology, religious law, liturgy, rituals, religious creativity of all kinds, and the relation to the Other. On occasion, such traumas gave birth or strengthened mystical currents and messianic movements or precipitated religious schisms.

In the academic year 2024-2025, the Center for Religious Conversion and Interreligious Encounters at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (CSoC) will focus on the coping with trauma among the world religions. We invite proposals on the part of scholars researching any of the world religions or comparative religious studies in any of the following disciplines: anthropology, art and literature, conflict resolution religious studies, cultural studies, history, psychology, and sociology.

Proposals may deal with any of the following topics:

- Religious faith or practice and individual coping with personal or collective traumatic experience
- Clergy and religious leaders as agents of coping with trauma
- The religious community's dealing with personal and/ or collective trauma
- Religious conversion as a response to trauma
- Disasters and traumas in exegesis, theological literature, liturgy or religious rituals
- Religious law for situations of catastrophe and trauma
- Forgetting and re-membering trauma in religious contexts
- Revenge and reconciliation in religious faiths.

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Researchers who submitted their doctoral thesis within the past five years, or who will have received their doctorate by October 2024 at the latest, are eligible to apply for the fellowship. The scholarship will consist of 74,000 NIS spread out over 12 months, a shared workspace in the Center's offices and full library privileges. It offers an affiliation with a vibrant group of scholars, and intellectual and social support from peers and senior researchers.

Fellows will be required to conduct their research on the Marcus campus in Be'er Sheva at least once a week, attend weekly seminars and reading groups (Tuesdays 12:00-14:00), and participate in CSoC conferences, book launches, excursions, and group meetings. They will be expected to present their work to other members, and to fulfill an active role in planning the Center's various activities for the year, even before the beginning of the academic year.

**To apply, please send an email CSoC's administrative manager, in Hebrew or English, to Ms. [Raya Even David](#), and include:**

- A research proposal (up to 1,000 words) that focuses on the annual theme described above.
- An abstract of your dissertation (up to 1,000 words).
- Updated CV and a full list of publications.
- Two recommendations, one of them from your PhD supervisor, sent from them directly.

For more information on CSoC, see our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) pages.

**Application deadline: 25 March 2024**

Applicants chosen will receive a response during April 2024.

Questions and inquiries can be directed to Prof. [Daniella Talmon-Heller](#)

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