

International Conference



Bar-Ilan University

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


Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center
מרכז מורשת יהדות בבל
مركز و متحف يهود بابل (العراق)



The Fund for Advancement of Education in Israel
Founded by Iraqi Jews Educational Fund in Israel LTD

Babylonian Jewry: Culture and Society in Modern Times

Monday and Tuesday, 15-16 Iyar 5779
20-21 May 2019

at Bar Ilan University and the
Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center
in Or-Yehuda

Academic Committee:

Prof. Moshe Gat, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Shaul Regev, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Haviva Pedaya, Ben Gurion University in the South

Dr. Zvi Yehuda, Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director of the Dahan Center, Bar Ilan University

Ms. Aliza Dayan-Hamama, Managing Director of the
Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center

Conference Director:

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, 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 Bar-Ilan University Ramat Gan 52900 ISRAEL

Tel: +972-3-5317959 Fax: +972-3-5342621

E-mail: dahan.center@mail.biu.ac.il

 www.dahancenter.co.il

Participation fee:

40 NIS for two days / 30 NIS for one day

International Conference Babylonian Jewry: Culture and Society in Modern Times

Monday, 15 Iyar 5779, 20 May 2019
Bar Ilan University, Feldman Hall, Building 301

09:30-10:00

Arrival and Registration

10:00-11:30

Opening Session

Chairman: Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director of the Dahan Center, Bar Ilan University

Greetings:

Prof. Yaron Harel, Dean of Faculty of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Efraim Sadka, Chairman of the Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center

Opening Lecture:

Prof. Moshe Gat, Bar Ilan University

Modernization and Identity Among Iraqi Jews from the mid-19th Century to the 20th Century

11:30-12:00

Coffee Break

12:00-14:00

Session 2: Between Identity and Nationalism in Iraq

Chairman: Prof. Shaul Regev, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Esther Meir-Glitzenstein, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
National Struggles and Conflicting Identities: Iraqi Jews between Arab Nationalism and Jewish Nationalism

Prof. Ofra Bengio, Tel Aviv University
The Jews of Kurdistan in Iraq: A Community Unto Itself

Dr. Dafna Tsimhoni, Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
The Exodus from Iraq: Remembering the Past and Searching for a New Identity, Jewish and Arab Attitudes

Dr. Nissim Kazzaz, Association of Jewish Academics from Iraq in Israel
The Iraqi Orientation in the Iraqi Jewish Leadership and its Failure

14:00-15:00

Lunch Break

15:00-16:00

Session 3: Thought and Halacha

Chairman: Prof. Moshe Gat, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Shaul Regev, Bar Ilan University

The Beginning of Kabbala in Iraq

Dr. Amir Zuretz, Bar Ilan University

Halachic Rulings on Family Law in Iraq at the End of the 19th Century and the Beginning of the 20th Century

16:00-16:15

Coffee Break

16:15-17:45

Session 4: The Story and Song of Baghdad Jews

Chairman: Prof. Aharon Gaimani, Bar-Ilan University

Dr. Merav Rosenfeld, Cambridge University

Judaism and Islam in the Paraliturgical Song of the Babylonian Jews, as Reflected in its Text, Music and in the Identity of its Poets and the Worshippers

Dr. Rivka Kadosh, Givat Washington Academic College of Education

A Reading of the Story "The Rabbi Who Argued with a Merchant" as a Sample of Fiction and Reality in the Sermons of Rabbi Yosef Hayim of Baghdad

Dr. Itamar Drori, Bar Ilan University

The Beginning of Rabbi Sasson Mordechai Shinduch: From Personal Memorata to a Local Legend

18:15-19:30

Artistic Program

"Firqat Alnoor"

Classic Middle-Eastern and Arabic Music, with singers

Ariel Cohen and Elad Harel.



FIRQAT ALNOOR
פירקת אלנוור

The concert is dedicated to classics of the Judeo-Arabic music in Iraq and to the liturgy of Babylonian Jews



Tuesday, 16 Iyar 5779, 21 May 2019

The Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center, Or Yehuda

09:30-10:00

Arrival and Registration

10:00-12:00

Session 5: Tombs of Saints and Synagogues

Chairman & Opening Remarks:

Ms. Aliza Dayan-Hamama, Managing Director of the Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center

Dr. Zvi Yehuda, Research Institute of Babylonian Jewry
The Construction of a Mosque on the Courtyards of the Tomb of Prophet Ezekiel at Kifil - Removing the Heritage Sites of the Babylonian Jews in Iraq

