



The Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for the  
Study of Women in Judaism &  
The Interdisciplinary Program in Gender Studies  
Bar-Ilan University

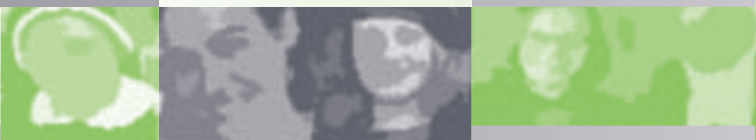
invite you to an international conference

# Gender Religion & Society



Sunday-Monday, May 21-22, 2006  
The Feldman International Conference Center  
Bar-Ilan University

Lectures will be delivered in English or in Hebrew  
Simultaneous translation will be available in the main auditorium



## For details:

Gender Studies Program

Bar-Ilan University

Ramat-Gan 52900

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Email: [gendercon@yahoo.com](mailto:gendercon@yahoo.com)

Internet link: <http://www.ai-dev.com/Migdar/>



SUNDAY MAY 21, 2006

09:00-10:30

**Plenary #1:**

**Feminism and Religion in American Society**

Chair: **Tova Cohen** (Bar-Ilan University)

Greetings: **Yosef Yeshurun** (Rector, Bar-Ilan University)

**Rosemary Radford Ruether** (Graduate Theological Union, Claremont Graduate University)

**Developing Women's Leadership and Feminist Theology in US Christianity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries** (E)

**Shira Wolosky** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Civic Feminism and American Religion** (E)

11:00-1:00

Parallel sessions 1, 2 and 3

**Session**

**1**

**State Law and Religious Norms**

Chair: **Noam Zohar** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Merav Shmueli** (Tel-Aviv University)

**Women's Quest for 'Religious Citizenship' and the Role of Law** (H)

**Ruth Halperin-Kaddari** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Women in Religion: What is the Place of the State?** (H)

**Noya Rimalt** (Haifa University)

**Religious Women between the Liberal State and Patriarchal Religions** (H)

**Michael Karayanni** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**A Robust Case of the Multicultural Predicament: The Case of the Palestinian-Arab Women in Israel in Matters of Personal Status** (H)



## Session

# 2

### **Art and Creativity**

Chair: **Yaffah Berlovitz** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Tal Dekel** (Tel-Aviv University)

**Between the Jewish Shtetl and Sheinkin Street - Jewish Women and Visual Art (H)**

**Reina Rutlinger Reiner** (Talpiot College, Emunah College)

**"Because Everything is Yours - and It is All from You": Prayers of Israeli Orthodox Women Performers (H)**

**Yael Rotenberg** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Gender, Religion and Poetry: Poetic Construction of Women's Identity through Religious Experience (H)**

**Aliza Lavie** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Women's Prayer: The Power of the Whispered Jewish Chorus of Tongues and Times (H)**

## Session

# 3

### **Historical Perspectives: Progress and Change**

Chair: **Kimmy Caplan** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Chana Safrai and Avital Campbell**

**Hochstein** (Shalom Hartman Institute)

**Exclusion and Inclusion in Midrash: Gender Reflections (E)**

**Ronit Ir-Shay (Naamat)** (Bar-Ilan University)

**A Foucauldian View of the Gender Project in the Philosophy of Halakha (H)**

**Rachel Werczberger** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Messianism and Femininity: The Case of Ba'a lot Tshuva in Habad (H)**



**Margalit Shilo** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Can Feminism and Orthodoxy Go Hand in Hand? The Movement for the Amelioration of the Legal Position of the Jewess (London, 1922–1939)** (H)

1:00-2:30

Lunch and poster presentations

2:30-4:30

Parallel sessions 4, 5, and 6

**Session**

**4**

**Feminism in Synagogue Life and Communal Prayer**

Chair: **Aliza Lavie** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Beatrice de Gasquet** (Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales EHESS, Centre d'études interdisciplinaires des faits religieux CEIFR)

