Welcome to the thirteenth annual Gruss Colloquium of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. The annual colloquium, which is made possible by the generosity of Martin Gruss, is the culmination of an entire year of study by a group of scholars from around the world on a theme selected by the advisory committees of the Center.

This year’s seminar, which has been co-sponsored by Penn’s Middle East Center, has focused on the history of political, social and cultural interactions among Islam, Judaism and Christianity during the Middle Ages and the early modern period. It has brought together scholars from all over the world who study Islamic and Judeo-Arabic culture and religion. This year’s participants have specialized in the history of minority-majority relations under Islam, Judeo-Arabic literature, the history of philosophy and sciences, medieval Hebrew poetry, Hebrew and Arabic linguistics and more. Although this year’s scholars study the historical past, their intellectual explorations are strikingly timely and relevant to our present world and its multiple challenges.

The program of this colloquium was created by the fellows themselves. The papers represent the products of their ongoing research at the Center, which has been enhanced by access to the Center’s vast library holdings, by the daily encounters among the fellows, and by the weekly seminars, which are attended by fellows, local faculty and graduate students, and other leading scholars in the field. The program also includes a large number of scholars of the Islamic world from other institutions who are joining the core group for the first time. Their voices will add new and vital perspectives to the fellows’ ongoing conversations about the experience of religious communities in Islamic empires. Like the colloquia of past years, this conference will lead to new publications by individual participants as well as a collective volume to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. I am confident that these publications will make unique and important contributions to the fields of Islamic and Judeo-Arabic studies.

I hope you will enjoy both the individual papers presented here and the vivid sense of collegiality and fellowship created by the Center’s magical environment as this closely-knit group of scholars, both young and old, enjoy the last days of their collective intellectual interchange.

Cordially,

David Ruderman, Ella Darivoff Director, CAJS
Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History, University of Pennsylvania

Monday, April 30
Logan Hall, Terrace Room | University of Pennsylvania | 249 S. 36th Street

9:30 am
COFFEE AND LIGHT BREAKFAST

10:00 am
GREETINGS
David Ruderman, Ella Darivoff Director, CAJS
E. Ann Matter, Associate Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

10:15 am
CUSTODIANS OF TRADITION
CHAIR: Jamal Elias, University of Pennsylvania/CAJS
Sagit Butbul, Hebrew University/CAJS
Translations in Contact: Early Judeo-Arabic Biblical Translations and Syriac Exegesis

David Hollenberg, James Madison University/CAJS
The Aesthetics of Islamic Esotericism

Vera Moreen, CAJS
Isra’iliyat in Iran: al-Nisaburi’s Dāstānhā-yi Payghambarān

RESPONDENT: Walid Saleh, University of Toronto

12:15 pm
LUNCH BREAK
Monday, April 30 continued

1:30 pm
**THE WORLD OF ARABIC**

CHAIR: **Ross Brann, Cornell University/CAJS**
- Aharon Maman, Hebrew University/CAJS
  - Rav Hai Gaon’s Lexicographical Method in Light of al-Khalil’s *Kitāb al-‘Ayn*
- Miriam Goldstein, Hebrew University/CAJS
  - “Slow of Speech and Slow of Tongue”: Prophecy and Transmission of the Divine Message in the Islamic World
- Jonathan Decter, Brandeis University/CAJS
  - Ibrahim Ibn al-Fakhkhār al-Yahūdī: An Arabic Poet and Diplomat in Castile and the Maghrib

RESPONDENT: **Daniel Frank, Ohio State University**

3:30 pm
**COFFEE BREAK**

4:00 pm
**WORLDS APART AND TOGETHER: SCIENCE AND SOCIETY**

CHAIR: **Emma Gannagé, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton**
- Alfred Ivry, New York University/CAJS
  - Competing and Complementing Epistemologies
- Robert Morrison, Whitman College/CAJS
  - The Transmission of Iranian Science into Judeo-Arabic Culture
- Charles Manekin, University of Maryland/CAJS
  - Maimonides’ Critique of Aristotelian Celestial Science

RESPONDENT: **James Robinson, University of Chicago**

6:45 pm
**DINNER** (by invitation)

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies | 420 Walnut Street
Wednesday, May 2
Logan Hall, Terrace Room | University of Pennsylvania | 249 S. 36th Street

9:00 am
**FAITHS IN CONFLICT**

CHAIR: **Heather Sharkey**, University of Pennsylvania

- **Daniel Lasker**, Ben-Gurion University/CAJS
  The Impact of Intercultural Polemic on Philosophy

- **Sidney Griffith**, Catholic University of America
  Hunayn ibn Ishaq's *Adab al-Falasifah*:
  Philosophy and Christian Apology in Early Abbasid Times

- **Gad Freudenthal**, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/CAJS

RESPONDENT: **Frank Griffel**, Yale University

11:00 am
**COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 am
**CONCLUDING SESSION:**
**RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN ISLAMIC EMPIRES**

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

- **Haggai Ben-Shammai**, Hebrew University/CAJS
- **Raymond Scheindlin**, Jewish Theological Seminary of America/CAJS
- **Norman Stillman**, University of Oklahoma
- **Sarah Stroumsa**, Hebrew University/CAJS

RESPONDENT: **Menahem Ben-Sasson**, Hebrew University/CAJS

5:30 pm
**DINNER & EVENING PROGRAM** (by invitation)

Houston Hall, Bodek Lounge | 3417 Spruce Street

1:00 pm
**CONCLUDING LUNCHEON** (by invitation)

Houston Hall, Hall of Flags | 3417 Spruce Street