

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM

MONDAY, MARCH 2

UNIVERSITY CLUB ON THE ASU TEMPE CAMPUS

9:00-9:30 A.M. / NORTH ROOM

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Deborah Losse (*Dean of Humanities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | Arizona State University*)

SESSION 1 / 9:30-11:00 A.M. / NORTH ROOM

HOLY SITES—NATIONAL AND TRANSNATIONAL

CHAIR: Daniel Ramirez (*Arizona State University*)

Holy Sites and Holy War:

(Inter-) Disciplinary and Methodological Questions

Arieh Saposnik and Yoav Gortzak (*Arizona State University*)

Constituting a Transnational Islamic Space— The Case of the Afghan Jihad

Avraham Sela (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*)

SESSION 2 / 11:15 A.M.-12:45 P.M. / NORTH ROOM

NATIONS AND THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE DEAD

CHAIR: Norbert Samuelson (*Arizona State University*)

Sacred and “Profane” Graveyards and the Monuments of Mourning in Post Revolutionary Iran

Shahla Talebi (*Arizona State University*)

Grave Matters: A Ghostly Story of the State

Richard Hecht (*University of California, Santa Barbara*)

LUNCH / 12:45-1:45 P.M. / THOREN ROOM

SESSION 3 / 2:00-3:30 P.M. / NORTH ROOM

HOLIES NEW AND OLD

CHAIR: Amit Ron (*Arizona State University at the West campus*)

Complex Identities: Contemporary Christian Communities in the Holy Land

Merav Mack (*Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem*)

Religion, Holy Sites, and Political Conflict: An International Relations View

Yoav Gortzak (*Arizona State University*)

SESSION 4 / 3:45-5:15 P.M. / NORTH ROOM

ZIONIST IMAGERIES OF THE SACRED

CHAIR: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (*Director, Jewish Studies | Arizona State University*)

Social Class, Theology and Jerusalem in Moshe Shamir’s Historical Novel *King of Flesh and Blood*

Hannan Hever (*Hebrew University, Jerusalem*)

Sanctifying Land and State: Zionism and Post-Zionism in the Teaching of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook and the Roots of Gush Emunim

Motti Inbari (*Brandeis University*)

RECEPTION / 5:30-6:00 P.M. / THOREN ROOM

DINNER / 6:00-6:50 P.M. / THOREN ROOM

SESSION 5 / 7:00 P.M. / SOUTH ROOM

LAW AND THE POLITICS OF HOLY SITES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

CHAIR: Sally Kitch (*Founding Director, Institute for Humanities Research | Arizona State University*)

Of Boundaries, Thruways and Barriers:

Sketching Jerusalem’s Face

Gregory Khalil (*Former Legal Advisor to the Palestinian Negotiating Team*)

Shared Holy Sites in the Arab-Israeli Conflict and Elsewhere

Orde Kittrie (*Arizona State University and Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies*)

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

OLD MAIN ON THE ASU TEMPE CAMPUS

SESSION 6 / 8:30-10:00 A.M. / TOOKER BOARDROOM

CONTESTING THE SACRED AND RESHAPING THE HOLINESS OF THE HOLY LAND

CHAIR: Joel Gereboff (*Chair, Department of Religious Studies | Arizona State University*)

Holy Sites and Holy Wars in Tourism Development: The Case of ‘Nazareth 2000’

Kobi Cohen-Hattab (*Bar-Ilan University, Israel*)

Zionism and the Christian Holy Land

Arieh Saposnik (*Arizona State University*)

SESSION 7 / 10:15-11:45 A.M. / TOOKER BOARDROOM

WAR AND THE SHAPING OF THE SACRED

CHAIR: Patrick Kenney (*Chair, Department of Political Science | Arizona State University*)

The Influence of the 1948 War on Jewish Sacred Space in the State of Israel

Doron Bar (*Haifa University and Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem*)

Conflicts over Shiite Shrines in Iraq Since 2003

Juan Cole (*University of Michigan*)

SESSION 8 / 12:00-12:30 P.M. / TOOKER BOARDROOM

CONCLUDING ROUNDTABLE: HOLY SITES, MODERNITY AND CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

CHAIR: Carolyn Warner (*Department of Political Science | Arizona State University*)

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

GREGORY KHALIL (J.D., Yale Law School) is an attorney and former legal advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team. He is a leading expert on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the Palestinian Christian community.

ORDE KITTRIE (J.D., University of Michigan, 1992) is a Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and a visiting Scholar at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Professor Kittrie is a member of a special Congressionally-created committee on how to better prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Prior to joining the College, he served at the U.S. State Department where, as its lead nuclear affairs attorney, he negotiated five U.S.-Russia nuclear agreements and a U.N. treaty to combat nuclear terrorism.

MERAV MACK (Ph.D., University of Cambridge 2002) is a Research Fellow at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. Her dissertation was titled “The Merchant of Genoa: the Genoese, the Crusades and the Latin East (1187-1220s).”

ARIEH SAPOSNIK (Ph.D., New York University, 2002) is Jess Schwartz Assistant Professor of Hebrew Culture at Arizona State University. He is the author of *Becoming Hebrew: The Creation of a Jewish National Culture in Ottoman Palestine* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

AVRAHAM SELA (Ph.D., Hebrew University, 1986) is Associate Professor of International Relations, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. He is the author of *The Palestinian Hamas: Vision, Violence and Adjustment*, (Columbia University Press 2006) and the editor of *The Continuum Political Encyclopedia of the Middle East* (Continuum, 2002).

