



Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School
for Advanced Studies in the Humanities



Mandel Scholion

Interdisciplinary Research Center in
the Humanities and Jewish Studies



הפקולטה למדעי הרוח
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center
in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Annual Report 2018

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Cover: Catacomb of the Vigna Chiaraviglio.

Wall painting representing the meeting of Peter and Paul.

Prof. Galit Noga-Banai, "Liturgy and Arts" research group, 2015–2018

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Taking Stock

ON THE ONE HAND AND ON THE OTHER HAND

Looking back at 2017/18 at the Mandel Scholion Center, and forward to 2018/19, is an interesting challenge. On the one hand it has been “business as usual” and is expected so to continue. The Center’s main mandate is to take in outstanding scholars (postdoctoral fellows who come as individuals, and research groups of faculty members and doctoral students), to provide them with support and with optimal working conditions, and to let them take it from there—and, as a rule, they do, with gusto.

This year we had, as usual, six Mandel postdoctoral fellows, and next year we should have seven (thanks to some budget freed up by one of last year’s fellow’s getting an appointment and leaving early); this year and next year, as every year, there are three three-year research groups, one rotating in and one rotating out each year. Put quite simply, our main work is simply to allow them—a total of thirty scholars at any given time, apart from some long-term guests from abroad, of which this year we were fortunate to have two—to devote themselves as completely as possible, and as successfully as possible, to their research. The results speak for themselves: two of our current six postdocs are leaving us soon to take up tenure-track positions in Israeli universities, two members of very recent research groups just received appointments to such positions, two of our postdocs are currently shortlisted for the same, and the growing shelf of books written within these walls—lately we set up a cabinet in which they can be displayed—is further evidence that the Center is fulfilling its main mandate well.

However, a basic principle embodied by the Center is that – whatever was once the case – working successfully in the

humanities, today, does not mean working in isolation; indeed, it does not allow it. Scholion, accordingly, has research *groups*, *interdisciplinary* research groups, and it requires all their members, together with the postdoctoral fellows, to make Scholion their home for three years, in the same hallways and around the same coffee machine and offices. This is done in the hope, and the expectation, that such proximity fosters cross-fertilization and cooperation which enrich the scholarship of all. We need no better proof that that is realistic than the fact that the nucleus of the incoming research group (Empathy in History, Society, and Culture– 2018–2021) consists of two scholars—an art historian and a psychologist—who met here at Scholion as members of different groups, found common ground and mutual interests, and put the effort into formulating a research program that our Academic Committee enthusiastically approved. The way things usually are here at the Hebrew University, these two scholars might never have met without Scholion.

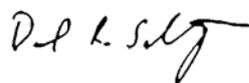
Apart from depending on the hallways and the coffee machine, the Center additionally tries to foster such interactions among its fellows from disparate disciplines through a monthly lunchtime “lounge seminar” of all the fellows, and, once a year, a two-day field trip planned and executed by members of the third-year group. Next year, for the first time, that field trip will be in the autumn rather than the spring in the hope of maximizing its contribution to the cohesiveness of the fellows. The two Mandel School ping-pong tournaments in which we participated, nobly attempting to put “those wimps from the Buber Society” in their place, were also meant to contribute to the same goal.

In addition to encouraging connections among scholars here at the Center, more generally we strive to broaden the fellows' opportunities for fruitful academic exchange in other ways as well—and this brings me, finally, to the “on the other hand” promised above. For alongside “business as usual,” this year was also—thanks especially to the energy and initiative of our new executive director, Keren Sagi—one that was exceptionally rich in conferences and workshops. These bring scholars together and allow them to share knowledge and approaches, sort out their differences, and plan joint projects—just as they also allow the younger fellows experience, sometimes something of an apprenticeship, in planning and participating in this important part of scholarly life. These events are listed elsewhere in this report, but I'll note that, apart from the usual international conference of the third-year group, this year we also had an international conference organized by members of the 2010–2013 “Archaeologies of Memory” research group, which is very gratifying, insofar as it shows that collaborative ties created here can continue to be fruitful years later; and two more conferences were organized by Mandel Fellows. Other events included a book-launching, a panel of Mandel Fellows at the annual conference of the Mandel School's doctoral honors program, the hosting of the conference of an academic association of which one of our Fellows is a member, and—a first, for us—a panel of members of our “Materials for Change” group who showed their wares at the December humanities “fair” sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality and aimed at the general public.

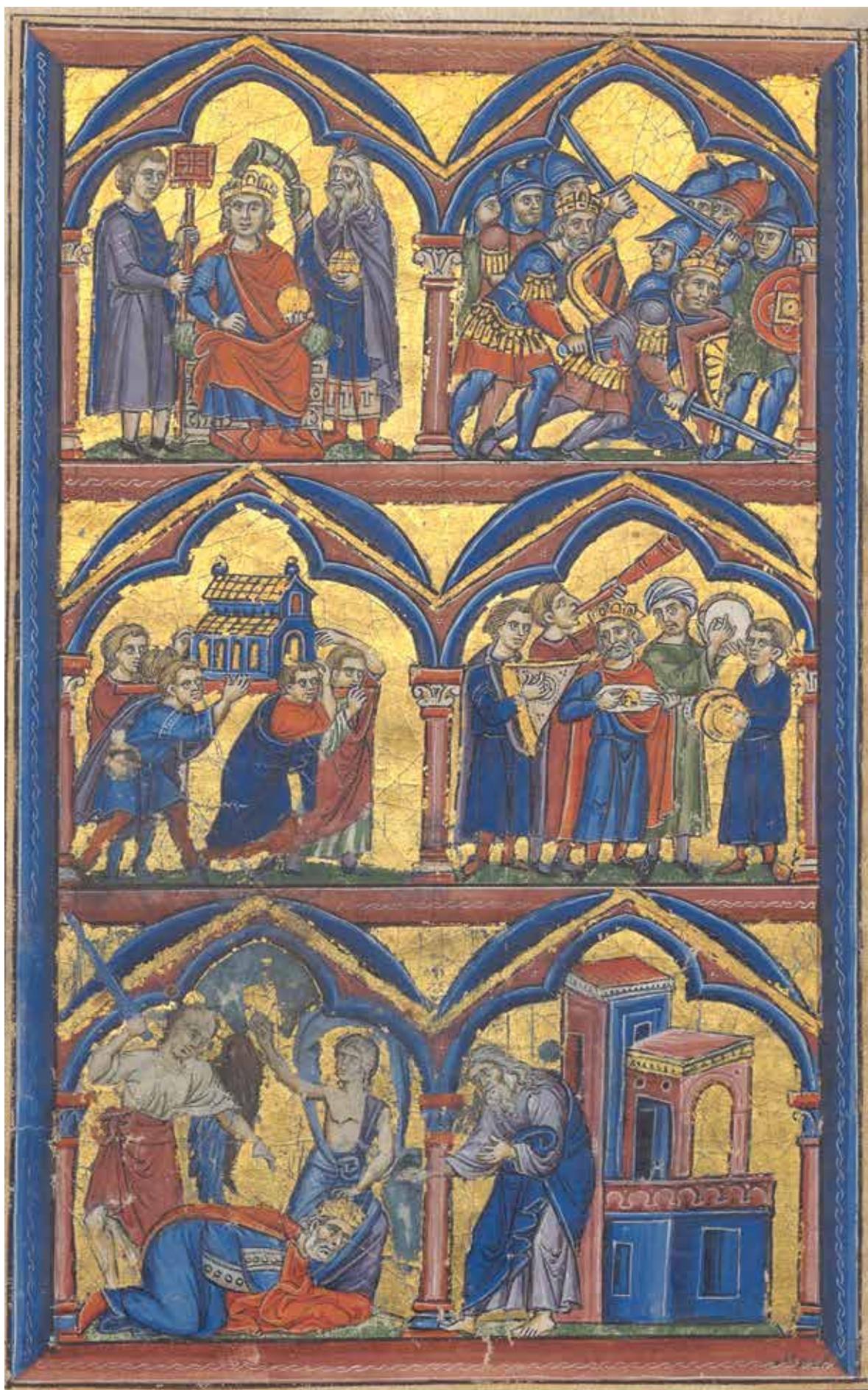
Obviously, there is some tension between striving to allow the Center's scholars to devote themselves to their

