

# International Conference

## The Heritage & Culture Of The Jews In The North and East Caucasus

On Wednesday, August 30 -  
Thursday, August 31, 2023  
Azerbaijan University of Languages

In Collaboration with:



The Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and  
Ministry of Culture and Sports



STMEGI  
ISRAELI TV CHANNEL



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

## **Academic Committee:**

Prof. Kamal Abdullayev, Azerbaijan University of Languages

Prof. Dan Shapira, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Zehavit Gross, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Ashkelon Academic College

Prof. Yaron Harel, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Jala Garibova, Azerbaijan University of Languages

Dr. Ravan Hasanov, Baku International Multiculturalism Center

Dr. Agil Shirinov, Institute of Theology

Dr. Ayten Gahraman, Baku International Multiculturalism Center

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director of the Dahan Center

Dr. Zeev Levin, Director, Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study  
of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem

Ms. Alissa Abramov, 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

## **Information and Registration:**

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International Conference

# THE HERITAGE & CULTURE OF THE JEWS IN THE NORTH AND EAST CAUCASUS

**Wednesday, 30 August 2023**

Azerbaijan University of Languages

**09:30-10:00**

**Arrival and Registration**

**10:00-11:45**

**OPENING SESSION**

Auditorium

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

**Greetings:**

**Prof. Kamal Abdullayev**, Rector of Azerbaijan University  
of Languages

**Dr. Ravan Hasanov**, Executive director of Baku  
International Multiculturalism Center

**Prof. Shimon Sharvit**, Rector of the Ashkelon Academic  
College

**Dr. Agil Shirinov**, Rector of Azerbaijan Institute of  
Theology

**Prof. Zehavit Gross**, Dean of the Faculty of Education,  
Bar-Ilan University

**Opening Lecture:**

**Prof. Dan Shapira**, Bar-Ilan University  
**Azerbaijan, Jews and Israel**

**11:45-12:00**

**Coffee Break**

## Session 2: Customs and Traditions

Hall 1

**Chair: Prof. Meir Bar-Ilan**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Aviad Hacoen**, President of the Academic Center "Shaarei Mada Umishpat"

**Spiritual heritage of the Jews of the Caucasus: Custom, 'halakha' and law**

**Dr. Yoel Rappel**, Bar-Ilan University  
**Family synagogues in Caucasus**

**Ms. Frida Yusufova**, Head of the Union of Writers of the Mountain Jews

**Traditional costume of the Mountain Jew**

**Prof. Menachem Katz**, University of Haifa  
**Rosh Hashanah customs in the Kuban [Uchkulan] at the end of the 19th century and their documentation by Shmuel Yosef Agnon**

## Session 3: Multiculturalism in Azerbaijan and in the Jewish Community

Hall 2

**Chair: Dr. Ayten Gahraman**, Counselor of the Baku International Multiculturalism Center

**Greeting:**

**Aleksandr Sharovski**, Head of the European Jewish Community in Baku

**Dr. Urs Unkauf**, Head of Baku International Multiculturalism Center, Berlin branch

**Learning from Jewish life in Azerbaijan: Historical and political conditions of Azerbaijani multiculturalism as a possible model for international understanding**

**Dr. Bayim Abdulla**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**The Jewish community of Dagestan in modern times**

**Mr. Said Musayev**, Baku State University  
**Countering antisemitism and the Azerbaijani multiculturalism doctrine**

**Ms. Abbasova Yazgül**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**Development of multiculturalism as a state policy in Azerbaijan**

**13:30-14:15**

**Lunch**

**14:15-15:45**

**Parallel Sessions**

## **Session 4: National and Ethnic Identity**

Hall 1

**Chair: Dr. Zeev Levin**, Director of Research Center of Jews in Central-Asia and the Iranian Sphere, Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem

**Ms. Svetlana Amosova**, The Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center, Moscow

**Stereotypes and autostereotypes among the local groups of Mountain Jews**

**Mr. Said Omanov**, Ben-Gurion University

**Unraveling Diaspora: Mountain Jews and politics of national identity**

**Ms. Emilia Khudiyeva**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**The Zionism movement in the Caucasus**

**Dr. Anatoly Mishaev**, University of Haifa

**Juhuro between the ethnic and national identity and the Soviet Jews stereotype**

## Session 5: Zionist Activity and Immigration from the Caucasus

Hall 2

**Chair: Prof. Aviad Hacoen**, President of the Academic Center "Shaarei Mada Umishpat"

**Prof. Avraham (Avi) Sasson**, Ashkelon Academic College  
**The Jews of the Caucasus and the Baron's moshavot during the British Mandate period – the case of Binyamina**

