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The Jewish World Map

Global Geography in Jewish Writing and Experience

Monday, September 1, 2025

University of Haifa - Mitzpor Ofer, Eshkol Building, 30th Floor

09:30–10:00 **Gathering-** Reception & Coffee

10:00–10:05 **Opening-** Eyal Ben-Eliyahu

Session 1: Biblical Literature

10:05–11:30 **Chair:** Cana Warman, Ben-Gurion University

10:05–10:30 **Guy Darshan**, Tel Aviv University

Two Types of mappae mundi Reflected in the Table of Nations

10:30–11:00 **Nili Wazana**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Every place on which the sole of your foot treads on: Between Restricted Borders and World Dominion in the Bible

11:00–11:30 **Danel Kahn**, University of Haifa

Mapping Divine Judgment: The Geographical Horizon in Biblical Oracles Against the Nations

11:30–11:45 **Coffee Break**

Session 2: Second Temple Literature and Rabbinic Literature

11:45–12:45 **Chair:** Hillel Newman, University of Haifa

11:45–12:15 **Cana Warman**, Ben-Gurion University

Worldview and World Map

12:15–12:45 **Omer Shadmi**, University of Haifa

A rabbinic world: the Bavli's mental map and official divisions in Late Antiquity

12:45–14:15 **Lunch**

Session 3: Jewish Descriptions of the World Against the Backdrop of Greco-Roman Geographical Descriptions

14:15–15:45 **Chair:** Richard Talbert, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

14:15–14:45 **Geoffrey Herman**, École Pratique des Hautes Études – PSL, Paris

The Changing Jewish Geography of Sasanian Babylonia

14:45–15:15 **Reuven Kiperwasser**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

What is the World Like? - Rabbis and their cosmographic imaginations between East and West

15:15–15:45 **Daniela Dueck**, Bar Ilan University

Common sense geography - the oral goes written in Biblical and Classical texts

15:45–16:00 **Coffee Break**

Session 4: Medieval Era

16:00–17:30 **Chair:** Katrin Kogman-Appel, University of Münster

16:00–16:30 **Saskia Dönitz**, University of Münster

The Medieval World as Seen by Josippon

16:30–17:00 **Ossnat Sharon-Pinto**,

Jewish Travelogues' Transition into the Early Modern Era: Space, History and the Self

17:00–17:30 **Avishai Bar-Asher**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Paradise Lost? The Search for the Garden of Eden in Medieval Jewish Thought

17:30–18:00 **Reception**

Greetings and Keynote lecture

18:00–19:00 Greetings: **Zohar Segev** – Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and the head of The School of Area Studies and History, University of Haifa

Keynote lecture: **Zvi Ben-Dor Benite**, New York University

Thinking with Rabshekeh: Jews in Imperial Geographical Imagination



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Tuesday, September 2, 2025

University of Haifa - Mitzpor Ofer, Eshkol Building, 30th Floor

09:00-09:30 **Gathering & Coffee**

Session 5: A View from the East, North Africa and the Mediterranean

(Sponsored by The Ben Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East)

09:30-11:00 **Chair:** Micha Perry, University of Haifa

09:30-10:00 **Menashe Anzi**, Ben-Gurion University

Jews in the Modern Indian Ocean: A Shared Space

10:00-10:30 **Dotan Arad**, Bar-Ilan University

Karaite Spatial Perception in the Early Modern Period

10:30-11:00 **Miriam Frenkel**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Ben Zvi Institute

India as Image and Reality in the World of Medieval Jews in the Lands of Islam

11:00-11:15 **Coffee Break**

Session 6: Jews and the Age of Discovery

11:15-12:45 **Chair:** Oded Irshai, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

11:15-11:45 **Andrea Schatz**, King's College London

Pieces of Places: Abraham Zacut's World and Its Reconfigurations in the Sixteenth Century

11:45-12:15 **Moti Ben-Melech**, Herzog College

Imagining Communities: Encounters with the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel in Late 16th Century