**Talking Gender in French Synagogues: So Much Politics, So Little Feminism?** (E)

**Einat Libel** (Ashkelon College)

**Habitus and the Female Visibility in the Public Space of a “Masorti”/Conservative Congregation** (H)

**Frances Raday** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem and College of Management, Academic Studies)

**Regulating the Clash between Religion and Women’s Human Rights** (E)

**Joëlle Allouche-Benayoun** (Université Paris XII)

**Women’s Rights and Liberal Judaism in France** (E)

**Session**

**5**

**Marriage and Divorce – Legal Aspects**

Chair: **Aviad Hacoen** (Sha'arei Mishpat College)

**Bonna Devora Haberman** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**(Con)Textual Re-Visions of Jewish Wedding Commitment** (E)

**Norma Baumel Joseph** (Concordia University)

**Jewish Orthodox Feminism: Agunah Challenges** (E)



**Rachel Levmore** (Bar-Ilan University and The Jewish Agency)

**The Agreement for Mutual Respect:  
Prenuptial Agreements as a Tool for  
Religious and Societal Change in Women's  
Personal Status (E)**

**Susan Weiss** (Center for Women's Justice and  
Tel-Aviv University)

**Women's Justice, Patriarchal Justice and  
Jewish Divorce Law (E)**

Session

6

**Women and Religion: The Challenges  
of Internal Change**

Chair: **Orna Sasson-Levy** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Deena R. Zimmerman** (Nishmat)

**Women Providing Religious Guidance  
to Women: The Example of the Yoatzot  
Halacha (E)**

**Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder** (Ben-Gurion University)

**Feminism in Islam: The Case of Bedouin  
Women in the Negev Region of Israel (H)**

**Esti Barel** (Bar-Ilan University)

**New Trends in the Study of Torah in  
Women's Batei Midrash (H)**

**Rachel Gordin** (Bar-Ilan University)

**The Religious Hierarchy: Can the New  
Roles of Jewish Women Alter the Present  
Hierarchical Structure? (H)**

5:00-6:00

**Plenary #2**

**Jewish Feminism and Gender Theories**

Chair: **Charlotte Katzoff** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Judith Plaskow** (Manhattan College)

**Gender Theory and Gendered Realities:  
The Challenge for Jewish Feminism (E)**

**Tamar Ross** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Response (E)**



MONDAY MAY 22, 2006

9:00-10:15

**Plenary #3**

**Orthodoxy and Feminism in Jewish Society**

Chair: **Elisheva Baumgarten** (Bar-Ilan University)

Greetings: **Moshe Kaveh** (President, Bar-Ilan University)

**Tova Hartman** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Modern Orthodoxies: A Feminist Analysis of the "U" in "Torah u-Madda"** (E)

**Noam Zohar** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Feminism and Orthodoxy - Which is the Unknown Quantity?** (E)

10:30-12:30

Parallel sessions 7 and 8

Session

7

**Women and Official Religious Teachings**

Chair: **Tamar Ross** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Rachel Furst** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Captivity, Conversion, and Communal Identity: Reading Responsa Literature** (E)

**Evyatar Marienberg** (Tel-Aviv University)

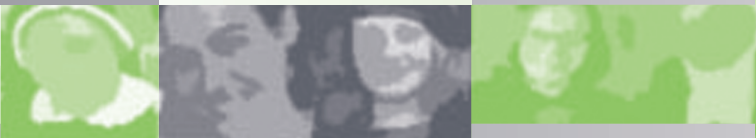
**Joseph Ratzinger (a.k.a. Pope Benedict XVI) on Gender and Feminist Theories** (E)

**Elisa Diamantopolou** (Ecole pratique des hautes études (EPHE) Sorbonne)

**Christian Orthodox Bioethics: The Greek Orthodox Church and Birth Control** (E)

**Stephen Hunt** (University of the West of England)

**Gender Roles in the House Church Movement** (E)



## Session 8 **Negotiating Identities**

Chair: **Rivka Tuval-Mashiach** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Hannah Ovnat** (Ben-Gurion University and Sapir College)  
**Out Proud and Pious: The Virtual Religious Lesbian Forum at Nana** (E)

**Chia Longman** (Ghent University)  
**Life Stories of Orthodox Jewish Women in Antwerp: Negotiating Identity, Autonomy and Belonging** (E)

