



Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School
for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

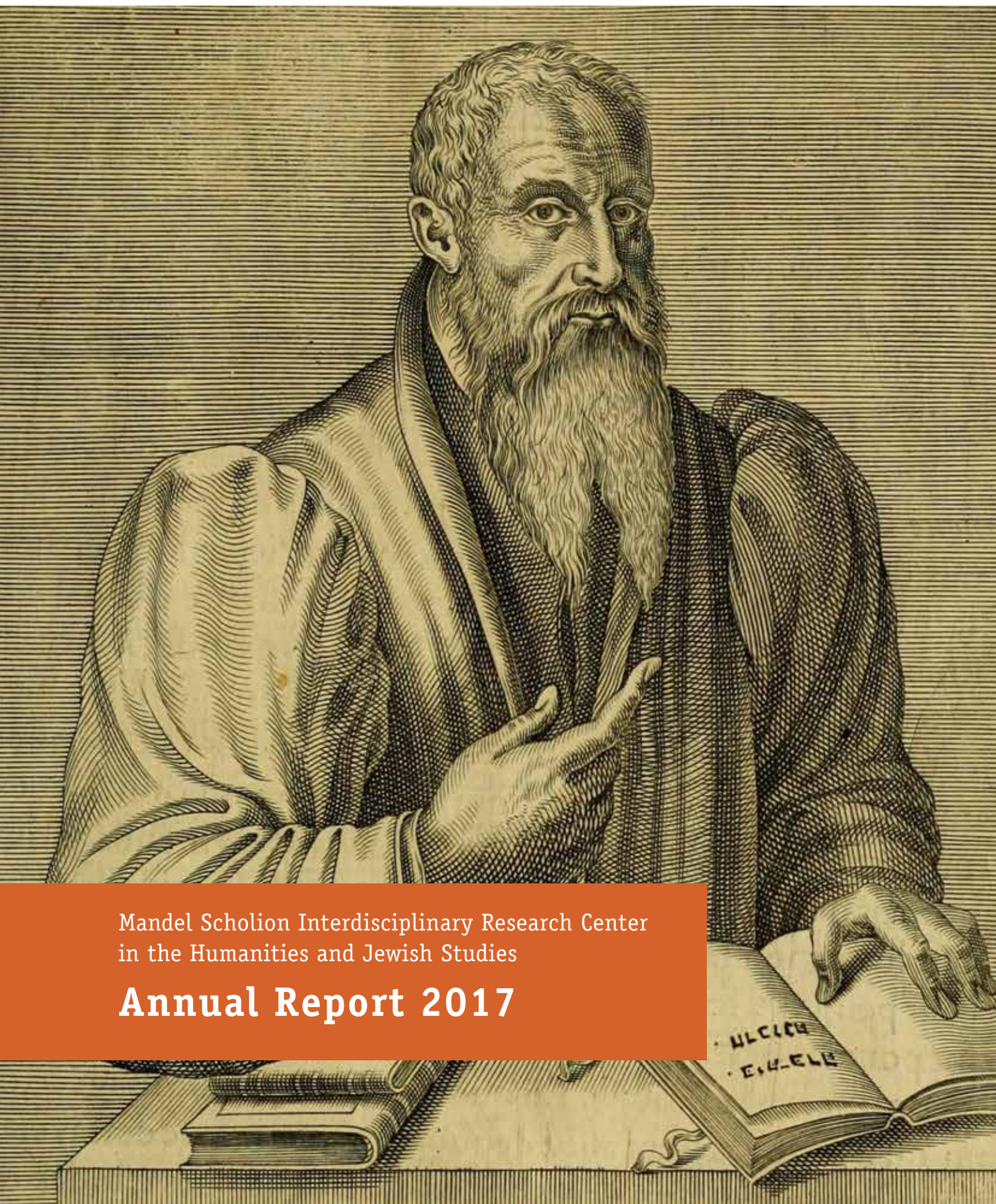


Mandel Scholion
Interdisciplinary Research Center
in the Humanities and Jewish Studies



הפקולטה למדעי הרוח
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center
in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

Annual Report 2017

Cover: Guillaume Postel, from Les vrais pourtraits et vies des hommes illustres grecz, latins et payens by André Thevet (1584),
Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015-2018

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Taking Stock

The preparation of this booklet, which offers a summary of Mandel Scholion Center's activities in 2016/17 and its plans for 2017/18, is an opportunity to think about the Center's purposes and goals. These divide according to the three types of scholars hosted by the Center: postdoctoral Mandel Fellows, who come as individuals; and members of the HUJI faculty and doctoral students, who come as members of research groups.

For the Mandel Fellows, the goal is very clear, success in reaching it is precisely measurable, and it is not an overstatement to say that our record has been spectacular. Namely, the goal is to provide these highly gifted scholars with the conditions and resources needed to devote themselves to their research and thus to realize their potential and to be appointed, despite all the odds in the overcrowded academic market, to "real jobs"—tenure-track positions in universities. The spectacular success: as of the end of 2016/17, of the thirty past Fellows since the creation of the Center, twenty-six hold such appointments: fourteen at HUJI, eight elsewhere in Israel, and four abroad.

This high level of success has been accompanied by another very visible phenomenon: although we take Mandel Fellows for three years each, more and more of them—seven over the past six years—have left us early, after only one or two years, to take up their appointments. We have been happy to endure the budgetary complications this engendered and to put the freed-up budgets to use to take additional Fellows. Thus, in both 2016/17 and 2017/18 we have taken three new Fellows instead of the usual two. But our "problems" are not over: of the 2017/18 Fellows we already know of two who have tenure-track appointments waiting for them in the autumn of 2018.

