

A large graphic featuring the title text in a mosaic style. The letters are filled with a pattern of small, irregular white and light green tiles, set against a dark red background. The text is arranged in five lines: 'JEWISH', '& Other', 'IMPERIAL', 'CULTURES', and 'in Late Antiquity'.

JEWISH
& Other
IMPERIAL
CULTURES
in Late Antiquity

14TH ANNUAL GRUSS COLLOQUIUM
IN JUDAIC STUDIES

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
University of Pennsylvania

APRIL 29 — MAY 1, 2008

University of Pennsylvania
Amado Recital Room
Irvine Auditorium
3401 Spruce Street

For more information: <http://www.cajs.upenn.edu>
(215) 238-1290



Welcome

Welcome to the fourteenth annual Gruss Colloquium at 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 twenty scholars from around the world on a theme carefully selected by the advisory committees of the Center.

This year has been the Center's first sustained focus on Judaism in Antiquity, and we aimed to do so in a decidedly interdisciplinary mode. Instead of a year on the rabbis and their world, we have focused on the imperial context in which Judaism was but one small piece. How does this perspective change the sort of evidence and questions we bring to this era of seminal transformation in Jewish culture, law, society, art, and practice? The idea has been to foster vibrant reciprocity. Scholars of early Judaism need to be regularly challenged by the data and complexity of Roman history, even and especially as Rome became a Christian empire. The group has also pushed Roman history to better take measure of the vast, but often inaccessible, evidence of one of its own (uniquely vocal) provincial populations—the Jews. The conversation has been extraordinary, and is reechoed in the diversity and range of this colloquium lineup.

This program was created by the fellows. 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, and even more, by the daily encounters among the fellows, and across the Penn community. The fellows invited several distinguished additional scholars from the US, Europe, and Israel to contribute to the enterprise as well, and the colloquium here is a snapshot of the rich scholarly resources being devoted to the study of this vibrant historical era. 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 hope you will enjoy both the individual papers presented 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 the collective interchange.

Cordially,

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

Tuesday, April 29

Amado Recital Room, Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street

Coffee and Light Breakfast **9:30 am**

Greetings **10:00 am**

David Ruderman
Ella Darivoff Director, CAJS

Rebecca Bushnell
Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

State & Provincials **10:15 am**

Chair: **Natalie Dohrmann**, *University of Pennsylvania/CAJS*

Adiel Schremer, *Bar Ilan University/CAJS*
Imperial Power and its Religious Meaning: A Rabbinic Perspective

Lee Levine, *Hebrew University/CAJS*
The Emergence of Jewish Art in Late Antiquity:
A Late Roman or Byzantine-Christian Phenomenon?

Hannah Cotton, *Hebrew University/CAJS*
Change and Continuity in Late Legal Papyri from Palaestina Tertia

Yaakov Elman, *Yeshiva University/CAJS*
Interactions between Sasanian and Rabbinic Law

Respondent: **Hayim Lapin**, *University of Maryland/CAJS*

12:45 pm Lunch Break



Christianization & Its Limits

2:00 pm

Chair: **Ross Kraemer**, *Brown University/CAJS*

Oded Irshai, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

Fourth-Century Christian Appropriation of the Holy Land:
The Polemical Context

Hagith Sivan, *University of Kansas/CAJS*

Between Minorca and Gaza:
The Un-Making of Minorities in Late Antiquity

Paula Fredriksen, *Boston University/CAJS*

Augustine's 'Witness' Doctrine and the Status of Jews in the Post-Roman West: A Comparison of Isidore of Seville and Gregory the Great

Respondent: **Claudia Rapp**, *University of California, Los Angeles*

4:00 pm Coffee Break

Reading at the Boundaries

4:15 pm

[Note New Location: Room G7/Irvine Auditorium]

