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)

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