For doctoral students, our goals are two-fold. As with the postdocs, we strive to afford them the best possible conditions to pursue their research and complete their dissertations. But by taking the doctoral students not only as individuals, but also as members of research groups alongside senior scholars, we also aim to provide them something of an apprenticeship in academia. That is, their participation in the research groups, both in their structured seminars and other activities and in their meetings in the hallway and by the coffee machine, is meant both to enrich their research and to give them experience in how things are done in the universities: the planning and execution of research projects, publications, and conferences, and some degree of partnership in all the other issues that occupy members of any university's senior faculty.

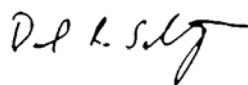
It is, in my opinion, unfortunate that HUJI (as other Israeli universities) abandoned, a few years ago, the practice of differentiating between "excellent" doctoral dissertations and others. Among other drawbacks, this denies us the ability to point to any statistics comparing the quality of those prepared by Scholion fellows and others. All I can say is that a higher percentage of Scholion fellows do finish their dissertations, and that they do so, on the average, in about a year less than their peers in our Faculty of Humanities. I can suspect, however, that doctorates produced by people who show up every morning in their nice offices here and devote the best hours of the day to their research and writing will be of higher quality than those produced (as for example mine was) in the hours left available alongside jobs and without all the support provided by a center such as Mandel Scholion.

For the senior faculty in Mandel Scholion research groups, our goals are of different types. First, our research groups encourage interdisciplinary work. "Question of Identity" has archaeologists, historians, a sociologist, and a psychologist; "Liturgy and Arts" has art historians, musicologists, and historians; and "Materials for Change" is all over the board with a sinologist, a prehistoric archaeologist, an art historian, and a modern anthropologist, not to mention the geographer, architect, and cultural historians among their doctoral students. The opportunity to share views with such variegated colleagues, to hear about their work and to collaborate on common projects with them, is quite rare at most universities, including ours, and we know that in some cases the scholars who acquire such experience in their years at Scholion learn its value and continue to pursue it after leaving our Center as well; note, for example, the December conference described on p. 12 of this booklet.

Other goals for senior scholars have to do more generally with their working habits. It is not very common for scholars of the Faculty of Humanities to spend much time on Mt. Scopus; many of them come to teach and then leave, preferring to pursue their work either at home or at the National Library on the Edmond Safra Campus on the other side of the city. This is quite understandable, but it restricts contact between scholars and both their colleagues and their students and so makes it difficult to develop a scholarly community. Scholion, with its expectation that all fellows be here at least four days a week, strives to demonstrate that it is possible, and beneficial, to do things otherwise. We cannot claim to have achieved this goal fully, especially regarding out-of-towners; despite

some improvement, this issue underlines the tension between HUJI's hope to be an Israeli university, not just a Jerusalem one, and the country's ability to provide the requisite infrastructure. Nevertheless, judging by the number of scholars who come early and spend long hours here, and especially by the number who, toward the end of their third year here, complain about the need to "leave Paradise", or threaten to change the cylinders of their locks, it seems that this goal is being reached. It remains to be seen, however, whether the Faculty will be able to provide its members with the conditions needed to allow them to pursue this type of scholarly lifestyle.

It is our hope that, on the basis of the well-established partnership between the generous funding of the Mandel Foundation and the forward-looking support of the Hebrew University, the Mandel Scholion Center will continue both to help numerous scholars pursue their work and fulfil their dreams at the highest level, and also to provide a model, for the University community, of how innovative research can best be enabled and encouraged.



Professor Daniel R. Schwartz
Academic Head of the Center



Mosaic of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, nave
wall, 6th century, Ravenna, Italy
Noam Yadin Evron, "Liturgy and Arts"
research group 2015-2018
Courtesy of Chester M. Wood

Coming up
at Mandel Scholion
2017/18

New Research Group

In October 2017 Mandel Scholion will welcome its sixteenth research group, chosen by its academic committee for the years 2017/18–2019/20:

Diachrony and Formal Semantics

The research group sets out to better our understanding of natural language by combining two areas of linguistic research that hitherto have not been integrated: historical linguistics, the study of how and why languages change over time, and formal semantics, the study of linguistic meaning. Although they derive from remote intellectual disciplines that do not naturally converge, these two branches of scholarship began to converge in the second half of the 20th century in the study of semantic change in grammaticalization—the complex process through which grammatical meanings develop from lexical meanings. Nevertheless, semantic change is still poorly understood, primarily due to the dearth of in-depth case studies from a wide range of languages, a lack of an explicit theory of semantics underlying claims about semantic change, and a poor understanding of the relationship between semantics, pragmatics, and syntax in language change. Our new group aims to create a research paradigm that will fill this gap. Its goal is twofold: first, to formulate and test hypotheses about the motivations for and constraints on semantic change; and second, to investigate the extent to which language change sheds light on the nature of synchronic semantic categories.

Cutting across numerous borders, the research group will be a forum for collaboration between semanticists, historical

linguists, typologists, theoreticians, and philologists. The languages it investigates will be both modern and ancient, from a number of distinct language families (in particular, Semitic and Egyptian will give us a historical perspective of 4500 years of documented texts). The methodologies it applies will include the toolbox of theoretical linguistics, diachronic corpora, cross-linguistic comparison, and experimental semantics and pragmatics—nascent fields that allow linguists to model, to an extent, the kinds of situations we think are implicated in language change. On the basis of such interdisciplinary foundations, our group hopes to help shape a new methodology of linguistic investigation.

Members of the group:

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES:

Dr. Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal, Dept. of Linguistics and Dept. of the Hebrew Language

Dr. Nora Boneh, Dept. of Linguistics

Dr. Eitan Grossman, Dept. of Linguistics

Dr. Aynat Rubinstein, School of Linguistics and Dept. of the Hebrew Language

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Einat Bar-Yosef, Dept. of the Hebrew Language

Yael Gaulan, Dept. of Linguistics

Kevin Grasso, Dept. of Linguistics

Shira Tal, Dept. of Cognitive Sciences

New Mandel Postdoctoral Fellows

Following the January 2017 marathon and interviews our Academic Committee selected three Mandel Fellows to begin in the autumn of 2017. Along with Drs. Lav and Yisraeli, who are presented below, the third was Dr. Allegra Fryxell. Later, however, Dr. Fryxell was awarded a Pembroke Fellowship at Cambridge, her alma mater, and decided to take that instead; we wished her success and transferred her fellowship to Dr. Giddon Ticotsky, who was the first runner-up in the preceding year's competition.



