



The Center for the Study of Conversion & Inter-Religious Encounters  
6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference

# RELIGIOUS CONVERSIONS THEN & NOW

28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>  
MAY 2018

Barkan Hall, Zlotowski Student Administration  
Building (70), BGU Marcus Family Campus, Beer-Sheva

## Monday, May 28th, 2018

### 9:45 RECEPTION

### 10:15 - 10:30 Opening Remarks

**Harvey Hames**, CSOC Director, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, General History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 10:30 - 12:30 Session 1- Conversion & Construction of Identity

Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker**, CSOC, Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

A Matter of Conversion: Reform Jewish Conversion in Israel as a Process of Identity and Belonging Construction  
**Einat Libel-Hass**, Multi-Disciplinary Department, Ashkelon Academic College

Contemporary Journeys of Conversion from Indonesia to Israel  
**Mirjam Lücking**, CSOC, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Conversion of Joseph Wolff – Missionary, Imperialist, Englishman  
**Hilda Nissimi**, General History, Bar-Ilan University

Respondent: **Carla Ramos García**, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University

### 12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

### 13:30 - 15:30 Session 2- Gender and Identities

Chair: **Yaniv Fox**, CSOC, General History, Bar-Ilan University

Jewish Female Apostasy in Kraków: "Religious Kidnapping" or Voluntary Conversion?  
**Rachel Manekin**, The Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, University of Maryland

Does the Soul Have a Sex? Gender, Missions of the London Society, and Conversion of the Jews  
**Agnieszka Jagodzińska**, Jewish Studies, University of Wrocław

Conversion in Contemporary America  
**Nadia Beider**, Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Respondent: **Noa Sophie Kohler**, The Jacques Loeb Centre for the History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 15:30 - 16:00 COFFEE BREAK

### 16:00 - 18:00 Session 3- Attitudes towards Religions & Converts

Chair: **Maria Laura Giordano**, Universitat Abat Oliba CEU, Barcelona

Confronting Cyprian: Sacramental Rigorism and the Problem of Converts in the Early Severan-Jacobite Church  
**Simon Ford**, History, University of Oxford

From *Rerum Novarum* to the Theology of Liberation: A Long Journey to the Establishment of Integral Christian Humanism in the Modern World  
**Eitan Ginzberg**, The Sverdlin Institute for Latin American History and Culture, Tel Aviv University

"I was born Jewish, I won't die Jewish": Judaism and Islam in the Person of an Italian Jew Converting to Christianity under Napoleon's Domination in the Nineteenth Century  
**Federico Dal Bo**, ERC-Project "The Latin Talmud", Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

Respondent: **Gideon Elazar**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 18:30 DINNER



## Tuesday, May 29th, 2018

### 9:30 - 11:00 Session 4- Imagining Converts and Conversion

Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom**, CSOC, History of the Jewish People, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Attempted Conversions to My Kind of New Mankind: Restaging the Conversations of Alexander the Great with the Indian Sages in Medieval Literature  
**Peter Sh. Lehnardt**, Hebrew Literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Conversions Between and Within Religions: A Case from Elizabethan England  
**Raphael Magarik**, Center for Jewish Studies, University of California, Berkeley  
Respondent: **Alexander van der Haven**, CSOC, The Open University of Israel

### 11:00 - 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

### 11:30 - 13:30 Session 5- Historiography

Chair: **Ora Limor**, CSOC, History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, The Open University of Israel

The Missing Link. The Latin Homoian Church in the Danubian Provinces and Its Role in the Conversion of the Goths  
**Marta Szada**, History, University of Warsaw

Islamization as a Political Act: The 717-720 Delegation to Ifriqiya (Tunisia)  
**Yaacov Lev**, Near Eastern Studies, Bar-Ilan University

From Moses Aaron to Johann Christian Jacob: Reevaluating the Conversion of Johan Kemper of Uppsala (1670–1716)  
**Niels P. Eggerz**, Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Respondent: **Dennis Halfit**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 13:30 - 14:30 LUNCH

### 14:30 - 16:30 Session 6- Dynamic, Institution and Law

Chair: **Ronit Ricci**, CSOC, Asian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

A Jewish Boy in a Muslim Household. A Fatwā by al-Nawawī (d. 676/1277)  
**Camilla Adang**, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Tel Aviv University

Conversion and Self-Transformation in Early Christian Monasticism: An Interdisciplinary Perspective  
**Inbar Graiver**, Faculty of Theology, Humboldt Universität, Berlin

Coping with Conversion: The London House of Converts Revisited  
**Franziska Klein**, Historisches Institut, University of Duisburg-Essen

"[I]f Jews are made English, the English are Jewe." Jewish Conversions in English Law from the Eighteenth to the Twenty-First Century  
**Sarah Mandel**, School of History, Tel Aviv University

### 16:30 - 17:00 COFFEE BREAK

### 17:00 - 19:00 Session 7- Contemporary Panel: The Forum for Regional Thinking

Chair: **Nimrod Hurvitz**, CSOC, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and The Forum for Regional Thinking

"A Believing Slave is Better than a Polytheist": Reactions to Forced Conversions of Kidnapped Yezidi Women  
**Idan Barir**, The Forum for Regional Thinking and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

From Monologue to Dialogue: Wahhabi Da'wa and Reassessment of "the Other" after 9/11  
**Muhammad Al-Atawneh**, Middle Eastern Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and The Forum for Regional Thinking

The New Jews of Latin America  
**Renan Yezersky**, Politics and Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Respondent: **Ori Goldberg**, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, The Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya and The Forum for Regional Thinking

### 19:30 DINNER

## Wednesday, May 30th, 2018

### Excursion (Jerusalem)

## Thursday, May 31st, 2018

### 09:30 - 11:30 Session 8- Conversion and Politics

Chair: **Nadia Zeldes**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Tales of Fake Conversion: Constantine's Conversion between Polemics and Political Ethics  
**Jonathan Stutz**, Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät, LMU München

Religious Conversion as Political Protest: Aymara Indians, Catholic Authority and the Seventh Day Adventist Church  
**Yael Mabat**, Sverdlin Institute of Latin American History and Culture, Tel Aviv University

Second Baptism of Christian Emirs: Conversion as Assurance of Political Loyalty on the Byzantine-Seljuk Confrontation of the Twelfth Century  
**Roman Shliakhin**, Center for Byzantine and Late Antique Studies, Koç University, Istanbul

Respondent: **Leonardo Cohen**, CSOC, Middle Eastern studies, Africa Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 11:30 - 12:00 COFFEE BREAK

### 12:00 - 14:00 Session 9- Conversion in Contexts

Chair: **Uriel Simonsohn**, CSOC, Middle Eastern History, University of Haifa

Architecture of Conversion: Conversion of Architecture in the Wake of the Reconquista  
**Doron Bauer**, Medieval and Islamic Art History, Florida State University

Economic security, status negotiation and political opportunity as correlates in explaining the politics of conversion to Islam in the Northern Region and Northern Igboland of Nigeria  
**Ihediwa Nkemjika Chimee**, History & International Studies, University of Nigeria

Conversion as Return: The Jewish Community of Mizoram, India and the Politics of Religious Freedom  
**Laura Dudley Jenkins**, Political Science, University of Cincinnati

Respondent: **Ayelet Harel-Shalev**, CSOC, Conflict Management and Resolution Program, Politics and Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

### 14:00 - 15:00 LUNCH

### 15:00 - 17:00 Session 10- Family and Community

Chair: **Keren Abbou Hershkovits**, CSOC, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Conversion and Marriage in the Canon Law of the Catholic Church  
**Rossella Bottoni**, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan

Rabbanit Chana and her Filipino Orthodox Jewish Convert Community in South Tel-Aviv  
**Gabriella Licsko**, Social Work, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Contemporary Transnational Marriages and Cultural Conversion  
**Olga Kirschbaum**, CSOC, Bar-Ilan University

Conversion or Multiple Religious Identity – Sarmad Said as a Precursor for Today  
**Alon Goshen-Gottstein**, The Elijah Interfaith Institute, Jerusalem

### 17:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Claude B. Stuczynski**, CSOC, General History, Bar-Ilan University



Supported by the I-CORE Program of the Planning and Budgeting Committee and The Israel Science Foundation (grant No. 12/1754)