



Upholding Scripture, Rejecting Scripture Strategies of Religious Subversion

*A conference celebrating the work of Professor Guy G. Stroumsa
on the occasion of his retirement*

Monday, 4th January 2016

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, Beit Maierdorf Room 405

9:00 Greetings

Menahe Ben Sasson, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

9:15-11:00 Canon in the Making

Chair: David Shulman (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Ronnie Goldstein (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Updating Prophecies and Upholding Scripture
Joseph Witztum (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Muhammad's prophetic rank in the Quran and hadith

Philippe Borgeaud (University of Geneva), Myth and Writing: A Greek (Platonic) Approach

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:15 Exegesis as an Act of Power

Chair: David Satran (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Lorenzo Perrone (University of Bologna), Origen Reading the Psalms: the Challenge of a Christian Interpretation

Maren Niehoff (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Rabbinic-Christian Controversies over Scripture

Shaul Shaked (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Upholding and Refashioning the Zoroastrian Scripture: How the Avestan Text was Served by the Pahlavi Exegesis

13:15-14:30 *Lunch break*

14:30-16:15 Scriptural Protagonists and the Struggle for Identity

Chair: Michael Cook (Princeton University)

Gilles Dorival (Aix-Marseille University), Maryam, Sister of Aaron, the Same as Maryam, the Mother of Jesus? About Quran 19,28

Moshe Blidstein (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), On the Paradigmatic Status of Biblical Figures in Some Late Ancient Christian Exegetes

Adam Silverstein (Bar Ilan University), Did Haman have a Brother? On a Deceptively Interesting Error in a Modern Persian Dictionary

16:15-16:45 *Coffee break*

16:45-18:00 Modern Reflections on Scripture and the History of Religions

Chair: Sari Nusseibeh (Al-Quds University)

Yonatan Moss (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Secret Mark Upheld, Secret Mark Rejected: Morton Smith, Gershom Scholem, and Guy G. Stroumsa

Aryeh Kofsky (University of Haifa) and **Serge Ruzer** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), The Gospel according to Leo Tolstoy: Between Contemporaneous Lives of Jesus, Tatian and Marcion

Tuesday, 5th January 2016

Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Jerusalem

9:00-10:45 Rejection of Scripture as an Expression of Religious Commitment

Chair: Albert Baumgarten (Bar Ilan University)

Christian Robin (CNRS, Paris), L'Arabie ancienne: une société indifférente aux Écritures?

Daniel Stökl Ben-Ezra (EPHE, Paris), The Christian Scriptures and the Toledot Yesu

Brouria Bitton-Ashkelony (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), The Anti-Learning Attitude in Late Antique Eastern Christianities

10:45-11:15 *Coffee break*

11:15-13:00 Scripture, Heresy and Subversion

Chair: Moshe Idel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Nicole Belayche (EPHE, Paris), Content or Context? What makes Writings Subversive in Greek and Roman Religions

Moshe Halbertal (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), No Heresy without Scripture

Yuri Stoyanov (SOAS, London), Attitudes to Scripture in Medieval Eastern and Western Christian Dualism and their Strategies of Religious Subversion

13:00-14:45 *Lunch Break*

14:45-17:30 Liminal Interactions

Chair: Margalit Finkelberg (Tel Aviv University)

Sharon Weisser (Tel Aviv University), Philo of Alexandria, Subversive Philosophy and the Wisdom of Moses

Christoph Marksches (Humboldt University, Berlin), Demons and Disease

16:00-16:15 *Coffee break*

Michel Tardieu (Collège de France), Le conquérant et le macrobiote: un épisode de la philosophie barbare (12 H./633).

Jonathan Ben-Dov (University of Haifa), Astral Worship as Civil Offense: Between the Hebrew Bible and Fifth Century Athens

17:30 Guy Stroumsa,

Concluding Comments: The Duty of Subversion

The conference is open to the public. If you wish to attend, please email ggsconference@gmail.com.

The conference is supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, the Center for the Study of Christianity at the Hebrew University and the Department of Comparative Religion of the Hebrew University.