Dr. Daniel Lav,
**Department of Arabic Language
and Literature**

After undergraduate studies at the University of Chicago and an M.A. and PhD in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies here in Jerusalem, Dr. Lav was a Rothschild Fellow and Transregional Institute Fellow at Princeton University. His M.A. thesis, published as *Radical Islam and the Revival of Medieval Theology* (Cambridge, 2012), traced the modern revival of a medieval polemic on the nature of faith and its role in theo-political disputes, and his doctoral dissertation focused on Ibn Taymiyya's theological system and its modern-day application in response to legal-political secularization in the Muslim world. Dr. Lav's proposed research project for Mandel Scholion is "The One and the Many: Being and Power in Islamic Theology."



Dr. Yosi Yisraeli,
**Department of Jewish History and
Contemporary Jewry**

Dr. Yisraeli graduated from the School of Historical Studies at Tel-Aviv University, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the theological and exegetical thought of the converted bishop of Burgos, Pablo de Santa María (ca. 1352-1435), and was a graduate fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania; in 2016/17 he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters of Ben-Gurion and Bar-Ilan Universities. His research proposal for Mandel Scholion focuses on the development of new theological, exegetical, and historical knowledge among Jews and Christians in the first decades of the mass-conversions in Spain.



Dr. Giddon Ticotsky,
Department of Hebrew Literature

After a Tel-Aviv B.A. and Jerusalem M.A., Dr. Ticotsky returned to Tel-Aviv University and completed there his doctoral dissertation on the oeuvre of the Israeli poet, Dahlia Ravikovitch. After a visiting lectureship in Stanford's Department of Comparative Literature, he hopes to pursue, here at Mandel Scholion, his research on representations of the Far East in modern Hebrew literature and their role in its self-fashioning as a Western literature.

Final Year of the "Art and Liturgy" Research Group

Concluding International Conference

Arts, Liturgy and the Shaping of Medieval Urban Landscapes | Sunday-Wednesday, December 10-13, 2017, Mandel Building

Liturgy is intrinsically interdisciplinary and comprises musical, dramatic, theatrical, and devotional elements of great consequence to believers far and wide. It is both history and theology, aiming to reflect and propagate values that inform individuals and communities alike, playing a vital role in the construction of sacred and lay memory. As a multi-sensory experience, liturgy maintains

a dynamic relationship with the surrounding space and its visual components, including art, artifacts and architecture. The proposed conference, which will be held in cooperation with the Israel Science Foundation, will encourage a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary conversation in a comparative context, in order to contextualize liturgical practice within the production of medieval cultural memory and the symbolic traditions expressed through liturgy and the arts. The conference will also include field-trips to relevant sites in Jerusalem.



Musicians from the archivolt depicting the twenty-four Elders of the Apocalypse (detail), Pórtico de la Gloria, Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, 12th century, Spain, Avia Shemesh, "Liturgy and Arts" research group 2015-2018

Field Trip to Past and Present Sites of Worship

The spring 2018 field trip, organized by the "Liturgy and Arts" research group, will revolve around varied contexts of devotion in the geographical area spanning from Jerusalem to the Mediterranean coastline. We will visit a number of worship sites, which went through transformations, destructions, and reconstructions, from the Middle Ages and down to the present. We will discuss the different forces that took part in these transformations, which include inter-religious and intercultural interactions, while also highlighting their artistic expressions (architecture,

iconography, music etc.). Most of the first day will be spent in the area of Ramle and Lod, where we will visit a mosque, a church, and two synagogues of different Jewish congregations. We will then make our way to Ashkelon, where, on the following morning, we will visit a Muslim pilgrimage destination. We will conclude our trip at Nebi Samuel, with Jerusalem in sight.



A publication by two members of the group:

Iris Shagrir and Netta Amir, "The Persecution of the Jews in the First Crusade: Memory and Nineteenth-Century Visual Culture," *Speculum* 92/2 (April 2017): 405-428

right: A postcard bearing the image of Auguste Migette's "The Massacre of the Jews of Metz by the First Crusaders, 1095."

Courtesy of the Joseph and Margit Hoffman Judaica Postcard Collection, Folklore Research Center, HUJI

left: Statue of Godfrey of Bouillon, one of the leaders of the First Crusade (1096-1099) and first ruler of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem (1099-1100), Place Royale, Brussels

Other Conferences and Events

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**The Medieval Climate Anomaly (c. 950-1250 CE):
The Societal Consequences** | Sunday–Wednesday,
December 3–7, 2017, Mandel Building

The aim of the conference is to enhance scholarly discussion of the environmental history of Eurasia during the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA), a growing research field that in the last decade has provided a large number of research projects, ranging from Eastern China and Mongolia in the east to North Africa and Spain in the west. The accumulating data has resulted in scholarly debates on how short-term climatic events can affect the human-related environment and trigger meaningful and long-term social, economic, and political processes. The integration of clearly dated and located documentary and archaeological evidence from Chinese, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean sources provides new dimensions to the reconstruction of past climatic events and the analysis of their reasons and societal consequences.

The conference will take an interdisciplinary approach to these questions, bringing together historians, archaeologists, climatologists, and specialists in the exact sciences. It will focus on the climatic disturbances and societal upheavals that affected the “Euro-Asiatic Fragility Zone” (from northeast China to the Mediterranean basin) during the MCA, and on the fate of the literate civilizations that flourished and collapsed throughout this sensitive zone.

The conference has been initiated and organized by Prof. Gideon Shelach and Prof. Ronnie Ellenblum, following up on their work in the 2010–2013 Mandel Scholion “Archaeologies of Memory” research group. It will be held in cooperation with the Israel Science Foundation, the Israel Antiquities Authority, Yad Hanadiv, and Hebrew University’s Confucius Institute.



Christ's Entry to Jerusalem
and the Cleansing of the
Temple, Codex Purpureus
Rossanensis, mid. 6th
Century, Syria or Palestine
Noam Yadin Evron, “Liturgy
and Arts” research group
2015-2018

**Symposium for the Study of Kabbalistic Literature:
The Kabbalah in Girona** | Sunday–Monday, January 14–15,
2018, Mandel Building

The “Symposium for the Study of Kabbalistic Literature: The Kabbalah in Girona,” co-sponsored by the Dept. of Jewish Thought, will celebrate the 70th anniversary of Gershom Scholem's path-breaking book, *The Beginning of Kabbalah: 1150–1250* (in Hebrew, 1948), which gave rise to his monumental studies on the origins of the Kabbalah. The conference will focus on the literature produced by Kabbalistic writers active in the town of Girona, Catalonia, in the 13th century, with the aim of discussing the state of the art in this field, which is a central one for the study of medieval Kabbalah. Leading scholars in this field, from Israel and the USA, are among the speakers in the conference, all presenting new studies as well as new perspectives on past studies. This conference is intended to establish a series of regular biannual conferences dedicated to the study of Kabbalah, focusing each time on a specific subject or corpus of the Kabbalistic literature.

The conference has been initiated and organized by two Mandel Fellows: Dr. Avishai Bar Asher and Dr. Judith Weiss.

**Western Esotericism and the concept of God(s):
The Eighth INASWE International Conference**
May 30 2018, Mandel Building

We are pleased to announce that the INASWE (Israeli Network for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism) accepted the invitation of a current Mandel Fellow, Dr. Judith Weiss, to hold its annual conference here at Mandel Scholion. The expected participants are leading scholars

and graduate students from Israel and Europe who study various facets of western esotericism. This year's conference will focus on sociological and theological aspects of the tangled relations between western esoteric literature and the concept of “Religion” in the west. The speakers will discuss the concepts of God, deities, liturgy, belief, and praxis, as well as aspects of social and political organization in the context of western esotericism.



Portrait of Cardinal Egidio da Viterbo, Palazzo dei Priori, Viterbo
Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015–2018
Courtesy of Alessandro Marcoa

Upcoming Publications

Conference volume of our 2011-2014 research group, soon to be published by Olms-Weidmann Publishing House:

Eros, Family and Community

Edited by Yosef Kaplan, Yoav Rinon, Shimrit Peled and Ruth Fine

This collection of articles deals with the notion of Eros from a broad range of historical, literary and cultural perspectives. One of the primary aims of the collection is to comprehend both the power and the problematic aspects of Eros and its contribution to the formation of family and community.

Considering the concept of Eros textually and theoretically, the variety of topics raised reflects the different disciplines of the authors as well as their interdisciplinary approach. Special emphasis was given to the historical aspect of Eros, its temporal location and contextualization.



A decorated stone depicting the Temple in Jerusalem and its utensils, which was discovered close to the center of a first-century CE synagogue at Magdala

Prof. Rina Talgam, "Materials for Change" research group 2016-2019

Courtesy of Dina Avshalom-Gorni and Arfan Najjar, the Israel Antiquities Authority



Gaude felix Francia, an anonymous conductus for two voices, sung during the coronation of Louis IX in 1226, perhaps during a procession.

Dr. Yossi Maurey, "Liturgy and Arts" research group 2015-2018

Source of image: Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Latin 15139, f. 262



Motet Miles mire probitatis
Performed by The Rose Ensemble
Dr. Yossi Maurey, "Liturgy and Arts" research group 2015-2018

Annual Report 2016/17

Research Groups

A Question of Identity

At our weekly seminars during the first half of our third year the doctoral fellows presented their progress on their dissertations. The rest of the group's meetings were dedicated to exploring different aspects of simple and complex identities from various perspectives. During the second semester, our group went on a two-day field trip, which focused on archeological sites in the north of Israel. The trip dealt with the borders of identity in the upper Galilee. We visited Jewish and non-Jewish sites in close proximity to each other and discussed questions regarding the causes of geographical boundaries between different populations and the ways in which neighboring groups effect each other. Finally, at the Center's final monthly meeting in September, at which we took leave of Mandel Scholion, one of our senior members, Dr. Geoffrey Herman, presented some of the fruits of his research on the Persian (Sasanian) identity of Babylonian Jewry.



Khirbet el-Eika Excavations 2016, Dr. Uzi Leibner



A silver shekel of Tyre, 4th century BCE
from the el-Eika excavations. Dr. Uzi Leibner
Photo by T. Rogovski

Concluding International Conference

A Question of Identity: Formation, Transition, Negotiation | Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Center and the Israel Science Foundation, January 2–5, 2017

In January, the Question of Identity research group hosted a major international conference, *A Question of Identity: Formation, Transition, Negotiation*, in which over 30 speakers participated. It included a keynote lecture by Gregory Sterling of Yale University; a fascinating tour of the laboratories of the Israel Museum; and sessions on topics such as ethnic minorities in the Persian Empire; material culture and group identity in the Hellenistic period; identity dynamics among the Jews of Babylonia; and Zionism and local identity in Mandatory Palestine. The proceedings of this conference are being prepared for publication by the members of the group.