SHAHLA TALEBI (Ph.D., Columbia University, 2007) is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. Her doctoral dissertation was titled: “Discourses of Self-Sacrifice: State and Dissident Martyrs in Post Revolutionary Iran.”

DORON BAR (Ph.D., Hebrew University, 2002) heads the Department of Land of Israel Studies at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. He is the author of *Sanctifying a Land: The Jewish Holy Places in the State of Israel, 1948-1968* (Yad Izhak Ben Zvi, 2007) [in Hebrew].

KOBI COHEN-HATTAB (Ph.D., Hebrew University, 2001) is a lecturer at the Martin (Szusz) Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology at Bar Ilan University. He is the author of *Touring the Land: Tourism in Palestine During the British Mandate (1917-1948)* [in Hebrew].

JUAN R. I. COLE (Ph.D., University of California, 1984) is Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. His most recent book is *Engaging the Muslim World* (Palgrave Macmillan, March, 2009) and he also recently authored *Napoleon’s Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

YOAV GORTZAK (Ph.D., The Ohio State University, 2005) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Arizona State University. His work focuses on power and conflict in international relations, with a particular interest in the interplay between religion and violent conflict.

RICHARD HECHT (Ph.D., University of California, 1976) is Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is co-author (with Roger Friedland) of “Changing Places: Jerusalem’s Holy Places in Comparative Perspective” (*Israel Affairs*, 1999) and *To Rule Jerusalem* (Cambridge University Press, 1996).

HANNAN HEVER (Ph.D., Hebrew University) is Professor of Hebrew Literature in the Department of Hebrew Literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a senior fellow at the Van Leer Institute. Professor Hever recently published the collections *Reading Poetry, Reviews, Essays and Articles About Hebrew Poetry* (Keshev Publishers, 2007) and *From the Beginning, Three Essays on Nativist Hebrew Poetry* (Keshev Publishers, 2008).

MOTTI INBARI (Ph.D., Hebrew University, 2006) is a post-doctoral associate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Brandeis University. He is the author of *Jewish Fundamentalism and the Temple Mount* (Magnes Press, 2007) [in Hebrew] (and forthcoming in English, SUNY Press). Inbari is the co-editor of *Who is a Jew in Our Days: Discussions on Jewish Identity* (Tel Aviv: 2005) and *The War of Gog and Magog: Messianism and Apocalypse in the Past and in Modern Times* (Tel Aviv, 2001) [in Hebrew].

The relationship between holy sites, religion, political conflict, and violence has become a point of great interest and even urgency in scholarship and in the popular press alike. Much of the focus has been on the role of holy sites as catalysts to violent conflict. By bringing together scholars working on disparate aspects of holiness and conflict in the Middle East, this symposium seeks to combine such a focus with an attentiveness to the construction of often competing sacralities under situations of conflict, and the complexities involved in delineating the religious and the secular. Together, we will seek a deeper understanding of the relationship between religion and violent conflict as they intertwine with the construction of national identities and modern religiosities, paving the way ultimately to new insights into the roles played by processes of secularization and sacralization in shaping the modern itself.

Questions addressed will include:

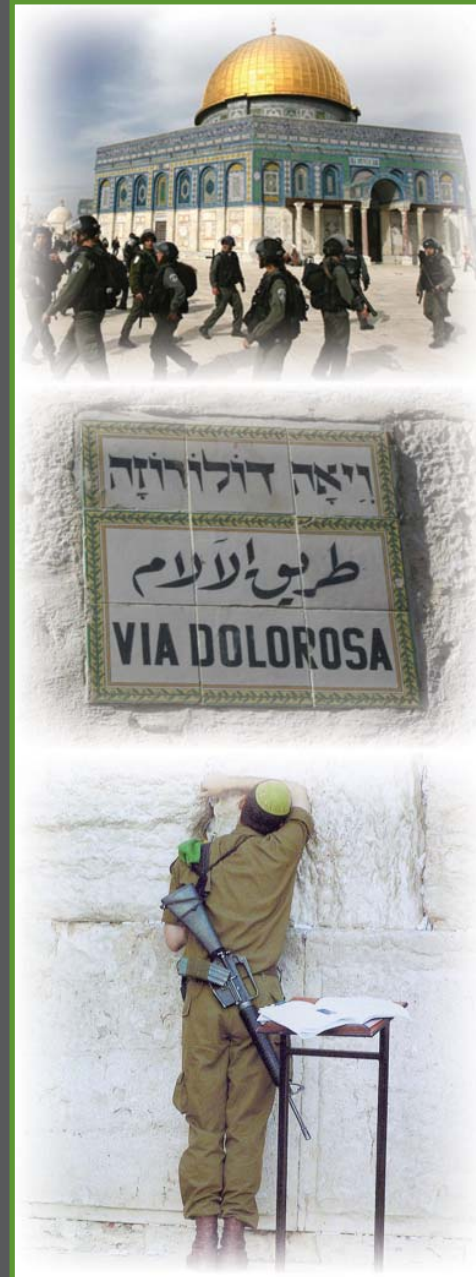
- How do conceptions of a particular site's sacrality shape conflict and influence the behavior of its protagonists?
- How, in turn, has conflict over particular sites contributed to the figuration of the sacrality attributed to them?
- How have Middle Eastern nationalisms adopted and adapted holiness in relation to conflict and in shaping and contesting national identities?
- What is the relationship between secularization and sacralization in the making of Middle Eastern nationalisms and national conflicts?
- What tensions and bonds exist between religion and religiosities, modernization, secularization, and conflict?

<http://jewishstudies.asu.edu/middleeast>

for additional information
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Holy Sites Holy War in the Middle East



a research symposium
Arizona State University
March 2-3, 2009

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