

Chris-Fest 2024: A Symposium in Celebration of Christine Hayes



Prof. Christine Hayes

Sterling Professor of Religious Studies in Classical Judaica

April 4 & 5, 2024

320 YORK STREET HUMANITIES QUADRANGLE, RM. 276

THURSDAY, APRIL 4:

9AM COFFEE/PASTRIES

9:30AM OPENING REMARKS

10:00AM-11AM RECONCEIVING RABBINIC CATEGORIES

Orit Malka - *His four fringes came and appeared to him like four witnesses" (Sifre Deuteronomy 115): On Testimony, Forewarning, and Oaths.*

Allessia Bellusci - *Jewish Maternal Knowledge in Late Antiquity: Conceptualizing the Fetus between Law and Magic*

11AM-12PM CONTEXTUAL REIMAGINATIONS

Shira Eliassian - *Between Babylonian and Palestinian Representations of Death: Reflections on the Postmortal in Tractate Berakhot*

Simcha Gross - *Synagogue on a Hill or in the Plain: Frontier Imaginaries in the Babylonian Talmud*

12PM-1:30PM LUNCH

1:30PM-2:30PM THE RABBIS AND THE END OF TIME

Ayelet Libson - *Guarantorship: The History of a Metaphor in Rabbinic Literature*

Jenny Labendz - *Post-Apocalypticism in Rabbinic Literature*

2:30PM-3:30PM ENCOUNTERING THE DIVINE

Noah Bickart - *Lashes of Fire: The Prehistory of a Talmudic Punishment for Angels*

Tianruo Jiang - *The Meaning of the Burning Bush: Early Jewish Readings of Exodus 3:1-6*

3:30PM-3:45PM COFFEE BREAK

3:45PM-4:45PM RABBINIC ATTENTION AND DESIRE

Chaya Halberstam - *What Women Want: Reassessing a Cryptic Pericope in Yerushalmi Yevamot*

Erez DeGolan - *Exploring Attentiveness in the Amidah*

4:45PM-5:45PM: TERMINOLOGICAL GENEALOGIES

David Flatto - *The Pairs (Zugot): History, Ideology and Authority*

Shlomo Zuckier - *Gemiri in Rabbinic Sources: A Methodological Case Study*

6PM-8PM RECEPTION AND DINNER

FRIDAY, APRIL 5:

8AM-8:30AM BREAKFAST

8:30AM-9:30AM JEWS AND ROMANS

Alan Appelbaum - *The Aurum Coronarium: The Historical Significance of Patriarchal Taxation of the Jews.*

Joshua Burns - *Shabbat as Defiance of Roman Law.*

9:30AM-10:30AM RABBINIC GRAMMARS

Elizabeth Shanks Alexander - *The Rabbis as Readers of Grammatical Gender*

Alexander Marcus - *Vernacular Gender in the Bavli's Folk Rhetoric*

10:30AM-11:30AM IDENTITY, HUMANITY, AND THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS

Emilie Amar-Zifkin - *Comedy and Comity at the Edge of the Abyss: Humor and Self-Definition in Sefer Hasidim*

Beth Berkowitz - *Revisiting the So-Called Humanitarian Rationale for the Bible's Laws about Animal Families: From Philo to the Rabbis to Today.*

11:30AM CLOSING REMARKS

11:45AM LUNCH

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

MICHAL BAR-ASHER SIEGAL, SARA RONIS, TZVI NOVICK, SIMCHA GROSS,
CONVENERS - MARIA DOERFLER AND ELLI STERN

MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE WILLIAM & MIRIAM HOROWITZ FUND AND SPONSORED BY THE PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT YALE.