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
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 19th and 20th 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 Hacohen (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 Hierarchal 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 Zalcberg (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: Etty Hillesum and the Feminist Solution to the Problem of Evil (H)

Einaat 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.