



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב  
جامعة بن غوريون في النقب  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

## The Status of Converts in Jewish Communities and Jewish Thought, from Biblical Times to Contemporary Israel

International conference organized by  
The French Research Center in Jerusalem (CRFJ)

with the support of  
Aix-Marseille University  
and

The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters (CSoC),  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)

### Conference Program

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at Ben Gurion University  
or join us via zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92012000000>

- 08:00-09:30 Departure from Gan HaPa'amon Parking Lot, Jerusalem
- 09:30-10:30 Welcome and Introduction  
Katell Berthelot, Yael Wilfand and Michal Bar-Asher Siegal  
Chaim Hames (BGU Rector) and David Wettstein (BGU Dean of Humanities Faculty)
- 10:30-12:00 Bible
- Dominik Markl, "Israel as a People of 'Converts': The Politics of Inclusion and Exclusion in Deuteronomy"
  - Oded Lipschits, "Since When has the Issue of Foreign Women Occupied the Jerusalem Elite and Why?"
- 12:00-13:30 Nurit Jacobs-Yinon, "A Tale of a Woman and a Robe":  
Film projection and discussion
- 13:30-14:30 Lunch
- 14:30-16:00 Hellenistic and Early Roman period
- Katell Berthelot, "Reconsidering the *Gerim* in the Dead Sea Scrolls"
  - Daniel R. Schwartz, "Does Circumcision Make a Male a Jew?"
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30-18:00 Rabbinic Literature I: Round Table Discussion over Selected Texts
- Michal Bar-Asher Siegal
  - Christine Hayes
  - Moshe Lavee
- 19:00 Dinner (and travel back to Jerusalem)



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**Thursday, May 12, 2022, French Research Center in Jerusalem**  
or join us via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/csocbgu>

- 09:00-09:30 Coffee and words of welcome by head of CRFJ
- 09:30-10:15 Meeting with the Minister of Religious Services, Matan Kahana
- 10:30-12:00 Conversions in contemporary Israel
- Elad Caplan, "Conversion in Israel: Legal and Political Struggles"
  - Michal Kravel-Tovi, "Incomplete Insiders, Invisible Outsiders, Deserving Citizens: Non-Jewish Olim on the Path to Conversion"
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch
- 13:30-15:00 Rabbinic Literature II
- Yael Wilfand, "The Status of Converts in Halakhah within the Context of Roman Laws on Freed Slaves"
  - Avraham Yoskovitch, "Apostates or Believers: The Challenge of Returning Apostates in Babylonian Judaism and Syriac Christianity"
- 15:00-15:30 Coffee Break
- 15:30-17:00 Medieval period I
- Ephraim Kanarfogel, "Returning Apostates as Converts in the Writings of the Tosafists in Northern France and Germany"
  - Paola Tartakoff, "Churchmen Converts to Judaism in 12th- to 14th-century Europe"
- 17:00-17:30 Break
- 17:30-18:30 Lecture by Nicole Maor, Director of the Legal Aid for New Immigrants Program affiliated with the Israel Movement For Reform and Progressive Judaism

19:00 Dinner

**Friday, May 13, 2022, French Research Center in Jerusalem**  
or join us via zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/my/csocbgu>

- 09:00-09:30 Coffee
- 09:30-11:00 Medieval period II
- Marzena Zawadowska, "The Medieval Karaite Exegetes' Attitude Towards Conversion and Converts"
  - Moshe Yagur, "Proselytes real and imagined in medieval Egypt: a view from the Cairo Geniza"
- 11:00-11:15 Coffee Break
- 11:15-12:45 Modern period
- Adam Ferziger and Dror Yahav, "Between Repentants/Newly Observant Jews and Converts in Contemporary Halakhah: Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch as a Case Study"
  - Suzanne Stone, "Conversion, Community, and Sincerity"
- 12:45-13:00 Concluding discussion
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch