



OXFORD CENTRE FOR
HEBREW AND JEWISH STUDIES
A Recognized Independent Centre of the University of Oxford



OXFORD SEMINARS IN ADVANCED JEWISH STUDIES

SYMPOSIUM:
“Orthodox Judaism and Theology
in the 21st Century”



23-24 January 2013

at the
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Yarnton Manor, Yarnton,
Oxford, OX5 1PY

Convenors: **Miri Freud Kandel** and **Adam Ferziger**



The Oxford Seminars in Advanced Jewish Studies are made possible
through the generous support
of the Polonsky Foundation, the Dorset Foundation, the Kennedy
Leigh Charitable Trust, and
Friends of www.louisjacobs.org

Wednesday 23 January

6:00 pm – Welcome

Introduction: **Dr Miri Freud-Kandel** (Oxford)
followed by a presentation & opening of the Louis
Jacobs Exhibition at the Muller Library

7:00 pm – Light Buffet Supper

8:00 pm – Open Public Lecture:
Professor David Weiss Halivni (Bar Ilan University)
Is the Critical Method Compatible with Orthodoxy?

Chair: **Professor Martin Goodman** (Oxford)
Concluding remarks: **Dr Adam Ferziger**
(Bar Ilan University)

Thursday 24 January

SESSION ONE:
Orthodox Judaism and the Bible

9:30 am-12:00 noon

Chair: **Professor Arye Edrei** (Tel Aviv University)

Dr Joshua Berman (Bar Ilan University)
*Jeremy Bentham and the Modern Perception of
Contradiction in Biblical Law*

Professor Alan Brill (Seton Hall University)
*Orthodoxies confront Biblical Criticism: Must
Orthodox be Orthodox?*

Professor Tamar Ross (Bar Ilan University)
Orthodoxy and the Challenge of Biblical Criticism

Respondent:

Professor James Kugel (Bar Ilan University)

12:15 pm-1.15 pm – LUNCH

SESSION TWO:
Orthodoxy, Gender, and Social Issues

1:30 pm-4:00 pm

Chair/Respondent:

Professor Chaim I Waxman (Rutgers University)

Professor Daniel Sperber (Bar Ilan University)
*Tradition, Continuity and Innovation: Opposing
Halakhic Concerns*

Professor Sarah Benor (Hebrew Union College)
*Frum Unity, Frum Diversity: The Orthodox Continuum
in Popular Culture*

Professor Samuel Heilman (CUNY)
*Old and New Orthodoxies: Would Rabbi Louis Jacobs
Recognise the Present?*

4:00 pm-4:30 pm – TEA

SESSION THREE:
Spirituality and Contemporary Orthodoxy

4:30 pm-7:00 pm

Chair/Respondent: **Professor Alan Brill**

Professor Moshe Idel (Hebrew University)
Mysticism and Theology in Judaism in the 21st Century

Professor Ada Rapoport-Albert (UCL)
*Messianism and Gender in Twentieth-Century
Habad-Lubavitch*

Professor Ron Margolin (Tel Aviv University)
Obstacles to Spirituality in Contemporary Orthodoxy

7:30 pm – DINNER