

Gender and Jewish Identity



Bar-Ilan University
The Feldman International Conference Center

Wednesday-Thursday | June 2-3 | 2010



Conference Committee:

Dr. Elisheva Baumgarten, Chair

Dr. Adam Ferziger

Prof. Sylvia Barack Fishman

Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari

Aliza Sokol

Orit Kandel

For Details:

The Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the
Study of Women in Judaism

Bar-Ilan University

03-5318286

jwmn@mail.biu.ac.il

www.hellercenterforjewishwomen.org

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

13:40-15:30 Plenary 1

Gender, Writing and Modernity

Greetings: **Eliezer Tauber** (Dean of the Faculty of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University)

Chair: **Ruth Halperin-Kaddari** (Bar-Ilan University)

Natalie Naimark-Goldberg (Bar-Ilan University)

From Acculturation to Assimilation: Friederike Liman (1771-1884), a Jewish Woman in Berlin (H)

Shmuel Feiner (Bar-Ilan University)

Gender and Secularization in 18th and 19th Century European Jewry (H)

Tova Cohen (Bar-Ilan University)

Jewish Identity and Feminist Identity – Latent and Manifest Layers in Rachel Morpurgo's Poetry (H)

Aliza Lavie (Bar-Ilan University)

Fanny Neuda Lives on in the Memory of Jewish Women and the Factors that Re-Established her Prominence in the Third Millennium (H)

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Parallel Sessions 1 and 2

Religion, Education and Identity

Chair: **Kimmy Caplan** (Bar-Ilan University)

Rivka Nerya-Ben Shachar (Bar-Ilan University, Ariel University Center) and
Azi Lev On (Stanford University, Ariel University Center)

A Forum of Their Own: Views about the Internet among Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women who Browse Designated Closed Forums (H)

Sima Zalcborg (Ben-Gurion University, Ariel University Center)

'We, the Women of Toldot Aharon, are the Tip of the Spear': Hasidic Women as a Central Force in Representing the Community and Protecting its Identity (H)

Brenda Bacon (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies)

Shaping Gender Identity: The Case of Oral Torah Curricula on Marriage and Family (H)

Hagar Lahav (Sapir College)

A Feminist Reading of the Public and Academic Discourse About Religiosity and Secularism among Israeli Jews (H)

Changing Identities and Migration

Chair: **Joyce Antler** (Brandeis University)

Renée Levine Melammed (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies)

Gender and Jewish Identity in Iberian Converso Society (E)

Benjamin Baader (University of Manitoba)

Becoming Respectable German-Jewish Women and Men: Class, Jewishness, and Gender in the Mid-Nineteenth Century (E)

Sarit Cofman-Simhon (Kibbutzim College, Emunah College)
From 'Blind Dating' to 'Blind Casting': Ethiopian Israeli Theatre and the Question of Interracial Marriage (E)

Nathan Abrams (Bangor University)
Tough Jewesses Who Sweat; or the Jewess under Duress: Gender and Jewish Identity in Contemporary Cinema (E)

17:30-18:00 Coffee Break

18:00-19:30 Keynote Address and Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Award Presentation

Chair: **Elisheva Baumgarten** (Bar-Ilan University)

Greetings: **Moshe Kaveh** (President, Bar-Ilan University)

Presentation of **Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Graduate Awards for 2010 to:**
Mor Presiado (Jewish Art), **Adva Selzer** (Jewish History) and **Orit Yaal** (Gender Studies)

Orit Yaal, Award Recipient Representative

Keynote Address:

Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)
Mothers in Israel, Arise: Powerful Women in New Jewish Fiction (E)



Thursday, June 3, 2010

09:00-09:30 Reception

09:30-11:00 Plenary 2

**Modern Gendered Jewish Identities:
International Perspectives**

Chair: **Sylvia Barack Fishman** (Brandeis University)

Yael Israel-Cohen (Tel-Aviv University)
Behind the Label 'I am an Orthodox-Feminist': A Study in the Cultural Contextualization of Feminist Identity (E)

Nelly Las (The Hebrew University)
Jewish Identity through the Prism of Feminism: A Comparison between France and USA (H)

