

The Program in Judaic Studies presents

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 @ 4:00pm

The Role of Reason in Law and Language An unknown conversation (ca 1120) about the differences between scripturalism and legal reasoning

Joseph David

Many methodological approaches, per-modern and modern alike, presume a similarity between legal reasoning and hermeneutics. Accordingly, drawing answers to legal cases is comparable to textual interpretation. The present WIP discusses a correspondence, not yet published or studied, between Karaite jurists from the middle of the 12th century on the relations between 'legal reasoning' (*Usul al-Fiqh*) and 'hermeneutical reasoning' (*Usul al-Tafsir*). This text is a rare opportunity to look closely on an intellectual endeavor to refine and redefine the methodological principles of Halakhic reasoning. Joseph will introduce this text and its significance to the history of Jewish jurisprudential thought. He will also describe briefly his forthcoming book which is a backdrop for this project.

Joseph E. David is a Visiting Professor in Law and Judaic Studies at Yale University. He is a Professor of Law at Sapir Academic College in Israel. His research focuses on Law and Religion, Legal History, Comparative Law, and Jurisprudence.



Monday, April 6, 2020 @ 12:00noon

Expelling the Jews: Plans to Expel Jews from Eastern Europe after the Second World War

Gil Rubin

Gil Rubin is the Geoffrey H. Hartman Postdoctoral Fellow at the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University. He received his PhD from Columbia University in 2017 and was an Israel Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, 2017-2019. His research concerns the history of Jews in East Central Europe, the Holocaust and the history of Zionism and the state of Israel. He is currently writing a book, *The Future of the Jews: Planning for the Postwar Order*, a history of planning for the reconstruction of Jewish life in Eastern Europe and Palestine after the Second World War.



Works in Progress will be held in the

Judaica Collection Reading Room—SML 335b

LIGHT KOSHER LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED