

HCMH NEWSLETTER 2018-19



Welcome!

We are delighted to summarize in this newsletter our third year of activity at the **Haifa Center for Mediterranean History** and share more information on the upcoming year.

You can visit us at <http://hcmh.haifa.ac.il> to stay updated on our future events and collaborations!

If you wish to join our mailing list, please [get in touch](#). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#).

This has been a wonderfully busy year at HCMH, enriched by a large and diverse group of post-doctoral researchers and by many international speakers and visitors. Moreover, HCMH extended its international collaborations on several fronts. The next year promises to be just as exciting.

In the first part of the newsletter you will find a summary of the events which took place during 2018-19, including lectures given under the auspices of the Mediterranean Forum, the Phoenician Series, and special seminars and colloquia. In addition, you will find information on lectures given by HCMH postdoctoral fellows and HCMH visiting scholars and guests. Also available are the descriptions of special meetings of HCMH members, committees and boards, international collaborations, and the work of our research groups.

In the next part of the newsletter are outlined our prospective events for 2019-20 in primary form, including lectures given in the Mediterranean Forum and by HCMH postdoctoral fellows. An elaborate section on HCMH people follows, presenting the work and achievements of our members, fellows and visitors, and introducing our new recruits. The newsletter concludes with a few general notices.

Zur Shalev, Gil Gambash, HCMH Directors
Shiri Barnhart, HCMH Administrator

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Events 2018-19

Mediterranean Forum

The Mediterranean Forum continued to nurture a broader Israeli community around Mediterranean history. We were fortunate to host the following distinguished speakers during the academic year 2018-2019.

6 November 2018. Dr. Moshe Blidstein, Department of General History, University of Haifa. Dr. Blidstein, a new HCMH member, lectured on purity, ritual and discourse in his talk titled “Filthy Lies and Purest Truth: The Ancient Mediterranean History of an Image”.

20 November 2018. Prof. Sabine Schmidtke, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Prof. Schmidtke presented “Travelling Knowledge: Towards a Historical Bibliography of the Islamic World”, examining Yemen's religio-cultural history through its libraries from ancient times up until the modern period.

22 November 2018. Dr. Josephine Crawley Quinn, Department of History, Oxford University. A colloquium dedicated to Dr. Crawley-Quinn's new book, “In Search of the Phoenicians”, took place in conclusion of the Phoenician Series, launched by HCMH last year. See more details on this event below.

1 January 2019. Prof. Susan Einbinder, University of Connecticut. Prof. Einbinder gave a talk titled “Bones and Poems: Anti-Jewish Violence in Tàrrega during the Black Death”. Einbinder discussed the 2007 discovery of mass graves in the Catalan town of Tàrrega, which briefly returned the victims of the worst episode of anti-Jewish violence during the Black Death (1346-52) to daylight and to historians' attention.

5th March 2019. A lecture by **Dr. Camille Rouxpetel**, University of Angers, titled “Constructions of Otherness in Latin Travellers' Writings in Cilicia, Syria, Palestine and Egypt (14th Century)”. Rouxpetel examined the way in which the discovery of a plural Christianity, on a Mediterranean scale and as far as the eastern and southern reaches of India or Ethiopia, upset the Western definition of Christendom and the Church.

21 May 2019. Prof. Francesca Trivellato, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (co-sponsored by the Dept. of Jewish History). In her talk “Renaissance Florence: Cultural and Economic Individualism Revisited”, Trivellato revealed the shaky empirical bases on which many interpretations of economic individualism are built. Trivellato first revisited the dialogue between economic and cultural historians of the Italian Renaissance, and then presented a digital platform built for the analysis of roughly 5,000 business contracts registered in Florence from 1445 to 1808.

The Phoenician Series



22nd November 2018. Colloquium marking the publication of **Dr. Josephine Crawley Quinn's**, *In Search of the Phoenicians* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2017). This last event in the 2018 Phoenician Series was organized in collaboration with Prof. Irad Malkin, the Cummings Chair for Mediterranean History and Culture, Department of History, Tel Aviv University. Speakers: **Dr. Quinn** from the University of Oxford; **Prof. Irad Malkin** and **Prof. Alexander Fantalkin** from Tel Aviv University; and **Prof. Ayelet Gilboa**, **Prof. Assaf Yasur Landau**, **Dr. Ory Amitay** and **Dr. Zur Shalev** from the University of Haifa.

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HCMH Lectures



26th October 2018. Prof. Mercedes García-Arenal, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), Spain, Distinguished Guest Lecturer of the Fund for the Advancement of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Israeli Academy of Sciences, gave a special seminar on “Voices on the Walls of the Inquisition Prison in Palermo”. Prof. García-Arenal analyzed graffiti left on the walls of prison cells in 17th-century Sicily and highlighted the question of early modern religious identities.



17th January 2019. A lecture by Dr. Sundar Henny, HCMH visiting scholar from the University of Bern, titled “Categorizing Christians: Writers Coming to Terms with the Crowd at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, c. 1400-1600”. In his presentation, Henny discussed how pilgrims and travelers around the year 1500 would make sense of the bewildering ethno-religious variety they encountered at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. See more below about Henny's year as fellow of HCMH.

