



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
ISRAEL INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

# Interpretation and Legal Change: A Comparative Perspective

June 14-16, 2015

All lectures will take place at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, room 128,  
on the Edmond J. Safra, Givat Ram Campus.

The opening session will take place at room 130.

## Organizers:

**Vered Noam** (Tel Aviv University)

**Rami Reiner** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

# Program

## Sunday, 14 June

- 17:00 - 17:30    **Registration**
- 17:30 - 19:00    Opening session  
Chair: **Rami Reiner** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
- Michal Linial** (IIAS Director)  
Greetings
- Moshe Halbertal** (New York University, The Hebrew University)  
*On Authority, Meaning and Interpretation*
- 19:00 - 20:30    Reception

## Monday, 15 June

- 09:30 - 11:00    The Death of the Legislator and the Birth of the Interpreter  
Chair: **Vered Noam** (Tel Aviv University)
- Steven Fraade** (Yale University)  
*Sifre Deuteronomy to Deuteronomy 17:8-13: Ingenious Scriptural Interpretation in Service of Profound Judicial Transformation*
- Frederick M. Lawrence** (President, Brandeis University)  
*The Sources and Limits of the Interpreter's Authority*
- 11:00 - 11:30    Coffee Break
- 11:30 - 13:00    The Hidden Roots of Legal Disputes  
Chair: **Berachyahu Lifshitz** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Lena Salaymeh** (Tel Aviv University)  
*Islamic Historiography as a Source of Legal Dispute*

**Lutz Doering** (University of Muenster)  
*Legal Issues and Disputes Reflected in the Didache*

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch

15:00 - 16:30 In Spite of the Text  
Chair: **Bernadette Brooten** (Brandeis University)

**Heeraman Tiwari** (Jawaharlal Nehru University)  
*Journey to the Other World: Imagination and Interpretation of Death, and its Rituals in Hindu Philosophy*

**Adiel Schremer** (Bar-Ilan University)  
*“Times to Act for the Lord”: Ruling in Contrast to the Law in Jewish Legal Tradition*

16:30 - 17:00 Coffee Break

17:00 - 18:30 Art as Interpretation and the Art of Interpretation  
Chair: **Rami Reiner** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

**Katrin Kogman-Appel** (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)  
*The High Priest's Breast-Shield in Medieval Jewish Art*

**Shulamit Laderman** (Bar-Ilan University)  
*Jewish, Christian and Islamic Visual Images Viewed as Interpretations of Sacred Texts*

## Tuesday, 16 June

09:30 - 11:00 Plain Meaning and the Limits of Interpretation  
Chair: **Lutz Doering** (University of Muenster)

**Timothy H Lim** (The University of Edinburgh)  
*The Different Understandings of “Plain Meaning”*

- Berachyahu Lifshitz** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
*“Peshat” and “Derash” as Modes of Interpretation*
- 11:00 - 11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 - 13:00 Legal Imperialism: Motivations and Consequences  
Chair: **Heeraman Tiwari** (Jawaharlal Nehru University)
- Bernadette Brooten** (Brandeis University)  
*Anathematizing Arrogance: The Synod of Gangra in Asia Minor (ca. 343)*
- Admiel Kosman** (Universität Potsdam)  
*The Elusive “Fight” of the Aggada against the “Imperialism” of the Halakha: Toward Understanding the Religiousness of the Sages*
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
- 14:30 - 16:00 Legal Scholars on Legal Interpretation: Self-Reflections  
Chair: **Adiel Schremer** (Bar-Ilan University)
- Mordechai Cohen** (Yeshiva University)  
*Reflections on Legal Interpretive Creativity by Moses Ibn Ezra and Maimonides: Perspectives of a Poet and a Halakhist*
- Walid Saleh** (University of Toronto)  
*On the Relevance of the Medieval: Islamic exegetical Tradition and Philology*
- 16:00 - 17:00 Closing session
- Vered Noam** (Tel Aviv University)  
*Concluding Remarks*