Chair: **Naomi Koltun-Fromm**, *Haverford College*

Beth Berkowitz, *Jewish Theological Seminary/CAJS*

Allegorizing Ethnicity: Philo and Clement on Leviticus 18:1–5

Shlomo Naeh, *Hebrew University*

Did Rabbi Akiva Interpret the Crowns of the Letters?
The Rabbis and the Holy Script

Marc Hirshman, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

Umot Ha-'Olam: Political Characterization and Stereotyping of the Other

Charlotte Fonrobert, *Stanford University*

Rabbinic Diaspora Territoriality in Late Antiquity: Marking Boundaries

Respondent: **Azzan Yadin**, *Rutgers University*

6:45 pm Dinner (By Invitation)

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
420 Walnut Street

Wednesday, April 30

Amado Recital Room, Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street

Cult, Liturgy & Performance

9:00 am

Chair: **Peter T. Struck**, *University of Pennsylvania*

Michael Swartz, *Ohio State University*
Chains of Tradition in the Avodah Piyyutim

Ophir Münz-Manor, *Open University of Israel/CAJS*
Isaac Redivivus: Toward a Cultic Understanding of Late Antique Poetry

Ruth Langer, *Boston College*
The Presence of God in Rabbinic Liturgy

Respondent: **Derek Krueger**, *University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

11:00 am Coffee Break

The City of God: Rome, Constantinople, Jerusalem

11:30 am

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

Michele Salzman, *University of California, Riverside*
The Sack of Rome in 410: Religious Responses

Ra'anan Boustan, *University of California, Los Angeles/CAJS*
Out of Place: Procopius on the Temple Vessels at Constantinople and Jerusalem

Joshua Levinson, *Hebrew University/CAJS*
Rabbis in Rome: A Journey to the Center of the Earth

Respondent: **Robert G. Ousterhout**, *University of Pennsylvania*

1:30 pm Lunch Break

Natives & Experts

3:00 pm

Chair: **John Gager**, *Princeton University/CAJS*

William Adler, *North Carolina State University/CAJS*

Abgar the Great and Edessene Christianity during the Severan Dynasty

John Reeves, *University of North Carolina, Charlotte/CAJS*

Fomenting a 'Discursive Hegemony' in Late Antiquity?

Reconsidering Ka'b al-Ahbar

Adam Becker, *New York University*

The Limits of the Fear of God:

Expertise and Knowledge of Mazdaism in the Persian Martyr Acts

Respondent: **Thomas Sizgorich**, *University of New Mexico*

5:30 pm Dinner & Evening Program (By Invitation)

Class of '49 Auditorium, Houston Hall

3417 Spruce Street

Thursday, May 1

Amado Recital Room, Irvine Auditorium, 3401 Spruce Street

Cosmic Architecture

9:00 am

Chair: **Maxine Grossman**, *University of Maryland/CAJS*

Hindy Najman, *University of Toronto/CAJS*

Soul Formation and Emulation: Recovering Primordial Perfection

Yuval Harari, *Ben-Gurion University/CAJS*

Narrating Identities—The Case of the Ascension of Moses

Rina Talgam, *Hebrew University/CAJS*

Christian Cosmological Allegories in the Art of Late Antiquity:

