

WORKSHOP ON THE JEWISH RECEPTION OF JOSEPHUS IN THE 20th AND 21st CENTURIES

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Yarnton Manor, 16-17 June 2014

<http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/josephus/>

The fourth and final workshop in this series covers the Jewish reception of Josephus in the 20th and 21st centuries. This workshop will be held in Oxford at the Oxford Centre for Jewish and Hebrew Studies at Yarnton Manor.

The workshop will be the fourth in a series, as part of a project on the reception of Josephus in Jewish culture from the 18th century to the present. In this workshop, on the Jewish reception of Josephus in the 20th and 21st centuries, participants are invited to examine the role of Josephus in the wide spectrum of Jewish politics, culture, religious life, scholarship and education from the early twentieth century through the foundation of the State of Israel to the present, raising questions such as:



- How does Josephus figure in Zionist thought? How did Liberals, Orthodox Jews and Bundists use his works and image in debates about Jewish nationalism?
- What use was made of the writings of Josephus by Jews during the Shoah and in its aftermath?
- What was the role of Josephus' descriptions in interpreting the archaeology and geography of the land in the early years of the State of Israel?
- How has Josephus' work been re-evaluated in the late twentieth century and today in debates about post-Zionist reassessments of the foundation and ideologies of the State of Israel?
- How do Jews in Europe and the United States refer to Josephus in discussing the conditions and meanings of Jewish life in the diaspora?
- How is Josephus depicted in children's literature, educational material, museums and popular culture?

MONDAY 16 JUNE

1.00-2.00	Lunch for Speakers
2.00-2.15	Introduction
2.15-3.00	Daniel Schwartz, Hebrew University (via Skype) <i>From Josephus's Confusion to Mel Gibson's Rhetoric: How The Passion (2004) Changed the Chronology of Pontius Pilate</i>
3.00-3.45	Eyal Ben-Eliyahu, University of Haifa <i>Josephus' Role in Shaping the Touristic Image of the State of Israel</i>
3.45-4.15	Tea
4.15-5.00	Eliezer Sarel, Ohalo College, Sha'anani College <i>Can't Live With Him, Can't Live Without Him: The Approach of Ze'ev Ya'avetz to the Writings of Josephus</i>
5.00-5.45	Orr Scharf, University of Haifa <i>Taking Josephus Personally: The Curious Case of Emanuel bin Gorion</i>
5.45-6.30	Zviah Nardi, Independent Researcher <i>Masada in Zionist and Israeli Consciousness</i>
6.30-7.00	Drinks
7.00-8.00	Dinner
8.00-8.45	Yael Feldman, New York University <i>Masada, Cosmopolitan Rome, or Messianic Judea? 'Flavius-Feuchtwanger' and the Turmoil of Mandate Palestine, 1923-1945</i>
8.45-9.30	Jimmy Bloom, Independent Researcher <i>'Psalm of the World Citizen': Alienation, Assimilation, and Zionism in Lion Feuchtwanger's Josephus Trilogy</i>

TUESDAY 17 JUNE

8.30-9.00	Breakfast
9.00-9.30	Adam Blitz, Independent Researcher <i>Reading Josephus: Emil Schürer, Spätjudentum and Anglo-Jewish Response</i>
9.30-10.00	Sarah Pearce, Southampton University <i>Josephus in the Jewish Chronicle in the early twentieth century</i>
10.00-10.45	Shifra Sznol, Hebrew University <i>Reading and interpreting Josephus Flavius in the Warsaw Ghetto (1941-1943)</i>
10.45-11.15	Coffee
11.15-12.00	Amir Mashiach, Orot Israel College, Ariel University <i>The entry of Josephus Flavius and the story of Masada to the Halakhic discourse in the 20th century</i>
12.00-12.45	Steven Bowman, University of Cincinnati <i>Josephus versus Yosippon since World War One</i>
12.45-1.00	Concluding Discussion
1.00-2.00	Light lunch for speakers