

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center  
The Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center  
The Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts



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français à Jérusalem



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The Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History at New York University  
The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University  
The Goldstein-Goren Center for Hebrew Studies, University of Bucharest  
Centro di Judaica Goren-Goldstein, Università degli Studi di Milano  
École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (CNRS-EHESS)  
Centre de Recherche Français à Jérusalem (CRFJ)

**MINHAGIM:  
CUSTOM AND  
PRACTICE IN  
JEWISH LIFE**



**International Conference**

**Tel Aviv University  
May 13-16, 2012**

הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין  
המרכז לחקר התפוצות ע"ש גולדשטיין-גורן  
המרכז למורשת היהדות ע"ש צימבליסטה  
הפקולטה לאומנויות ע"ש יולנדה ודוד כץ



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בשיתוף עם:

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**מנהגים:  
טקס ומנהג  
ביהדות**

**כנס בין-לאומי**

**אוניברסיטת תל-אביב  
כ"א-כ"ד באייר, תשע"ב**

**Sunday, May 13**

Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center, Tel Aviv University



**17:00-19:00 Opening Session**

Chair: **Simha Goldin**

### Greetings

**Micaela Goren Monti** (*The Cukier, Goldstein-Goren Foundation*)

**Olivier Tourny** (*Centre de Recherche Français à Jérusalem*)

**Hannah Naveh** (*Dean of the Yolanda and David Katz Faculty of the Arts, Tel Aviv University*)

**Eyal Zisser** (*Dean of the Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University*)

### Keynote Address

**Moshe Idel** (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*): The Mystical Background of the Custom of Some Gestures in the Qedushah

### Musical Interlude: Eitz Chaim Choir

### Exhibition of Mapot of Belfort, France

**Monday, May 14**

Drachlis Hall, Gilman 496, Tel Aviv University



**08:30-10:30 Minhag, Halacha, and Law**

Chair: **Jeremy Cohen**

**Hila Ben-Eliyahu** (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*): Conflict of Laws and the 16th century Minhagim

**Ira Bedzow** and **Michael Broyde** (*Emory University, Atlanta*): The Role of Custom in the Jurisprudence of the Mishna Berura

**Amir Mashiach** (*University Center of Samaria, Ariel*): Anthropocentric Halakhic Rulings and their Influence on the Minhag: Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach as a Case Study

**Joseph Isaac Lifshitz** (*Shalem Center, Jerusalem*): What is Bad in Bad Custom?

**10:30-11:00 Break**



**11:00-13:30 Piyyut and Liturgy: Minhag in the Synagogue**

Chair: **Tova Be'eri**

**Ariel Zinder** (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*): The Ma'amadot of Elul – Between Piyyut, Minhag and Halacha

**Sara Offenberg** (*Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva*): Law and Order of Work: Text, Image and Practice in the Seder Avodah in the London Miscellany

**Annette Weber** (*Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg*): The Ritual of Yizkor in Ashkenazic Synagogues since the Middle Ages

**Eli Gurfinkel** (*Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan*): Practices of Expressing the Thirteen Principles of Faith as Theological Decrees

**Boaz Huss** (*Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva*): "Even if one does not know what he says": On the History and Cultural Significance of the Ritualistic Reading of the Zohar

**13:30-15:00 Break**



**15:00-17:30 Dissemination of Minhag Through Books and Images**

Chair: **Naomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig**

**Marc Michael Epstein** (*Vassar College, Poughkeepsie*): Visual Culture Made Manifest: From Depiction to Performance

**Lucia Raspe** (*Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt*): How Italian are the Yiddish Minhagim of 1589?: A Reassessment

**Jean Baumgarten** (*CNRS, EHESS, Paris*): The *Sefer Minhagim* (Venice 1593) and its Diffusion in the Ashkenazi World

**Avriel Bar-Levav** (*Open University, Raanana*): Customs of Death in Books and in Reality

**Efraïym Yaacov** (*Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan*): The Influence of the Printed Book on Yemenite Customs

