

International Workshop:

The Political Dimensions of the Converso Phenomenon in Portugal and Beyond

May 26-28, 2015

Bar-Ilan University and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Tuesday, May 26th, at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

9:10-9:30 Greetings

Gabriel Motzkin, Director, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

His Excellency **Miguel de Almeida e Sousa**,
the Ambassador of Portugal to Israel

Cyril Aslanov, Head of the Mediterranean Unit at the
Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

9:30-11:00 Preliminary Remarks: The Re-politicization of the Converso Phenomenon

Chair: **Yosef Kaplan**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Claude B. Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan University and the
Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious
Encounters

**Toward a Repoliticization of the Converso Phenomenon:
Portugal and Beyond**

Kenneth Stow, University of Haifa

**Papal Power, the Portuguese Inquisition, and a Concilium
of Cardinal Pier Paolo Pariseo**

11:15-13:15 First Generations of Conversos Confronting Politics

Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom**, The Hebrew University of
Jerusalem and The Center for the Study of Conversion
and Inter-Religious Encounters

Shalom Sadik, The Polonsky Academy at the Van Leer
Jerusalem Institute

**Political Criticism against Judaism among Spanish
Medieval Converted Rabbis**

Yosi Yisraeli, The Center for the Study of Conversion and
Inter-Religious Encounters and Bar-Ilan University

**Early Converso Reflections on Biblical Kingship: Was God's
People Destined to Be Ruled by a King and Nobility?**

Cedric Cohen-Skalli, University of Haifa

**Don Isaac Abravanel and the Conversos: Between
Messianism and Politics**

13:15-14:15 Lunch Break



14:30-16:30 Politics of Conversion – Conversos in Politics

Chair: **Chaim Hames**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and Director of the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters

Isabelle Poutrin, Université Paris-Est

The “Jewish Precedent” in the Spanish Politics of Conversion of Muslims and Moriscos

Nadia Zeldes, The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Converso Leadership, Finance, and Military Campaigns in the Reign of Ferdinand the Catholic: A View from Sicily

Moisés Orfali, Bar-Ilan University

The Dutch Occupation and Defense of Brazil: The Question of the Support of Jews and Conversos

16:45-18:15 Theology and Ideology of Conversos

Chair: **Aliza Meyuhas-Ginio**, Tel Aviv University

Ana Valdes, Yale University

“De Templo Ezechielis, et ejus interpretationi literali” - Father António Vieira’s Dialogue with Rabbi Menasseh ben Israel on Gentiles and Jews, including Conversos

Miriam Bodian, The University of Texas at Austin
Portuguese ex-Converso Jews and the Language of Freedom

Wednesday, May 27th, at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

9:00-11:15 Anti-Converso Discourses

Greetings: **Roberto Bachmann**, Associação Portuguesa de Estudos Judaicos (APEJ), Lisbon

Chair: **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Nathan Ron, University of Haifa

Juan Luis Vives and Erasmus on Conversos: Different Conceptions of Concordia

José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim, IICT, Lisbon; CIDEHUS, Universidade de Évora; CITCEM, Universidade do Porto

Seventeenth-Century “Anti-Converso” Attitudes of Converted Jews

Myriam Greilsammer, Bar-Ilan University

The Political Consequences of the “Symbolic” Conversion of the Lombard Moneylenders in the Low Countries: From Cooperation to Exclusion (XIIIth-XVIIth Centuries)

11:30-13:30 Lobbying of Conversos and New Jews

Chair: **Renée Levine-Melamed**, Schechter Institute

Ana Isabel López-Salazar, Universidad Complutense de Madrid

The Relationship between the Spanish Crown and the Portuguese Ximenes Family: Political Service and the Conquest of Honour

Stanley Mirvis, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Entangled Allegiances: Channels of Communal Authority and Political Activism among Caribbean-Sephardi Jews, 1692–1831

Michael Silber, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
From New Christian to New Jew - From Court Jew to State Jew: The Odyssey of the d’Aguilar Family

13:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-16:00 Converso “Nation” as a Political Entity

Chair: **Myriam Silvera**, Università di Roma Tor Vergata

James Nelson Novoa, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Nação as a Political Entity at the Court of Rome

Carsten L. Wilke, Central European University
Manuel Fernandes Vila Real in his Diplomatic Correspondence from Paris, 1644-1649: Documents Rediscovered at the Torre do Tombo

Ana Paula Lloyd, King’s College London

Manoel de Gama de Padua’s Political Networks: Service, Subversion, and the Disruption of the Portuguese Inquisition

16:15-17:45 Conversos Confronting Exclusion

Chair: **Pawel Maciejko**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Antonio J. Díaz, CIDEHUS-Universidade de Évora
New Christians as Agents for Curial Businesses of the Spanish and Portuguese Crowns in Early Modern Rome

Fernanda Olival, CIDEHUS-Universidade de Évora
The End of the Purity of Blood in the Portuguese World and the Unsuccessful Background Investigations (XVIIIth Century): New Approaches

Thursday, May 28th, Bar-Ilan University

10:15-10:30 Greetings

Shifra Baruchson-Arbib, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Bar-Ilan University

Hilda Nissimi, Chair of the Department of General History, Bar-Ilan University

10:30-12:30 Conversos, Moriscos, and Mashhadis between Exile and Empire

Chair: **Abraham Gross**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and The Institute for Sefardi and Anousim Studies, Netanya Academic College

Aliza Moreno, Levinsky College of Education

Portuguese New Christians among the Local Elites in Colonial Cartagena de Indias in the XVIIth Century

Asher Salah, Bezalel, Academy of Art and Design

A Morisco Settlement Project in Early XVIIth-Century Tuscany

Hilda Nissimi, Bar-Ilan University

Jews, Converts, Forcibly Converted, Missionaries and Spies in Mashhad: Fluidity of Identity in the Shadow of the British Empire

12:30-13:45 Lunch Break

14:00-16:00 Conversos' "Emancipation"

Chair: **Roberto Bachmann**, Associação Portuguesa de Estudos Judaicos (APEJ)

Jorge M. Pedreira, Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Mercantilism, State-Building, and Social Reform: Pombal and the Abolition of the Distinction between New Christians and Old-Christians

Nitai Shinan, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the National Library

On Pride and Prejudice, Group Identity and Assimilation: The Chuetas and the Conversos between Enlightened Absolutism and Radical Liberalism (1774-1823)

Bruno Feitler, Universidade Federal de São Paulo
Crypto-Judaism in Post-Pombaline Portugal: Legal and Social Remnants

16:15-17:15 Concluding Remarks and Open Discussion

Moderator: **Edo Litmanovitch**, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Claude B. Stuczynski, Bar-Ilan University and the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters

Advance registration is required

<http://goo.gl/Jlxgmz>

Venues:

Bar-Ilan University, Beck Auditorium

Department of General History, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Tel. 03-5318390

<http://history.biu.ac.il/en/node/3>

The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, 43 Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem Tel. 02-5605222

www.vanleer.org.il

Parking is not available at the BIU and the VLJI (metered parking is available on the neighboring streets).

Photographs taken at the event will be posted on the institutes' websites and on social networks.

