

A Conference

Organized by the University of Vienna



“Can Polemics Innovate?”

Change and Continuity in Jewish–Christian
Polemics from Late Antiquity to the Modernity

co-organized by and co-sponsored by



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Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Hungary

The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters

Gesellschaft der Freunde der Universität Tel Aviv



November 14-15 2017

Main Building of the University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1

Staircase 8, 2nd floor

Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology

Tuesday, 14 November 2017

9.00 – 9.15 Welcome Remarks by **Gerhard Langer** and **Károly Dániel Dobos**

9.15 – 10.00 Keynote Address:

Jeremy Cohen (Tel Aviv University): *Changing Faces of Jewish-Christian Polemics: Between History and Historiography*

10.00 – 11.30 Session 1. Chair: **Gerhard Langer** (University of Vienna)

Ora Limor (Open University of Israel): *Holy Places as Polemical Arguments*

Israel Yuval (Hebrew University): *The Concept of Rest in Judaism and Christianity: Sabbath Versus Sunday*

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 Session 2. Chair: **Israel Yuval** (Hebrew University)

Philippe Bobichon (CNRS, IRHT): *A Bird's Eye View on the Jewish Anti-Christian Literature in the Western Countries (10th to 17th c.)*

Daniel J. Lasker (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): *Jewish Anti-Christian Polemics in Islamic Countries and the Unchanging Nature of the Jewish-Christian Debate*

13.30 – 15.00 Break for lunch

15.00 – 16.30 Session 3. Chair: **Daniel J. Lasker** (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)

Alexandra Cuffel (Ruhr University): *Eastern Encounters Beyond Byzantium: Patterns of Medieval Jewish-Christian Polemics from the Caucasus to the Indian Ocean*

Yaacov Deutsch (David Yellin College): *Continuity and Change in the Toledot Yeshu Traditions*

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.30 Session 4. Chair: **Jeremy Cohen** (Tel Aviv University)

Ursula Ragacs (University of Vienna): *Polemics and Politics: An Example from the Middle Ages*

Daniel Stein-Kokin (University of Greifswald): *"Halakhicized" and "Relicized": The Transformations of the Sambatyon Legend in the Medieval and Early Modern Period*

Dinner

Wednesday, 15 November 2017

9.00 – 10.30 Session 5. Chair: **Ram Ben-Shalom** (Hebrew University)

Chaim Hames (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): *Autobiography and Polemic: The Cases of Herman Judah and Anselm Turmeda*

Carsten Wilke (CEU): *Between Empathy and Controversy: Abraham Gómez Silveyra (1656-1741) and the Theologians of the Huguenot Exile*

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Session 6. Chair: **Ora Limor** (Open University of Israel)

Christiana Facchini (University of Bologna - University of Erfurt): *The Critique of Christianity in the Baroque Period: Remarks on Jewish and Christian Representations in the Early Modern Period*

Károly Dániel Dobos (PPCU - University of Vienna): *"The Birth of Literature from the Spirit of Polemics": Evolution of a Close-Knit Family of Polemical Texts*

12.30 – 14.00 Break for lunch

14.00 – 16.15 Session 7. Chair: **Philippe Bobichon** (CNRS, IHT)

Regina Grundmann (University of Münster): *Humour, Satire and Polemics in Modern Parodies of the Babylonian Talmud*

Ram Ben-Shalom (Hebrew University): *Continuity and Change in Modern Jewish-Christian Polemics: The Treatise of Elazar Shalom of Poland*

Maria Diemling (Canterbury Christ Church University): *Teaching Jewish-Christian Relations: Challenges and Opportunities*

Concluding remarks by **Gerhard Langer** and **Károly Dániel Dobos**

*picture: *Synagoga and Ecclesia in Our Time*. Artwork by sculptor Joshua Koffman. Exhibited in Philadelphia in July 2015.