

History, Memory and Identity among Jewish Communities in the Muslim World

An International Conference marking the 75th Anniversary of the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East

Monday-Thursday
June 19th — 22nd

2023



Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi
14 Ibn Gabirol St., Jerusalem





Monday, June 19th

9:00 – 10:30 **Preservation and Representation: Archives, Libraries and Museums**

Chair: Haggai Ben-Shammai, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Lavi Shay, Yad Ben-Zvi and the David Yellin College of Education
The first twenty years of the Ben-Zvi Institute Library: Designing tools for the preservation and study of the history of Jews from Islamic countries

Rachel Sarfati, Israel Museum
Jewish communities from Islamic lands in Israel Museum exhibitions: Past and future trends

Tom Fogel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Achva Academic College
The way our ancestors (didn't) dance: Tradition and heritage in Yemeni-Jewish folklore archives in Israel

11:00 – 12:30 **Reshaping the Memory of Oriental Heritage**

Chair: Alon Tam, The Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Meir Hatina, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Paying tribute to the heritage of the east: Nostalgia or a lever for social change?

Edwin Seroussi, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Who am I? A Mizrahi piyyut! On music and identity 75 Years after '48

Oded Erez, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Popular music and memory: The case of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews

Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00 **Piyyut in Transition**

Chair: Aharon Maman, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Joseph (Yossi) Chetrit, The University of Haifa
Poetry and music as elements maintaining and shaping identity in the culture of Moroccan Jews

Avi Eilam-Amzallag, The University of Haifa
***Shir Yedidut*: Instructional notes for the supplication's singers**

Netanel Cohen (Musai), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
"A Lament Tune that Incites Crying and Heartbreak": Music, stereotypization and hypothetical history in structuring the identity of observant Iraqi Jews in Israel

15:30 – 17:30 **Transitions: Diasporic Communities and Intertwined Diaspora**

Chair: Yaron Zur, Tel Aviv University

Noah Gerber, Tel Aviv University and **Aviad Moreno**, The Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Studying "Sephardi/Mizrahi" Jewry: From insular minorities to intertwined diasporas

Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Set Thee Up Waymarks": From Netivot to Rissani

Yigal S. Nizri, University of Toronto
"I Would Fly, Wander Far Off, and Settle": From Rissani to Netivot

19:00 Festive Opening Session

Chair: **Assaf Tamari**, Ben-Zvi Institute and Shalem College

Greetings

Miki Zohar, The Minister of Culture and Sport

Yaniv Mezuman, Director of Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi

Miriam Frenkel, Director of the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East

Israel Bartal, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the World Union of Jewish Studies

Aviad Moreno, The Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Menashe Anzi, The Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy and the Forum for the Study of Jews and Christians in Muslim Cultures, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Eliezer Papo, Executive Committee, The National Authority for Ladino

Keynote Lecture:

Haviva Pedaya, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Looking east and west: Memory and identity in literature and history



Tuesday, June 20th

9:00 – 11:00 Shaping Jewish Historical Consciousness in North Africa – Historiography and Journalism

Chair: **Meir M. Bar-Asher**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Michal Aziza Ohana, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg
“For the Law Shall Go Forth from Sefrou”: The historiographic literary *oeuvre* of R. David Ovadia

David Guedj, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Multilingual historical writing in 20th century Morocco

Ofra Tirosh-Becker, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Judeo-Arabic newspapers in North Africa

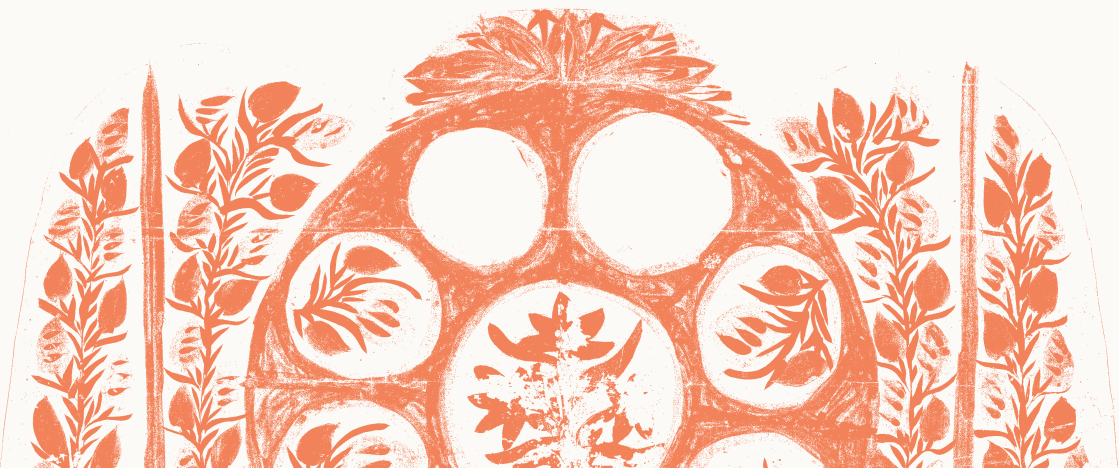
Haim Saadoun, The Open University of Israel and the Ben-Zvi Institute
Shaping the historical memory of the Second World War in North Africa – a comparative view of French and Jewish memories

