

"Conversion Sermons as a Source for the History of Conversion"

Yaacov Deutsch, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

"A Coincidence of Opposites: When the Worst is also the Best"

Irven M. Resnick, *University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*

Respondent: **Uri Zvi Shachar**, *Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

16:45-17:15 Coffee Break

17:15-19:30 Session 7

Royal & other Agents of Conversion

Chair: **Daniella Talmon-Heller**, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

"Royal Policy and Conversion of Jews to Christianity in Thirteenth-century Europe"

John Tolan, *RELMIN, Université de Nantes*

"Royal Support for Converted Jews in France, 1285-1328"

Jessica Marin Elliott, *RELMIN, Université de Nantes*

"Converting the Jews through Mary in Visigothic Iberia"

Kati Ihnat, *University of Bristol*

Respondent: **Asya Bereznyak**, *CSOC, Hebrew University*

20:00 Dinner

Wednesday, 28 May

8:00-18:00 Conference Tour:

"From Apollo to Ali" - Conversion of Space: "Then" and "Now"

17:00-18:00

Ora Limor (*CSOC, The Open University of Israel*) discussing "Paul's Conversion" with **Paula Fredriksen** (*Boston University and HU*)

18:00-20:00 Conference Dinner

Thursday, 29 May (Rotem Hall)

9:00-11:15 Session 8 – Methodological Approaches to Conversion Narratives

Chair: **Paula Fredriksen**, *Boston University / Hebrew University*

"Favor et Odium Fidei"

Kenneth Stow, *University of Haifa*

"Conversion Narratives in Modern Greek Folklore"

Julia G. Krivoruchko, *University of Cambridge*

"Are Jewish-Christian Disputations a Source of Conversion?"

Alex J. Novikoff, *Fordham University*

Respondent: **Claude Stuczynski**, *Bar Ilan University and Board Member, CSOC*

11:15-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-14:00 Workshop

Case Study 1

Yaniv Fox (*Research Fellow, CSOC, Open University*) & **Paola Tartakoff**

Case Study 2

Yossi Israeli (*Research Fellow, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University*) & **Alexander van der Haven**

14:00-15:30 Lunch

15:30-17:30 Workshop

Case Study 3

Keren Abbou-Hershkovits (*Research Fellow, CSOC, Haifa University*) & **Linda G. Jones**

Case Study 4

Nadia Zeldes (*Senior Research Fellow, CSOC, Hebrew University*) & **Giorgos Plakotos / Henriette-Rika Benveniste**

17:30-18:00 Conclusions

Harvey Hames

International Conference of
The Center for the Study of Conversion and
Inter-Religious Encounters

In cooperation with The Israeli Centers of Research Excellence
& Israel Science Foundation & Council for Higher Education



Debating Conversion in Different Historical Contexts

26-29 Iyar 5774

26-29 May 2014

Oren Hall

KrWfman Building (26) ground floor
The Marcus Family Campus, Beer-Sheva



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Monday, 26 May

9:30-10:00 Registration + Light Refreshments

10:00-10:30 Greetings:

Chair: **Rivka Carmi**, *President, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

David Newman, *Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences*

Harvey Hames, *Director, The Center for the Study of Conversion & Inter-Religious Encounters*

10:30-12:45 Session 1

Inquisition

Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker**, *CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

"Fear of Conversion to Judaism in Thirteenth-Century Christian Segregatory Legislation"

Paola Tartakoff, *Rutgers University*

"Converting Bodies, Embodying Conversion in the Medieval and Early Modern Period: The Production of Religious Identities in the Spanish and Venetian Inquisitions"

Henriette-Rika Benveniste, *University of Thessaly* & **Giorgos Plakotos**, *University of the Aegean*

"The Republic and its Enemies: Tyrants and Conversos in the Time of Alfonso de Palencia"
Yanay Israeli, *University of Michigan*

Respondent: **David Sorotzkin**, *Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

12:45-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:15 Session 2

Conversion in an Urban Setting

Chair: **Ora Limor**, *CSOC, The Open University of Israel*

"Conversion on Trial: The Hoorn Trial of Three Converts to Judaism"

Alexander van der Haven, *Haifa University*

"What Happened to the 'New Christians'? The 'Viennese Geserah' of 1420/21 and the Forced Baptism of the Jews"

Martha Keil, *Institut für jüdische Geschichte Österreichs*

"The Permeability of Intercommunal Boundaries in Early Abbāsid Iraq"

Phillip I. Ackerman-Lieberman, *Vanderbilt University*

Respondent: **Uriel Simonsohn**, *CSOC, Haifa University*

16:15-16:45 Coffee Break

16:45-19:00 Session 3

Converts & the Idea of Conversion

Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom**, *Hebrew University and Board Member, CSOC*

"Jewish Converts, Catholic Apologetics and early 17th Century Hebraism: Rome and Paris as Production Centers of Hebraistic Knowledge"

Yossef Schwartz, *Tel Aviv University*

"Conversions from Christianity to Islam in Persia during the Safavid Period (1501-1736)"

Giorgio Rota, *Institut für Iranistik, Vienna*

"Conversion as a Historiographical Problem"

Ryan Wesley Szpiech, *University of Michigan*

Respondent: **Nimrod Hurvitz**, *CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, 27 May

9:00-11:15 Session 4

Law and Conversion

Chair: **Rami Reiner**, *CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

"Tosafist Attitudes toward Converts to Judaism and toward Prospective Converts: Between Northern France and Germany"

Ephraim Kanarfogel, *Yeshiva University*

"The Law of the Faith and Faith in the Law: Normative Sources and Conversion History"

Roy Flechner, *University College Dublin*

"To Baptize or not to Baptize: Questions of Jewish Conversion in Early Canon Law"

Jessie Sherwood, *RELMIN, Université de Nantes*

Respondent: **Ephraim Shoham-Steiner**, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Board Member, CSOC*

11:15-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:30 Session 5

Cases from the Genizah

Chair: **Yair Neuman**, *CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

"Slave and Freed Women Converts to Judaism and Islam in Medieval Egypt"

Craig Perry, *Emory University*

"The Donor and the Gravedigger: Portraits of Two Proselytes from the Cairo Geniza Documents, and their Social Significance"

Moshe Yagur, *Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Respondent: **Amir Ashur**, *Senior Research Fellow, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:45 Session 6

Conversionary Sermons

Chair: **Zur Shalev**, *Haifa University*

"Conversion and Danger: Muslim Juridical Debates over the Conversion of 'Infidels' to Islam during the Friday Sermon in the Mamluk Period"

Linda G. Jones, *Universitat Pompeu Fabra*