



Jewish Studies in the Arab World

An academic workshop organized by the
Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University,
with support from the
Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University



May 13-14, 2013

Program

Monday, May 13

- 1:30** Start of day 1
Belfer Case Study Room, CGIS South Building, Room 020
1730 Cambridge Street
- 1:30** Welcome & opening remarks on the reasons for and the purpose of the workshop:
Baber Johansen, *Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Professor of Islamic Studies,*
Harvard Divinity School
- 1:45** Susan Miller, *Professor, Department of History, University of California, Davis*
:: *Jewish Studies in Morocco in the Aftermath of 'Truth and Reconciliation'*
- 2:00** Ahmed Chahlane, *Professor Emeritus, University Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco; and,*
Director, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO)
:: *Islamic-Jewish Intellectual Interaction in the Muslim West (Andalusia and Morocco): From*
Bahya ibn Paquda al-Saraqusti to Ibn Rushd al-Qurtubi
- 2:45** Discussant: Jonathan P. Decter, *Associate Professor and the Edmond J. Safra Professor of*
Sephardic studies, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University
- 3:00** General discussion
- 3:15** Break (15 minutes)

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- 3:30** Mohamed Hawary, *Professor of Religious Jewish Thought and Comparative Religions*, Department of Hebrew Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt
 :: *Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Egyptian Universities*
- 4:15** Abdelkrim Boufarra, *Professor of Modern Hebrew*, University of Mohamed I, Oujda, Morocco
 :: *Jewish Studies at the Moroccan University: the Situation and the Perspectives*
- 5:00** Discussant: Shaye Cohen, *Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy*, Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations, Harvard University
- 5:15** General discussion
- 5:30** End of day 1

Tuesday, May 14

- 9:30 am** Start of day 2
 Belfer Case Study Room, CGIS South Room 020
 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA
- 9:30** Opening remarks: Baber Johansen
- 9:45** Mark R. Cohen, *Professor of Near Eastern Studies*, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University
 :: *The Interplay of Jewish and Islamic/ Arabic Studies: The Cairo Geniza*
- 10:30** Discussant: Raymond Scheindlin, *Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature*, and director of the Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry, The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY
- 10:45** General discussion
- 11:00** Break (15 minutes)
- 11:15** Walid Saleh, *Associate Professor*, Department and Centre for the Study of Religion, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, University of Toronto
 :: *Al-Biqā`i and His Encounter with the Bible: On the Presence of the Bible in the Islamic Religious Imagination*
- 12:00 pm** Discussant: William Granara, *Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment*, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Director of Modern Languages Program, Director of Moroccan Studies Program

12:15 General discussion

12:30 End of workshop

Translation during workshop provided by:

Youssef Ben Ismail, CMES AM Student (Regional Studies—Middle East) '14

Imane Karroumi, Harvard College '14

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Participant biographies

Boufarra, Abdelkrim

Since 1990, Abdelkrim Boufarra has been a professor of Modern Hebrew at the University of Mohamed First in Oujda, Morocco. Previous to that, he was a professor at the University of Meknes, Morocco. In addition to Modern Hebrew, he specializes in Semitic studies, sociolinguistics, compared religions, and communication. He received his first Doctorate from the University Rene Descartes, Paris V, La Sorbonne, Paris, France, in 1990; the title of this thesis was, *Loanwords in Modern Arabic and Modern Hebrew* (written in French). He received a Doctorate of state from the University Mohamed V in Rabat, Morocco, in 2001; the title of his thesis is, *Language Planning in Modern Hebrew* (written in Arabic). He is a founding member of the Moroccan Association for the Oriental Studies (MAOS) in Rabat; he is also a founding member of the Center of Languages at the University Mohamed I in Oujda.

His published works include: *The media discourse in France concerning Islam* (in Arabic) 2003; *The modern Jewish Studies* in 2 volumes (in Arabic) 2013; *Who is Jew? A Cultural approach* (in Arabic) 2013; *East and West* (in French) in process; *The Moroccan Judaism* (in French) in process. Recent articles published include: "The Other in Jewish Culture," (in Arabic) 2013, in *Publications de la faculté des Lettres*, Rabat. "Babelism," (in Arabic) 2012, and "L'islamophobie dans les textes," (in French) 2012, and, "Pholology and Orientalism," (written in Arabic) 2012, in *Publications de la faculté des Lettres*, Oujda.

