



Bar-Ilan University

D **Dahan Center**
for Culture, Society & Education in the Sephardic Heritage
The Aharon & Rachel Dahan Center


Ashkelon Academic College



University of Cape Town

 **KAPLAN CENTRE**
JEWISH STUDIES & RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



The Ben-Zvi Institute
for the Study of Jewish
Communities in the East

 Historical Jewish Press
עיתונות יהודית היסטורית

International Conference

**Jews in
Colonial
and
Postcolonial
Africa**

Monday - Wednesday, 18-20 Av, 5776

August 22-24, 2016

University of Cape Town, South Africa

Academic Committee:

Prof. Adam Mendelsohn, Chair, University of Cape Town

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chair, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon

Prof. Yaron Tsur, Tel-Aviv University

Prof. Milton Shain, University of Cape Town

Prof. Eyal Ginio, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University

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

Conference Director:

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

Organization and Production:

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

Ms. Janine Blumberg, Kaplan Centre, University of Cape Town

Information and Registration:

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in the Sephardic Heritage

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 Dahan Center Bar-Ilan University

International Conference
Jews in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa

Monday, 18 Av 5776, 22 August 2016
Café Riteve, 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens

18:45-22:00

Gala Dinner

Chair: Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center,
Bar-Ilan University

Greetings:

Mr. Arthur Lenk, Ambassador of Israel to South Africa

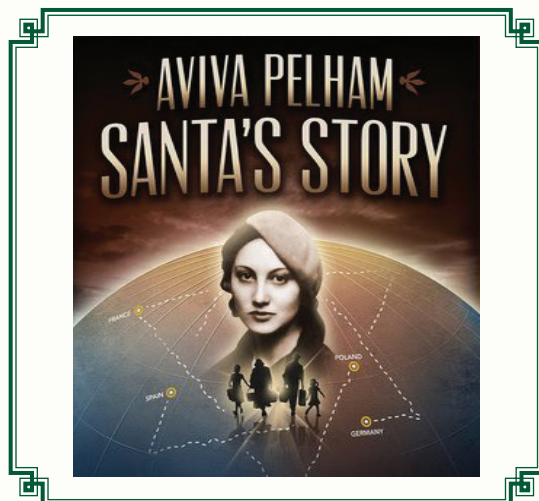
Prof. Adam Mendelsohn, Director, Kaplan Centre for
Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chairman, Academic Committee
Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Ms. Ann Harris, President, African Jewish Congress

Artistic Program

A musical selection from *Santa's Story*, created by and
featuring award winning performer Aviva Pelham and
her musicians



Tuesday, 19 Av 5776, 23 August 2016
South African Jewish Museum
Nelson Mandela Auditorium

09:00-09:30

Arrival and Registration

09:30-09:45

**OPENING SESSION -Case Studies from the
French Sphere of Influence**

Chair: Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center,
Bar-Ilan University

Greetings:

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College,
Ashkelon

Prof. Eyal Ginio, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the
Hebrew University

09:45-11:15

Lectures:

Prof. Yosef Yuval Tobi, University of Haifa

*The Literary Manifestations of the Encounter of the
Tunisian Jewry with the French Rule*

Mr. David Biton, Jewish studies, Ono Academic College

"As a maidservant before her mistress"?

*Colonialism and post-colonialism in the writings of
Moroccan scholars*

Dr. Vered Sakal, Minerva Humanities Center, Tel Aviv
University

*Halachic Writing in French Algeria: A Critical Reading of
Abraham Ankawa's "Kerem Hemer"*

11:15-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:00

SESSION 2:

Case Studies from the British Sphere of Influence

Chair: Prof. Eyal Ginio, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University

Prof. Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University

The Unique Case of the Syrian-Jewish Immigrants in Egypt

Dr. Eli Goldstein, Ashkelon Academic College

The de Menasce and Mosseri Families during the end of the 19th Century and Early 20th: Zionism, Egyptian Nationalism and Anti-Socialism

Prof. Nahem Ilan, Chair of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Ono Academic College, Jerusalem Campus

The Jewish Community in the Sudan: The Most Modern Community in the East in the First Half of the 20th Century?

