

Jews and Law in the Middle Ages and Early Modernity

SPRING COLLOQUIUM
APRIL 25–26, 2022

IN THIS TWO-DAY ONLINE COLLOQUIUM, the Katz Center brings together distinguished international scholars to consider the various and complex ways Jews lived law in Muslim and Christian contexts in the Middle Ages and Early Modernity. Jews lived law as a negotiation between their authoritative legal sources and the realities of their time and place. Among the many cases to be examined are Jewish litigation in non-Jewish courts, Jewish women as legal actors, the impact of non-Jewish law on Jewish communal legislation, and modes of transnational Jewish legal enforcement. The interdisciplinary panels will focus on questions of method, context, and comparison.

Please RSVP to Dajana Denes Walters at
dajana@upenn.edu by April 22, 2022



MONDAY, APRIL 25

11:15–11:30 am ET

WELCOME

Natalie Dohrmann, Katz Center Associate Director
Alyssa M. Gray, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion ♦

11:30 am–1:00pm ET

PANEL 1: WOMEN IN COURT

Chair & Moderator: **Micha J. Perry**, University of Haifa ♦

Eve Krakowski, Princeton University
A Jewish Marriage Gone Awry in the 10th-Century Fayyum: What Were the Legal Options?

Rachel Furst, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich ♦
Prenuptial Agreements, Postnuptial Disputes: Marriage and Documentary Practice in Medieval Ashkenaz

Sarah Ifft Decker, Rhodes College
“As in the Hebrew Contract”: Jewish Law, Christian Notaries, and Documentary Culture in Medieval Catalonia

Verena Kasper-Marienberg, North Carolina State University
Navigating Legal Pluralism as a Jewish Woman in 18th-Century Frankfurt

1:00–1:30 pm ET

BREAK

1:30–3:15 pm ET

PANEL 2: BORDERS, ALTERNATIVES, AND IDENTITY

Chair & Moderator: **Zvi Stampfer**, Orot Israel College ♦

Marina Rustow, Princeton University
How to Define Yourself and Defend Your Property as a Medieval Islamicate Jew

Moshe Yagur, Bar-Ilan University
Contesting Religious Identity in Muslim Courts

Elisha Russ-Fishbane, New York University
Judeo-Islam and the Doctrine of Abrogation (Naskh)

♦ Current Katz Center fellow

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

11:30 am–1:15 pm ET

PANEL 3: INTERSECTIONS BETWEEN JEWISH AND NON-JEWISH LAW

Chair & Moderator: **Louise Hecht**, University of Potsdam ♦

Gregor Schwarb, LMU Munich
According to the Conclusion of My Own Interpretive Effort (ḥasab mā addā ilayhi ijtihādunā)

Martin Borýsek, University of Potsdam
Living with the Serenissima: The Impact of Venetian State Law on the Jewish Communal Bylaws as Reflected in Late Medieval Cretan Takkanot

Tamar Menashe, Columbia University ♦
“And against Your Rabbis’ Ban!”: Navigating Jewish and Non-Jewish Law and Judiciaries at the German Supreme Court (1511–1600)

Respondent: **François Guesnet**, University College London

1:15–1:30 pm ET

BREAK

1:30–3:00 pm ET

PANEL 4: MODES OF ENFORCEMENT

Chair & Moderator: **Daniel Strum**, University of São Paulo ♦

Rena Lauer, Oregon State University
Dying for Control: Enforcing Social Goals in Late Medieval Last Wills

Tirza Y. Kelman, Ben Gurion University ♦
Authority, Enforcement, Atonement: The Discourse about Judicial Flogging during the 1538 Smicha Controversy

Evelyne Oliel-Grausz, University of Paris I Panthéon Sorbonne ♦
Enforcing Jewish Justice beyond Borders: The Livorno Court of the Massari (18th Century)

3:00–3:30 pm ET

Concluding Discussion Moderator: **Daniel Strum** ♦

