



Center for Judaic Studies



Daugavpils University



Museum "Jews in Latvia"

The international conference for Judaic Studies

Jews and Judaic Studies in Latvia and the neighboring countries

Monday, 9 July 2012 - Thursday, 12 July 2012

University of Latvia,
Rainis boulevard 19, Small Hall
Riga

Steering Committee:

Prof. Ruvin Ferber, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Latvia, Chair
Prof. Elina Vasiljeva, Institute of Comparative Studies, Daugavpils University,
Ilya Lensky, Museum "Jews in Latvia", director,
Eva Sinkevica, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Latvia.

Monday, 9 July 2012 (Small Hall)

16:00 Registration and welcome

16:30 Welcome greetings, Chair: Prof. Ruvin Ferber, University of Latvia

Vice Rector of the University of Latvia Prof. Andris Kangro, Ambassador of the State of Israel Hagit Ben-Yaakov; Ambassador-Director General, Economic and Bilateral Relations Directorate of the Foreign Ministry of Latvia Jānis Mažeiks; President of the Council of Latvian Jewish Communities Arkadii Suharenko; Rabbi of Riga's Synagogue Mordechai Glazman

17:00 Opening Session, Jewish Thought and Jewish History, Chair: Prof. Aivars Stranga, University of Latvia

Keynote lecture: Prof. Ruvin Ferber, Department of Physics; Head of the Board of the Center for Judaic Studies, University of Latvia:

- **On the Notion of Time in Modern Science and Jewish Thought**

Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya, Bar Ilan University:

- **"Jerusalem of Latvia": The Jewish Community of Ludza"**

Prof. Elina Vasiljeva, University of Daugavpils:

- **Jewish Question in the Works of F. Gorenstein**

Tuesday, 10 July 2012 (Room 13)

09:00 – 11:00 Session 2, History, Chair: Prof. Elina Vasiljeva, University of Daugavpils

Prof. Menachem Friedman, Bar Ilan University:

- **Rabbi Joseph Schneerson: From the Soviet Union to Riga 1927-1932**

Prof. Ella Belfer, Bar Ilan University:

- **Dubnow and Jewish Spiritual Nationalism**

Dr. Orly C. Meron, Bar Ilan University:

- **Sephardic Networks in the Balkans during the Great Depression**

Ilya Lensky, Museum “Jews in Latvia”:

- **A story of the failure: *Judenmission* in Courland and Riga (1860s-1870s)**

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session 3, Zionism, Chair: Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Yossi Goldstein, Ariel University Center of Samaria:

- **The Zionist Movement in the Baltic Countries, 1881-1904**

Eva Sinkēviča, University of Latvia:

- **The Movement of Religious Zionism in Latvia: Ideas, Organizations, Leaders**

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 -16:00 Session 4, Holocaust; Zionism, Chair: Prof. Yossi Goldstein, Ariel University Center of Samaria

Prof. Aivars Stranga, University of Latvia:

- **Holocaust in Latvia, Occupied by Germany: 1941-45. A Short History of Historiography**

Viktorija Šaldova, Daugavpils University:

- **Social Representations about the Holocaust in the Latvian and Russian Ethnic Groups**

Dr. Ishai Arnon, Bar Ilan University:

- **Rabbi Mordechai Nurok: From the Latvian Saeima to the Israeli Knesset**

16:00 Visit to the Museum “Jews in Latvia” and Jewish Community Center

Wednesday, 11 July 2012 (Room 13)

09:30 – 11:00 Session 5, Halakha and Medicine, Chair: Prof. Ella Belfer, Bar Ilan University

Prof. Elimelech Westreich, Tel Aviv University:

- **Halakha and Medicine in Latvia and Neighboring Countries: The Metzitza Debate at the Turn of the 19th Century**

Prof. Gershon Breslav, Baltic Psychology and Management University College

- **Jewish Roots of Psychoanalysis**

Prof. Emanuel Jakobson, University of Latvia:

- **Genomic DNA Aspects of Latvian Jewry**

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00 Session 6, Halakha and Kabbala, Chair: Prof. Yehoshua Liebermann, Dean, School of Business administration, Netanya Academic College

Rabbi Shimon Golan, Bar Ilan University:

- **The Halakhic Position on Civil Marriage in the Rulings of the Rabbis of Latvia and Lithuania at the Turn of the 20th Century**

Dr. Abraham Ofir Shemesh, Ariel University Center of Samaria:

- **Plants and Dishes in the *Book of Aruch HaShulchan* of Rabbi Yechiel Michel Epstein: Halakha and East European Reality**

Prof. Yosef Rivlin, Bar Ilan University:

- **Between Lithuania and Latvia: The Importance of Learning Kabbalah in the Doctrine of the Vilna Gaon and Rabbi Kook**

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30 -16:00 Session 7, The Jewish Spirit, Chair: Prof. Menachem Friedman, Bar Ilan University

Dr. Aaron Rabinowitz, Bar Ilan University:

- **Psychological Interpretations Evident in the Writings of Rabbi Meir Simcha of Dvinsk**

Dr. Rachel Kollender, Jerusalem College; Bar Ilan University:

- **The Musical Expression of the Mussar Movement as a Reflection of Ideologies and Way of Life**

Marina Mihailets, Music Department, National Library of Latvia:

- **Jewish Music and Jewish Musicians in Latvia During the 1930ies: their problems and achievements**

Thursday, 12 July 2012 (Room 13)

**09:30 – 11:00 Session 8, Closing Session, The Family, Economics and Education,
Chair: Prof. Elimelech Westreich, Tel Aviv University**

Prof. Yehoshua Liebermann, Dean, School of Business administration, Netanya
Academic College:

- **Preserving Kethubah Value in Medieval Eastern Europe**

Dr. Israel Zvi Gilat, Netanya Academic College:

- **The Father's Duty to Hire a Teacher to Teach his Son Torah: The
Halakhic Background of the Torah "Formal Education"- Approaches of
Lithuanian Rabbis**

Dr. Mati Dombrowski, Bar Ilan University:

- **From *Heder* in Lithuania to *Zionist Talmud Torah* in Israel**

**Closing remarks: Prof. Ruvim Ferber, Prof. Eliezer Don-Yehiya, Prof. Yosef
Rivlin**