



Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

**Learning and Literacy in the Judaic Tradition:  
A Comparative and Interdisciplinary Inquiry**

**April 29 - May 1, 1996**

**Monday, April 29**

Van Pelt Library, Rosenwald Gallery

3:00 pm Greetings:  
**Stanley Chodorow**, Provost, University of Pennsylvania  
**David Ruderman**, Director, Center for Judaic Studies

3:15 pm **The Social and Literary Context of Oral  
and Written Transmission**  
Session I:  
**Oral and Written Elements in Textual Transmission**  
Chair: **Robert Kraft**, CJS/University of Pennsylvania

**Werner Kelber**, Rice University  
*Memorial Aspects in the Composition of the Gospels*  
**Paul Mandel**, CJS/Hebrew University  
*Recording the Oral, Reciting the Written: Transformations of a  
Rabbinic Text*  
**Malachi Beit-Arie**, CJS/Hebrew University  
*The Impact of Scribes and Copyists on Transmitted Hebrew Texts  
in the Middle Ages*

5:15 pm **Reception and Tour of Book Exhibit**

6:45 pm Dinner (by invitation)  
Center for Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street

1:15 pm Lunch Break

2:30 pm **Yiddish and The Dissemination of Jewish Culture  
in the Modern Era**  
Chair: **Ellen Prince**, University of Pennsylvania

**Chava Turniansky**, Hebrew University  
*Yiddish and the Transmission of Knowledge in Early  
Modern Europe*  
**David Fishman**, CJS/Jewish Theological Seminary  
*The Language Debate in Russian Jewry, 1897-1914*  
**Michael Steinlauf**, Franklin and Marshall College  
*Possessing Tradition: The Dybbuk On and Off the  
Yiddish Stage*

Respondent: **Kathryn Hellerstein**, University of Pennsylvania

5:15 pm Reception and Dinner (by invitation)  
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall

7:30 pm **Evening Program**  
Lecture by **David Olson**, Ontario Institute for Studies in  
Education/University of Toronto  
*The Written Word: On the Relation between Speech and Writing*

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**Tuesday, April 30**

Benjamin Franklin Room, Houston Hall

9:00 am **The Social and Literary Context of Oral  
and Written Transmission**  
Session II:  
**The Social Context of Authoritative Oral Transmission**  
Chair: **David Stern**, University of Pennsylvania

**Daphna Ephrat**, CJS/Hebrew University, and  
**Yaakov Elman**, CJS/Yeshiva University  
*Orality and the Institutionalization of Tradition:  
The Growth of the Gaonic Yeshiva and the Islamic Madrasa*  
**Elliot Wolfson**, New York University  
*Orality, Textuality, and Revelation: Transmission of Secrets in  
Kabbalistic Fraternities*

Respondent to Sessions I and II:  
**Ruth Katz**, CJS/Hebrew University

11:00 am Coffee

11:15 am **Gender and Genre: Reading and Readers  
in Cultural Context**  
Chair: **Maureen Quilligan**, University of Pennsylvania

**E. Ann Matter**, University of Pennsylvania  
*Portraits of Women Readers in Seventeenth-Century Italy*  
**Beth Baron**, City University of New York  
*The Women's Press in Egypt in the Early Twentieth Century*  
**Tamar El-Or**, CJS/Hebrew University  
*'Due to Righteous Women': Zionist Religious Women's Reading of  
Midrash*

Respondent: **Liliane Weissberg**, University of Pennsylvania

**Wednesday, May 1**

Benjamin Franklin Room, Houston Hall

9:00 am **Forms of Transmission and the Invention of  
National Identity**  
Chair: **Warren Breckman**, University of Pennsylvania

**Israel Gershoni**, CJS/Tel-Aviv University  
*Secondary Intellectuals: Readers and Readership as Agents of  
National-Cultural Reproduction in Modern Egypt*  
**Israel Bartal**, CJS/Hebrew University  
*The Ingathering of Traditions: Zionism's Anthology Projects*  
**Alon Confino**, University of Virginia  
*Consumer Culture and the Commercialization of the Past*

Respondent: **George Mosse**, University of Wisconsin

11:00 am Coffee

11:30 am **Conference Summary**  
Chair, **Marc Saperstein**, CJS/Washington University

**Dan Ben-Amos**, University of Pennsylvania  
**Israel Bartal**, **Yaakov Elman**, **David Olson**

1:00 pm Concluding Luncheon and Board of Overseers Meeting  
(by invitation)  
Bodek Lounge, Houston Hall