

RESEARCH WORKSHOP OF  
THE ISRAEL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV  
THE GOLDSTEIN-GOREN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR JEWISH THOUGHT



# Reading the Bible in the Pre-Modern World: Interpretation, Performance and Image

**24-26 June 2019**

Rotem Conference Room, Zlotowski Student Administration Building;  
Room -136, Senate Building  
**The Marcus Family Campus Be'er-Sheva**

We would like to acknowledge the generous support of the  
Office of the President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Office of the Rector, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion  
University of the Negev

Conrad and Chinita Abrahams-Curiel Department of Foreign Literatures &  
Linguistics, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

## Monday 24 June – Rotem Conference Room

9:45-10:15 Gathering and Opening Reception

10:15-10:45 Opening Session. Greetings

Haim Kreisel, Director, The Goldstein-Goren International  
Center for Jewish Thought

Chanita Goodblatt, Workshop Convener

11:00-13:00 Session 1: *Wisdom Literature*

Chair/Respondent: Yitzhak Hen, Hebrew University

Tova Forti, Ben-Gurion University

*A Consideration of Hermeneutic Perspectives on the Book of  
Ecclesiastes*

Chanita Goodblatt, Ben-Gurion University

*The Parable of the Ewe Lamb: Dimensions of Judgement and  
Interpretation*

14:30-17:00 Session 2: *Mysticism, Self and Allegory*

Chair/Respondent: Elliott Simon, University of Haifa

Piero Capelli, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

*Individuating God: The Biblical Motif of God's Wrath in the  
Midrash and the Zohar*

Oded Yisraeli, Ben-Gurion University

*The Story of Rachel and Leah, and their Images in the Zohar*

Nancy Rosenfeld, Max Stern College of Jezreel Valley

*"Blessed Joseph! I would thou hadst more fellows": John  
Bunyan's Joseph*

17:30-19:00 Session 3: *The Bible in Rhythm and Sound*

Rafi Ziv. Dancer and Choreographer

## Tuesday 25 June – Rotem Conference Room

**10:00-10:30** Greetings.

Prof. Amit Schejter, Dean, Faculty of Humanities & Social Science, Ben-Gurion University

**10:30-12:30** Session 4: *Wisdom Literature*

Chair/Respondent: Ayelet Langer, University of Haifa

Hannibal Hamlin, Ohio State University

*The Book of Job and its Renaissance Readers*

Noam Flinker, University of Haifa

*Psalm 51: Between Christian Silencing and Judaic Messianism in 17th-Century England*

**14:00-16:00** Session 5: *Genesis and Exodus*

Chair/Respondent: Jonathan Stavsky, Tel Aviv University

Monika Fludernik, Albert Ludwigs University of Freiburg

*From Adam and Eve to the Golden Calf: The Pentateuch/Torah in Middle English Mystery Plays*

Sharon Aronson-Lehavi, Tel Aviv University

*Performing Hebrew/Jewish Biblical Characters in Late Medieval Religious Theater*

**16:30-18:30** Session 6: *Genesis and Exodus*

Chair/Respondent: Jonathan Yogev, Ben-Gurion University

Sara Offenberg, Ben-Gurion University

*Illuminating the Creation in Medieval Hebrew Bibles from Ashkenaz*

Martin Lockshin, York University

*Peshat (Plain Meaning) and Polemics in Medieval Jewish Commentaries on Genesis and Exodus*



## Wednesday 26 June - Room -136, Senate Building

### 9:30-11:30 Session 7: *The Biblical Family*

Chair/Respondent: Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Ben-Gurion University

Lori Anne Ferrell, Claremont Graduate University

*The End of the Tudors: Comparing Unhappy Families in 2 Samuel and Hamlet*

Sanford Budick, Hebrew University

*The Grafting of "All the Families of the Earth" onto the Biblical Family: Genesis 12:3 in Midrash, Epistle to the Romans and Shakespeare*

### 12:00-14:00 Session 8: *Representing Biblical Characters*

Chair/Respondent: Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, Ben-Gurion University

Tammi J. Schneider, Claremont Graduate University

*The Gang Rape in Judges 19: Saul, Sodom, Isaac and the Power of Translation*

Oren Roman, Ben-Gurion University

*Retelling the Binding of Isaac: Hebrew and Yiddish Literatures of Medieval and Early Modern Europe*

### 15:30-17:30 Session 9: *The Book of Esther*

Chair/Respondent: Nirit Ben-Aryeh Debby, Ben-Gurion University

Tovi Bibring, Bar-Ilan University

*From a Matrimonial Quarrel to Edifying Drama: Jewish and Christian Conceptions of Vashti in Medieval and Renaissance France*

Ornat Lev-Er, Ben-Gurion University

*The Painter and the Queen: Two Women, One Canvas: Artemisia and Esther*

### 17:30-18:30 Concluding Remarks