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

SESSION 3: Jews and the Colonial Project

Chair: Prof. Milton Shain, University of Cape Town

Dr. Tsivia Tobi, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Contribution of the European Scholars (Les Pères Blancs) to the Research of Jewish Tunisian Folklore

Dr. Graham Dominy, University of South Africa

The British Empire's first Jewish Governor: Sir Matthew Nathan as colonial administrator from Cape Coast Castle to Dublin Castle via Natal

Mr. Sidney Corcos, Researcher, Director of the Nature Museum in Jerusalem

Colonialism in Morocco – The case of the city of Mogador /Essaouira

15:30-15:45

Coffee Break

15:45-17:15

SESSION 4 : Photographing the Colony

Chair: Prof. Nahem Ilan, Chair of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Ono Academic College, Jerusalem Campus

Prof. Michael Berkowitz, University College London
Jews and photography—in Africa?

Ms. Karina Simonson, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute
German colonialism in Africa through Jewish lens: Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Leon Levson

Mr. David Guedj, Tel Aviv University
The Photographic Message in the Moroccan Jewish Newspaper L'Avenir Illustré

17:15-17:30

Coffee Break

17:30-19:00

SESSION 5: JPRESS: Jews and the Press in Africa

Chair: Prof. Motti Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Mr. Eyal Miller, National Library of Israel, Presentation of the project

Participants:

**Prof. Irwin Manoim, Prof. Yosef Yuval Tobi,
Dr. Guy Bracha and Mr. David Guedj**

Wednesday, 20 Av 5776, 24 August 2016

09:30-11:00

SESSION 6: The South African Story: Part 1

Chair: Prof. Adam Mendelsohn, Director, Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town

Prof. Motti Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
"Jerusalem of Lithuania" in the Cape: the Cultural Identity of South African Jews in the First Half of the Twentieth Century

Mr. Juan-Paul Burke, University of Cape Town
A Tradition of Talmud study in Cape Town and Yeshiva Tachkemoni

Dr. Veronica Belling, University of Cape Town
"A Shadow of My Former Self": the Eastern European Immigrant Experience in South Africa

11:00-11:15

Coffee Break

11:15-12:45

SESSION 7: The South African Story: Part 2

Chair: Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Milton Shain, University of Cape Town
'...it is easy to rouse a feeling of hate towards the Jews in this country' D F Malan and the 'Jewish Question' in South Africa, 1930 - 1948

Prof. Eyal Ginio, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University
Shaping Ottoman and Sephardi Identities in a Colonial Context: Sephardi Jews in South Africa and Rhodesia during the Late Ottoman Period

Ms. Roni Mikel Arieli, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Apartheid Censorship and Holocaust Memory in South Africa: Holocaust denial in the 1970s

12:45-13:45

SESSION 8: Ethiopian Jews: the forgotten history

Chair: Prof. Rachel Sharaby, Ashkelon Academic College

Mr. Bar Kribus, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

What Does it Mean to be a Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jewish Monk)? An Examination of the Physical Lives of Members of the Beta Israel Monastic Movement

Dr. David Rathner, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Forgotten History: Biographical Narratives of Ethiopian Jews, Former Activists in Political Movements during the Civil War in Ethiopia, 1974 -1991

13:45-14:45

Lunch

14:45-15:45

SESSION 9: Ethiopian Jews: Acculturation

Chair: Dr. Veronica Belling, University of Cape Town

Prof. Rachel Sharaby, Ashkelon Academic College

The Sigd holiday of Ethiopian Jews: Religious-historical context and sociological meanings

Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar-Ilan University

Ethiopean Jews: Traditional Religious Life in Africa meets the Israeli Reality

15:45-16:00

Coffee Break

16:00-17:00

SESSION 10: Jewish futures in Africa?

Chair: Prof. Hananel Mack, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Mohamed Elmedlaoui, Mohammed V University
in Rabat

The consecration of the Hebraic Dimension in the Moroccan Constitution: Its Background and significance

Ms. Janice R. Levi, UCLA

"The House of Israel" in Ghana

17:00-18:30

SESSION 11: The Impact of Israel

Chair: Prof. Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz, Bar-Ilan University

The Entrance to the Land of Israel as an Ideal Spiritual Threshold in the Thought of Rabbi Ya'akov Abessera

Dr. Sarit Cofman-Simhon, Kibbutzim College

The Journey to Jerusalem: Representing Ethiopian Jews' Immigration in the Israeli-Ethiopian Theatre

Dr. Amir Mashiach, Ariel University & Orot College

Rabbi Shimon Lavi: Longing for the Land of Israel and Reprioritizing Ideological Values for Communal Work in Tripoli

18:30-18:45

Closing Remarks:

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chairman, Academic Committee
Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Adam Mendelsohn, Director, Kaplan Centre
for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town



Gardens Synagogue



Inside of the Jewish Museum



UCT

The conference lectures will be accompanied by simultaneous translation