



Bar-Ilan University  
**Dahan Center**  
 for Culture, Society & Education in the Sephardic Heritage  
 The Aharon & Rachel Dahan Center



Ashkelon Academic College



Ss. Cyril and Methodius University



The Ministry Of Religious Services



Center for Ladino Studies

# Jews Across the Balkans: History, Society and Culture

## Marking 70 Years Since the Destruction of the Jews of Macedonia and the Balkans (1943-2013)

**Sunday-Wednesday, 25-28 Tishri, 5774**  
**29.9-2.10.2013**

Macedonian Academy Of Sciences And Arts

## **Conference Academic Committee:**

Prof. Shmuel Refael, Conference Chair, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. dr. Boban Petrovski, Conference Chair, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

Prof. Dalibor Jovanovski, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University

Mr. Goran Sadikarijo, CEO, Holocaust Fund of the Jews from Macedonia

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Ashkelon Academic College

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chairman of the Academic Committee, Dahan Center

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

## **Organization and Production:**

Ms. Ora Kobelkowsky, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

## **Information and Registration:**

The Dahan Center for Culture, Society and Education

in the Sephardic Heritage

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# Conference Program

## Jews Across the Balkans: History, Society and Culture

The conference lectures will be accompanied  
by simultaneous translation

18:00-21:00

### Gala Opening

Sunday, 25 Tishrei 5774, 29 September, 2013

MACEDONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS

Bul. Krste Misirkov, 2, 1000 Skopje

#### Opening Remarks:

**M.K. Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Dahan Center,  
Bar-Ilan University

#### Greetings:

**Academician Vlado Kambovski**, President of the Macedonian  
Academy, Macedonia

**M.K. Mr. Eli Ben-Dehan**, Deputy Minister for Religious  
Services, State of Israel

**Dr. Valentina Bozinovska**, Director of Commission for  
Relations with Religious Communities

**H.E. Mr. Yosef Amrani**, Ambassador of the State of Israel  
to the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Macedonia

**Dr. Pinhas Haliwa**, Chief Executive Officer,  
Ashkelon Academic College, Israel

**Mr. Goran Sadikarijo**, Chief Executive Officer,  
Holocaust Fund of the Jews from Macedonia

**Ms. Ljiljana Mizrahi**, Honorary president of the Holocaust  
Memorial Center for the Jews from Macedonia

**Dr. Selim Yehoshua Salti**, Founder, Ladino Studies Center,  
Bar-Ilan University, Israel

#### ❧ Musical Program and Dinner ❧

String trio

**"Plamenka Trajkovska"**

Sephardic and Macedonian

Traditional Music



**Monday, 26 Tishrei 5774, 30 September 2013**

**MACEDONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS**

**Bul. Krste Misirkov, 2, 1000 Skopje**

**09:30-10:00**

**Arrival and Registration**

**10:00-11:30**

**OPENING SESSION**

**Chairman:**

**M.K. Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

**Opening Lectures:**

**Prof. Shmuel Refael**, Conference Chair, Director of the Ladino Studies Center, Bar-Ilan University

*Jews Across the Balkans: Research, Challenges and Goals*

**Prof. Boban Petrovski**, Conference Chair, Ss Cyril and Methodius University Skopje

*Jews in Macedonian contemporary History textbooks: (in)sufficient information*

**11:30-12:00**

**Coffee Break**

**12:00-14:00**

**SESSION 2: Between Jews and Environment**

**Chairman: Prof. Yaron Harel**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. José Alberto D.S. Tavim**, IICT, Lisbon and Évora University, Portugal

*The Balkans as a Place of Passage between the West and the East: An Itinerary of the Portuguese 'conversos' to and from the Ottoman Empire (16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries)*

**Prof. Luan Starova**, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
*Macedonian Sfaradim in the Work of Edgar Moren*

**Prof. Antoanela Petkovska, Prof. Mihajlo Popovski and Prof. Konstantin Minoski**, Ss Cyril and Methodius University Skopje  
*The Social Distance between the Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and Jews*

**Dr. Anetta Buras-Marciniak**, University of Lodz, Poland  
*The Socio-Cultural Situation of Jews in Bosnia and Hercegovina*

**14:00-15:00**

**Lunch**

15:00-16:30

### SESSION 3: The Halakhic Writings

**Chairman: Rabbi Prof. Moshe Amar**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Shaul Regev**, Bar-Ilan University

