**SJAS - 19th International Conference**

**July 1-4, 2019**

**Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp**

**City campus, building C, room C.103 - Prinsstraat 13 - 2000 Antwerp**

**MONDAY 1 JULY**

11:00 Registration for the Conference

11:30 **Legal Thought**

Panel Chair: Renée Levine Melammed (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies)

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| Punishment and Legal Violence in Islamic Law: Points of Contact with Jewish Law. | Gideon Libson,  The Hebrew University  Zefat Academic College Law School |
| *Adab al-Qāḍī* Jurisprudential Genre – Beginnings of a Comparative Case Study | Neri Y. Ariel,  The Hebrew University |
| New Geonic responsa from the Cairo Geniza | Zvi Stampfer & Amir Ashur, Orot College |

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Exegesis I**

Panel Chair: Joachim Yeshaya (KU Leuven)

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| Qirqisani's commentary on Chapter eleven of Genesis | Mariam Touma,  Hebrew University |
| Abraham Ibn Ezra’s application of the Judeo-Arabic notion of the *mudawwin* in his Bible commentary | Mordechai Z. Cohen, Yeshiva University, NY |

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Judah Halevi’s Thought**

Panel Chair: Joachim Leilich (Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp)

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| Judah ha-Levi’s Implicit Theological Message and Ibn Gabirol’s Philosophicl Questioning: The Roll of the King in Kitāb al-Khazarī and that of the Student in Fons Vitae | Aviram Ravitsky,  Ariel University |
| Galut and Ghurba – Existential and Historical Exile in Thought of Baḥya ibn Paqūda and Judah Halevi | Ehud Krinis,  University of Michigan |
| Individual and Community in Rabbi Judah Halevi’s Reasons for the Commandments | Daniel J. Lasker,  Ben Gurion University |

17:45 **Opening Session**

Words of welcome:

* Prof. Luc Duerloo, Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Antwerp
* Prof. Vivian Liska, Director, Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp
* Prof. Aharon Maman, President, SJAS

18:15 **Special session in honor of Joshua Blau**

Panel Chair: Phillip I. Ackerman-Lieberman (Vanderbilt University)

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| Words in honor of Joshua Blau’s 100th birthday | Haggai Ben-Shammai,  Hebrew University |
| Stabilizing and destabilizing factors in the leadership of the Maimonidean dynasty (1140-1410). | Menahem Ben-Sasson, Keynote Speaker |

19:30 Opening dinner

**TUESDAY 2 JULY**

8:45 **History and Society I**

Panel Chair: Brendan Goldman (Princeton University)

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| Women`s wills from the Geniza | Miriam Frenkel,  Hebrew University |
| Profession looking for identity in the Cairo Geniza documents | Molad-Vaza Ora, Hebrew University |
| Firkowicz and Imam Shamil at the Caucasus | Daria Vasyutinski Shapira,  Ben Gurion University |

10:15 Coffee break

10:30 **Interreligious Relations and Polemics I**

Panel Chair: Stijn Latré (University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp, UCSIA)

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| Abraham Maimonides in Praise of Islam – A New Source | Mordechai A. Friedman,  Tel Aviv University |
| The thin line between a believer and a sinner– ancient Muatazila trails in Yefets ben Eli’s writing. | Meirav Nadler-Akirav,  Bar-Ilan University |
| On Early Jewish-Christian Polemic in Arabic and the Origins of Toledot Yeshu | Miriam Goldstein,  Hebrew University |
| Arabic Poetry in the Cairo Genizah | Mohamed Ahmed,  Genizah Research Unit,  Cambridge Univ. Library |

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Philosophy and Theology**

Panel Chair: Dennis Baert (Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp)

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| Philosophical Themes in Yeshuʿah ben Yehudah’s *Long Commentary on the Ten Commandments* | Gregor Schwarb,  SOAS University of London |
| The early reception of Averroes’ commentaries in Hebrew: the case of the Midrash ha-Ḥokhmah | Resianne Fontaine,  University of Amsterdam |
| Islamic Motives in Narboni's Commentary on "Hayy Ibn Yakdhan" | Yair Shiffman,  Hebrew University & David Yellin College |

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 **Interreligious Relations and Polemics II**

Panel Chair: Stijn Latré (University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp, UCSIA)

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| David's Character in Yefet b. 'Eli's Commentary on Psalms: Jewish – Christian Polemics | Arye Zoref,  Tel Aviv University |
| Athens or Jerusalem? Maimonides' Approach to Criminal Law in the Guide III:41" | Phillip I. Ackerman-Lieberman,  Vanderbilt University |
| A Newly discovered Jewish-Muslim Work and the Question of Muslim-Marranos in Morocco | Paul Fenton, Sorbonne University |

17:30 **Special session in honor of Haggai Ben-Shammai**

Panel Chair: Miriam Frenkel (Hebrew University)

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| Words in honor of Haggai Ben-Shammai's 80th birthday | Miriam Goldstein,  Hebrew University |
| Jewish Philosophical Schools in the Medieval  Islamicate World | Sarah Stroumsa,  Keynote Speaker |