11:30 – 13:30 Mutual Glances: Hopes and Disappointments

Chair: **Eyal Ginio**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Orit Bashkin, The University of Chicago
Long live the Padishah, long live the Wali: The Jewish version

Meir Buzaglo, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jews and Arabs in the piyyutim of Rabbi David Buzaglo



Hillel Cohen, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The “Arab Jews” in Arab eyes: A hundred years of hopes and frustration

Nahem Ilan, Hemdat Academic College of Education
What will be the future of the Karaites in Egypt? A look from the inside

Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:00 Memory and Forgetting in Judeo-Arabic Historiography in the Middle Ages

Chair: Sarah Stroumsa, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Oded Zinger, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Jews of the Arabian Peninsula: A lost chapter in Medieval Jewish historiography

Jonathan Vardi, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The early historiography of Hebrew literature: Moses Ibn Ezra and the generations of poets

Omer Michaelis, Tel Aviv University
“Lest Torah be Forgotten from Israel”: Variations on a motif in the Maimonidean dynasty

16:30 – 18:00 Avenues of Memory: Contexts, Identities and Genres

Chair: Yaron Ben-Naeh, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ophira Gamliel, The University of Glasgow
Local contacts and transregional exchange in the wedding songs of Kerala Jews

Dotan Arad, Bar-Ilan University
“You May Tell it to the Following Generation”: Paths of transmission among the Musta’rib Jews

Tirza Kelman, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Talpiyot College
“For We Came Expelled”: Post-expulsion halachic writings and the formation of Sephardi identity

18:30 – 20:00 Round Table: History, Memory and Research from the East

Chair: Hila Shalem Baharad, Tel Aviv University

Henriette Dahan Kalev, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Menashe Anzi, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Orit Ouaknine-Yukutieli, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

20:00

Concert: A living memory from the outskirts of the Sahara
The Piyyut Ensemble



Wednesday, June 21st

9:00 – 10:30 Tensions in Jewish Literature in the Modern Muslim World

Chair: Tamar Hess, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Yuval Evri, Brandeis University
Beyond the monolingual paradigm: Arab-Jewish literature in an era of national partition

Almog Behar, Tel Aviv University
Jacqueline Kahanoff and Jewish Middle Eastern writing in English

Keren Dotan, Independent Scholar
The language of imagination in *Zikhron Yerushalem* (1874) by Rabbi Eliahu Bekhor Hazan

11:00 – 12:30 **The Written Letter and the Spoken Word: Memories among Pages, Books and Tombstones**

Chair: Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University

Ilil Baum, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Ladino as a tool for the preservation of memory and identity: A journey between books and tombstones

Avriël Bar-Levav, The Open University of Israel
Broadsheets in the Ben-Zvi Library

Eliëzer Baumgarten, E-Iijah Lab, University of Haifa
Historical narratives in Rabbi Yosef Haim Azulay's *Shem Hagdolim*

Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:30 **Categories of Memory and Identity in Time and Space**

Chair: Shmuel Feiner, Bar-Ilan University and Chair of The Historical Society of Israel

Esther Meir-Glitzstein, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Babylonian Jewry" and the construction of Jewish identity in Iraq and Israel

Hagar Salamon, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Memory and gathering: Between Ethiopia and Israel

Claude B. Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan University
The expanding memory of the Conversos in contemporary Portugal: Between identity and identity politics

16:00 – 17:30 **Special Session: The Ben-Zvi Institute Today**

Miriam Frenkel, Director of The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East