*Some Remarks on R. Yosef Zarfati's Sermons*

**Dr. Hadar Lipshits**, Ashkelon Academic College

*Ruling of Majority: The Responsa by Rabbi Binyamin Zeev Arta*

**Dr. Eliav Taub**, Ashkelon Academic College

*The Overt and Concealed Dimensions of the Malbim's Leadership on the Backdrop of the Turmoil in the Jewish Community in the Balkans*

16:30-16:45

**Coffee Break**

16:45-18:00

### SESSION 4: History and Documentation

**Chairman: Dr. Selim Yehoshua Salti**, Founder, Ladino Studies Center, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Yaron Harel and Dr. David Ashkenazi**, Bar-Ilan University

*Project Presentation: Ladino Documents from the Archive of the Hahambaşı in Istanbul-Skopje Community and the Question of Recruitment of Young Men into the Ottoman Army (1912-1910)*

**Dr. Gila Hadar**, University of Haifa

*"Apples from Skopje": The Representation of the Jewish Community of Skopje in the Jewish Salonican Press 1877-1924*

**Dr. Michael Studemund-Halévy**, Institut für die Geschichte der Deutschen Juden

*Documentation of Judezmo*

**Dr. Friederike Ruth Winkler**, Wiener Gesellschaft

*Migration of Jewish Merchants from the Balkans to Vienna during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, as Documented in Archival Sources*

Tuesday, 27 Tishrei 5774, 1 October, 2013  
MACEDONIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS  
Bul. Krste Misirkov, 2, 1000 Skopje

10:00-11:30

## SESSION 5: Jews in the Balkans: Historical View

**Chairman: Prof. Shaul Regev**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Asher Ovadiah**, Tel Aviv University  
*Jewish Communities in Macedonia and Thrace in Late Antiquity*

**Rabbi Prof. Moshe Amar**, Ashkelon Academic College  
*The Controversy Between Rav Ya'akov ben Haviv and the Sages of the Generation of Expulsion*

**Prof. Leah Bornstein-Makovetsky**, Ariel University Center in Samaria  
*Protestant Activity among the Jews of the Balkan during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*

**Prof. Raphael Israeli**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
*The Fate of the Jewish Communities in the Balkans in History Followed very Closely the Identity of the Master of those Areas*

**Dr. Yitzhak Mualem**, Ashkelon Academic College  
*Jewish Considerations in the Relationship between Israel and Greece at the Beginning of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Two Countries*

11:30-12:00

## Coffee Break

12:00-13:30

## SESSION 6: Judeo - Spanish (Ladino) Language Studies

**Chairman: Prof. Tamar Alexander**, Ben Gurion University

**Prof. Ora (Rodrigue) Schwarzwald**, Bar-Ilan University  
*Unknown Sources of Ladino Instructions in the Prayer Book for Jewish Women*

**Prof. Alisa Meyuhas Ginio**, Tel Aviv University  
*Los Kuatro Reinados – The Four Kingdoms where the People of Israel shall Suffer Exile according to the Me'am Lo'ez*

**Dr. Nivi Gomel**, Bar-Ilan University

*Zionist Discourse in Communal Pamphlets in Ladino from Salonica and Palestine*

**Dr. Aleksandra Twardowska**, Nicolaus Copernicus University

*Linguistic Features of Rafael Kamhi's Judeo-Spanish Document "Borders of Macedonia"*

**13:30-14:30**

**Lunch**

**14:30-16:30**

## **SESSION 7: Holocaust and Rescue**

**Chairman: Prof. Ephraim Hazan**, Bar-Ilan University

**Dr. Paul Isaac Hagouel**, Thessaloniki

*The Annihilation of Jewish Greeks in Eastern Macedonia and Thrace during WWII: Particularities, Facts, Memory*

**Dr. Gideon Greif**, Shem Olam: Faith and the Holocaust

Institute for Education, Documentation and Research

*Greek Jewish Prisoners in Auschwitz – Some Unique Aspects*

**Dr. Stephen Suleyman Schwartz**, Center for Islamic Pluralism

*The Myth of Bulgarian Rescue of Jews and Reality of Bulgarian Complicity in the Destruction of Macedonian Jewry*

**Dr. Ofer Muchtar**, Ashkelon Academic College

*"Between Incomprehensible Evil" and a Moral Code of Honor – The Rescuing of the Albanian Jews during the Holocaust*

**Dr. Rachel-Shelly Levy-Drummer**, Bar-Ilan University

**and Mr. Leka Rezniki**, Pristina, Kosova

*The first "Righteous among the Nations" delivered to a Muslim from Kosova – Mr. A. Rezniki, for saving Dr. H. Abravanel, and the Ongoing Relationship between the Families*