**Dr. Chen Bram**, Hadassah Academic College, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**A Zionist role-model or marginalized Orientals? Kavkazi 'Mountain' Jews encounter the Zionist establishment and Israeli society**

**Dr. Malka Katz**, David Yellin College / **Dr. Chen Bram**, the Hebrew University, Hadassah College

**The Association of the "Mizrahi' Mountain Jew in the Land of Israel": Jews of the Caucasus and religious Zionism during the settlement period**

**Dr. Yitzhak Mualem**, Ashkelon Academic College

**The role of peripherality on Zionist movement attitudes toward immigration of Caucasian Jews during the Third Aliyah**

15:45-16:00

**Coffee Break**

16:00-17:30

## Session 6: Israel-Azerbaijan Relations

Auditorium

**Chair: Dr. Pinhas Haliwa**, Director of the Ashkelon Academic College

**Mr. Anatoly Rafailov**, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Azerbaijan and Israel today**

**Prof. Zaki Shalom**, Ashkelon Academic College

**Israel-Azerbaijan relations and their impact on the local Jewish community**

**Ms. Leyla Rustamli**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**Israeli and Azerbaijani models of multiculturalism:  
Old yet new challenges**

**Dr. Eli Goldstein**, Ashkelon Academic College  
**Analysis of the economic ties between Israel and  
Azerbaijan since 1992**

**Ms. Günay Feyziyeva**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**The main directions of Azerbaijan-Israel military-  
political cooperation after the Second Karabakh war**

## **Festive Reception**

**20:00-22:00**

**Four Seasons Hotel Baku**



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

### **Greetings:**

**Prof. Kamal Abdullayev**, Head of Board of Trustees of Baku  
International Multiculturalism Center

**Mr. Mubariz Gurbanli**, Chairman of the State Committee on  
Religious Associations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Mr. Amichai Eliyahu**, Minister of Israeli Heritage

**Dr. Ravan Hasanov**, Executive director of Baku International  
Multiculturalism Center

**Mr. George Deek**, Ambassador of Israel in Azerbaijan

**Dr. Pinhas Haliwa**, Director of the Ashkelon Academic College

**Dr. German Zakharyaev**, Vice-president of the Russian  
Jewish Congress & President of the International Charity  
Foundation of Mountain Jews STMEGI

**Dr. Zeev Levin**, Director of Research Center of Jews in  
Central-Asia and the Iranian Sphere, Ben-Zvi Institute for the  
Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem

**Dr. Melikh Yevdayev**, Head of the  
Religious Community of Mountain Jews in Baku

## **Artistic Program**

**Singing and Dance in Azerbaijan**

**Thursday, 31 August 2023**

Azerbaijan University of Languages

**09:45-11:45**

**Session 7: The Jewish Community in Baku:  
History and Society**

Auditorium

**Chair: Prof. Shimon Sharvit**, Rector of the Ashkelon Academic College

**Greeting:**

**Dr. Melikh Yevdayev**, Head of the Religious Community of Mountain Jews in Baku

**Prof. Orly C. Meron**, Bar-Ilan University

**Economic history of the Jews of Baku**

**Ms. Alisa Abramov**, Bar-Ilan University

**Characteristics of Jewish society in Baku in the early 20th century**

**Prof. Zehavit Gross**, Bar-Ilan University

**The feminine identity of Israeli women from Azerbaijan: Between tradition and modernity**

**Dr. Maya Melzer-Geva**, Kinneret Academic College

**The Mountain Jews - a global perspective**

**Rabbi, Shneor Segal**, Rabbi of the Ashkenazi Jewish Community in Baku

**The Jewish community in Baku today**

**11:45-12:00**

**Coffee Break**

**12:00-13:30**

**Parallel Sessions**

**Session 8: Language and Identity**

Hall 1

**Chair: Prof. Dan Shapira**, Bar-Ilan University



**Prof. Tatiana Agranat**, Institute of Linguistics, RAS  
**Linguistic loyalty to ethnic language in Mountain Jewish communities in the Moscow region: Field research experience commissioned by the STMEGI Foundation**

**Dr. Marietta Shuminova**, Kosygin Russian State University  
**“Kol Tefila” prayer book as a written testament of the early 20th century, in the language of Juhuri Mountain Jews**

**Dr. Sabina Yakubova**, Kosygin Russian State University  
**The modern Jewish languages Juhuri and Yiddish: A sociolinguistic comparison**