18:45 Dinner

19:45 Executive committee meeting

**WEDNESDAY 3 JULY**

09:00 **Maimonides and his family I**

Panel Chair: Gideon Libson (The Hebrew University, Zefat Academic College Law School)

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| The impact of Avicenna's concept of prophecy on Maimonides' perception of Intellectual prophecy | Amira Eran,  Levinsky College of Education, Tel Aviv |
| David ben Joshua Maimuni’s Commentary on the Prayers: Between Pietism and Rationalism | Arnold E. Franklin, Queens College, City University of New York |

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 **History and Society II**

Panel Chair: Yoram Erder (Tel Aviv University)

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| Hasdai ibn Shaprut, Ibn Hawqal, Rabī‘ ibn Zaid, and Others | Dan Shapira,  Bar-Ilan University |
| Jews in Seljuq Iraq? Evidence from the Cairo Geniza | Jennifer Grayson,  Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati |
| State Discipline in the Medieval Near East: The View from Egypt’s Incarcerated Jews | Brendan Goldman, Princeton University |

12:00 Lunch

13:00 Outing: **guided visit to the Jewish neighborhood of Antwerp**

16:00 **Karaites I**

**Session dedicated to Ilana Sasson of blessed memory**

Panel Chair: Dan Shapira (Bar-Ilan University)

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| Qirqsānī’s Defence of Rational Reasoning: A New Source From the Treasures of St. Petersburg | Haggai Ben-Shammai,  Hebrew University |
| The Art of Ambiguity as Purposeful Strategy: The Karaites and Rabbanites as portrayed in Judah Halevi’s Kitāb al-Khazarī (The Book of Kuzari) | Marzena Zawanowska,  University of Warsaw & Jewish Historical Institute |
| The Karaites on Commandments that Begin with Human Initiative in Light of their Discussion of the Sinew of the Hip (Genesis 32:33) | Yoram Erder,  Tel Aviv University |
| Gender Issues in Early Karaism: The Case of David's Wives in Yefet's Commentary on Samuel | Meira Polliack  Tel Aviv University |

18:00 Coffee break

18:30 **Maimonides and his family II**

**Session dedicated to Joel L. Kraemer of blessed memory**

Panel Chair: Mordechai A. Friedman (Tel Aviv University)

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| Maimonides’s Circumvention of Qaraite Scriptural Interpretation | Marc Herman,  University of Michigan, USA |
| The Letters Sent by Women in the Cairo Genizah Project | Renée Levine Melammed, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies |
| Sufi Features in Jacob's Visions in Abraham Maimuni's Commentary on Genesis | Nahem Ilan,  Hemdat Hadarom College for Education, Netivot |

20:00 Dinner

20:45 **Business session**

**THURSDAY 4 JULY**

08:30 **Linguistics and Literature**

Panel Chair: Ofra Tirosh-Becker (Hebrew University)

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| The Judeo-Arabic Glossary to Joseph ben Tanḥum Yerushalmi’s Hebrew Homonymic Poems | Joachim Yeshaya, KU Leuven & Uri Melammed,  Academy of Hebrew Language & Hebrew University |
| Rabbi Jonah Ibn Janāḥ as Textual Critic | Elnatan Chen,  Hebrew University |

9:30 Coffee break

10:00 **Education and methodology**

Panel Chair: Felicia Waldman (University of Bucharest)

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| Rabbi Tanḥum ha-Yerushalmi as a Pedagogical Figure | Avi Tal,  Interdisciplinary Research Centre of the Cairo Genizah, Haifa University |
| "From Generation to Generation" – Enrolling Judeo-Arabic Texts within the Curriculum of Secondary Education in Israel, Perspectives and Prospects. | Shlomo Alon,  Achva Academic College, Academy for Arabic Language, Nazareth |
| Judaeo-Arabic Studies and the Digital Humanities | Ronny Vollandt,  Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München |

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 **Exegesis II**

Panel Chair: Tamar Zewi (Haifa University)

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| Another Arabic Translation of "שירת האזינו = Song of Moses" (Deut. 32), by Nafīs al-Dīn Abū l-Faraj Ibn al-Kathār (13th century) | Ali Watad,  Beit Berl College |
| Accents, Vocalisation, and Qere/Ketiv in Medieval Judaeo-  Arabic Bible Commentaries | Joseph Habib,  Cambidge University |
| Some Notes on a Unique Pentateuch Translation into Judeo-Arabic from the Fourteenth Century and its Printed Edition  by Thomas Erpenius | David Doron,  Bar-Ilan University |

13:30 Lunch

14:30 **Linguistic Sciences and Translations II**

Panel Chair: Ali Watad (Beit Berl College)

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| Early Genizah Fragments of Saadya Gaon’s Bible Translation Copied by Samuel b. Shechaniah b. Amram | Tamar Zewi,  Haifa University |
| An unknown Work of Abū l-Faraj Harūn | Aharon Maman,  Hebrew University |

15:30 Summary: Nahem Ilan (Hemdat Hadarom College for Education, Netivot)

16:00 Closing words (A. Maman) and Departure