Joyce Antler (Brandeis University)
'Ready to Turn the World Upside Down': Radical Feminism and Jewish Women (E)

Martina Steer (European University Institute, Austrian Academy of Science)
Between Marginalization and Pride: The Making of Jewish Women's Studies (E)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 Parallel Sessions 3 and 4

Education, Ideology and Conflicts

Chair: **Zehavit Gross** (Bar-Ilan University)

Tali Berner (The Hebrew University)

Children, Gender and Jewish Identity in Early Modern Europe (H)

Ruti Feuchtwanger (Bar-Ilan University)

'Nothing is Perfect' – Studying Talmud and 'Doing Religious Identity' by Modern-Orthodox Women Scholars (H)

Pnina Steinberger (Orot College)

Conflict, Identity and Ideology; Young Israeli Women Handle Conflicts in their Jewish Identity (H)

Dalia Liran Alper (College of Management) and **Orly Tsarfaty** (Academic College of Emek Yizrael)

Preservation vs. Change – Manifestations of Feminist Discourse in Commercial Family Magazines in Ultra-Orthodox Society in Israel (H)

Perspectives from Rabbinic Literature

Chair: **Ronit Irshai** (Bar-Ilan University and The Hebrew University)

Sarra Lev (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

Deconstructing the Binary, or Not? The Androgynous in Rabbinic Literature (E)

Marianne Schleicher (University of Aarhus)

Relevant Aspects of Sex and Gender in the Scientific Study of Jewish Scripture (E)

Susan Zorek (Open University)

'Mothers of Israel' Why the Rabbis Adopted the Matrilineal Principle (E)

Melissa Raphael (University of Gloucestershire)

Hidden and Disclosed: Gender, God's Face and the Imaging of Jewish Religious Subjects in Modern Jewish Art (E)

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Parallel Sessions 5 and 6

Body, Identity and Community

Chair: **Charlotte Katzoff** (Bar-Ilan University)

Ohr Margalit and Keren Gordon-Harel (Shalom Hartman Institute)

Rape and Miscarriage at the Wedding of Israel by the River of Arnon: Reproduction as a National Metaphor in Tanhuma Hukat (H)

Channa Pinchassi (Bar-Ilan University, Shalom Hartman Institute)

The Identity of Knesset Israel in Midrash Eichah Rabba – Between Feminine and Masculine Characteristics (H)

Avital Davidovich-Eshed (Tel-Aviv University, Shalom Hartman Institute)

From Betula to Beula: The Transformative Power of Defloration and the Essence of Virginity in Medieval Jewish Culture (H)

Meirav Tubul-Kahana (Bar-Ilan University)

Excluding Women from the Cemetery (H)

Gender, Holocaust and Continuity

Chair: **Adam Ferziger** (Bar-Ilan University)

Mirjam Rajner (Bar-Ilan University)

Johanna Lutzer's Story: A Woman Artist's Holocaust Experience Told through her Diaries, Letters, and Art Works (E)

Yael Epstein (Bar-Ilan University)

Jewish Refugee Women from the Nazi Regime as Scientists and Businesswomen: Adjustment, Achievements, and Jewish Identity (E)

Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University)

Gender and the (Dis)Continuities of the European Jewish Enlightenment: Hannah Arendt, Lucy S. Dawidowicz, and the New York Intellectuals (E)

Rina Lapidus (Bar-Ilan University)

Jewish Women Authors of the Stalinist Era: Elizaveta Polonskaia, Evgenia Ginzburg, Margarita Aliger (E)

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 Plenary 3

Gender, Authority and Politics

Chair: **Tova Cohen** (Bar-Ilan University)

Ronit Irshai (Bar-Ilan University, The Hebrew University)

Between Honor and Equality: On the Tendency to Object to Women's Reading from the Torah (H)

Tova Ganzel (Bar-Ilan University)

Women as Part of the Halakhic Process – The Experience of the Yo'azot Halakha (H)

Ruth Halperin-Kaddari and Yaacov Yadgar (Bar-Ilan University)

Religion, Politics and Gender-Equality among Jews in Israel (H)

Naftali Rothenberg (Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem)

Abolition of Men Exclusive Territories: Feminist Innovation in the Canonical Literature (H)