**Ms. Irina Mikhailova**, Independent researcher  
**Proverbs associated with ancient customs**

## **Session 9: Jews of the Caucasus in Modern Times**

Hall 3

**Chair: Dr. Afag Ramazanova**, AMEA Folklor Institute

**Prof. Rachel Sharabi**, Ashkelon Academic College  
**“In the Caucasus I was proud to be a Jew. In Israel I am proud to be a Jew from the Caucasus”:** Ritual dynamics in the dimensions of time and space

**Prof. Hamida Jafarova**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**Azerbaijani Jews: Immigration to Israel and integration into a new society**

**Dr. Idit Hazut**, Hemdat Academic College  
**Educational involvement of ultra-Orthodox movements among immigrants from the Caucasus and Central Asia in the 1970s**

**Prof. Valery Dymshits**, European University at St. Petersburg  
**The Mountain Jewish community of Piatigorsk: History, formation of ethnic business**

**Dr. Efrat Kedem Tahar**, Ministry of Education  
**Traditional Jewish education, values, and achievements in the Jewish schools of Baku**

13:30-14:15

Lunch

14:15-15:45

Parallel Sessions

## Session 10: The Mountain Jews during World War II

Hall 1

**Chair: Leyla Rustamli**, Azerbaijan University of Languages

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

**“To be or not to be: The rescue of the Mountain Jews” during World War II**

**Mr. Mateusz Majman**, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

**“No one is forgotten, nothing is forgotten”:  
Remembrance and commemoration of the  
Holocaust in the Mountain Jewish community in Israel**

**Dr. Yossef Charvit**, Bar-Ilan University

**The Nazis and the Georgians in exile, and their  
interrelationship with the attempted rescue of  
Georgian Jews in France during the Holocaust**

**Dr. Belyanin Sergey & Zakrevskaya Ekaterina**, Russian  
Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public  
Administration

**Mechanisms for the formation of folklore Narratives  
about the Holocaust**

## Session 11: Culture and Art

Hall 2

**Chair: Dr. Bayim Abdulla**, Azerbaijan University of Languages

**Dr. Giultekin Shamilli**, State Institute of Art Studies  
Moscow

**The Heritage of Caucasian Jews in the Context of the  
Middle East Oral Musical Tradition**

**Ms. Gunay Safarova**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**Azerbaijan in the works of Jewish authors**

**Ms. Nehama Lavi**, Bar Ilan University  
**Music of Caucasian Jews as an expression of multiculturalism and environmental influence**

**Mr. Arie David Scharnberg**, The Geo-Museum of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish, U.S.A  
**Documentation and photography from the villages**

## **Session 12: Jews in Azerbaijan**

### **Hall 3**

**Chair: Prof. Hamida Jafarova**, Azerbaijan University of Languages

**Mr. Kamran Valizada**, Nakhichevan State University Azerbaijan  
**The role of the Jews in the history of Azerbaijan**

**Dr. Shalala Bagirova**, Azerbaijan University of Languages  
**The activity of Dr. Gindes in Baku's public sphere**

**Dr. Evgenia Nazarova**, Russian State University named after Kosygin  
**Ethnopedagogy as a factor of preservation the ethnocultural heritage of the nation: On the revival of the language of the Mountain Jews of Juhuri**

**Ms. Lyubov Solovieva**, Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
**The character of Krasnaya Sloboda in the 1970s: Based on materials of an ethnographic expedition**

**15:45-16:00**

**Coffee Break**

16:00-17:30

**Session 13: Sources for the Study of  
Caucasian Jews**  
Auditorium

**Chair: Dr. Shalala Bagirova**, Azerbaijan University of  
Languages

**Prof. Meir Bar Ilan**, Bar Ilan University

**Biblical geography: The Table of Nations and the  
Caucasus**

**Mr. Danilov Danil**, STMEGI Foundation

**Library, archive and museum of the STMEGI  
Foundation as a major source of knowledge on the  
heritage and culture of the Jews of the North and  
East Caucasus**

**Dr. Afag Ramazanova**, AMEA Folklor Institute

**Mountain Jews in the SMOMPK collection**

**Mr. Moshe Yohananov**, Sapir College

**The Juhuri language as reflected by stage and  
screen artists**

**Rabbi Zamir Isayev**, Head of Sephardi Jewish  
Community in Baku

**New discoveries from the ancient Jewish cemetery  
in the village of Myudzhyu**



הווי משפחתי קווקז. הצייר אלברט רפאלוב



אשתו של קמואל גלעדוב