"Behind the Scenes" tour at the Israel Museum
Concluding Conference, January 2017

Field Trip

Acre (Acco) and Tel Shalem | March 23–24, 2017

The field trip focused on Acre (Acco), which was chosen because it is a clear example of a city with diverse and complex identities throughout its history. The first part of the trip was dedicated to a visit to the archeological site of Tel Shalem (near Bet Shean), which has been excavated by one of our group members, Benjamin Arubas; the decision to visit the site came at the last minute, in the wake of the discovery, earlier that week, of new materials that shed light on the role played by Roman legions in Israel. The rest of the tour was in Acre, where the participants were exposed to the numerous identities in the city, both past and present.



Al-Jazar mosque, old city of Acre



Prof. Hannah Cotton reading a newly discovered mosaic
inscription at the Roman military camp at Tel Shalem

Liturgy and Arts

During our second year as a group, we each studied a particular aspect of the group's joint agenda: history of art (Jewish and Christian), music, performing arts, and cultural history. Our conversation has been ongoing in weekly seminars throughout the year, in interaction with PhD students, and, not least, in informal but lively academic exchange.

Liturgy is both inherently interdisciplinary and a multi-sensory experience, and as such it maintains a dynamic relationship with the surrounding space and its visual components. This past year we concentrated on the arts and liturgy performed in Jerusalem, Georgia, Constantinople, and Malta. Apart from learning about these topics, we also participated, in June, in the Corpus Christi festival at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre here in Jerusalem. It is difficult to convey in words the enthusiasm and benefits of participating "live" in the ceremonies taking place at the sacred sites with scholars from various disciplines. Other highlights of the year included the one-day conference on Art and Liturgy we held in cooperation

with Imago, the Israeli Association for Medieval Visual Culture, and the visits of three distinguished guests in the spring: Prof. Bissera Pentcheva (Stanford University), Prof. Amy Remensnyder (Brown University), and Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze (University of Tbilisi). These experts taught us about liturgies and art in various parts of Europe, the Mediterranean, and Georgia, and their visits were also opportunities for our doctoral students to become acquainted with scholars from abroad.

Apart from the June excursion and our weekly seminars, we would underscore the importance of the daily and dynamic interaction that Mandel Scholion allows us with scholars of fields and disciplines different from our own. This has created unexpected forums to engage with colleagues, and for ideas to be tested and ripen, often resulting in genuine scholarly progress. Our offices and the entire floor enable quiet and private research, but nevertheless foster spontaneous conversations and discussions, which often enough spark the joy of creativity and scholarly productivity.



Visit to the Monastery of the Cross together with Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze (Tbilisi University), May 2017



Visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, June 2017

Materials for Change

During our first year at Mandel Scholion, we tried to examine the many aspects of "the material" in its various manifestations, as a unifying agent that mediates the economic, social, cultural, and religious in periods of massive and rapid change. Most of our meetings during the first semester were dedicated to lectures given by members of our group. However, rather than listening to completed versions of each other's research, we preferred to explore work in progress, giving us the opportunity to share questions, dilemmas, and methodological issues that arise in the course of our work. In our meetings, accordingly, we allotted serious time for discussion, rather than presentation, and addressed issues pertaining to empirical, methodological, and theoretical questions of importance to all of the members of the group.

During the second semester, we broadened our discussions on the issues and questions that concern us, by taking joint field trips, reading articles, and listening to guest lectures. We visited the "HaMiffal" (project), a unique social art project in Jerusalem, of which one of the initiators is Elad Yaron, a doctoral student in our group. We also invited a pair of guest lecturers: Prof. Tamar Elor, an anthropologist here at HUJI, who presented to us her anthropological studies focusing on three different materials (clothes, shoes, and garbage) and their role in establishing social understanding; and Dov Ganchrow, of the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, who presented the process of designing different products, including medical products, and his research on the modern reconstruction and interpretation of archaeological artifacts.



Prehistoric excavation at Nahal Ein Gev II, a 12,000 year old Natufian village. Prof. Leore Grosman,
© Grosman et al. photo - Valentin Sama Rojo



Field Trip in the Jordan Valley, January 2017



Synagogue, Military Academy in the Negev Desert, Israel 1967-1969
Naomi Simhony
Architects: Zvi Hecker and Alfred Neumann
© Zvi Hecker Architect, 1969-1970

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher, Department of Jewish Thought