research, on the one hand, and initiating and maintaining so many activities, on the other. We are well aware of this tension, and attempt to walk an optimal path between the poles. As academic director of the Center, I do my best to protect our fellows' time from demands sometime made upon it from other quarters—and to encourage them, in return, to exploit to the hilt the extraordinary opportunity they have been lucky enough to receive.

Over the years the Mandel Scholion Center has been fortunate to have very supportive partners both within the University and in the Mandel Foundation. That is no surprise; the Center is their creation and joint project. But it should not be taken for granted that it has always been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such partners. This year there have been some changes: after many years of frank and fruitful exchange and cooperation, Ms. Annette Hochstein passed the baton of liaising between us and the Foundation to Dr. Tamar Abramov, and Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson, although remaining chairman of our Academic Committee, passed the University's presidency on to Prof. Asher Cohen. We look forward to working with them as successfully as with their predecessors in the pursuance of our common goals.



Professor Daniel R. Schwartz



King David bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. Taken from a mid-13th century manuscript from Crusader Acre of an abridged French Bible (Bible de Saint-Jean d'Acre). The illustration shows a variety of medieval musical instruments. Prof. Iris Shagrir, "Liturgy and Arts" research group, 2015–2018

Coming Up
at Mandel Scholion
2018/19

New Research Group

In October 2018 Mandel Scholion will welcome its seventeenth research group, chosen by its academic committee for the years 2018/19–2020/21:

In Someone Else's Shoes – An Interdisciplinary Research Group for the Study of Empathy in History, Society, and Culture

Empathy is a reaction to others. It refers to the way we perceive and understand the other person, and to our taking part in the other's thoughts and emotions. Empathy allows us to adopt the other's point of view, to think as if from within his/her mind, and to anticipate his/her reactions. Historians and students of culture have recently acknowledged empathy as having a significant role in shaping human development and society, and as the catalyst or enabler of major past and present historical events and processes. Empathy generates complex historical narratives, which include diverse patterns of personal and social identities. Empathy is strongly related to culture, as well as to concepts such as knowledge and understanding, personal identity and group solidarity, responsibility, communication, problem-solving, cooperation, and contribution to others. The "In Someone Else's Shoes" group aims to investigate how empathy develops, when and for whom it is considered an important value, its implications — for better and for worse — and its boundaries. Thus, the group will investigate also the opposite: apathy and alienation. What causes a diversion of the gaze, or facing an emotional dead-end? Choosing empathy as a research topic requires collaboration between historians and psychologists.

Members of the group:

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES:

Prof. Amos Goldberg, Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Prof. Galit Noga-Banai, Art History Dept.

MEMBERS OF OTHER FACULTIES:

Prof. Ariel Knafo-Noam, Psychology Dept., Faculty of Social Sciences

Prof. Lilach Sagiv, School of Business Administration

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Yonatan Harel, Art History Dept.

Ofek Kehila, Dept. of Iberian and Latin-American Studies

Tal Orlitsky, School of Social Work and Social Welfare

Shai Satran, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology



New Mandel Postdoctoral Fellows



DR. CARLA BARICZ
English Department

Dr. Baricz received her doctorate in English from Yale University, where she specialized in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature. Her dissertation project examined

the development of multi-part and sequel drama in the early modern period, showing how an interplay of cultural, social, and economic factors led to changes in the formal characteristics of commercial plays and shaped the manner in which they circulated from the playhouse to the printing house. Dr. Baricz's secondary specialization is translation. In 2014/2015 she was a Fulbright Research Fellow at the University of Bucharest, where she translated Ion Budai-Deleanu's early modern mock-epic, *The Tiganiada*, from the Romanian; in 2018 she became a translator-in-residence at the National Literature Museum in Iasi, Romania. At Mandel Scholion, she will work on two related projects. The first, *Playing Parts: Seriality in the Early Modern Theater*, traces the rise of sequel drama from the first surviving secular plays in English to post-Restoration experiments that point in the direction of the serialized novel. A second project, *Aging in the Early Modern Theater*, is a study of old age, as a cultural and social process encoded into both the practices and the products of the early modern theatrical environment.



DR. YONATAN VARDI
Hebrew Literature Department

Dr. Jonathan Vardi completed his PhD in the Hebrew Literature Department of the Hebrew University, and was a Minerva postdoctoral fellow at Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich.

His research concerns Hebrew poetry written in medieval Muslim Spain (al-Andalus) and the social circles of its authors and audience. In particular, it is dedicated to the work of the first major poet of the Hebrew-Andalusian school, Samuel Ha-Nagid (Ismā'īl ibn Naghrīla; 993–1056). By returning to the early manuscripts of his *Dīwān* (book of poems), reconstructing the original structure of the *Dīwān*, and conducting a comparative study of parallel Arabic works, Vardi's research examines Samuel's lifelong attempt simultaneously to inhabit both cultural spheres, the Jewish and the Arabic, and explores the unique Andalusian encounter of cultures, literatures, religions, and ideas.

