



ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# Expressions of Cult in the Southern Levant in the Greco-Roman Period: Manifestations in Text and Material Culture

MAY 19–21, 2014

## Organizers

**Oren Tal** (Tel Aviv University)

**Zeev Weiss** (The Hebrew University)

(All lectures will take place at the IIAS, Feldman Building, Room 128,  
Edmond J. Safra Campus, The Hebrew University, Givat Ram)

### Monday, May 19

09:30 Reception

10:00 Greetings

**Michal Linial**, Director, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies

Keynote Talk

10:15–11:00: **Nicole Belayche**: Enlightening Cults in Contacts in the Hellenistic and Roman Southern Levant:  
At the Crossing of Texts, Images and Archaeological Data

#### **11:45–12:30 Session 1: Cult in Context**

Chair: **Zeev Weiss**

11:00–11:45: **Moshe Fischer**: Sanctuaries, Cult and Images in Perspective: An Archaeology of Change

11:45–12:30: **Michele Renee Salzman**: Aurelian and the Cult of Sol in the East and West

12:30 Lunch (by invitation)

#### **14:00–16:15 Session 2: The Public Sphere**

Chair: **Oren Tal**

14:00–14:45: **Avner Ecker**: People and Gods in the Cities of Roman Palestine and Arabia

14:45–15:30: **Andreas Bendlin**: Vespasian and the Oracular Traditions of the East: Divinatory Practice and  
Belief between Continuity and Change

15:30–16:15: **Zeev Weiss**: Cult and Culture: Amusing the Crowds under the Supervision of Gods and Caesars

Coffee Break

**16:45–19:00 Session 3: The Private Sphere**

Chair: **Gideon Avni**

16:45–17:30: **Ortal-Paz Saar**: Private Cultic Activities and Interreligious Contacts in Late Antique Palestine: The Case of Defixiones

17:30–18:15: **Renate Rosenthal-Heginbottom**: Cultic Artifacts in Domestic Contexts from Roman Dora

18:15–19:00: **Oren Tal**: Late Roman and Early Byzantine-Period Samaritan Cemeteries and Tombs in the Area of Tel Aviv: A Test-Case for Death Rituals

19:30 Reception (by invitation)

**Tuesday, May 20**

**09:00–11:15 Session 4: Architecture**

Chair: **Moshe Fischer**

09:00–09:45: **Rubina Raja**: Competing for Fame through Space: Zeus and His Competitors in the Southern Levant

09:45–10:30: **Andrew Overman**: Horvat Omrit: The Transition from Local Shrine to Imperial Cult on the Galilee-Iturean Border

10:30–11:15: **Shulamit Miller**: Markers of Pagan Cults in a Jewish City: Rethinking the *Hadrianeum* of Tiberias

Coffee Break

**11:45–13:15 Session 5: Objects**

Chair: **Haim Gitler**

11:45–12:30: **Boaz Zissu**: Votive Offerings from the Late Roman Period in the Te'omim Cave, Western Jerusalem Hills

12:30–13:15: **Gideon Bohak**: Magic in the Cemeteries of Late Antique Palestine

13:15 Lunch (by invitation)

**14:45–17:00 Session 6: Imagery**

Chair: **Gideon Foerster**

14:45–15:30: **Alix Barbet**: Handing on Funeral Painted Iconography from the Roman World to the Early Christian Age

15:30–16:15: **Rina Talgam**: Ancient Oriental Elements in the Representation of the Sacred in the Southern Levant in the Roman and Byzantine Periods

16:15–17:00: **Orit Peleg-Barkat**: Art and Cult in the Cities of Roman Palestine: Aelia Capitolina as a Test Case

17:30 Visit to the Israel Museum (by invitation)

19:30 Dinner (by invitation)

**Wednesday, May 21**

**09:00–11:15 Session 6: Cult and Economy**

Chair: **Lee I. Levine**

09:00–09:45: **Benjamin D. Gordon**: Land Tenure by the Jewish Cult in the Hellenistic and Early Roman Periods

09:45–10:30: **Yonatan Adler**: Ritual Purity in Early Roman Jerusalem: Between Priestly Cult and Popular Culture

10:30–11:15: **Hayim Lapin**: Jerusalem the Consumer City: Temple, Cult, and Consumption in the Second Temple Period

Coffee Break

**11:45–14:00 Session 7: Coins as Evidencing Cult**

Chair: **Donald Tzvi Ariel**

11:45–12:30: **Achim Lichtenberger**: Coins and Cult: Some Methodological Considerations about Civic Cults and Civic Coins in City Coins of the Levant

12:30–13:15: **Gabriela Bijovsky**: An Unpublished Coin Type of a Nursing Woman

13:15–14:00: **Yoav Farhi**: Heroes and Deities on the Coins of Gaza under Roman Rule

14:00 Lunch (by invitation)

**15:30–18:35 Session 8: The End of Paganism**

Chair: **Israel Shatzman**

15:30–16:15: **Yoram Tsafrir**: Temples and Churches: The Archaeological Evidence of the Christian Triumph

16:15–17:00: **Guy Stroumsa**: Patterns of Rationalization in Late Antique Religion

Coffee Break

17:20–18:05: **Robert Lamberton**: The Beginnings of Philosophy of Religion and the Fate of Polytheism in the Late Antique Levant

18:05–18:35: Concluding Remarks: **Jonathan Price**

19:00 Dinner (by invitation)