**Marta Trzebiatowska** (University of Exeter)  
**Experience and Mediation of Gender Identity through Religion: Catholic Nuns in Contemporary Poland** (E)

**Zehavit Gross** (Bar-Ilan University)  
**Gender, Civic and Religious Socialization: Contradictory or Reconciled?** (E)

12:30-2:00

Lunch and poster presentations

2:00-4:00

Parallel sessions 9, 10 and 11

## Session 9 **Hair Coverings and Shawls: Experiences and Realities**

Chair: **Ronit Kark** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Naomi Marmon Grumet** (Bar-Ilan University)  
**What Does Hair Covering Reveal? A Status Negotiation for Modern Orthodox Women** (E)

**Valeria Seigelshifer** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
**Religion, Self-Expression and What Lies Between: Modern Orthodox Women's Approaches to the Issue of Head Covering** (H)

**Sima Zalcborg** (Bar-Ilan University)  
**Shawls among Israeli Haredi Women: An Expression of Religious Extremism** (H)





## Session 10 Theological Aspects

Chair: **Lyat Friedman** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Avner Dinur** (Ben-Gurion University and Sapir College)

**Weak Divinity: Ety Hillesum and the Feminist Solution to the Problem of Evil** (H)

**Einat Ramon** (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies)

**Idolatry and Feminist Jewish Theology** (H)

**Hagar Lahav** (Bar-Ilan University and Tel-Aviv University)

**Between Irigaray's "Divine Woman" and the Kabbala's "Tikun Ha'Lev"** (H)

**Yael S. Feldman** (New York University)

**Jephtah's Daughter, Tizhak, She'ula: The Female Sacrifice Then and Now** (H)

## Session 11 New Paths, Old Traditions

Chair: **Orly Benjamin** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Inbal E. Cicurel and Rachel Sharaby** (Ashkelon College and Bar-Ilan University)

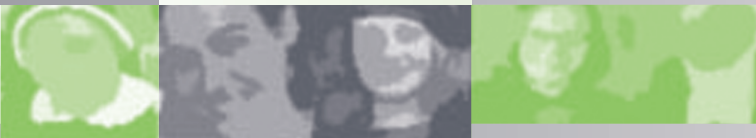
**Purity House (Margam Gojo) in the Israeli Home: The Story of Religious Conservation among Ethiopian Immigrants in Israel** (H)

**Rivka Neriah Ben-Shachar** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**What Society Do You Have in Which Most of the Breadwinners Are Women?: Women's Work in Haredi Press** (H)

**Elana Sztokman** (Bar-Ilan University)

**Panoptical Prayer and Other Practices: Rethinking Religious Girls' Education Through Tefilah** (E)



**Brenda Socachevsky Bacon** (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies)

**Curriculum and Ideologies in Israeli Society: A Gendered Reading of Three Israeli Bat/Bar Mitzva Curricula** (E)

4:15-5:30

**Plenary #4:**  
**Gender, Religion and Minority Cultures: The Indian Case**

Chair: **Rosemary Radford Ruether** (Graduate Theological Union, Claremont Graduate University)

**Rehana Ghadially** (Indian Institute of Technology)  
**Rituals and Women's Empowerment in an Ismaili Sect of South Asian Islam** (E)

**Maina Chawla Singh** (University of Delhi)  
**Empowered by a Secular State, Curtailed by 'Personal Laws': Religion and Law in the Lives of Indian Women Today** (E)

6:00-7:00

**Closing Session:**  
**Gender and Religion - Social Action**

Chair: **Hanna Herzog** (Tel-Aviv University) (H)

**Saida Mohsen-Byadsi** (Women and Horizons - Nissa WA Aafaq) (H)

**Alia Alkamalat** (Principal, "Omar ben Hitab" School, Rahat) (H)

**Chana Pasternak** (Kolech) (H)

**Dafna Horev** (Morasha and Or Torah) (H)



Throughout the conference two exhibits, both sponsored by the Lieber Center for Exhibits, Bar-Ilan University will be on display

**A** *"Women Praying for Themselves"*, curated by Anat Hen

**B** *"Things Seen From Here Are Not Seen From There"*  
a photographic exhibit by Rivkah Lubitch.