Wednesday, 28 Tishrei 5774, 2 October, 2013

The Holocaust Memorial Center of the Jews from Macedonia  
2, 11 Mart St., 1000 Skopje, R. Macedonia

10:00-11:30

## SESSION 8: Jewish Literature in the Balkans

**Chairman:** Prof. Leah Bornstein-Makovetsky,  
Ariel University Center in Samaria

**Prof. Ephraim Hazan**, Bar-Ilan University  
*Hebrew Poetry after the Expulsion - Between the Balkan and North Africa*

**Dr. Katja Šmid**, University of Salamanca, Spain  
*Sefer haberit in Ladino: A Sephardic View of Science, Kabbalah and Ethics*

**Dr. Revital Refael-Vivante**, Bar-Ilan University  
*From Andalusia to the Balkans: Study on the Author's Introduction to Lehem Yehuda (Constantinople, 1569) by Yehuda Zarko*

11:30-12:00

## Coffee Break

12:00-13:30

## SESSION 9: Folk Literature - In Memory of Jamila Andjela Kolonomos

**Chairman:** Prof. Alisa Meyuhas Ginio, Tel Aviv University

**Dr. Krinka Vidaković-Petrov**, Institute for Literature and Art, Belgrade  
*Judeo-Spanish Texts From Macedonia: Riddles*

**Prof. Tamar Alexander**, Ben Gurion University  
*Alexander Macedon in the Sephardic Tradition*

**Dr. Nina Pinto Abecasis**, The Open University and Bar-Ilan University  
*Humorous Aspects of the Perception of Death of Ladino Speakers and their Expression in Folklore*

**Ms. Mira Cohen Starkman**, Bar-Ilan University  
*Between a Medical Lore and Modern Medicine - A Study on Dr. Yoel's Memories from Salonica (1938)*

13:30-14:30

## Lunch



14:30-16:00

## SESSION 10: Memories of the Balkan Region

**Chairman:** Prof. Joseph Schwarzwald, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Muhamet Mala**, University of Pristina Republic of Kosovo

*Historical Cohabitation between Albanian and Jewish People*

**Dr. Carmela Saranga**, Ashkelon Academic College  
*Jewish Communities in the Ottoman Empire: A Captured Soldier's Diary on the Life of Haim Nahmias*

**Dr. Pilar Romeu Ferré**, Barcelona, Spain  
*Memorias de Macedonia: Sinior todo poderoso dámosh un gramo de mazal i tíramos a las fundinas del mar.*

**Dr. Lily Zamir**, The David Yellin Academic College of Education  
*Between Auschwitz and Montenegro: The Holocaust of Yugoslavian Jews in the Narrative Work of Danilo Kis*

16:00-16:30

## Coffee Break

16:30-18:00

## SESSION 11: Music - Intercultural Dialogue

**Chairman:** Mr. Goran Sadikarijo, Chief Executive Officer, Holocaust Fund of the Jews from Macedonia

**Prof. Hilary Pomeroy**, University College London  
*'And always there was Singing': Memories, Identity, Acculturation*

**Dr. Agata Jawoszek, Dr. Adam Mickiewicz**, University of Poznan, Poland, and **Dr. Rozalia Sasor**, Jagellonian University of Cracow Poland  
*Bosnian Sevdalinka and Sephardic Romances as an Artistic Expression of the Dialogue of Cultures in the Balkans*

**Dr. Rivka Havassy**, Bar-Ilan University  
*Popular Music In Jewish Salonika between the World Wars as Reflected in the Genre of Cantes Populares*

**Academician Cvetan Grozdanov**, Secretary of the Department of Social Sciences Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts  
*Jewish prophets in the frescoes of St. Clement 13th century*

## Closing Remarks:

**Prof. Yaron Harel**, Chairman of the Academic Committee, Dahan Institute



**בית הקברות היהודי, ביטולה, מקדוניה**  
**Restored portal at the Bitola Jewish cemetery, Macedonia**



**הפרוכת בבית כנסת "בית יעקב", סקופיה, מקדוניה**  
**The Parochet covering the Torah Arc of the Beth Jakov synagogue in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**



המרכז להנצחת יהודי מקדוניה בשוואה  
The Holocaust Memorial Center of the Jews from Macedonia



מעיל לספר תורה, סלוניקי, יוון, תרנ"ג (1892/3)  
המכון היהודי, ורשה, מס' 6-71  
Torah mantle, Salonika, Greece, 1892/3  
Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, no. 6-71