Final Year of the "Materials for Change" Research Group

Concluding International Conference

**Extra-Ordinary: Unique and Common Artifacts as
Social Actors** | Monday–Thursday, December 3–6, 2018,
Mandel Building

The dichotomy between the extraordinary and the mundane is part of any research that focuses on material culture and on the ways in which artifacts participate in processes of social change. The original painting of a famous artist vs. mass-produced posters; a rare prehistoric figurine vs. common cooking pots; a dish in a chef's restaurant vs. everyday family meals; a designer dress vs. mass-produced clothing; Kula ritual vs. the quotidian exchange of goods in the Trobriand Islands—these are

a few examples of this distinction in the fields of history, archaeology, and anthropology, just as it exists in many other academic disciplines.

As researchers of those and other fields we often waver between our attraction to the extraordinary, which is often associated with human creativity and higher-level meanings, and the common artifacts and activities that we perceive as representative of "real", everyday, life and social experience. It is sometimes a matter of personal taste that determines the focus of our research: scholars who are inclined towards rich interpretive analysis are drawn to extraordinary events or artifacts, while those more attracted to systematic and statistical analysis focus on ordinary materials and conditions of everyday life.



Food for the Body and Soul: New World Passover of the African Hebrew Israelite Community, a.k.a. "The Watermelon Festival"

Prof. Nir Avieli, "Materials for Change" research group, 2016–2019

We do not often stop to reflect on the theoretical and practical implications of our choices to focus on the extraordinary or, instead, on the mundane. In this international workshop we would like to consider how our choices to focus on the mundane, or rather on the extraordinary, affect the results of our analysis. We are interested in questions such as: are the results of such analyses complementary or do they present incompatible pictures of society (past and present)? Do we need different theories to study the mundane and the extraordinary? And, focusing more directly on material culture: Do extraordinary artifacts and materials have more potential for social effect, and are they more likely than mundane artifacts to become “social actors”?



Field Trip

The "Materials for Change" research group will be leading a tour in the south of Israel at the end of November, 2018. Focusing on material culture in desert life, the tour aims to raise questions regarding the ways materiality shapes and is shaped by its geographic surroundings. We will visit a range of sites that examine human settlement, society, and culture in the desert, today and in the past. The sites encapsulate different aspects of materiality, from architecture and the sociology of urban development, to spheres of art, dynamics of trade, spaces of ritual, and food politics.

left; Great Wall of the Han Period (c. 200 BC–AD 220)
Prof. Gideon Shelach, "Materials for Change" research group, 2016–2019



The journey of most oil paintings in the modern market: Selling China-made oil paintings in the U.S.A.
Elad Yaron, "Materials for Change" research group, 2016–2019

Other Conferences and Events

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dahlia Ravikovitch: New Perspectives | Sunday, October 28, 2018, Mandel Building, Room 530

In October the Center will host a one-day conference dedicated to the work of one of the most prominent Israeli poetesses: Dahlia Ravikovitch (1936–2005). This conference, initiated by the Center and the Department of Hebrew Literature and supported by the Lafer Center for Women and Gender Studies, will feature academic talks about the poetry, fiction writing, and journalistic works of Ravikovitch, as well as a workshop for scholars and a festive closing session for the broader community

This conference, with the participation of leading literary scholars from Israel and abroad, will mark the publication of a new book edited by a Mandel fellow, Giddon Ticotsky, and published by HaKibbutz HaMeuchad: *Dahlia Ravikovitch — Selected Essays* (in Hebrew, 2018). This collection of essays

and short literary studies sheds light on a relatively neglected aspect of Ravikovitch's work: her non-fiction writing.

EXHIBITION OPENING

Poetae Docti: Scholars and Authors | Sunday, October 21, 2018, Mandel Building

The Mandel Scholion Center will launch an exhibition that spotlights the achievements of past and present scholars of our Faculty of Humanities who, in the tradition of “learned poets,” complemented their scholarship with creative writing (poetry and belles lettres). Among those represented in the exhibition: Dror Burstein, Aminadav Dykman, Michael Ebstein, Lea Goldberg, Galit Hasan-Rokem, Ariel Hirschfeld, Menahem Kister, Jan Kühne, Dan Pagis, and Shimon Sandbank.

Initiative: Keren Sagi. Curator: Giddon Ticotsky.



Dahlia Ravikovitch | Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, Mandel Scholar 2017–2020
Courtesy of Ido Kalir, unknown photographer



Lea Goldberg's Dissertation
Exhibition *Poetae Docti:*
Scholars and Authors

BOOK LAUNCH

Sources and Interpretation in Ancient Judaism: Studies for Tal Ilan at Sixty. Edited by Meron M. Piotrkowski, Geoffrey Herman and Saskia Döntz |

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, Mandel Building, Room 530

With: Dr. **Noah Hacham** (HUJI), Prof. **Tal Ilan** (FU Berlin), Prof. **Vered Noam** (Tel Aviv University)

The Mandel Scholion Research Center is happy to announce the launching of *Sources and Interpretation in Ancient Judaism: Studies for Tal Ilan at Sixty*, edited by Meron M. Piotrkowski, Geoffrey Herman, and Saskia Döntz. This volume, which honors the academic achievements of Prof. Tal Ilan of the Freie Universität (Berlin), has manifold connections to our Center: one of its editors, G. Herman, worked on the volume during his tenure here as a member of the “Question of Identity” group; Prof. Ilan visited our center very frequently in order to work, together with Dr. Noah Hacham (another member of that group), on the preparation of their now-forthcoming fourth volume of the *Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum* IV; and, along with Drs. Herman and Hacham, also Prof. D. R. Schwartz, the academic head of our Center, contributed to the volume (and he is also one of the editors of the Brill series, Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity, in which the volume appeared).

