

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania

Thirteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies

Religious Communities in Islamic Empires

April 30-May 2, 2007

Logan Hall, Terrace Room
249 S. 36th Street



● 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

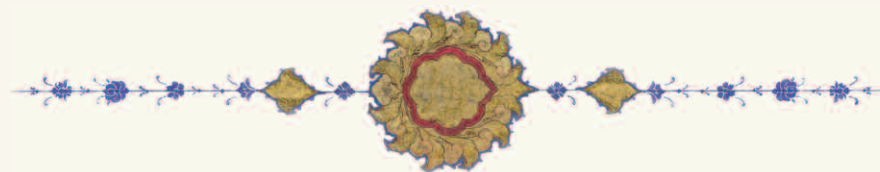
Vera Moreen, *CAJS*

Isra'iliyāt in Iran: al-Nisābūrī'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

Tuesday, May 1

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



● 9:00 am

MUSLIMS AS RULERS: ADAPTATIONS TO A NEW REALITY

CHAIR: **Patricia Crone**, *Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton*

Milka Levy-Rubin, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

Coming to Grips: Generating Means for Subordination of the Non-Muslim Population

Jamsheed Choksy, *Indiana University*

Political Realities and Minority Reactions:
Premodern and Early Modern Iran

RESPONDENT: **Mark R. Cohen**, *Princeton University/CAJS*

● 11:00 am

COFFEE BREAK

● 11:30 am

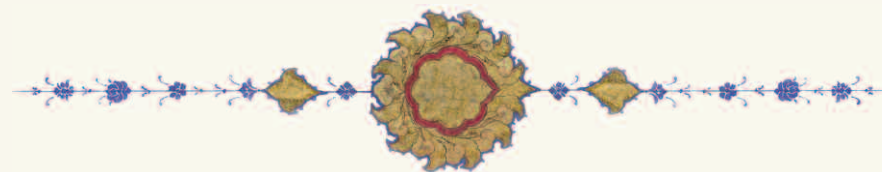
RELIGIOUS LAW IN A RELIGIOUS AGE: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

The panelists request that the papers of this session be read in advance.
The papers will be available via email at allenshe@sas.upenn.edu

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

Gideon Libson, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

Recourse of Jews to Non-Jewish Courts under Islam
and under Christianity in the Middle Ages



Tuesday, May 1 continued

David Freidenreich, *CAJS*

Foreign Food under Foreign Rule: Developments
in Christian and Jewish Law within an Islamic Milieu

Joseph David, *CAJS*

Conceptual Analysis as a Comparative Tool:
Judicial Error in Jewish and Islamic Jurisprudence

Raquel Ukeles, *Fairfield University*

Beyond Questions of Influence: Phenomenological
Comparison of Islamic and Jewish Law

RESPONDENT: **Joseph Lowry**, *University of Pennsylvania*

● 1:30 pm

LUNCH BREAK

● 3:00 pm

THE COMMON MARKETPLACE

CHAIR: **Norman Stillman**, *University of Oklahoma*

Jessica Goldberg, *University of Pennsylvania/CAJS*

Trade and Identity: The Self-Definitions
of 11th Century Mediterranean Merchants

Molly Greene, *Princeton University*

Mediterranean Trade: Was it Legal?

Yaron Ben-Naeh, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

At the Bazār: The Significance of Interethnic
Encounters in the Ottoman Marketplace

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

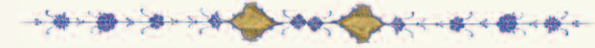
● 5:30 pm

DINNER & EVENING PROGRAM (by invitation)

Houston Hall, Bodek Lounge | 3417 Spruce 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 Interreligious Polemic on Philosophy

Sidney Griffith, *Catholic University of America*

Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq's *Adab al-Falāsifah*:
Philosophy and Christian Apology in Early Abbasid Times

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

Jewish-Christian Polemics and the First Latin-Hebrew Scientific
Translations: Steinschneider's Anonymous (1197–1199)

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*

● 1:00 pm

CONCLUDING LUNCHEON (by invitation)

Houston Hall, Hall of Flags | 3417 Spruce Street

