

A Digital, International Conference

From Josephus to Josippon and Beyond: An International Conference

August 23 – 26, 2021

For more information and to register to attend, please
visit: www.fromjosephustojosippon.com



EAJS

European Association for Jewish Studies

Conveners:

Jan Willem van Henten (University of Amsterdam), Michael Avioz (Bar-Ilan University), Carson Bay (University of Bern)

Sponsors:

University of Amsterdam, School of Historical Studies & Chair of Religious Studies
Bar-Ilan University, Faculty of Jewish Studies & Vice-President for Research
University of Bern, Institut für Judaistik
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF)
European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS)

Monday, August 23

- 14:00 – 16:00 **Masterclass 1:** Translating Josephus' Greek into Modern Hebrew & English
Instructors: Michael Avioz (Bar-Ilan University) & Steve Mason (University of Groningen)
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break (open for discussion)
- 16:30 – 17:00 Welcome, Opening Discussion, & Orientation
- 17:00 – 20:00 **Conference Session 1: Before Yosippon – Josephus from Antiquity to Modernity**
"Interpreting Josephus Contextually: Composition, Audience, Messages, & Meaning"
Steve Mason (University of Groningen) 17:00 – 17:45
"Josephus & Legislation: Exegesis and Language in Josephus' Treatment of Law(s)"
Silvia Castelli (Leiden University) & Michael Avioz (Bar-Ilan University) 17:45 – 18:30
"English versions of Josephus in the nineteenth century: omissions and additions"
Martin Goodman (University of Oxford) 18:30 – 19:15
"The Jewish historian and the Israeli student: Josephus in the Israeli education system"
Meir Ben Shahr (Sha'anani College and The Open University) 19:15 – 20:00
- 20:00 – 20:30 General Discussion/Roundtable

Tuesday, August 24

- 14:00 – 16:15 **Conference Session 2: Studying Sefer Yosippon**
"Sefer Yosippon and Its Hebrew Manuscripts: The State of the Question"
Saskia Dönitz (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt) 14:00 – 14:45
"Sefer Yosippon 15 (10): The Maccabean Mother & Her Seven Sons"
Jan Willem van Henten (University of Amsterdam) 14:45 – 15:30
"Killing Matthias: De Excidio 5.22 & Sefer Yosippon 81 (א9)"
Carson Bay (University of Bern) 15:30 – 16:15
- 16:15 – 16:45 Coffee Break (open for discussion)
- 16:45 – 16:30 **Conference Session 3: Situating Sefer Yosippon**
"Sefer Yosippon and the Latin Josephus Manuscript Tradition: Exploring Flusser's Suggestion"
David Levenson (Florida State University) & Carson Bay (University of Bern) 16:45 – 17:30
"The Beginning of the End: The 'Aeneid' of Sefer Yosippon and Adso's Apocalypse"
Ruth Nisse (Wesleyan University) 17:30 – 18:15
"Mothers Abraham: Women & National Sacrifice, Then & Now"
Yael Feldman (New York University) 18:15 – 19:00
"Yosippon as Innovative and Creative Historian"
Steven Bowman (University of Cincinnati) 19:00 – 19:45
- 19:45 – 20:30 General Discussion

Wednesday, August 25

- 14:00 – 16:00 **Masterclass 2:** The Latin & Hebrew Reception of Josephus in the Middle Ages
Presented by Lege Iosephum! *Reading Josephus in the Latin Middle Ages* (SNF Research Group)
Instructors: "Lege Iosephum!" Team (University of Bern): Carson Bay, René Bloch, Katharina Heyden, Gerlinde Huber-Rebenich, Anthony Ellis, Judith Mania, Sara Moscone, Lena Tröger, with special guests David Levenson (Florida State University) & Tom Martin (College of the Holy Cross)
- 16:00 – 16:30 Coffee Break (open for discussion)
- 16:30 – 18:45 **Conference Session 4: Receiving Sefer Yosippon**
"The Christian Reception of Sefer Yosippon"
Nadia Zeldes (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev) 16:30 – 17:15
"Sefer Yosippon & the Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela"
Daniel Stein Kokin (University of Greifswald) 17:15 – 18:00
"Sefer Yosippon in the Early Modern Vernacular"
Katja Vehlow (Jewish Theological Seminary) 18:00 – 18:45
- 18:45 – 20:00 Extended General Discussion & Open/Public Call for Questions

Thursday, August 26

- 14:00 – 16:30 Digital Outing
- 16:30 – 17:00 Coffee Break (open for discussion)
- 17:00 – 19:45 **Conference Session 5: Sefer Yosippon in Semitic Translations & Traditions**
"Josephus and Yosippon in Arabic Historiography: The Use of Sources in Islamic and non-Islamic Josephan Text Traditions"
Ayub Naser (University of Groningen) 17:00 – 17:45
"Zena Ayhud ('History of the Jews'): The Text and Context of the (Ge'ez) Version of Sefer Yosippon"
Yonatan Binyam (University of California – Los Angeles) 17:45 – 18:30
"History and Counter-History in the Ashkenazic Vernacular: The Yiddish Yosippon"
Andrea Schatz (King's College London) 18:30 – 19:15
- 19:15 – 20:00 Final General Discussion/Closing Remarks