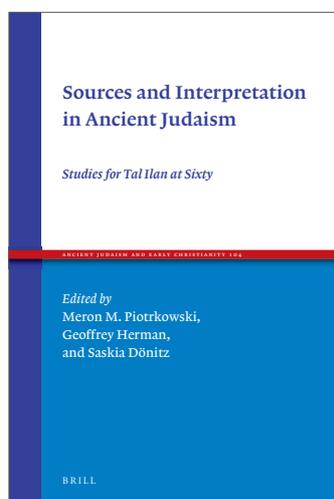
Tal Ilan has made a major impact in various fields of Jewish studies, including ancient Jewish history and historiography, Jewish epigraphy, onomastics, papyrology, archaeology, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and rabbinic literature. Perhaps her most significant contribution, however, has been her focus on Jewish women in antiquity and other gender issues. The fourteen studies assembled in this volume are

of an interdisciplinary nature and reflect issues central to Ilan’s scholarship and research, offering new readings and interpretations of sources such as Josephus, rabbinic literature, and Jewish papyri.

BOOK LAUNCH

Eros, Family and Community | Edited by Yosef Kaplan, Yoav Rinon, Shimrit Peled, and Ruth Fine | Wednesday, November 14, 2018, Mandel Building

This event will mark the publication of the conference volume of our 2011–2014 research group; details to be announced, and will be available on our website. A short description of this volume appears on p. 32 of this report.



Book Cover
*Sources and Interpretation
in Ancient Judaism:
Studies for Tal Ilan at Sixty.*

Upcoming Publications

Conference volume of our 2014–2017 research group, forthcoming from De Gruyter:

A Question of Identity: Formation, Transition, Negotiation
Edited by Dikla Rivlin-Katz, Noah Hacham, Geoffrey Herman, and Lilach Sagiv

“Who am I?’ and ‘Who are we?’ are the existential, foundational questions in our lives. In our modern world, there is no construct more influential than “identity” — whether as individuals or as groups. The articles in this book put identity at the center of their investigations. They vary considerably in the periods they study and in the groups they focus on. They share, however, a keen interest in understanding how social identity is defined, formed, preserved and changed in response to trends and changes within the social contexts of those upon whom the respective studies focus.

The concept of group identity was the focal point of our 2014–2017 “Question of Identity” research group, and the articles in this collection are papers presented at its January 2017 international conference, which dealt with identity formation in six contextual settings: Ethno-religious identities in light of the archaeological record; Second Temple period textual records on Diaspora Judaism; Jews and Christians in Sasanian Persia; minorities in the Persian Achaemenid period; inter-ethnic dialogue in Mandatory Palestine; and redefinitions of Christian identity in the early modern period.

Annual Report
2017/18

Research Groups

Liturgy and Arts (2015–2018)

In our regular weekly meetings throughout the year we heard lectures by international and local experts on various aspects of liturgy and the visual arts. We have encouraged our PhD students and students from abroad to present their work-in-progress. Their presentations exposed new material



The Casket from Samagher, detail left side, a family visiting a holy shrine, most likely in Rome. Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Venezia, inv. no. 1925–279.

Prof. Galit Noga-Banai, "Liturgy and Arts" research group, 2015–2018
Photo: Direzione generale Musei polo museale del Veneto.

and fresh methods for the study of medieval culture, and the interaction proved fruitful to all. Finally, in the Center's final meeting in September, at which we took leave of the Mandel-Scholion Center, one of our senior members, Prof. Galit Noga-Banai, presented her work on the role of Jerusalem in the visual Christianization of Rome.

Concluding International Conference

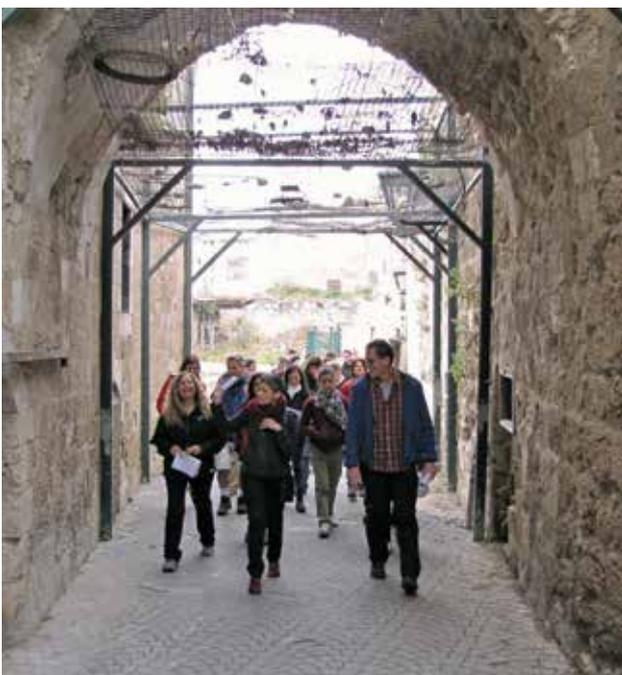
Arts, Liturgy, and the Shaping of Medieval Urban Landscapes | Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Center, the Open University of Israel and the Israel Science Foundation, December 10–13, 2017

In December 2017 the "Liturgy and Arts" group convened an international conference, in cooperation with, and with the support of, the Israel Science Foundation and the Open University. The conference, entitled "Arts, Liturgy and the



Concluding Conference of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, December 2017

Shaping of Medieval Urban Landscapes,” was the highlight of the group's research activity. It brought together young and established scholars from the US, Europe, and Israel to engage in lively and productive discussion of the dynamic relationship between liturgy and the surrounding space and its visual components, including arts, artifacts, and architecture. The discussion contextualized liturgical praxis within the production of medieval cultural memory. The participants enjoyed a liturgical tour in the Old City of Jerusalem, a concert, and a Hanukkah candle-lighting festive reception, including a presentation by Professor Israel J. Yuval comparing the traditions of Hanukkah and Christmas.



A tour at the city of Ramla, April 2018

Field Trip

Past and Present Sites of Worship | April 26–27, 2018

Sacred spaces and their related traditions draw together particular forms of art, music, liturgy, and texts, and nourish collective memory. Our tour focused on historical manifestations of the sacred in the region between Jerusalem and Ashkelon. We visited sites considered holy in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam from the Middle Ages to our own times, putting an emphasis on the changing fates of pilgrimage sites due to varying political and social realities. The tour began in Ramla, a city with a complex past and present, with churches turned into mosques, desolate but precious ruins, and a lively market to which part of the discussion was dedicated. We also visited the unique Karaite synagogue in Ramla, as well as the Bushayef synagogue in Zeitan (near Lydda), founded and venerated by the local community of Tunisian origin. The visit to Ashkelon on the next day included the Mashad Ras Hussein, an extraordinary Muslim pilgrimage site within the municipal hospital compound. The tour ended in Emmaus Nicopolis, alongside the road back to Jerusalem.