**Dr. Or Hasson, Department of Romance
and Latin American Studies**

Dr. Yosefa Raz, Department of Comparative Literature

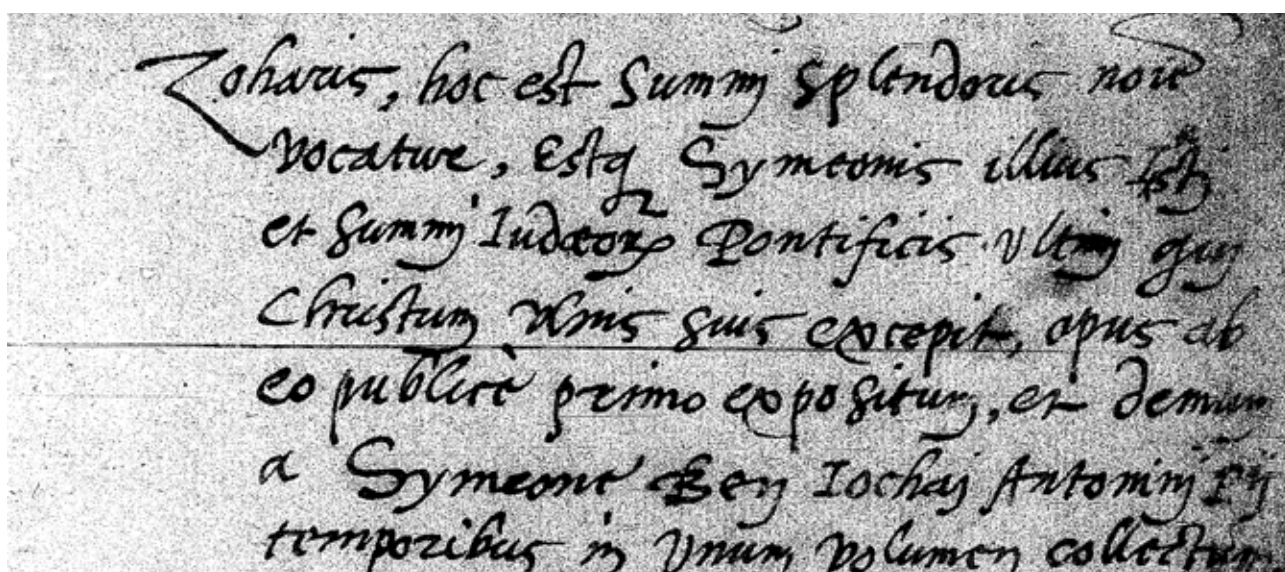
Dr. Rachel Wamsley, English Department

Dr. Judith Weiss, Department of Jewish Thought

This year we had only five Mandel Fellows rather than the usual six, because four rather than the usual two left us last year to take up tenure-track academic appointments. That left us with only two fellows, both in their second year: Dr. Raz and Dr. Weiss. After adding the two (Dr. Wamsley and Dr. Bar-Asher) chosen by the academic committee for 2016–2019, which brought us up to four, we added one more,

Dr. Hasson; that brought us up to only five for this year, but with seven projected for the fall of 2017/18. However, of the above five, it soon became clear that one, Dr. Bar-Asher, would be leaving us after only his first year in order to take up a tenure-track position at HUJI beginning in the summer of 2017, so, with the approval of the academic committee, we took, apart from the two new fellows already chosen for 2017–2020 (Dr. Yisraeli and Dr. Lav), yet another one: Dr. Giddon Ticotsky. The latter three scholars are described above, p. 9.

As of the end of the 2016/17, of the thirty former Mandel Fellows since the inception of the program, twenty-six have tenure track appointments: fourteen at the Hebrew University, eight at other Israeli universities, and four abroad.



BL Ms. Sloane 1410 (fol. 3r), Latin translation and commentary on the book of Zohar, composed by the French orientalist and mystic Guillaume Postel (1510–1581), *Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015–2018*

Good-bye from Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher



Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher,
Mandel Scholar 2016-2017

During the academic year 2016/17, I had the honor of being a postdoctoral Mandel Fellow at the Mandel Scholion Center. In the beginning of the academic year, I was also awarded an Ephraim E. Urbach postdoctoral fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. I have had an extremely fruitful time working on my research

projects, participating in academic groups, working with distinguished individuals, and presenting my research in various forums. The generous scholarship I received as a Mandel Scholar allowed me to make magnificent advances in my studies, in many different ways. Finally, I enjoyed a wonderful academic atmosphere, which in turn enabled me to dedicate my entire time to research.

Over the past year I have been working on several research projects, most notably completing a historical monograph; working on revising my dissertation which has been solicited for publication by the Mohr Siebeck publishing house; writing a monograph in collaboration with a colleague from the University of San Francisco; and writing five essays which either saw publication in the past months, or were accepted for publication.

As part of the Mandel fellowship, I taught "The Early Kabbalah in Spain" for the Department of Jewish Thought. I also moderated a reading group, "Reading in *Or Yaqar*, Moses Cordobero's Commentary on the *Zohar*", which was held every week in the Mandel Building. In March, I gave, for my department, a series of introductory lectures on Jewish mysticism. As a Mandel Scholar I was given an opportunity to present my research in a seminar. Among other presentations, I gave a lecture at the Scholion Forum entitled "A *Zivug* [Mating] of God and Mankind: Mystical Traditions on *Devekuth* and Sexual Conjunction with the Divine." Next year, together with my fellow Mandel Fellow Dr. Judith Weiss, I will be co-convening, here at the Mandel Scholion Center, a two-day conference entitled "Symposium for the Study of Kabbalistic Literature: The Kabbalah in Girona."

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mandel Scholion's administrative staff members not only for their absolute dedication to leading the Mandel Scholion Center, but also for their daily support they have given us over the year, always with a wide smile. Next year I will begin a tenure-track position in the Department of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University. Thus, finishing my fellowship at Mandel Scholion after only a year leaves me with a bittersweet feeling, but also with gratitude for having been a part of such a success story.

**A Question of Identity:
Formation, Transition,
Negotiation**

Int International Conference
M. Mandel Scholion
In Interdisciplinary Center

23 January, 2017, Jerusalem,
Mandel Building, Mount Scopus

This Year
at Scholion

Marathon 2017

Lectures of the Finalists Competing for the Mandel Postdoctoral Fellowships,
2017-2020 – Thursday, January 12, 2017, Mandel Building

Ayelet Libson

Intensifying Intention: The Inner World in Rabbinic Literature

Oded Zinger*

"Our matter obligates you, for your family and our family are one": The Social Embeddedness of the Legal Arena according to Geniza Documents

Daniel Lav

A God One Can Worship: Contesting Ontotheology in Medieval Damascus

Jonathan Brack*

Rashid al-Din, Muhammad, and the Buddha: A Polemic against Reincarnation in Mongol Iran

Yosi Yisraeli*

*What were Jesus and His Disciples Singing at the Last Supper?
The Converso Crisis and the Jewish History of the Church*

Karma Ben Johanan*

The Price of Brotherhood: The Jews in Contemporary Catholic Thought and the Fate of Theology

Allegra Fryxell

Once upon a time(s): Reality, Temporality, and Modernity

Golan Gur*

Music as Politics: Hanns Eisler and the Aesthetics of Socialist Realism

* In Hebrew



Guest Lectures

Prof. Orit Rozin, Department of Jewish History, Tel Aviv University

Being at Home: Citizenship, Civil Rights and National Identity in Israel's Early Years (in Hebrew)

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, November 23, 2016

Dr. Chen Bram, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Locality, Cosmopolitanism and Nationality: About Jewish Identities in Azerbaijan (In Hebrew)