Between Judaism and Neo-Platonism

Respondent: **Robert Kraft**, *University of Pennsylvania/CAJS*

11:00 am Coffee Break

Concluding Session

11:30 am

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

Seth Schwartz, *Jewish Theological Seminary/CAJS*

Annette Yoshiko Reed, *University of Pennsylvania/CAJS*

Daniel Boyarin, *University of California, Berkeley*

Martin Goodman, *Oxford University*

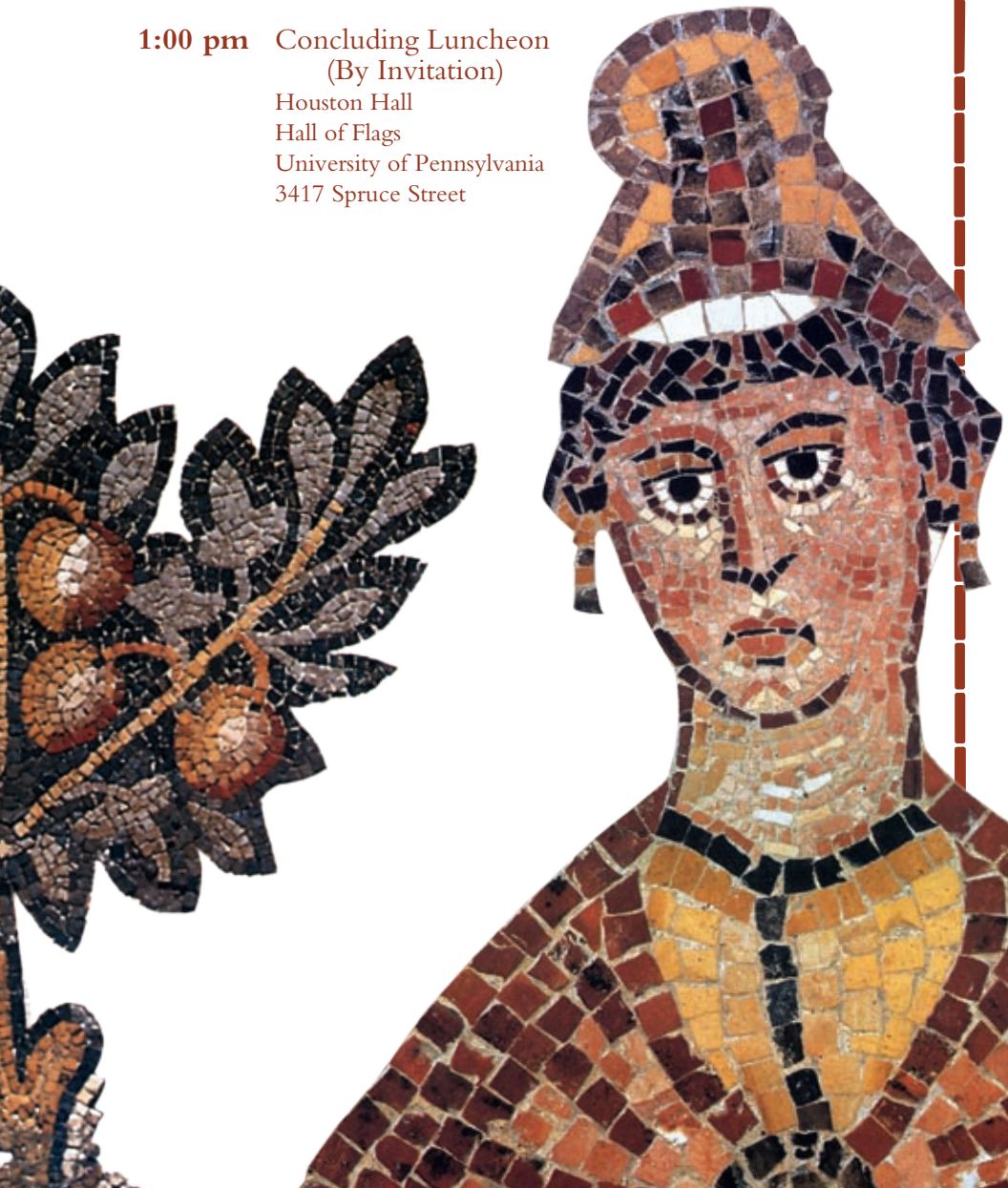
1:00 pm Concluding Luncheon
(By Invitation)

Houston Hall

Hall of Flags

University of Pennsylvania

3417 Spruce Street



CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES
420 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106



14TH ANNUAL
GRUSS COLLOQUIUM
IN JUDAIC STUDIES

INFORMATION: (215) 238-1290