

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
A Recognised Independent Centre of the University of Oxford



LANGUAGE ACTS AND WORLDMAKING WORKSHOP

‘Sepharad: A Travelling Concept’

at

The Clarendon Institute, Walton Street, Oxford OX1 2HG

Wednesday 7 June from 11.15am-6.30pm



PROGRAMME



11.15-11.30am **INTRODUCTION**

Julian Weiss and AbdoolKarim Vakil

(King's College London, Co-Investigators of *Language Acts and Worldmaking*)



11.30am-1.00pm **SESSION 1: Jewish Politics and Hebrew Republics**

María José Vega (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona):

'Book Censorship and the Memory of Judaism in Sixteenth-century Spain: The Expurgation of Jerónimo Román's *República Hebrea*'

Joanna Weinberg (University of Oxford):

'An Iberian Jew's Hebrew Paraphrase of Josephus' *Contra Apionem* (Constantinople, 1566)'

Julian Weiss (King's College London):

'Josephus and the Jewish Polity: Reading *Against Apion* in the Sephardic World from 1492 to 1687'

1.00-2.15pm Lunch



2.15-3.45pm **SESSION 2: Books and Communities in London and Amsterdam**

Harm den Boer (University of Basel):

'Amsterdam: A Sephardic Textual Community'

Theodor Dunkelgrün (University of Cambridge):

'Vernacular Revelation and Biblical Criticism: Samuel de Casseres and the Ferrara Bible in Mid-seventeenth Century Amsterdam'

Ariel Hessayon (Goldsmith's College, London):

'Antonio Carvajal (c.1596-1659) and the Crypto-Jewish / Jewish Community in Cromwellian England'

3.45-4.15pm Tea



4.15-5.30pm **SESSION 3: Creating Worlds for Ottoman and Turkish Sephardim**

Marc David Baer (London School of Economics):

'Love in the Shadow of Lemon Trees: Figures of Jews and Visions of Sefarad in Modern Turkish Literature'

Laurent Mignon (University of Oxford):

'"God Created the Universe and Man, God": Religious Dissidence in Turkish-Language Sephardic Literature'

5.30-5.45pm Short Break



5.45-6.30pm CONCLUSION

Sepharad, Travelling Between Disciplines

Open Forum on discussion paper co-authored by **Julia Phillips Cohen** (Vanderbilt University), **Julian Weiss** and **AbdoolKarim Vakil** (King's College London).

The paper will be circulated in advance to those who register for the event.



This workshop is a partnership between OCHJS and the AHRC funded project entitled 'Language Acts and Worldmaking'. This project is a collaboration between King's College London, Queen Mary London, The Open University, and Westminster University. It is part of the AHRC's Open World Research Initiative (OWRI), whose aim is to promote and transform research and teaching of Modern Languages in the UK. 'Language Acts and Worldmaking' explores ways in which language, as a material and historical force, acts as the means whereby individuals construct their personal, local, transnational and spiritual identities. The focus of our research is on Iberia, its global empires and contact zones, stretching across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

One strand in our research—'Travelling Concepts'—examines how Jews, Muslims and Christians conceptualised Sepharad as a historical and cultural reference point following the expulsion of Jews from Iberia in the final decade of the fifteenth century. In line with the aims of OWRI, our focus is the word, both written and spoken. We examine the formative role played by literary and historical texts and oral forms in preserving or recreating religious, political and cultural identity for Sephardic Jews in exile (or in hiding) in Christian and Islamic territories. Our geographical scope includes Spain and Portugal, Italy, northern Europe, the Ottoman empire, and the Hispanic and Lusophone Americas. What books, vocabularies, and discourses were deployed—by Jews, Christian or Muslims—in order to assign exiled Sephardic Jews or crypto-Jews a place in the world and in history?



Language Acts and Worldmaking is a flagship project funded by the AHRC *Open World Research Initiative*, which aims to regenerate and transform modern language learning by foregrounding language's power to shape how we live and make our worlds. For more details of the *Language Acts and Worldmaking* project please visit www.languageacts.org <<http://www.languageacts.org>>

