

# A Question of Identity: Formation, Transition, Negotiation

International Conference - Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Center  
2-5 January, 2017, Jerusalem, Mandel Building, Mount Scopus, Jerusalem

## Monday, January 2

Mandel Building, Barbara Mandel Auditorium

### Opening Session

- 18:30 - 19:00 Gathering and Reception  
19:00 - 19:30 Opening Remarks: **Noah Hacham** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Greetings: **Daniel R. Schwartz**, Academic Head, Mandel Scholion Center  
Musical Interlude  
19:30 - 20:30 Chair: **Noah Hacham** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Keynote Lecture: **Gregory E. Sterling** (Yale University)  
*Monotheism as an Identity Dimension: Philo of Alexandria on Community Identity*

## Tuesday, January 3

Mandel Building, Room 530

### 9:00 - 11:00 **Material Culture and Group Identity in the Land of Israel during the Hellenistic Period**

Chair: **Joseph Patrich** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Oren Tal** (Tel Aviv University)

*Cult and Identity in Hellenistic-Period Palestine*

**Adi Erlich** (University of Haifa)

*Between Koine and Local Traditions: Identity in Idumea in the 4th-2nd Centuries BCE*

**Andrea Berlin** (Boston University)

*Tyrians and Hasmonians in Galilee: The Pull of Territory and the Authority of Narrative*

**Uzi Leibner** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Material Culture and Ethnic Identity in Hellenistic-Period Galilee*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

### 11:30 - 13:00 **Urbanism and Identities**

Chair: **Ze'ev Weiss** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Benjamin Arubas** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Hellenization or Romanization of the Urban Space of the Decapolis?*

**Moshe Fischer** (Tel Aviv University)

*Ethno-Religious Changes in the South-Eastern Mediterranean Coast in Transition: the Material Evidence from Yavneh-Yam*

**Thomas M. Weber-Karyotakis** (German Jordanian University)

*Ptolemaic Gadara - the Home of Menippus: New Evidence for the Location of the Ptolemaic Fortress*

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch Break

### 14:30 - 16:30 **The Letter of Aristeas and Jewish Identity in Ptolemaic Egypt**

Chair: **Gregory E. Sterling** (Yale University)

**Meron Piotrkowski** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Priests in Exile: On the Identity of the Oniad Jewish Community of Heliopolis*

**Sylvie Honigman** (Tel Aviv University)

*Beyond the Homeric Paradigm: Greek Literary Genres and Identity in the Letter of Aristeas*

**Sarah J. Pearce** (University of Southampton)

*Monarchs and Jews: The Portrait of Ptolemy Philadelphus in the Letter of Aristeas and Comparative Sources*

**Noah Hacham and Lilach Sagiv** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Social Identity in the Letter of Aristeas*

## Wednesday, January 4

Mandel Building, Room 530

### 9:00 - 11:00 **Redefinitions of Christian Identity in the Early Modern Period**

Chair: **Israel Yuval** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Benjamin Kaplan** (University College London)

*The Context of Conversions in Early Modern Europe: Personal Agency and Choice in the Construction of Religious Identities*

**Magdalena Luszczynska** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*So What is Really in a Name? Theology of Etymology in Sixteenth-Century Arian Thought*

**Moshe Sluhovsky** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Loyola's Spiritual Exercises and the Constitution of Catholic Post-Tridentine Subjectivity*

**Miriam Eliav-Feldon** (Tel Aviv University)

*Forced Conversions and the Return to the Fold*

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break

### 11:30 - 13:30 **Identity Dynamics among the Jews of Babylonia**

Chair: **Isaiah Gafni** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Shalem College)

**Daniel Boyarin** (University of California, Berkeley)

*Apocalypse and the Identity of the Bavli*

**Geoffrey Herman** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Jewish Identity in Babylonia in the Period of the Incantation Bowls*

**Yakir Paz** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*"Elam is Dying": Constructing Jewish Identity between Babylonia and Huzistan*

**Reuven Kiperwasser** (Free University, Berlin)

*Going West: Migrating Babylonians and the Question of Identity*

13:30 - 15:00 Lunch Break

### 15:00 - 16:30 **Between Segregation and Assimilation - Jews and Other Ethnic Minority Groups in the Persian Achaemenid Empire (Part One)**

Chair: **Geoffrey Herman** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Laurie Pearce** (University of California, Berkeley)

*How Many Miles to Babylon? How Close Are We to Understanding Judean Identity in Babylonia?*

**Yigal Bloch** (University of Haifa)

*Judean Identity in the Babylonian Exile: Concluding Deals on a Sabbath in the Chaldean and the Achaemenid Empires*

**Shai Gordin** (Ariel University)

*Integration of Foreigners and Urban Social Dynamics in Achaemenid Period Babylonia*

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break

### 17:00 - 18:00 **Between Segregation and Assimilation - Jews and Other Ethnic Minority Groups in the Persian Achaemenid Empire (Part Two)**

Chair: **Laurie Pearce** (University of California, Berkeley)

**Peter Zilberg** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*In His Majesty's Service: Foreigners in the Achaemenid Administration at Persepolis*

**Ran Zadok** (Tel Aviv University)

*Issues in the Geographical History and Ethno-Linguistic Character of the Zagros and Adjacent Regions*

## Thursday, January 5

Mandel Building, Room 530

### 9:00 - 10:30 **Local Jewish Identities in the Ottoman Space**

Chair: **Eli Lederhendler** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Gershon Shafir** (University of California, San Diego)

*It's All Hebrew to Me: The Propagation of the Hebrew Language in Late Ottoman Palestine*

**Eyal Ginio** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Military Service, Citizenship and Identity in the Late Ottoman Empire: The Jewish Perspective*

**Abigail Jacobson** (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

*Practices of Loyalty to the Empire: The Ottomanization Movement in Late Ottoman Palestine as a Case Study*

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00 - 13:00 **Zionism and Local Identities in Mandatory Palestine**

Chair: **Dimitry Shumsky** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Hillel Cohen** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Sephardi-Arab Joint Resistance to European-Zionism: A Few Marginal Cases, 1908-1948*

**Dikla Rivlin-Katz** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*"Palestinian Airways" and the Struggle for a Middle Eastern Israeli / Palestinian Space*

**Malka Katz** (David Yellin College of Education)

*Religiosity, Ethnicity and Nationalism: The Confluence between Sephardim and Oriental Jews and the Religious National Movements in Pre-State Days*

**Israel Bartal** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Ottomans? Arabs? Jews? Sephardim? Early Jewish Nationalism in Pre-1917 Palestine*

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch Break

### 15:00 - 16:00 **Concluding Session**

Chair: **Daniel R. Schwartz**, Academic Head, Mandel Scholion Center

**Lilach Sagiv** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Identity in a Multi-Cultural World: Insights from Social Psychology*

**Concluding Remarks**



Shalamaya Image - From the Cindy and David Sofer Collection, London | Mosaic Image - Courtesy of The Sepphoris Excavations, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Photo: Gabi Laron | מונות הפסיפס באריות משלחת חפירת ציפורי, האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים. צילום: גבי לרון