Chahlane, Ahmed

Ahmed Chahlane is professor *emeritus* of Arabic and Judaic philology at Université Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco, where he served on the faculty from 1974 to 2009. From 1991 to 1995, Prof. Chahlane served as the Director of the office for the arabisation of the Arab world, at the ALECSO Ligue Arabe. Chahlane received his Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Arts at Fez (Morocco) and an ENS diploma in 1967. He received a second BA in Hebrew at the Sorbonne and a Masters degree in Modern Hebrew at the Institut des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Paris in 1974. He has his PhD in Islamic Studies from the Sorbonne; and a Doctorat d'Etat in Islamic Studies (*Averroès et la pensée juive au Moyen Age*) from Université Mohamed V. Since 1991, Professor Chahlane has served as the Secretary General of the Moroccan Association of Oriental Studies; and he is a member of the Association of Moroccan Authors for publication. He has also been a visiting professor at many universities around the world, a member of the ERA (CNRS), Paris, and the Secretary General of the Association for Humanities Research at Université Mohamed V.

His publications include: *The Book Of Direction To The Duties Of The Heart Bahya Ben Joseph Ibn Pakuda Men*, (2010); *Les Juifs du Maroc depuis leur origine jusqu'à l'heure de leur dispersion*, (2009); *De la Langue phénicienne à l'Arabe. Une étude comparative dans les langues sémitiques et La lexicographie*, (2009). The following works will be published soon: *Édition critique de la traduction hébraïque de Kitab et Al-kashf 'an manabij al- adilla fi' aqid al-milla d' Averroès (La vraie méthode des preuves dans les dogmes de la foi)* (Traduction médiévale); *Édition critique de Kitab al-muhadara wa-l-mudakara de Moïse ben Ezra*; and, a translation from Hebrew to Arabic of, *Paraphrase de L'Éthique à Nicomaque d'Aristote, par Ibn Ruchd (Averroès)*. Chahlane has also published hundreds of scholarly and press articles on history, Medieval Judao-Arabic philosophy, comparative literature, comparative lexicography, and he has translated many texts from Hebrew and French into Arabic.

Cohen, Mark R.

Mark R. Cohen is a professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton University specializing in Jews in the Muslim world. He is a leading scholar of the history of Jews in the Middle Ages under Islam. His research relies greatly on documents from the Cairo Geniza. He also heads the Geniza Project at Princeton University, which aims to place an extensive number of medieval documents on an online search engine (as of March 2007, the database contained about 4000 documents). The project is headquartered at the S.D. Goitein Geniza Research Lab, where many of Goitein's personal books and notes are stored. Prof. Cohen earned his undergraduate degree at Brandeis University, his master's degree at Columbia University, and his doctorate at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Among his publications are: *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994; *The Autobiography of a Seventeenth-Century Venetian Rabbi: Leon Modena's "Life of Judah"*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1988; *Al-Mujtama` al-Yahudi fi Misr al-Islami fi al-`usur al-wusta*, translated into Arabic by Nasir Marar and Samir Naqqash, The Jewish-Arab Institute and Tel Aviv University, 1987; *Jewish Self-Government in Medieval Egypt*, Princeton University Press, 1980; *Jews among Arabs: Contacts and Boundaries*, co-edited with A.L. Udovitch, Princeton: Darwin Press, 1989; *Toward the Millennium: Messianic Expectations from the Bible to Waco*, co-edited with Peter Schaefer, Leiden: Brill, 1998.

Cohen, Shaye

Shaye J. D. Cohen is the Nathan Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations of Harvard University. This is one of the oldest and most distinguished professorships of Jewish studies in the United States. Before arriving at Harvard in July 2001, Prof. Cohen was for ten years the Samuel Ungerleider Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University. Prof. Cohen began his career at the Jewish Theological Seminary where he was ordained and for many years was the Dean of the Graduate School and Shenkman Professor of Jewish History. He received his Ph.D. in Ancient History, with distinction, from Columbia University in 1975.

The focus of Prof. Cohen's research is the boundary between Jews and gentiles and between Judaism and its surrounding cultures. On this and other subjects Prof. Cohen has written or edited ten books and over sixty articles. He has recently published a study of circumcision and gender in Judaism, entitled *Why aren't Jewish Women Circumcised?* (2005). He is perhaps best known for *From the Maccabees to the Mishnah* (1987; second edition 2006), and his *The Beginnings of Jewishness* (1999), which has been widely discussed in scholarly circles. He has also appeared on educational television, including *From Jesus to Christ* and *Nova* on PBS, *Mysteries of the Bible* on A&E, and various programs on the History Channel.

Decter, Jonathan

Jonathan Decter is associate professor and the Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic studies at Brandeis University. His research focuses on Jewish literature in the Islamic World during the medieval period and in Sephardic Studies more generally. Professor Decter completed his PhD in

Medieval Jewish Studies at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 2002. During his graduate studies, he spent a year as a fellow at the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad in Cairo and a year as a Fulbright fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In Spring 2007 he was a faculty fellow at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for the theme of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Life under Caliphs and Sultans. Decter is the author of *Iberian Jewish Literature: Between al-Andalus and Christian Europe* (Indiana University Press) which was awarded the Salo W. Baron prize for best first book in Jewish Studies, 2007. He is also the co-editor, with Michael Rand, of *Studies in Arabic and Hebrew Letters in Honor of Raymond P. Scheindlin* (Gorgias Press).