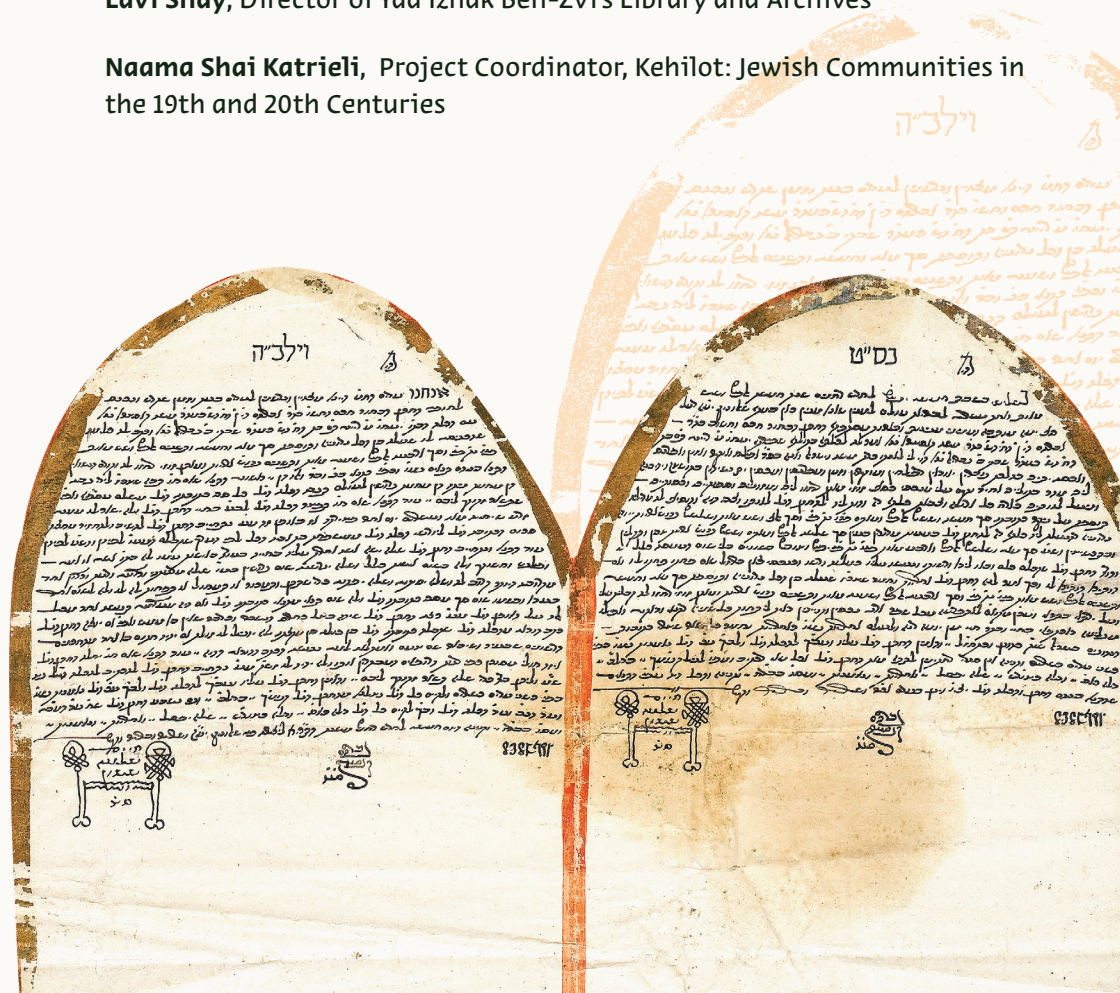
Dotan Arad, Director of The Oded and Tony Elyashar Center for the Study of Sephardi Jewry in the Land of Israel

Zeev Levin, Director of The Research Center of Jews in Central Asia and the Iranian Sphere

Haim Saadoun, Director of The Documentation Center for the Study of North African Jewry during The Second World War.

Lavi Shay, Director of Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi's Library and Archives

Naama Shai Katrieli, Project Coordinator, Kehilot: Jewish Communities in the 19th and 20th Centuries





Thursday, June 22nd

**9:00 – 10:30 Categories of Memory and Identity:
Between Space and Time**

Chair: Avishai Bar-Asher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Moshe Yagur, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Jews and 'The Jewish Neighborhood': Jewish identity and urban space in the medieval Middle East

Assaf Tamari, The Ben-Zvi Institute and Shalem College
The political imagination of living in the Muslim realms in R. Hayyim Vital's *Sefer Ha-hezyonot*

Avi-ram Tzoreff, The Polonsky Academy at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, and Sapir College
The shape of the Temple and its remnant: Rabbi Moshe Hagiz, *Fada'il al-Quds* and the local consciousness of the Jews of Ottoman Jerusalem at the beginning of the 18th century

11:00 – 13:00 Discourses, Memories and Narratives in Transition: Groups and Individuals

Chair: Ofra Tirosh Becker, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Galit Hasan-Rokem, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Layered discourses between migration and adaptation: Folk narrators and audiences

Yael Mehl, Independent Scholar
Proverbs of Bukharan Jews as a means of transferring identity and memory

Yehudit Henshke, Bar-Ilan University
The contemporary Hebrew spoken by Mizrahi Israelis: Continuity and innovation

Esra Almas, Bilkent University
Retrospective but not nostalgic: Women's memory writing in modern Turkey

Lunch Break

15:30 – 14:00 Shaping the Historical Consciousness of Eastern Jews: Inside and Outside

Chair: Hadas Shabat Nadir, The Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Kibbutzim College

Hadar Feldman Samet, Tel Aviv University
Between identity, memory and historical narratives in the study of Jews of Islamic Countries: Yitzhak Ben-Zvi and the Sabbatians

Amos Noy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Between Abraham Elmaleh and Yitzhak Ben-Zvi: Historical consciousness and the ethnographic subject

Yosef Yuval Tobi, The University of Haifa
Rabbi Abraham Naddaf and Shalom Levi Nahum: The first scholars of Yemenite Jewry in the Land of Israel

16:00 – 18:00 Concluding Session: The Question of the History of Jews in Muslim Lands

Chair: Miriam Frenkel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Ben-Zvi Institute

Hanan Harif, Tel-Hai Academic College, and **Amit Levy**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Goitein, Ben-Zvi, and the study of Jewish history in Muslim lands

Menahem Ben-Sasson, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The "Melting Pot" of the Jews of Islamic countries in the Middle Ages: History, identity and collective memory - another missing part of the picture of Jewish history

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Safe in the 16th century and the question of Jewish modernity