Ramla's Great Mosque, Annual Field Trip, April 2018

Materials for Change (2016–2019)

The second year of the “Materials for Change” research group was devoted to in-depth enquiry and the strengthening of our joint theoretical framework. Our enquiry was threefold, including text study, organized tours, and preparations for our future academic activity.

Our text study session focused on seminal scholarship in the field of material culture. Each member of the group selected a theoretical text from their research and facilitated a discussion with the group. Our learning included texts from various disciplines: art theory, sociology, archaeology, history of technology and economics, anthropology, and cultural theory. One major focal point that characterized all of our discussions was the role of material culture as agent of change vs. material culture as a reflection of change. Our learning sessions also included lectures by a series of scholars who exposed us to their research: Professor Dror Wahrman discussed extraordinary miniatures, Dr. Merav Shohat discussed rituals of death and mourning in Vietnam, and Dr. Amit Zoran gave us a tour of his digital design lab. Most notably, we had the honor of hosting throughout the academic year Professor Natalie Munro, a

zooarchaeologist from the University of Connecticut who, as a visiting professor hosted by the Mandel School, was an active member of our group.

Our tours focused on case studies of material culture accessible to us in Israel, as part of an effort to think about our research topic in a more hands-on fashion. We enjoyed a two-day tour of Nazareth and Nazareth Ilit, where we discussed the tension between religious sites and the ways these tensions are manifested in the architecture, agriculture, and tourism in the area. In addition, we visited an exhibition on the history of the bicycle at the Science Museum in Jerusalem, as part of a discussion on theories of technology. We took part in the Feast of the Ascension on the Mt. of Olives, where we discussed material aspects of ritual and the manifestations of ceremonial practices in a mixed religious environment. Finally, we visited Jaffa, where we discussed urban development and gentrification.

Throughout the year we devoted time to conceptualize and plan our final conference, titled “Extra-Ordinary: Unique and Common Artifacts as Social Actors,” scheduled for December 3–6. In addition, we have begun planning a joint learning tour abroad in 2019.



Naomi Simhony, PhD Candidate
Winter Harvest: An Evening Celebrating
the Humanities, December 2017



Field trip to Nazareth



20,000-year-old stone fishing-camp
tools from the Upper Jordan Valley
being analyzed at Scholion seminar
room | Prof. Leore Grosman

Historical Linguistics and Formal Semantics (2017–2020)

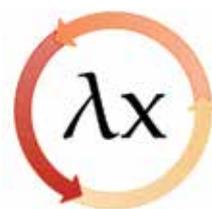
This was our first year as a research group at Mandel Scholion. Our goal this year was to investigate foundational questions and methodologies in the two fields we seek to integrate in our research: historical linguistics and formal semantics. We devoted our weekly group meetings to this task, organizing the meetings in the format of a reading group. We began with the seminal 2011 work by Traugott and Dasher characterizing regularities in meaning changes across languages, and continued with Eckardt's 2006 book, which lays the foundations for applying formal semantic tools to understanding these regularities. This also served as a preparation for Prof. Eckardt's extended visit to the group in the second semester as a Mandel Scholar. A question we constantly grappled with was to what extent the formal tools are used to adequately *describe* the relevant changes, and to what extent they can *explain* these changes. The second semester was devoted to particular case studies. The group's doctoral students, as well as a number of regular participants from outside the core group, were charged with the task of presenting and discussing these self-contained papers.

Besides the members of the group (including one who was in the US this year), our weekly meetings had a number of additional regular participants (some of them via Skype), including two postdoctoral researchers from the Language Logic and Cognition Center, a doctoral student from Tel Aviv University, and a postdoctoral researcher from the University of Göttingen.

We hosted three visitors during the year. In the first semester, reading group participant Dr. Olga Kellert

(University of Göttingen) visited the Hebrew University's Department of Linguistics. She gave a talk in the group's weekly seminar on her research on meaning change related to Free Choice Items (e.g. *cualquiera* "anyone") in Romance languages. At the beginning of the second semester, we welcomed Prof. Regine Eckardt (University of Konstanz) as a Mandel Scholar. Prof. Eckardt spent a month with us, during which she taught a graduate mini-course on syntactic and semantic change in grammaticalization, gave a guest lecture on her work on evidentials in questions to the forum of the Mandel School, and participated in reading groups and informal meetings with the group members. In June, Prof. Mira Ariel (Tel Aviv University) gave a talk in our weekly seminar on her recent work on sources from which disjunction (or constructions) develops historically.

Our events culminated in a lecture to the Mandel Scholion community in the June monthly seminar, in which we presented an overview of the research questions that motivate us. We gave the audience a tour of the tenets of historical linguistics, the open questions in the field, and the formal tools we are using to investigate these questions.



The group's logo depicts the lambda symbol, which is used in formal semantics to represent functional meaning, within a cycle representing historical change.

Mandel Fellows

Dr. Or Hasson, Department of Romance and Latin American Studies

Dr. Daniel Lav, Department of Arabic Language and Literature

Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, Department of Hebrew Literature

Dr. Rachel Wamsley, English Department

Dr. Judith Weiss, Department of Jewish Thought

Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

This year we had six Mandel Fellows. Of them, one was in her final year: Dr. Judith Weiss, who, in the fall, will be taking up a senior lectureship at Ben-Gurion University. Of the other five, who have one or two years to go, Dr. Lav has an appointment waiting for him next fall at the Hebrew University's Dept. of Arabic Language and Literature, while the others are busy pursuing options, casting their bread on the appropriate waters and, in the meantime, using the opportunity we provide them to bring their research projects to fruition.



Dr. Daniel Lav, Mandel Scholar 2017–2019 | A Special Session of the three new Mandel Fellows at the Annual Conference of the Honors Doctoral Program

Farewell from Dr. Judith Weiss:



I am a researcher of medieval Kabbalah and Renaissance Christian Kabbalah. I was accepted as a Mandel postdoctoral fellow in 2015/16 and, very fortunately, have had the privilege of completing the full three-year fellowship at the Center, a term which allowed me to

complete many projects in an ideal academic atmosphere and under the most generous possible conditions. For all this I am extremely grateful to the Mandel Scholion Center—to the directors of the Center (Prof. Daniel Schwartz and Ms. Keren Sagi) as well as to all my colleagues in the Center throughout the past three years: senior researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students.