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, December 7, 2016

Prof. Shaye J.D. Cohen, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University

Jews and Christians in Antioch as Seen by John Chrysostom

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, December 21, 2016

Prof. Gary Anderson, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame

Jewish Identity in the Book of Tobit

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, January 25, 2017

Prof. Jan Willem van Henten, University of Amsterdam/ Visiting Fellow of the Mandel School

Josephus on the Temple from a Post-70 Perspective

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, March 15, 2017



Guest Lecture by Prof. Amy Remensnyder (Brown University), June 2017
"Liturgy and Arts" research group 2015-2018

Prof. Bissera V. Pentcheva, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University

Hagia Sophia: A Space In-between Heaven and Earth

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, March 19, 2017

Dr. Karin Lagergren, Department of Music and Art, Linnaeus University

Saint Burgitta of Sweden and her Monastic Order:

A Liturgical Adventure in 14th-century Europe

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, April 23, 2017

Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze, Institute of Art History and Theory, Tbilisi State University

The Liturgical Calendar and Artistic Tradition of the

Christian East: The Sinai Hexptych

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, May 9, 2017

Dr. Hanan Birenboim, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, HUJI/ Herzog Academic College

"And Have separated you from the Peoples": Jews, Gentiles and what is in between in the Persian and Hellenistic Periods (in Hebrew)

Hosted by "A Question of Identity" research group, May 10, 2017

Mr. Dov Ganchrow, Industrial Design and MDes, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design Jerusalem

Design for Debate

Hosted by "Materials for Change" research group, May 29, 2017

Prof. Amy Remensnyder, Department of History, Brown University

Sharing Ships and Sailors' Shrines: Muslims, Christians, and Jews at Sea in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean

Hosted by "Liturgy and Arts" research group, June 7, 2017

Field Trips

Visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre during the Feast of Corpus Christi

"Liturgy and Arts" research group, June 15, 2017

Visit to the Monastery of the Cross together with Prof. Zaza Skhirtladze from Tbilisi University

"Liturgy and Arts" research group, May 11, 2017

Field Trip in the Jordan Valley

"Materials for Change" research group, January 5-6, 2017

Tour in Southern Tel-Aviv

"Materials for Change" research group, January 5-6, 2017

Ethnic Identities in the Eastern Galilee

"A Question of Identity" research group, June 29-30, 2017



Field Trip in the Jordan Valley, January 2017, "Materials for Change" research group 2016-2019



Field trip in the Upper Galilee, June 2017, "A Question of Identity" research group 2014-

International Conferences

10th Annual IMAGO Conference: The Israeli Association for Visual Culture of the Middle Ages
March 16, 2017

Prophetic Urgency: From Romantic Visions to Contemporary Apocalypses
Organized by Dr. Yosefa Raz, Mandel Fellow 2015-2017
Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
5-6 June, 2017

A View from the Center: The Future of Jewish Studies Research Centers

Roundtable discussion during the 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 7, 2017. Participants: the academic heads of centers in Toronto, Philadelphia, Amsterdam, Warsaw, and Jerusalem (Mandel Scholion and the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies).

For full programs see: <http://en.scholion.huji.ac.il>



International Conference on "Prophetic Urgency: From Romantic Visions to Contemporary Apocalypses", June

Book Launches

The Interpretive Imagination: Religion and Art in Jewish Culture and Its Contexts

Edited by **Ruth HaCohen** (Pinczower), **Galit Hasan-Rokem**, **Richard I. Cohen** and **Ilana Pardes** (the senior members of the 2008–2011 research group)

Participants: members of the group and their guests, including present and former staff of the Mandel Scholion Center.

Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, February 28, 2017

Between Jewish Posen and Scholarly Berlin: The Life and Letters of Philipp Jaffé

by **Daniel R. Schwartz**

With: Prof. Israel Yuval (Mandel School, HUJI), Prof. Benjamin Z. Kedar (Israel Academy of Sciences/ HUJI), Prof. Shulamit Volkov (Tel-Aviv University) and Prof. Daniel R. Schwartz (Mandel Scholion Center, HUJI)

Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, March 22, 2017



Handwritten letter by Philipp Jaffé, 1855,
Prof. Daniel Schwartz, Academic Head of the Center
Courtesy of the Kruskal Family, Jerusalem

Alumni Summer Program

Three of our former Mandel Fellows accepted our invitation to return to us for short-term stays during the summer, so as to allow them to pursue Jerusalem- or Israel-centered research together with colleagues here.

All three of them gave a public lecture or seminar relating to their research:

Dr. Rachel Seelig, University of Michigan
(Mandel Fellow, 2013–2015)

Stuttering in Verse: Tuvia Rübner, Self-Translation and the Legacy of "Multilingual Hebrew"

Moderation and response:

Dr. Giddon Ticotsky (Tel-Aviv University)
Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem, May 29, 2017

Prof. Shai Secunda, Bard College (Mandel Fellow, 2009–2012)

"Going about Her House": The Distancing of Menstruants in the Talmud and Its Sasanian Context

Response: **Dr. Yakir Paz** (Buber Society of Fellows)

Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
August 3, 2017

Prof. Daniel Stoeckl Ben Ezra, École pratique des hautes études, Paris (Mandel Fellow, 2003–2006)

Automatic Layout Analysis and Automatic Transcription of Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts

Chair: **Prof. Robert Brody** (HUJI)

Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
June 22, 2017

A Seminar with Prof. Daniel Stoeckl Ben Ezra and Prof. Israel Yuval (in Hebrew)

Hanukkah and Christmas: A History of Discourse and Polemic

Chair: Prof. **Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony** (HUJI)

Mandel Building, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem,
July 2, 2017



Prof. Shai Secunda

Publications

Special Issue of the *Association for Jewish Studies Journal*, based on the papers of the members of the 2009-2012 "Jews and Cities" research group

Jews and Cities: Between Utopia and Dystopia

AJS Journal, Volume 41, No. 1, April 2017

The discussion embodied in this group of essays is the outgrowth of a three-year-long symposium on Jewish and urban studies conducted at the Mandel Scholion Center. The synergy that animated our weekly discussions owed something to the fact that we came from different disciplines, with different agendas: scholars of literary criticism, adepts of social theory, historians, cultural analysts, an expert in religious philosophy, and a landscape architect with a critical interest in the culture and politics of spatial construction.