12:15-12:45 **Zur Shalev**, University of Haifa

Discovering Jewish Geography in Early Modern Europe

12:45-14:15 **Lunch**

Session 7: Textual Territories: Mapping Jewish Literary Worlds

14:15-15:45 **Chair:** Guy Miron, The Open University of Israel

14:15-14:45 **Oded Cohen**, The Levinsky-Wingate Academic College and Tel Aviv University

"For Nothing Was Hidden from Our Sages": The Map of the World and

Jewish Truth in the Age of Discoveries and Distant Voyages

Avriel Bar-Levav, The Open University of Israel

15:15-15:45 *Mapping the World of Jewish Books*

Dina Stein, University of Haifa

Standards of Measure: Mapping the Dov Noy Archive of Israeli Folk Literature

15:45-16:00 **Coffee Break**

Session 8: Jewish Responses to the Modern World

16:00-17:30 **Chair:** Eyal Ben-Eliyahu, University of Haifa

16:00-16:30 **Maoz Kahana**, Tel Aviv University

Worlds Beyond Words: Rabbi Nachman of Breslov's World Maps at the Crossroads of Renaissance and Counter-Enlightenment

16:30-17:00 **Zvi Ben-Dor Benite**, New York University

Menasseh Ben Israel and the Theological Origins of World History

17:00-17:30 **Tal Kogman**, Tel Aviv University

Geography and the 'Jewish Point' in the Textbooks of Samson Bloch Ha-Levi



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Wednesday, September 3, 2025
The Open University of Israel, Rooms 104-105, Haifa Port Campus
29 HaNamal Street, Haifa Port

09:00-09:30 Gathering & Coffee

Session 9: Jewish Emigration and Mental Maps from Central Europe and the World Map

09:30-11:00 **Chair:** Markus Silber, University of Haifa

09:30-10:00 **David Jünger**, University of Rostock

When liturgy became reality. German Jews travelling to Palestine 1933–1938

10:00-10:30 **Martin Goodman**, Oxford University

The Jewish World Map of Isaac D'Israeli

10:30-11:00 **Daniel Mahla**, University of Haifa

Haunted Itineraries: Germany, Europe, and the Spatial Imagination of Israeli Travel

11:00-11:15 **Coffee Break**

Session 10: Mental and Visual Maps

11:15-12:45 **Chair:** Martin Goodman, Oxford University

11:15-11:45 **Meron Piotrkowski**, Oxford University

Mapping the Jews of Ancient Egypt: From the Hellenistic Period to the Arab Conquest

11:45-12:15 **Katrin Kogman-Appel**, University of Münster

Time and Space in the Maps of Elisha ben Abraham Cresques (Majorca 1325–1387)

12:15-12:45 **Uri Safrai** (University of Haifa and Herzog College) & **Eliezer Baumgarten** (University of Haifa)

Jerusalem Between the Sephirot: The Kabbalistic Tree as a Cartographic Image

12:45-14:15 **Lunch**

Session 11: Closing Session - Continuity and Change in the Global Worldview from Antiquity to the Modern Era

14:00-15:00 Roundtable Discussion & Concluding Remarks (60 minutes)

Participants: Eyal Ben-Eliyahu (University of Haifa), Micha Perry (University of Haifa), Guy Miron (The Open University of Israel)

15:00-15:15 **Coffee Break**

Session 12: Graduate presentations - Digital Methods and Approaches to Space

15:15-17:30 **Chair:** Dr. Sinai Rusinek (University of Haifa)

Advanced Students Workshop

Conference Partners:

Research Workshop of the Israel Science Foundation

University of Haifa

The Open University of Israel

The Ben Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East

Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society

Sir Isaac and Lady Edith Wolfson Chair in Jewish Religious Thought

The School of Area Studies and History, University of Haifa

Organizing committee: Eyal Ben Eliyahu, Guy Miron and Micha Perry.

Coordinators: Vered Cohen and Osher Leizer.