

Eighth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

**Jewish Biblical Interpretation
in Comparative Context**

April 29 - May 1, 2002

*(All academic sessions are free and open to the public.
Pre-registration or RSVP are not required)*

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Eighth Annual
Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

**Jewish Biblical Interpretation
In Comparative Context**



April 29 - May 1, 2002

MONDAY, April 29 Franklin Room 218, Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, 3417 Spruce St.

1:00 pm

GREETINGS

David Ruderman

Director, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies

Rebecca Bushnell

Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

1:15 pm

**FROM SCRIPTURE TO EXEGESIS:
THE BEGINNINGS OF BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION**

Chair: **Robert Kraft**, University of Pennsylvania

Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Hebrew University/CAJS

Facing Destruction and Exile: Inner-Biblical Exegesis in Jeremiah and Ezekiel

Naomi Koltun-Fromm, Haverford College/CAJS

Between Holy Seed and Holy Deed: Biblical Notions of Holy Community

Gary Anderson, Harvard University

Culpability for and Forgiveness of Sin in the Dead Sea Scrolls

3:15 pm

Coffee

3:45 pm

**EXEGESIS IN LATE ANTIQUITY:
CONTESTATION AND CONVERSATION**

Chair: **Steven Fraade**, Yale University

Tamar Kadari, Hebrew University/CAJS

A Surprising Tannaitic Interpretation of the Song of Songs and its Rabbinic and Christian Interpretive Context

David Goldenberg, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS

At the Crossroads of History and Exegesis

Marc Hirshman, Hebrew University

Oral Tradition and Jewish-Christian Polemic

6:15 pm

Cocktails (by invitation)

6:45 pm

Dinner (by invitation)

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street

8:00 pm

**EVENING PROGRAM:
FORMATTING THE BIBLE, MATERIALIZING INTERPRETATION**

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 420 Walnut Street
(by invitation)

Peter Stallybrass, University of Pennsylvania

David Stern, University of Pennsylvania

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Franklin Room 218, Houston Hall, University of Pennsylvania, 3417 Spruce St.

8:45 am

EXEGESIS IN RITUAL, EXEGESIS AS RITUAL

Chair, **David Dawson**, Haverford College

Daniel Sheerin, University of Notre Dame/CAJS
The Ensemble of "Proper" Texts of the Medieval Mass as Scriptural Cento

Adiel Kadari, Beit Morasha of Jerusalem/CAJS
The Ritual of Public Scriptural Reading in Jewish Liturgy and its Social Significance

Mahmoud Ayoub, Temple University
Ritual Purity in Quranic Exegesis: A Study of the Controversies Surrounding Ablutions Before Prayers

10:45 am

Coffee

11:15 am

EXEGESIS, POLEMICS, AND SELF-DEFINITION

Chair: **Marc Saperstein**, George Washington University

Sara Japhet, Hebrew University/CAJS
Exegesis and Polemics in Rashbam's Commentary on the Song of Songs

Deeana Klepper, Boston University/CAJS
Searching Scripture: Teaching the Literal Sense of Scripture through Anti-Jewish Polemics

Martin Jacobs, Free University of Berlin/CAJS
Biblical Allusions as Polemic in Yosef Sambari's Depiction of Early Islam

2:15 pm

READING PRACTICES, READING COMMUNITIES

Chair: **Ann Moyer**, University of Pennsylvania

Megan Williams, University of Michigan/CAJS
Making the Difference between Midrash and Allegory: Jerome's Use of Rabbinic Exegesis

Michael Signer, University of Notre Dame/CAJS
Consolation and Confrontation: Reading the Prophetic Books in 12th Century Jewish and Christian Exegesis

Fabrizio Lelli, University of Lecce, Italy
Christians and Jews on Job in 15th Century Italy

4:15 pm

Coffee

4:30 pm

ENARRATIVE AND NOMOS: LAW AND THE PRACTICE OF EXEGESIS

Chair: **Talya Fishman**, University of Pennsylvania

Natalie Dohrmann, North Carolina State University/CAJS
*Slave Law as Cultural Narrative: Manumission and Transformation
in Jewish and Roman Law*

Joseph Lowry, New York University/CAJS
*The Qur'an as a Legal-Theoretical Problem: Shafi'i's Use of the Qur'an as a
Source of Law and Hermeneutic Principles*

Daniel Frank, Ohio State University
Problems in Early Karaite Halakhic Exegesis

6:45 pm **Dinner** (by invitation)
Logan Hall, Terrace Room, University of Pennsylvania, 249 S. 36th Street

8:00 pm **CONCERT PERFORMANCE** (by invitation)

WOMEN OF VALOR

Andrea Clearfield, Composer

Amado Hall, Irvine Auditorium
University of Pennsylvania
3401 Spruce Street

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 Logan Hall, Room 17, University of Pennsylvania, 249 S. 36th Street

9:00 am **MEDIEVAL COMMENTATORS AND THE MIDRASHIC TRADITION**

Chair: **Elliot Wolfson**, New York University

Mordechai Cohen, Yeshiva University/CAJS
*Image, Imagination and Interpretation: Moses Ibn Ezra vs. Maimonides
on Biblical Metaphor*

Jacob Elbaum, Hebrew University/CAJS
*Is There Something New in Bible Exegesis in Post-Classical Midrashic
Literature?*

Tzvi Langermann, Bar-Ilan University/CAJS
The Song of Songs Commentary of Zekharya ha-Rofe (Yemen, 14th Century)

Haggai Ben-Shammai, Hebrew University/CAJS
*The Rabbinic Literature in Samuel Ben Hofni's Exegesis: Between Tradition
and Innovation*

11:00 am Coffee

11:30 am

CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION

Chair: **David Ruderman**, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS

Reuven Firestone, Hebrew Union College/Los Angeles

Geoffrey Hartman, Yale University

Ann Matter, University of Pennsylvania

David Stern, University of Pennsylvania

1:15 pm

Concluding Luncheon (by invitation)

followed by Board of Overseers meeting

Logan Hall, Terrace Room

University of Pennsylvania, 249 S. 36th Street

For further information, contact the

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Tel. 215-238-1290, Fax. 215-238-1540

allenshe@sas.upenn.edu