"Jews and Cities" is a perennial topic for research and discussion, and our own modest contribution is but one part of an ongoing exploration. It is, as we hope to have shown,

a platform for thoughtful engagement with broader issues.

In undertaking this investigation, we were inspired by trends that have come to maturity in cognate fields. Anthropology and ethnography, once focalized as discourses about "non-Western" and "primitive" cultures, are now vessels for studies of modern and contemporary urban life. Social historians have found in the "spatial turn" a useful complement to older analytical categories (e.g., class, race, gender). In both economics and sociology, we have seen a new wave of research on migrant diasporas and trans-nationalism, challenging some long-held distinctions separating the examination of people's lives in cities across the globe.

Congratulations to...

Idit Ben Or, "Materials for Change" research group, on receiving the Azrieli Fellowship for 2017-2020

Dr. **Geoffrey Herman**, "A Question of Identity" research group, on his new book: *Persian Martyr Acts under King Yazdgird I*

Uri Jacob, "Liturgy and Arts" research group, on receiving the Rotenstreich Scholarship for 2017-2020

Dr. **Yosefa Raz**, Mandel Postdoctoral Fellow, on her appointment as lecturer at Haifa University.

Prof. **Lilach Sagiv**, "A Question of Identity" research group, upon receiving the Rector's Prize for Excellence in Research and Teaching

Prof. **Daniel R. Schwartz**, Academic Head of the Center, on his new book: *Between Jewish Posen and Scholarly Berlin: The Life and Letters of Phillip Jaffé*

Prof. **Moshe Taube**, "Emergence of Modern Hebrew" research group 2013–2016, upon receiving the Polonsky Prize for his book, *The Logika of the Judaizers: Fifteenth-century Ruthenian translation from Hebrew—Critical Edition of the Slavic Texts, presented alongside their Hebrew sources with Introduction*

Dr. **Judith Weiss**, Mandel Postdoctoral Fellow, on her new book: *A Kabbalistic Christian Messiah in the Renaissance: Guillaume Postel and the Book of Zohar*, and her appointment to a senior lectureship at Ben-Gurion University.

The new research group that was chosen by Mandel Scholion's Academic Committee for the next round, 2018-2021: *In Someone Else's Shoes: On Empathy in History, Society, and Culture*. It was submitted by four senior scholars at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Dr. **Amos Goldberg** (Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry), Prof. **Ariel Knafo-Noam** (Dept. of Psychology), Dr. **Galit Noga-Banai** (Dept. of Art and History) and Prof. **Lilach Sagiv** (School of Business Administration)



Book Cover *Kabbalistic Christian Messiah in the Renaissance: Guillaume Postel and the Book of Zohar*
Dr. Judith Weiss, Mandel Scholar 2015-2018

Members of Mandel Scholion Center 2016-2017

Staff

Prof. Daniel R. Schwartz | Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Academic Head of the Center

Keren Sagi | Executive Director

Liron HersHKovitz | Senior Secretary

Mandel Postdoctoral Fellows

Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher, Medieval Jewish Mysticism

Dr. Or Hasson, Early Modern Spanish Literature

Dr. Yosefa Raz, Bible in English Literature

Dr. Rachel Wamsley, Early Modern Yiddish Literature

Dr. Judith Weiss, Medieval Jewish and Christian Kabbala

Research Groups

"Question of Identity" (2014–2017)

Prof. Lilach Sagiv, School of Business Administration

Dr. Noah Hacham, Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Dr. Geoffrey Herman, Dept. of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Dr. Uzi Leibner, Inst. of Archaeology

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Benjamin Arubas, Urban Development of Bet Shean from the Hellenistic through the Early Islamic Period

Magdalena Luszczynska, Jews in Christian Polemics in Sixteenth-Century Poland

Dikla Rivlin-Katz, Local Jewish Identity in Modern Palestine/Israel

Peter Zilberg, Minority Groups in the Persian Achaemenid Empire

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Hillel Silberklang, Inst. of Archeology

"Liturgy and Arts" (2015–2018)

Prof. Iris Shagrir, Open University of Israel, Dept. of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies

Prof. Sarit Shalev-Eyni, Dept. of Art History

Dr. Yossi Maurey, Dept. of Musicology

Dr. Galit Noga-Banai, Dept. of Art History

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Netta Amir, Formation of the Way of the Cross in Late-Medieval Jerusalem

Uri Jacob, Representations of the Crusades in Medieval Music

Avia Shemesh, Musical Depictions in Romanesque Sculpture on Spanish Pilgrimage Routes

Noam Yadin-Evron, Wealth and Poverty in Late-Antique Christian Art

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Uziah Kaplan, Dept. of Art History

"Materials for Change" (2016-2019)

Prof. Leore Grosman, Inst. of Archaeology

Prof. Gideon Shelach, Dept. of Asian Studies

Prof. Rina Talgam, Dept. of Art History

Dr. Nir Avieli, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology

DOCTORAL STUDENTS:

Idit Ben Or, History of Money in Early-Modern England

Naomi Simhony, Synagogue Architecture in the State of Israel

Tal Ulus, Immigration, Barrier and Walls - An environmental Perspective in Recent Decades

Elad Yaron, Dafen's Commercial Paintings' Travels around the World

RESEARCH ASSISTANT: Timna Raz, Inst. of Archeology



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Interdisciplinary Research Center
in the Humanities and Jewish Studies

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