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

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**
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 *Shulhan 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

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

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

Chair: Eve Krakowski

Saba Soomekh, Life under the Shahs: How Nojeebness (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