



Cults and Rituals

Fourth Annual Conference – The Israeli Association for the Study of Religions

In cooperation with

The Program in the Study of Religions

and the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (HCMH)

University of Haifa

28 February 2021

9:45 Gathering

10:00 – 11:15 Opening Session + Keynote Speech

Chair: Prof. Amos Megged (University of Haifa)

10:00 – 10:15 Opening Remarks – Prof. Ithamar Gruenwald (Tel Aviv University),
IASR President.

Greetings – Mr. Jonathan Tsevi, Werblowsky Family Representative.

10:15 – 11:15

Keynote Speech

Dr. Nils Billing (Uppsala University)

Ritual and Transformation in the Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel Sessions A (see next page)

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:15 Parallel Sessions B (see next page)

16:15 – 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 – 18:15 Parallel Sessions C (see next page)

18:15 – 18:30 Coffee Break

18:30 – 19:30 Evening Session

Opening Remarks and Discussion – Dr. Arik Moran (University of Haifa)

Screening of the anthropological documentary – *Avatara*



Presentations delivered in English and highlighted in gray

Parallel Sessions

11:45 – 13:30

Cult and Ritual in the Mediterranean Basin during Antiquity

Sponsored by the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History (HCMH)

Chair: Dr. Moshe Blidstein (University of Haifa)

- 1) **Greek Oracles: modes of sharing Divine and Human knowledge** Prof. Irad Malkin (Tel Aviv University)
- 2) **Cult and historical memory among the Hittites** Prof. Amir Gilan (Tel Aviv University)
- 3) **The Phoenician/Punic Ritual of Child Sacrifice, and its Relation to the Biblical “Molek”** Mr. Assi Meshullam (University of Haifa)

Divine Presence/Revelation

Chair: Prof. Eran Shalev (University of Haifa)

- 1) **The Divine Presence in the Second Temple – The Chronicler’s view** Dr. Itamar Kislev (University of Haifa)
- 2) **Ritual in the Pancaratra Tradition** Dr. Ithamar Theodor (Zefat Academic College, University of Haifa and Bar Ilan University)
- 3) **Gods, Mediums and Rice: On Doubt Rituals in the Western Himalayas** Dr. Asaf Sharabi (Peres Academic Center)



Ziyāra – Pilgrimage to the Tombs of Sages and Prophets in Islam

Chair: Prof. Youval Rotman (Tel Aviv University)

1) Censuring Ziyāra: Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya (1292-1350) on the Veneration of Graves of Prophets and Saints Prof. Livnat Holtzman (Bar Ilan University)

2) Praising Ziyāra: Shihāb al-Dīn al-Qaṣṭallānī (1448-1517) and the Rituals in the Vicinity of the Prophet Muḥammad's Grave in Medina Dr. Sigalit Chacham (Bar Ilan University)

Ritual as Performance

Chair: Dr. Irit Averbuch (Tel Aviv University)

1) The Physiological and ideational-contractual meanings of religious ritual Dr. Yael Katz-Henkin (Independent Scholar)

2) Sacrificing in Western Music Dr. Efrat Bukris (Givat Washington College of Education)

3) Rituals as Performing Arts: On the Performative Nature of Rites in Japan Dr. Irit Averbuch (Tel Aviv University)

4) Print and Jewish Ritual Space Prof. Avriel Bar-Levav (Open University)



Parallel Sessions

14:30 – 16:15

Rituals in Kabbalah

Chair: Prof. Yossi Chajes (University of Haifa)

- 1) Masculine Rituals and Feminine Tikkun (Repair): Psychoanalysis and Gender in research of Kabbalah** Prof. Ruth Kara-Ivanov Kaniel (University of Haifa)
- 2) Medicalizing Ethics and Magic: Re-reading the Practical Aspects of Lurianic Kabbalah and Their Contexts** Dr. Asaf Tamari (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
- 3) Kabbalistic Rituals for Repairing the Ontological Damages of Transgressions** Dr. Lior Sacks Shmueli (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 4) The Kabbalistic Golem Ritual: Between Mysticism and Magic** Prof. Shlomy Mualem (Bar Ilan University)

Rituals of Burial and Death

Chair: Dr. Itamar Kislev (University of Haifa)

- 1) Natufian Burial Rituals at Hilazon Tachtit Cave 12,000 years Ago** Prof. Lior Grosman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 2) Ritual and Empathy in Ancient Mesopotamia: Sumerian Lamentful Prayers and the Reflection of Divine Emotions** Prof. Uri Gabbay (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 3) The Rational behind the Rite of the Red Heifer (Num. 19)** Prof. Meir Bar-Ilan (Bar Ilan University)
- 4) There's no smoke without fire: the negotiation of burial rituals between East and West** Dr. Isaac Lubelsky (Open University)



Ancient Christianity

Chair: Dr. Nira Pancer (University of Haifa)

- 1) **The Dangers of Purity** Dr. Inbar Graiver (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 2) **From Harlot to Saint: The Cult of Mary of Egypt** Dr. Jennine Horowitz (University of Haifa)
- 3) **Baptism in the desert: the secrets of Shivta revealed** Dr. Emma Maayan-Fanar (University of Haifa)

Sacrifice and Offerings

Chair: Dr. Arik Moran (University of Haifa)

- 1) **The 'Yokkha-Soe': Tree spirits and their private rituals in Myanmar** Prof. Youval Rotman (Tel Aviv University)
- 2) **From Sacrifice to Release: Ritual Shifts Within Bull cults of Early India** Prof. Smita Sahgal (University of Delhi)
- 3) **Stupa: An Evolving Symbol of Cultic Practice in Early Buddhism** Prof. Snigdha Singh (University of Delhi)
- 4) **Animal Sacrifice within Religious Rituals in Contemporary Seoul** Dr. Liora Sarfati (Tel Aviv University)

Parallel Sessions

16:30 – 18:15

Secular Ritualization

Chair: Dr. Shai Feraro (University of Haifa and Tel Hai College)

- 1) **Holy Time: Birthdays as Modern Temporal Rituals** Dr. Hizky Shoham (Bar Ilan University)
- 2) **Their Sabbath: Secular Ritual and Worship over the Weekend of Jews in Israel** Ms. Stav Shufan Biton (Bar Ilan University)
- 3) **Zionist Dance As Secular Ritual** Ms. Liora Bing-Heidecker (Independent Scholar)



Ritual from an Inter-religious Approach

Chair: Prof. Hanoch Ben Pazi (Bar Ilan University)

- 1) Almsgiving, praying and fast in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18) and the polemic against the Pharisees** Dr. Rivka Nir (Open University)
- 2) A Jewish–Muslim Rethinking of the Ritual of Animal Sacrifice** Prof. Hanoch Ben Pazi (Bar Ilan University)
- 3) The Evolution of the Immersion of Penitence – The Correlation between Transgression, Impurity and Repentance Via Immersions of Post – Biblical Times** Mr. Betzalel Aholiav Brandwine (Zefat Academic College)
- 4) Shared Spaces of Prayer in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria: Tomb of the Patriarchs, Nebi Samuel and David's Tomb** Dr. Gideon Elazar (Bar Ilan University)

The Conference's Academic Committee:

Dr. Moshe Blidstein, Prof. Ithamar Gruenwald, Prof. Amos Megged,

Dr. Nira Pancer and Dr. Shai Feraro.