

Jewish Women's Cultural Capital under Islam

IIAS Group Conference, 12- 14 June 2017

Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem

Sessions and Speakers



Photograph: Ester Altalef (left) and her pupils in her seamstress studio, Izmir, Turkey, 1922. Beit Hatfutsot, The Visual Documentation Center, courtesy of Rachel Altalef. Geniza text, courtesy of JTS

Monday, 12 June

9:00 – Registration (IIAS Lobby)

9:30 – Greetings

Michal Linial, Director, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies

Moshe Rosman, Research Group Leader: Jewish Women's Cultural Capital

9:45- 11:15- First Session, **Cultural Capital in Geniza Sources**

Chair: Ruth Karras

Oded Zinger, "I am a woman without connections": The Social Capital of Jewish Women in Medieval Egypt and its Absence

Renée Levine Melammed, Cultural Capital and Correspondence: Analyzing Women's Letters Found in the Cairo Geniza

Miriam Frenkel, Women's Wills from the Geniza – Reverberations of a Muted Voice

11:15- 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45- 13:15 Second Session, **Some Geniza Women: Slaves and Converts**

Chair: Renée Levine Melammed

Moshe Yagur, Manumitted Female Slaves and Their (Lack of) Cultural Capital

Craig Perry, Jewish Women and Their Slaves in the Cairo Geniza Documents

Uriel Simonsohn, Jewish Women and the Question of Kinship Ties in the Context of Conversion to Islam

13:15 LUNCH (by invitation)

14:45- 16:15 Third Session, **Medieval Gender Boundaries**

Chair: Shira Wolosky

Sharon Koren, The Redemption of Leah in the Zohar

Rebecca Winer, Breastmilk and Community: Gender Boundaries and Wet Nursing Practices among Muslims in al-Andalus and Jews, Christians and *Conversos* in Medieval Spain

Uri Melammed, A Karaite Girl Reading Torah in Twelfth Century Alexandria

16:15- 16:45 Coffee Break

16:45- 18:00 Fourth Session, **Women's Piety: Between East and West**

Chair: Moshe Rosman

Eve Krakowski and Elisheva Baumgarten: A Dialogue

Dinner + Entertainment (by invitation)

Tuesday, 13 June

09:30- 11:00 Fifth Session, **Education and Identity: Libya, Tunisia, Turkey**

Chair: Claudia Rosenzweig

Rachel Simon, Libyan Jewish Women's Lore: From Home Schooling to Formal Education

Joy A. Land, Creating Cultural Capital: The Education of Jewish Females at the Alliance Israélite Universelle (AIU) School for Girls in the City of Tunis, 1882-1914

Efrat Aviv, "It's very hard to be a Jew, but it's even harder being a Jewish woman": Jewish Women's Identity in the Community of Izmir on the Eve of the "Young Turk's Revolution," 1899-1908

11:00- 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30- 13:00 Sixth Session, **Women and the Establishment: From the Ottoman Empire to Morocco and the Yishuv**

Chair: Efrat Aviv

Ora (Rodrigue) Schwarzwald, The Status of 16th Century Jewish Women in the Ottoman Empire According to *Seder Nashim* and *Shulḥan Hapanim* in Ladino

Michal Ben-Ya'akov, Using Cultural Capital to Expand Boundaries – Moroccan Jewish Widows in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Margalit Shilo, Professional Women: Building and Molding the New Civil Society of the Yishuv during the Mandatory Period

13:00 LUNCH (by invitation)

15:00 Excursion in Jerusalem:

" Jerusalem Jewish Women under Ottoman Rule"

Wednesday, 14 June

8:30- 10:00 Seventh Session, **Representations of Women**

Chair: Paola Tartakoff

Ruth Lamdan, Jewish Women as Reflected in Eulogies and Sermons of Ottoman Sages in the 16th – 17th Centuries

Susan Nashman Fraiman, “La belle Juive et la belle arabe” —Depictions of Jewish Women in Nineteenth Century Art

Katja Šmid, Ottoman Sephardi Women in Mid-Nineteenth Century Bosnia

10:00- 10:30 Coffee Break

10:30- 12:00 Eighth Session, **Women's Words: Identity and Voice**

Chair: Oded Zinger

Anabella Esperanza, Multiple Sources of a Woman's Essay - Cultural Capital in Transition (Istanbul, 1871)

Elisa Martin Ortega, Identity and Writing: The Case of Eastern Sephardic Women

Susy Gruss, Mazaltob: A Woman's Voice

12:15-12:45 Exhibition at the National Library of Israel: "Jewish Women's Cultural Capital under Islam"

12:45 LUNCH (by invitation)

14:00- 15:30 Ninth Session, **20th Century Life Through Women's Eyes**

Chair: Eve Krakowski

Saba Soomekh, Life under the Shahs: How *Najeebness* (Virginity), Religious and Social Rituals Shaped Iranian Jewish Women's Identity

Gila Hadar, The Autobiography of Reina Cohen of Salonika

Liat Alon, Life Experiences of Women of the Jewish Bourgeoisie in Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00- 17:30 **CONCLUDING ROUND TABLE**

Chair: Elisheva Baumgarten

Ruth Karras, Frances Malino, Jonathan Sarna