

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Taking Turns

New Perspectives on Jews and Conversion
May 2-3, 2011

17th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies



Adapted from William Blake's *Ruth the Dutiful Daughter-in-Law*, 1803

Sessions:

- Re-Reading Ruth
- Are Converts Cosmopolitan?
Cultural Crossings and Conversion
- Jews vs. (Former) Jew:
Intra-religious Aspects of Conversion
- Judaizing in the Contemporary World:
Global Perspectives

Ben Franklin Room
Houston Hall
University of Pennsylvania
3417 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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TAKING TURNS

New Perspectives on Jews and Conversion

17th Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, May 2-3, 2011

MONDAY, MAY 2

Ben Franklin Room, 2nd floor
Houston Hall
3417 Spruce Street

9:15 am Coffee and Light Breakfast

9:45 am Greetings

David Ruderman, Ella Darivoff Director,
Katz Center

Rebecca Bushnell, Dean,
School of Arts and Sciences

10:00 am **Re-Reading Ruth**

Chair: Sara Japhet, Hebrew
University/Katz Center

Adele Berlin, University of Maryland
*Ruth and Jewish Identity
in the Persian Period*

Jeffrey Shoulson, University of
Miami/Katz Center
*"Grafting in Bad Stock":
Ruth in Early Modern England*

Sarah Gracombe, Stonehill
College/Katz Center
*"Engrafted" or "Alien"?:
English Representations of
Ruth from 1830 to 1930*

Respondent: Kathleen Biddick,
Temple University

12:00 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm **Are Converts Cosmopolitan?
Cultural Crossings**

Chair: Javier Castaño, Instituto de
Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterraneo,
Madrid/Katz Center

Claude Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan
University/Katz Center
*The Self Without:
Iberian Conversos and
Cosmopolitanism*

Marc Baer, University of
California, Irvine
*Messianism, Conversion, and
Borderlines:
The Dönme of Salonika*

Liliane Weissberg, University of
Pennsylvania
Freud's Conversions

Respondent: David Nirenberg,
University of Chicago

3:30 pm Coffee Break

4:00 pm **Jew vs. (Former) Jew:
Intra-religious Aspects of
Conversion**

Chair: Theodor Dunkelgrün, University of
Chicago/Katz Center

Michela Andreatta, University of
Tennessee/Katz Center
*Giulio Morosini's Derekh Emuna (Rome,
1683): A Conversion Narrative between
Memoir and Polemic*

Pawel Maciejko, Hebrew University/
Katz Center
*Crypto-Christianity in 18th-century
Sabbatianism*

Ellie Schinker, Emory University/
Katz Center
*Bringing Moses Mendelssohn and
Yiddish Bibles East:
Converts as Creators of a Jewish
Mission in 19th-century Russia*

Respondent: Anne Albert, Katz Center

6:15 pm Cocktails (by invitation)

7:00 pm Dinner and Evening Program
(by invitation)
Bodek Lounge, 1st floor
Houston Hall

TUESDAY, May 3

Ben Franklin Room, 2nd floor
Houston Hall
3417 Spruce Street

9:00 am **Judaizing in the
Contemporary World:
Global Perspectives**

Chair: Netanel Fisher, Hebrew
University/Katz Center

Michal Kravel-Tovi, University of
Michigan
*National Mission:
Non-Jewish Immigration and
Jewish Conversion Policy in
Contemporary Israel*

Rela Mintz Geffen, Gratz
College/Katz Center
*Consequences of Left and
Right Synergy: Rates of
Conversion to Judaism in
Mid- to Late 20th-century
America*

Michael Brenner, University of Munich
*From German to Jew: Conversions to
Judaism in 20th-century Germany*

Respondent: Sylvia Barack Fishman,
Brandeis University

11:00 am Coffee Break

11:15 am **Roundtable Conclusion**

Chair: David Ruderman

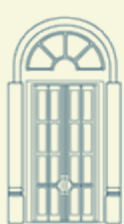
Todd Endelman, University of Michigan

Talya Fishman, University of Pennsylvania

Elliott Horowitz, Bar-Ilan University/Katz
Center

David Satran, Hebrew University/Katz
Center

1:00 pm Concluding Luncheon
(by invitation)
Bodek Lounge, 1st floor
Houston Hall
3417 Spruce Street



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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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