



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

The Office of the Rector

The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

Joan C. Lessing

The Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center

The Shirley and Leslie Porter School of Cultural Studies



# ROME – AN EMPIRE OF MANY NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
IN HONOUR OF BENJAMIN ISAAC  
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
26-27 MAY, 2015

DRACHLIS HALL (ROOM 496), GILMAN BUILDING

ENTRANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY:  
RAMNICEANU GATE (4) OR FRENKEL GATE (7)

LECTURES WILL BE DELIVERED IN ENGLISH.



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

הפקולטה למדעי הרוח ע"ש לסטר וסאלי אנטין

משרד הרקטור

בית הספר להיסטוריה ע"ש צבי יעבץ

ג'ון ק. לסינג

המרכז לחקר התפוצות ע"ש גולדשטיין-גורן

בית הספר למדעי התרבות ע"ש שירלי ולזלי פורטר



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אוניברסיטת תל-אביב  
ח'ט' בסיון, תשע"ה

אולם דראכליס (חדר 496), בניין גילמן

הכניסה לאוניברסיטה דרך שער רמניסאנו (4) או שער פרנקל (7)

ההרצאות באנגלית.

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## Tuesday, 26 May, 2015

### 9:30-10:00 Greetings

Chair: **Rivka Gersht**, Tel Aviv University

**Eyal Zisser**, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University

**Margalit Finkelberg**, Active Chair of the Department of Classics, Tel Aviv University  
and President of the Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies

**Jonathan Price**, Tel Aviv University, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the  
Conference

### 10:00-12:20 The Roman Empire and Ethnicity

Chair: **Irada Malkin**, Tel Aviv University

**Werner Eck**, Universität zu Köln

*The Imperial Senate: Center of a Multi-national Empire*

**Daniela Dueck**, Bar-Ilan University

*Ethnic Types and Stereotypes in Greek and Latin Proverbs*

**Walter Ameling**, Universität zu Köln

*The Ethnos of the Christians*

### 12:20-14:00 Break

### 14:00-16:00 Cultural Aspects, Part I

Chair: **Andrea Rotstein**, Tel Aviv University

**Angelos Chaniotis**, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton

*When Darkness Falls in the Roman Empire: Historical Aspects of the Night in the  
Imperial Period*

**Margalit Finkelberg**, Tel Aviv University

*Roman Reception of the Trojan War*

**Cédric Brélaz**, Université de Strasbourg

*Claiming Roman Origins: Greek Cities and the Roman Colonial Pattern*

### 16:00-16:20 Break

### 16:20-17:40 Cultural Aspects, Part II

Chair: **Orna Harari**, Tel Aviv University

**Ido Israelowich**, Tel Aviv University

*The Involvement of Provincial Cities in the Administration of School Teaching*

**Paul Joseph Kosmin**, Harvard University

*Eratosthenes' Continents: Scientific Geography and the Ptolemaic Paradigm*

Academic Steering Committee: Prof. Margalit Finkelberg, Prof. Jonathan Price,  
Dr. Yuval Shahar

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### 18:00-19:15 Annual Ostwald Lecture

The annual lecture In Memoriam Martin Ostwald is generously supported by

**Joan C. Lessing**

Chair: **Jonathan Price**, Tel Aviv University

**Benjamin Isaac**, Tel Aviv University

*From Rome to Constantinople*

## Wednesday, 27 May, 2015

### 9:30-11:30 The Roman Empire and the Jews, Part I

Chair: **Paula Fredriksen**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Erich S. Gruen**, University of California, Berkeley

*Religious Pluralism in the Roman Empire: Were the Jews Included?*

**Yuval Rotman**, Tel Aviv University

*Between Ethnos and Populus: Jewish Law in Antiquity*

**Jonathan Price**, Tel Aviv University

*Local Dialects and Local Identities of Synagogue Communities in the Roman Empire*

### 11:30-11:50 Break

### 11:50-13:10 The Roman Empire and the Jews, Part II

Chair: **Uri Yiftach**, Tel Aviv University

**Alexander Jakobson**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Rome's Attitude to Jews and Judaea after the Great Rebellion – Beyond raison  
d'état?*

**Yuval Shahar**, Tel Aviv University

*The Good, the Bad and the Middling: Roman Emperors in Talmudic Literature*

### 13:10-15:10 Break

### 15:10-16:30 Collaborative Scientific Projects

Chair: **Yoram Tsafrir**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Chaim Ben David**, Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee

*Roman Roads in Iudaeae/Palaestinae*

**Hannah Cotton**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae*

### 16:30-16:50 Concluding Remarks

19:00-21:00 Evening in Honour of Benjamin Isaac, Targ Auditorium, The  
Buchmann-Mehta School of Music

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