**17:30-18:00 Break**



**18:00-20:30 The Community and Creation of Minhag**

Chair: **Eric Zimmer**

**Ephraim Kanarfogel** (*Yeshiva University, New York*): "Fulfilling all Views" as a Means of Establishing Custom and Practice in the Writings of R. Meir of Rothenburg

**Noga Bing** (*Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva*): Tikkun Shovavim

**Adiel Kadari** (*Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva*): Customs in Pirkei de-Rabbi Eliezer: The Case of Havdalah

**David Shyovitz** (Northwestern University, Evanston): Narrative, Theology, and Minhag: The Case of Kaddish Yatom

**David M. Feuchtwanger** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem): Reflections on the Political Philosophy Behind the Custom

20:30-22:00 Visit to the Gross Family Collection

**Tuesday, May 15**

Drachlis Hall, Gilman 496, Tel Aviv University



08:30-10:30 Folklore and Local Customs

Chair: **Benjamin Arbel**

**Anca Ciuciu** (University of Bucharest): The Image of Purim in Interwar Bucharest

**Shira Klein** (New York University): Keeping It in the Family: Italian Jewish Customs in the Interwar Period

**Massimo Torretranca** (IDC, Herzliyah): "Twixt Tripoli, Rome, and Tel Aviv: The Libyan Jews" «Besisa» as a Means of Communal Identification

**David Bunis** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem): The Preoccupation with Sephardic Customs in the Current Judezmo (Ladino) Media

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-13:00 Gender Perspectives

Chair: **Hannah Naveh**

**Merav Schnitzer** (Tel Aviv University): Rituals of Feminine Care and the Rules of the Sages: The Halachic Discussion of Ashkenaz

**Aliza Lavie** (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan): Women's Prayer

**Evelyn Cohen** (Columbia University, New York): The Ritual Observance of Women as Seen in Illuminated Hebrew Manuscripts from Renaissance Italy

**Michal Ben Ya'akov** (Efrata College, Jerusalem): Widows in a Traditional Jewish Society: Tensions and Challenges

**Hannah Mayne** (University of Florida): The Influence of Feminism on Halachic Practice: A Visual Exploration of Women who have Chosen to Perform the Ritual Practice of Talit and Tefilin

13:30-15:00 Break



15:00-17:00 Objects and Custom

Chair: **William Gross**

**Orit Shamir** and **Naama Sukenik** (Israel Antiquities Authority, Jerusalem): Qumran Textiles and the Garments of Qumran's Inhabitants Compared to the Jewish Society Around Them

**Ephraim Nissan** (University of London): Jewish Customs and the Festive Calendar in Relation to Baghdadi Vernacular Housing

**Ariella Amar** (Center for Jewish Art, Hebrew University): Living in Secret: Veiled Objects and Customs of the Jews of Mashhad

**Felicia Waldman** (University of Bucharest): Tombstone Art in Romanian Moldova and Bukovina

17:00-17:30 Break

17:30-19:30 Zohar, Kabbalah, Hassidism, and Mysticism

Chair: **Ron Margolin**

**Lihl Habas** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem): The Use of Amulets in the Jewish Community of Late Antiquity in the Land of Israel: A Glass Pendant from the Hecht Collection as a Test Case

**Morris Faierstein** (Independent scholar, Rockville): The Zohar in the Brantshpigl (1596): The Influence of the Zohar on Early Modern Popular Jewish Customs and Practices

**Gadi Sagiv** (Hebrew University, Jerusalem): Hok LeIsrael and Eastern European Hasidim

**Shaul Regev** (Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan): Customs Renewed by R. Yosef Haim (Ben Ish Hai) in Iraq: Halacha and Kabbala



**Wednesday, May 16**

Centre de recherche Français à Jérusalem (3 Shimshon St., Jerusalem)



10:00-12:30 Life Cycle Events

Chair: **Shalom Sabar**

**Noa Sophie Kohler** (Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva): Music as a Sign of Change: Joyful Occasions and Early Modern German Jews

**Tali Berner** (Tel Aviv University): Children and Life Cycle Rituals in Early Modern Ashkenaz