Ms. Limor Kattan, Research Institute of Babylonian Jewry and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
The Meir Tweig Synagogue Architecture in Baghdad

Lecture
in English

Mr. Eddie Ashkenazie, The American Sephardi Federation
The Inscriptions Found in the Tomb of Nahum in Al-Qosh: An Insight into History and Culture

Lecture
in English

Dr. Cheryl Benard & Mr. Adam Tiffen, The Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage
Restoring a Shrine, Honoring a Legacy - Alqosh and the Jews of Iraq and Kurdistan

12:00-12:15

Coffee Break

12:15-13:45

Session 6: Culture and Society in Modern Times

Chairman: **Dr. Zvi Yehuda**, Research Institute of Babylonian Jewry

Lecture
in English

Ms. Yu Amano, Doshisha University (Kyoto, Japan)
Aspects of Jewishness: The Case of Iraqi Jewish Intellectuals in the 1920s

Lecture
in English

Dr. David Basson, Chairman of the Association of Jewish Academics from Iraq in Israel
Jewish Intellectuals in Iraq Post-Tasqit

Dr. Yaakov Maoz, Tikun and Israeli Association of Community Centers

Babylonian Aramaic and Kurdish-Aramaic Spoken Today, an Endangered Cultural Asset

Ms. Orly Baher-Levy, The Babylonian Jewry Heritage Center

Applying Proverbs of the Babylonian Jews in Contemporary Reality Through Illustration and Caricature

13:45-14:15

Lunch Break

14:15-16:00

Parallel Sessions

Session 7: Poems, Poets and Cultural Assets

Chairman: Prof. Shalva Weil, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Dr. Sara Manasseh, London

Shbaḥoth - Songs of Praise in the Babylonian Jewish Tradition: From Baghdad to Bombay and London

Dr. Geula Elimelech, Bar Ilan University

Samir Nakash: A Prophet of Destruction and Apocalypse ?

Ms. Shoshana Vegh, Bar Ilan University

The "Farhud" as a Formative Experience in the Poetry of Herzl and Balfour Hakak

Mr. Balfour and Mr. Herzl Hakak, Poets and Authors

Family Poetry as a Means of Connecting to the Family Tree of the Nation

Lecture
in English

Session 8: Jewish and Arab Relations

Chairman: Ms. Tsionit Fattal Kuperwasser, Bar Ilan University

Ms. Niran Basson-Timan, London

Babylonian Jewry and the Relations with Iraq in the Present and in the Future

Dr. Eddie Cohen, Bar Ilan University

Nazi Propaganda in Arabic and Its Contribution to the Events of the Farhud Massacre of the Jews of Iraq in June

Lecture
in English

Ms. Janet Dallal, Public Activist

**Babylonian Jewry: From Destruction and Displacement to
Recuperation and Recognition – Through the Perspective
of the Media**

16:00-16:30

Coffee Break

Dr. Myer Samra, University of Sydney, Australia

Jews of Babylonian Origin Writing in Australia

16:30-17:30

Session 9: The Dispersion of Babylonian Jewry

Session
in English

Chairman: Dr. David Basson, Chairman of the Association of
Jewish Academics from Iraq in Israel

Prof. Shalva Weil, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**The "Baghdadi" in India: Multi-faceted Diversity and
Identity Preservation**

Dr. Maisie Meyer, London School of Jewish Studies

**The Culture and Society of Babylonian Jews in
Shanghai**

17:30-17:45

Coffee Break

17:45-19:00

Session 10: I am a Proud Iraqi: Linking to the Heritage of Babylonian Jewry, A View of the Third Generation of Writers and Poets

Chairman: Prof. Moshe Shemesh, Ben Gurion University of
the Negev

Ms. Noa Shakarji, Poet, Editor and Literary Researcher

**A Reproduction of our Forefathers Who Decree that We
Surrender**

Ms. Anat Lev-Adler, Author

"Do Not Call Me Mizrahi, I'm a Proud Iraqi"

Ms. Tsionit Fattal Kuperwasser, Bar Ilan University

**Roots and Identity - A Journey following the Book
"The Pictures on the Wall"**

19:15-20:30

Panel Discussion: The Integration of the Iraqi Jews into Israeli Society

Participants:

Prof. Sammy Smooha, University of Haifa and Israel Prize laureate

Mr. Eli Amir, Writer

Lawyer Liat Shohat, Mayor of Or Yehuda

Mr. Roni Daniel, Military commentator of the news company - Channel 12