Some of his representative articles include: Decter, Jonathan P. "May God Curse Them Both: Ibrahim Ibn al-Fakhar Between Castile and the Maghreb," *Religious Communities in Islamic Empires*, Ed. Goldstein, Miriam and David Freidenreich. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008 (forthcoming); Decter, Jonathan P. "Andalusi Poetics and Representations of Women in the Andalusi Hebrew Lament," *Transforming Loss into Beauty: Essays in Honor of Magda al-Nowaihi*, Ed. Marle Hammond and Dana Sajdi. American University in Cairo Press, 2008. 115-41; Decter, Jonathan P. "The Hidden Exilarch: Power and Performance in a Medieval Jewish Ceremony," *Visualizing Medieval Performance: Perspectives, Histories, Contexts*, Ed. Elina Gertsman. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2008. 179-91; Decter, Jonathan P. "Landscape and Culture in the Medieval Hebrew Rhymed Prose Narrative," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 14. 3 (2007): 257-85; Decter, Jonathan P. "The Texture of the Divine," *Rev. of The Texture of the Divine: Imagination in Medieval Islamic and Jewish Thought*, by Aaron Hughes. *Jewish Quarterly Review* vol. 97 82-84; Decter, Jonathan P. "Rendering Qur'anic Quotations in Hebrew Translations of Islamic Texts," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 96. 3 (2006): 336-358; Decter, Jonathan P.. "Literatures of Medieval Sepharad," *Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewry: From the Golden Age of Spain to Modern Times*, Ed. Zion Zohar. New York: New York University Press, 2005. 77-110.

Granara, William

William Granara is Professor of the Practice of Arabic on the Gordon Gray Endowment, Director of Modern Language Programs, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and Director of the Moroccan Studies Program at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Professor Granara teaches Arabic language and literature and directs the Arabic language program. He studied Arabic at Georgetown University and received his PhD in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the former executive director of the Center for Arabic Study at the American University in Cairo and the former director of the Arabic Field School of the U.S. Department of State in Tunis, Tunisia. He has traveled extensively throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Granara specializes in the history and culture of Muslim Sicily. He has written on cross-cultural encounters between Islam and Christendom throughout the Middle Ages, as well as the poetry of Ibn Hamdis, Sicily's most celebrated Arab poet. His study of "Ibn Hamdis and the Poetics of Exile" was published in the 1998 issue of *Edebiyyaat*. In addition, he lectures and writes on contemporary Arabic literature and has published translations of Egyptian and North African fiction. His translation into English of the Algerian Arabic novel, *The Earthquake*, was published in March 2000. His work on literary criticism focuses on post-colonialism and cross-cultural poetics.

Hawary, Mohamed

Mohamed Hawary is a faculty member at Ain Shams University, Cairo, where he completed his Ph.D. dissertation in 1983 on *The Divinity Among the Children of Israel From the Period of Moses*

until the Exile of Babylon. Currently, he is a Professor of Religious Jewish Thought and Comparative Religions, Department of Hebrew Studies, Faculty of Arts, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt. His specialized areas of research and teaching include: Judaism, Biblical Studies, Comparative Religions, Aramaic Papyri (Aramaic Documents from Elephantine), Genizah MSS, Judaeo-Arabic Literature and Judaeo-Arabic sources in the Cairo Genizah, Hebrew Grammar and Texts, Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic Language, and Syriac Grammar and Texts, Syriac Literature.

Prof. Hawary has authored a number of books in Arabic, including: "Circumcision in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Comparative Religions" (Cairo, 1987), "Sabbath and Friday in Judaism and Islam, Comparative Religions" (Cairo, 1988), and "The Jewish Polemics Against Christianity in the Light of the Cairo Genizah" (Cairo, 1994). He is also the author of numerous journal articles. His recent articles in Arabic include "The Issue of the Foreign Term Between the Arabization and the Hebrewization", (*Languages and Translation: Between Reality and Hoped Situation*, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1426 H./2005). "The Conditions of the Jews of Yemen in the Light of Maimonides' *Iggeret Teman* (The Yemen Epistle)" (*History of Arabia, Arabian Peninsula from the 5th to the end of the 7th century*, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1429 A.H. = 2008). His articles in English include "Muslim Jewish Relations in Ayyubid Egypt, 1171-1250", (Essay in *The Meeting of Civilizations "Muslim, Christian, and Jewish"*, ed. By Moshe Ma'oz, Brighton, Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2009). Prof. Hawary is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Oriental Studies, published by Society of Oriental Languages Graduates in Egyptian Universities (SOLGEU) in Cairo, Egypt. He served as Chairman of the Dept. of Oriental Languages, Faculty of Arts, Assiut University, Egypt. He has also served as Director of the Center for Study of the Contemporary Civilizations (CSCC), Ain Shams University.

