



# PROGRAMME OF THE CENTRE FOR HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES of the UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## SEMINAR ON JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE IN THE GRAECO-ROMAN PERIOD

**Weeks 2-6, Week 8, Tuesdays from 2 to 3.30 pm**

**Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre \*\*unless otherwise stated**

**Clarendon Institute, Walton Street Oxford, OX1 2HG**

All lectures will be presented in a hybrid format which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre (followed by coffee, tea and biscuits in the Common Room, situated in the basement of the Clarendon Institute).

**Convenor:** Meron Piotrkowski

### **Week 1, Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Rotem Avneri (Yale University)

“Judean Diaspora and Territory in the Late Hellenistic Galilee”

**\*\*Please note that the speaker will deliver the lecture remotely via Zoom\*\***

To register and join online please click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-ibmlC7pRrGqPLvyt3l4Ew>

### **Week 2, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Shoni Lavie-Driver (University of Oxford)

“The Jews of Caesarea Maritima: A Greek-Speaking Community in Roman Palaestina?”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Mmv\\_d\\_yARBa4ixFqkG-yFA](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/Mmv_d_yARBa4ixFqkG-yFA)

### **Week 3, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February SPECIAL SESSION (SEE INFORMATION BELOW)**

Meron Piotrkowski (Wolfson), Adi Wiener (Tel Aviv University), and Liam McNamara (Ashmolean)

“The Trilingual Silver Exorcism Amulet against Evil Spirits and Fever from Tell el-Amarna”

Special Handling Session at the Ashmolean Museum. We will gather at 2:00 pm in the Museum Foyer. As capacity is limited to 15 participants, we kindly invite those interested to register by contacting Prof. M. Piotrkowski at [meron.piotrkowski@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:meron.piotrkowski@ames.ox.ac.uk). Places will be offered subject to availability, so early expressions of interest are welcome.

### **Week 4, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Marcello Fidanzio (University of Lugano/Università della Svizzera Italiana)

“Highlights from the Caves of Qumran”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0Za2PrPRS\\_WmZZ0a6JadNg](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0Za2PrPRS_WmZZ0a6JadNg)

### **Week 5, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**

Eshbal Ratzon (Tel Aviv University)

“The Dead Sea Scrolls and Their Decipherment”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KDpfVPPXTiOy907JCtRoGQ>

**Week 6, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

Harald Samuel (Universität Tübingen)

“Imperial Perspectives on Local Priesthood”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/L2-1tRx0RHymVmt7BwdWBw>

**Week 7, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

Emily Howe (University College London)

“Negotiated Imperialism: Judaean and Alexandrian Responses to the Imperial System”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ymH7HcVIQf-ZRVYE9D-sNw>

**Week 8, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

Ronny Vollandt (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

“The Maccabees in Arabic”

In order to participate in this lecture via Zoom, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/89E0RUOAQGO24f4lTtidQw>



**READING GROUP:**

**JEWISH MAGICAL TEXTS FROM ANTIQUITY AND THE CAIRO  
GENIZA**

**Thursdays, Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 from 2 to 3 pm**

**Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre**

**Clarendon Institute, Walton Street Oxford, OX1 2HG**

**Convenors:** Meron Piotrkowski and Adi Wiener

This reading group offers an encounter with key types of Jewish magical texts preserved on papyri, metal, clay, parchment, and paper, from Antiquity through medieval Cairo. Together, we will read and analyze these texts, identifying their distinctive features – biblical references, adjurations, magical formulae, angelic and demonic names, magical words and signs, and more. We will also consider the aims these texts were meant to serve, draw comparisons with parallel traditions, and discuss the significance of their similarities and differences. **We will present new materials that were not presented in the Michaelmas term.**

All are welcome – no prior language knowledge required.

If you have any queries, please contact Professor Piotrkowski at  
[meron.piotrkowski@ames.ox.ac.uk](mailto:meron.piotrkowski@ames.ox.ac.uk)

- 1) **Week 2, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January**  
Magical Papyri
- 2) **Week 4, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Metal Amulets
- 3) **Week 6, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February**  
Babylonian Incantation Bowls
- 4) **Week 8, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
Magical Recipes from the Cairo Geniza