In the past academic year, the third and last of my fellowship, two books of mine were published, both dealing with the Renaissance millenarian orientalist Guillaume Postel. The first presents my Hebrew translation of parts of Postel's Latin Zohar commentary, and is entitled *On the Conciliation of Nature and Grace, Restituted into One: A Latin Introduction, Translation, and Commentary on the Zohar by Guillaume Postel (1510–1581)*, and the second is an annotated edition of a Hebrew treatise composed by Postel, entitled *Ta'am HaTe'amim or Universal Oral Law: A Hebrew Renaissance Kabbalistic Mission Treatise*. Both books were published in Hebrew by Magnes Press, Jerusalem. In 2018 the Israel Historical Society awarded me the Bartal Prize for outstanding historical studies published in Hebrew for my first book: *A Kabbalistic Christian Messiah in the Renaissance: Guillaume Postel and the Book of Zohar*.

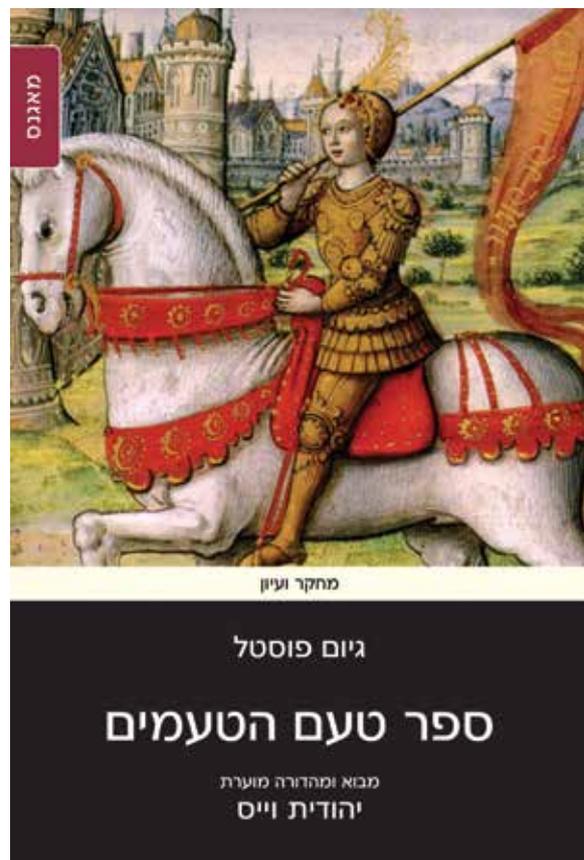
During this year I had the pleasure of co-operating with colleagues in the organization of two international conferences that were held in the Mandel Building. The first conference was a symposium for the study of Kabbalistic literature, entitled "The Kabbalah in Girona," in co-operation with Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher, a former Mandel Fellow who is now on the faculty of the Hebrew University. The second was the eighth conference of the Israeli Network for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism, entitled "Western Esotericism and the Concept of God(s)," in co-operation with Prof. Boaz Huss of Ben-Gurion University. In addition, in the course of the year I was invited to lecture in several conferences and seminars, among them: the Latin Talmud (*Lat-Tal*) ERC Project Conference at Ben-Gurion University; the Israeli Institute for Advanced Studies (Jerusalem)-IAS (Princeton) Joint Workshop in the Humanities; The Society for Medieval and Renaissance Studies of the University of Haifa's School of History; the Medici Archive Project Conference, Tel Aviv University; and others.

After having taught for two years in the Department for Jewish Thought, this year I was asked to teach in the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry. For this purpose I chose to focus on interreligious historical angles, and taught a B.A. seminar on "Monks, Kabbalists, Beguines, and Troubadours: The Rise of Mystical-Erotic Discourse in the 13th century" and another on "Studying, Printing, Translating: Jews, Christians, and Jewish Literature in the 15th–16th Centuries."

In the coming academic year, I will be joining the Department for Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University as a Senior Lecturer. My new research project, on which I plan to focus in the coming years, offers a cultural

contextualization of various aspects of medieval Kabbalah. In order to pursue this project in Beersheba, I have received a faculty scholarship and research grant from the Azrieli Foundation for the next three years.

Again I wish to extend my deep gratitude to everyone in the Mandel Scholion Center for making all this possible.



Book Cover, Ta'am HaTe'amim by Guillaume Postel (1510–1581), edited by Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015–2018

This Year
at Scholion

Monthly Lounge Seminars

Room 530, Mandel Building, Thursdays 12:15–14:00

November 11, 2017

Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Mandel Fellow

Conversos or Neophytes? New-Christians and the Search for the Judeo-Christian Meaning of Conversion in the 15th Century

November 30, 2017

Dr. Daniel Lav, Mandel Fellow

Theories of Causality and Human Agency in Muslim Polemics on the Cult of Saints

January 4, 2018

Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, Mandel Fellow

Reading from the Margins – Lea Goldberg's and Dahlia Ravikovitch's Oeuvre as Case-Studies

March 15, 2018

Prof. Natalie Munro, University of Connecticut/ Mandel Visiting Scholar

The Emergence of Animal Domestication in the Levant

May 17, 2018

Guest lecture: **Prof. Ophir Münz-Manor**, The Open University of Israel

Soundscapes of Salvation: Refrains in Christian and Jewish Liturgical Poetry

June 21, 2018

Dr. Nora Boneh & Dr. Aynat Rubinstein, "Historical Linguistics and Formal Semantics" research group

How Do Languages Change?



The title page from Alonso de Oropesa's (d.1468) *A Light for the Revelation of the Gentiles and for the Glory of God's People, Israel / Lumen ad revelationem gentium et gloria plebis Dei Israel*. BP Guadalajara Ms. 5

Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Mandel Scholar 2017–2020

Courtesy of Biblioteca Virtual del Patrimonio Bibliográfico

Guest Lectures

Dr. Flora Kritikou, Music Department, National and Kapadostrian University (Athens)

Byzantine Music and Ritual in Jerusalemite Manuscripts

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, November 23, 2017

Dr. Merav Shohet, Department of Anthropology, Boston University

Materializing Moral Mourning and Achieving a Good Death: Ritual Funerary Inscriptions, Affects, and Social Change in Vietnam

Hosted by "Materials for Change" research group, December 4, 2017

Dr. Daniel Lav, Mandel Scholion Center, HUJI

Models of Causality and the Cult of Saints in Intra-Muslim Polemics

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, December 12, 2017

Dr. Netta Bodner, ERC project "Beyond the Elite: Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Europe" headed by Prof. Elisheva Baumgarten, HUJI

Space and Ceremony: The Architecture of Medieval Jewish Ritual Baths and How it Complemented a Changing Liturgy in the Twelfth-Thirteenth Centuries

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, December 28, 2017

Fr Stéphane Milovitch, OFM

The Franciscan Liturgy in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Jerusalem

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, January 18, 2018

Prof. Dror Wahrman, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, HUJI

The Prince, the Mogul, and the Jeweler: What Can We Learn from an Early Modern Object?