Johansen, Baber

Baber Johansen is Professor of Islamic Religious Studies at Harvard Divinity School since 2005, and at present director of CMES. He served as Directeur d'études at the EHESS (CENJ), Paris (1995-2005), and Professor for Islamic Studies at the FUB (1972-1995). He was affiliated professor at Harvard Law School and Acting director of its ILSP from 2006 to 2010. His research and teaching focus on the relationship between religion and law in the classical and the modern Muslim world. He authored *Muhammad Husain Haikal Europa und der Orient im Weltbild eines ägyptischen Liberalen* (1967; Arab translation in 2010), *Islam und Staat* (1982), *Islamic Law on Land Tax and Rent* (1988) and *Contingency in a Sacred Law: Legal and Ethical Norms in the Muslim Fiqh* (1999). Johansen was a visiting professor at the Watson Institute (Providence), Harvard, Ca' Foscari (Venice), and twice member at IAS, Princeton. He served as one of the three executive editors of *Islamic Law and Society*, and as area editor for Islamic Law in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Legal History* (2009).

Miller, Susan

Susan Gilson Miller, Professor of History, University of California, Davis. Professor Miller is a historian of North African and Mediterranean history, with a special interest in Jewish history. Her undergraduate degree in Modern European history is from Wellesley College. She has an MA degree in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and a PhD in Modern Middle Eastern and North African History from the University of Michigan. She has taught at Wellesley College, Brandeis University, and from 1990 until 2008, at Harvard University, where she directed the Program in North African Studies. She is working on a new book tentatively entitled: *The Making of Modern Morocco: 1820-2000* (Cambridge University Press), a study of contemporary Moroccan history

in its global context.

Saleh, Walid

Walid Saleh is Associate Professor at the Department and Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. He is the author of two books, *The Formation of the Classical Tafsir Tradition* (2004); and, *In Defense of the Bible* (2008). He is a specialist on the Qur'an, and Tafsir (Qur'anic interpretation). Professor Saleh has won several fellowships, including a Library of Congress Kluge fellowship, a New Directions Mellon Foundation Fellowship, and Jackman Humanities Institute Fellowship.

Scheidlin, Raymond

Raymond P. Scheindlin is professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and director of JTS's Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry. He has been on the JTS faculty since 1974 and served as provost from 1984 to 1988. He teaches and conducts research on the encounter of Hebrew and Arabic cultures in Spain, especially as embodied in the poetry of the two traditions. An expert on Arabic literature, Dr. Scheindlin is the author of a reference book widely used by students of Arabic titled *201 Arabic Verbs* and reissued as *501 Arabic Verbs* in 2007. His thesis, a study of a medieval Arab poet from Spain, was published as a book in 1975. Dr. Scheindlin has also pursued an interest in literary translation, having published translations of a Yiddish novella by Mendele Mocher Seforim and of a number of medieval Hebrew fictions. Combining the results of his research with his interest in translation, he published a book on secular Hebrew poetry in Muslim Spain titled *Wine, Women, and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life* (1986). This was followed in 1991 by a companion volume on religious poetry titled *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel, and the Soul*. Dr. Scheindlin's translation of the late Ismar Elbogen's monumental history of the Jewish liturgy appeared in 1993. Other books include *The Book of Job* (W.W. Norton, 1998), a verse translation of the biblical book with introduction and notes; and *A Short History of the Jewish People* (Macmillan, 1998). He was coeditor of a volume of the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature titled *The Literature of Al-Andalus* (2000).

Dr. Scheindlin has been the recipient of the Cultural Achievement Award of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture (2004), a Cullman Fellow at the New York Public Library (2005–2006), and a visiting professor at Harvard University (spring 2007). His latest book, a study of the pilgrimage poems of Judah Halevi entitled *Song of the Distant Dove*, appeared in 2007. Dr. Scheindlin served for three years as the part-time rabbi of the Kane Street Synagogue in Brooklyn, New York. He is vice president of the American Academy of Jewish Research and a member of PEN American Center, as well as a member of the editorial boards of the journals *Jewish Quarterly Review* and *Edebiyat*. A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Scheindlin received a BA in Oriental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, an MHL and rabbinic ordination from JTS, and a PhD from Columbia University.