Hosted by "Materials for Change" research group, January 18, 2018

Dr. Olga Kellert, Department of Linguistics, University of Göttingen

Free Choice Items and Evaluative Reading

Hosted by the "Historical Linguistics and Formal Semantics" research group, January 23, 2018

Prof. David Ganz, Art History Institute, University of Zurich

Excarnation and Inlibration: The Paradox of Treasure Binding

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, April 29, 2018

Mr. Alexander Valera, University of Fribourg

The Artistic Realizations of the Syriac Orthodox Community in the Tuo 'Abdin Area (Southeastern Turkey) in the Middle Ages

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, June 7, 2018

Prof. Mira Ariel, Department of Linguistics, Tel Aviv University

Evolving 'or' Constructions: In and out of "alternativity"

Hosted by the "Historical Linguistics and Formal Semantics" research group, June 20, 2018

Research Group Field Trips

Guided tour of the Bicycle Exhibition, Bloomfield Science Museum, Jerusalem

"Materials for Change" research group, November 23, 2017

Field trip to Nazareth

"Materials for Change" research group, December 28–29, 2017

Tour on Mt. of Olives during the Feast of the Ascension

"Materials for Change" research group, May 5, 2018

Visit to Dr. Amit Zoran's Lab "Design Hybrids"

"Materials for Change" research group, June 20, 2018

Field trip to Jaffa

"Materials for Change" research group, June 24, 2018



Field trip to Jaffa
"Materials for Change" research group, June 2018



Field trip to Nazareth | "Materials for Change" research group, December 2017



International Conferences and Workshops

International Conference: The Societal Consequences of Climatic Changes – The Medieval Climate Anomaly

Organized by Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum and Prof. Gideon Shelach (of the 2010–2013 “Archaeologies of Memory” Research Group) in cooperation with the Israel Science Foundation, the Israel Antiquities Authority, Yad Hanadiv, and Hebrew University’s Confucius Institute, the Herrmann Institute of Earth Sciences, and the Advanced School for Environmental Studies.
Mandel Building, December 3–7, 2017

Symposium for the Study of Kabbalistic Literature: The Kabbalah in Girona

Organized by Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher (Mandel Fellow 2016/17) and Dr. Judith Weiss (Mandel Fellow 2015–2018).
Mandel Building, March 14–15, 2018

The Eighth INASWE International Conference: Western Esotericism and the Concept of God(s)

Organized by Dr. Judith Weiss (Mandel Fellow 2015–2018) in cooperation with the Herbst Family Chair of Judaic Studies.
Mandel Building, May 30, 2018

International Workshop: Converso Paulinisms and Other Judeo-Christian Pauline Moments

Organized by Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Mandel Fellow 2017–2020 in cooperation with the I-Core Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Bar-Ilan University.
Mandel Building, June 5, 2018

For full programs see: <http://en.scholion.huji.ac.il>



Symposium for the Study of Kabbalistic Literature: The Kabbalah in Girona, January 2018



The Eighth INASWE International Conference: Western Esotericism and the Concept of God(s), May 2018



International Workshop: Converso Paulinisms and Other Judeo-Christian Pauline Moments, June 2018

Other Events

Public Event

Winter Harvest: An Evening Celebrating the Humanities
Participants: Members of the “Materials for Change” research group
Sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality in cooperation with the Israel Historical Society’s Zalman Shazar Center and the New Spirit Association in Jerusalem
Beit Alliance, Jerusalem, December 27, 2017

Workshop

Preparing an Academic CV — with Prof. Daniel R. Schwartz
In cooperation with the Martin Buber Society of Fellows, HUJI
Mandel Building, March 27, 2018

Books Launch

Three New Titles by Dr. Judith Weiss: Hebrew and Kabbalah in the Christian World during the Renaissance and the Early Modern Period
Participants: Prof. Boaz Huss (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Prof. Daniel Schwartz (Mandel Scholion Center, HUJI), Dr. Aya Elyada (HUJI), Prof. Yehuda Liebes (HUJI)
Mandel Building, June 3, 2018

Conference Panel

A Special Session of the Three New Mandel Fellows at the Annual Conference of the Honors Doctoral Program
Participants: Dr. Tamar Abramov (Mandel Foundation Israel), Prof. Daniel R. Schwartz, Dr. Rachel Wamsley, Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Dr. Daniel Lav, Dr. Giddon Tickotsky
Mandel Building, June 10, 2018



Winter Harvest: An Evening Celebrating the Humanities, December 2017



Dr. Giddon Ticotzky, A Special Session of the Three New Mandel Fellows at the Annual Conference of the Honors Doctoral Program



Book Cover | On the Conciliation of Nature and Grace. A Latin Translation and Commentary on the Zohar by Guillaume Postel (1510–1581) | Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015–2018

Long-Term Guests

This year we were fortunate to have three guest scholars who stayed for long periods of time, intermingling within the academic and social spheres of the Center. Two of the guests, Prof. Natalie Munro and Prof. Regine Eckardt, were visiting scholars of the Mandel School who were invited by Mandel Scholion's research groups to come and work with them.

Dr. Giovanni Gasbarri is a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Christianity, HUJI, whose work is strongly related both to that of Prof. Rina Talgam of the "Materials for Change" research group, and to that of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group. All three guests took part in the Center's seminars, field trips, and discussions and debates here and there. They also presented their work in various contexts:

Prof. Natalie Munro, University of Connecticut/ Mandel Visiting Scholar

See page 26

Dr. Giovanni Gasbarri, the Center for the Study of Christianity, HUJI *Representations of the Destruction of Pagan Statues in Byzantine Art*

Weekly seminar of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, March 19, 2018

Prof. Regine Eckardt, Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz/ Mandel Visiting Scholar

Evidentials in Questions

Hosted by the Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, March 27, 2018



Analyzing animal bones from an archaeological site from the Negev

Prof. Natalie Munro, Mandel Visiting Scholar. 2017–2018

Alumni Summer Program

Prof. Karin Nisenbaum of Colgate University, a former Mandel Fellow, accepted our invitation to return to us for a month in the spring and reported that the “muse” here inspired her writing on Kant. During her stay she gave a public lecture on June 12 (chaired by Prof. Benjamin Pollock), in cooperation with the Philosophy Department, on “Kant and Schelling on Transcendental Illusion and the Postulate of God’s Existence.”



Alumni Summer Program: Guest Lecturer by Dr. Karin Nisenbaum, June 2018

Publications

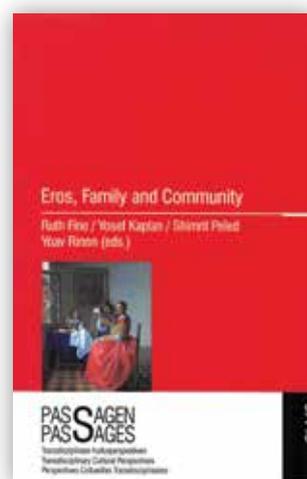
The conference volume of our 2011–2014 research group was published by the Olms-Weidmann Publishing House:
Eros, Family and Community

Edited by Yosef Kaplan, Yoav Rinon, Shimrit Peled, and Ruth Fine

This collection of articles deals with the notion of Eros from a broad range of historical, literary, and cultural perspectives. One of the primary aims of the collection is to comprehend both the power and the problematic aspects of Eros and its contribution to the formation of family and community.

Considering the concept of Eros textually and theoretically, the variety of topics raised reflects the different disciplines of the authors as well as their interdisciplinary approach. Special emphasis was given to the historical aspect of Eros, its temporal location and contextualization.

A book launch celebrating the publication of the book will be held on November 14.



Congratulations to...

Netta Amir, of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, on receiving the Rotenstreich Doctoral Fellowship for 2018–2021.

Chanan Ariel, of the 2013–2016 "Emergence of Modern Hebrew" research group, on his appointment to a tenure-track position at Tel Aviv University.

Prof. **Nir Avieli**, of the "Materials for Change" research group, upon his promotion to the rank of associate professor at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Dr. **Geoffrey Herman**, of the 2014–2017 "A Question of Identity" research group, on his appointment to a professorship at the École pratique des hautes études, Paris.

Uri Jacob, of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, on the award of a fellowship to study at Yale University in the spring semester of 2018/19.

Prof. **Galit Noga-Banai**, of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, upon her promotion to the rank of associate professor in the Department of Art History at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and on her new book: *Sacred Stimulus: Jerusalem in the Visual Christianization of Rome*.

Prof. **Edwin Seroussi**, member of the Center's Academic Committee of the Center, on winning the *Israel Prize for Research in Culture, the Arts, and Musicology*.

Prof. **Iris Shagrir**, of the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, on her new book: *The Parable of the Three Rings and the Idea of Religious Toleration in Premodern European Culture* (in Hebrew).

Prof. **Rina Talgam**, of the "Materials for Change" research group, on receiving the *Rector's Prize for Excellence in Research and Teaching*.

Dr. **Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015–2018**, for winning the prestigious *Azrieli Fellowship* for new faculty; on her appointment to a senior lectureship at Ben-Gurion University; and for receiving the *Bartal Am VeOlam Prize* of the Israel Historical Society for her Hebrew edition of G. Postel's annotated Latin translation of the Zohar.

The new research group that was chosen by the Center's Academic Committee for the next round, 2019–2022, is *Setting Tables: Eating, Social Boundaries, and Intercultural Transfers*. It was submitted by three senior scholars at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and one member at the Open University of Israel: Dr. **Yair Furstenberg** (Dept. of Talmud and Halakha, HUJI), Dr. **Dana Kaplan** (Dept. of Sociology, Political Science and Communication, The Open University of Israel), Prof. **Nathan Wasserman** (Institute of Archeology, HUJI), and Prof. **Zeev Weiss** (Institute of Archeology, HUJI). Doctoral students will be added via a call for applicants early in 2019.

Members of Mandel Scholion Center 2017–2018

Staff

Prof. Daniel R. Schwartz | Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Academic Head of the Center

Keren Sagi | Executive Director

Liron Hershkovitz | **Ayelet Rund** | Senior Secretary

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Or Hasson, Early Modern Spanish Literature

Dr. Daniel Lav, Islamic Theology and Political Theology

Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, Modern Hebrew Literature

Dr. Rachel Wamsley, Early Modern Yiddish Literature

Dr. Judith Weiss, Medieval Jewish and Christian Kabbala

Dr. Yosi Yisraeli, Jewish and Christian Intellectual History in the late Middle Ages

Liturgy and Arts Research Group (2015–2018)

Dr. Yossi Maurey, Dept. of Musicology, HUJI

Prof. Galit Noga-Banai, Dept. of Art History, HUJI

Prof. Iris Shagrir, Open University of Israel,
Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Prof. Sarit Shalev-Eyni, Dept. of Art History, HUJI

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Netta Amir, Formation of the Way of the Cross in Late-Medieval Jerusalem

Uri Jacob, Representations of the Crusades in Medieval Music

Avia Shemesh, Musical Depictions in Romanesque Sculpture on Spanish Pilgrimage Routes

Noam Yadin-Evron, Wealth and Poverty in Late-Antique Christian Art

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Uziah Kaplan, Dept. of Art History

Materials for Change Research Group (2016–2019)

Prof. Nir Avieli, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology,
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Prof. Leore Grosman, Inst. of Archaeology, HUJI

Prof. Gideon Shelach, Dept. of Asian Studies, HUJI

Prof. Rina Talgam, Dept. of Art History, HUJI

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Idit Ben Or, History of Money in Early Modern England

Naomi Simhony, Synagogue Architecture in the State of Israel

Tal Ulus, Immigration, Barriers, and Walls: An
Environmental Perspective in Recent Decades

Elad Yaron, Dafen's Commercial Paintings Travel around
the World

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Timna Raz, Dept. of Archeology

Historical Linguistics and Formal Semantics Research Group (2017–2020)

Prof. Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal, Dept. of Hebrew Language
and the Language, Logic and Cognition Center

Dr. Nora Boneh, Dept. of Linguistics and the Language,
Logic and Cognition Center

Dr. Eitan Grossman, Dept. of Linguistics and the
Language, Logic and Cognition Center

Dr. Aynat Rubinstein, Dept. of Hebrew Language, Dept. of
Linguistics and the Language, Logic and Cognition Center

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Yael Gaulan, Lexical Semantic Analysis of Psychological
Predicates in Modern Hebrew

Kevin Grasso, Applying Modern Semantic Theory to
Biblical Hebrew

Shira Tal, Questions of Typology and Diachronic
Linguistics Using Empirical Methods

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Omri Mayraz, Dept. of Linguistics



Mandel Scholion

Interdisciplinary Research Center in
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