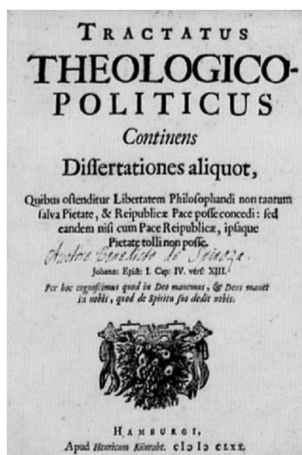


16th May 2019. Our visiting scholar, Dr. Elena Gritti, University of Bergamo, presented her talk titled “Between Palaestina and Northern Italy: The Case of Three Particular Travelers during the Roman and Late-Antique Periods”. The aim of her talk was to provide through a prosopographical analysis an overview of the links which existed during the ancient and late-antique Roman periods between Northern Italy and the Eastern parts of the Roman Empire.



13th June 2019. HCMH guest Prof. Adam J. Kosto, Columbia University, gave a seminar titled “A Record of Sworn Testimony from Catalonia (987 CE), or, a Scheming Abbess, a Bored Scribe, and Thirty-Eight Other People”. Kosto's seminar examined the way judicial institutions worked in the Mediterranean in the Central Middle Ages and the role of the written and the oral in their procedures. Kosto focused on the analysis of a record of a judicial proceeding as a window into the documentary and institutional culture of the Catalan counties around the year 1000.

Workshop: Thinking Early Modern Mediterranean Political Spaces and Utopias through the Bible From Isaac Abravanel to Baruch Spinoza



3rd December 2018. HCMH sponsored the workshop “Thinking Early Modern Mediterranean Political Spaces and Utopias through the Bible: From Isaac Abravanel to Baruch Spinoza”, organized by Dr. Cedric Cohen Skalli, University of Haifa. Speakers included Dr. Vasileios Syros from the University of Basel and HCMH visiting scholar, Prof. Antonio Jose Ferreira Bento from the University of Beira Interior, Prof. Claude D. Stuczynski, Bar Ilan University, and the organizer, Dr. Cedric Cohen Skalli.

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Workshop: Pilgrimage & Ethnography



6th March 2019. HCMH sponsored a day-long workshop on *Pilgrimage & Ethnography*. Our main guest was **Dr. Camille Rouxpetel** (University of Angers). Rouxpetel's visit and the workshop were organized by our visiting scholar **Dr. Sundar Henny**, University of Bern and our co-director, **Dr. Zur Shalev**, University of Haifa, both of whom presented their papers during the workshop. Additionally, **Dr. Yamit Rachman-Schrire** from Ben Gurion University along with **Prof. Iris Shagrir** and **Prof. Orit Ramon** from the Open University of Israel presented papers during the workshop. The workshop attempted to problematize the traditional dichotomy between the devout journey and ethnographic curiosity about other cultures. The Workshop's chairs were HCMH post-doctrate fellows **Dr. Anna Gutgarts** and **Dr. Renard Gluzman**.

HCMH Post-Doctoral Lectures



4th December 2018. "Closed Harbours: An Open Question. Preliminary Thoughts Based on Archaic and Classical Evidence". A lecture by **Dr. Chiara Maria Mauro**. Although scholarly publications regarding ancient Graeco-Roman harbour systems often mention the expression «λιμὴν κλειστός» (closed harbour), the meaning of this term still remains obscure. While in the past several theories have been put forward, the academic world still diverges on the correct way to interpret this expression. In Mauro's talk, the original meaning of «λιμὴν κλειστός» was reconsidered, taking into account written sources and archaeological data. The analysis of these two types of evidence in combination was shown to suggest a new possible interpretation, at least as far as the Archaic and Classical periods are concerned.



2nd April 2019. **Dr. Renard Gluzman** gave a talk titled "Diving into Archives: Historical Evidence of Shipwrecks in the Eastern Mediterranean, 1453–1571". Gluzman's project provides data of shipwrecks based on historical evidence contemporary with the wrecks in question. The findings are the result of research conducted in Venice's archives and libraries, principally in Venice State Archive and the Museo Civico Correr. Published sources were consulted as well; e.g., chronicles and descriptions of pilgrims and other travelers that sailed to the Levant. In his talk, Gluzman presented an analysis of the findings: the annual fluctuations in the number of Venetian shipwrecks, difficult years, accident prone areas, causes of shipwreck, ships typology, cargoes, etc.

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Sponsored Conference Panels

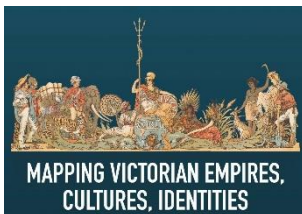
HCMH regularly takes part in the organization and support of Haifa conferences related to Mediterranean history. This past year HCMH supported two international conferences:



2nd April 2019. “[19th Century Photo-Archaeology](#)”. The aim of the conference was to examine the parallel and joint development of photography and academic archaeology in the 19th century, while discussing the role of the two as indispensable tools in pursuit of the political and ideological goals of the imperial West.

HCMH sponsored a panel in the conference titled “Philhellenic Photography: Documenting Ancient Landscapes”, chaired by **Dr. Gil Gambash**, HCMH co-director.

Conference organizer: **Dr. Emma Maayan-Fanar**, Department of Art History, University of Haifa.



13-16th May 2019. “[Mapping Victorian Empires, Cultures, Identities](#)”. Nineteenth-century Britain treated mapping as a paradigm for literary texts. This four-day conference, co-hosted by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Haifa, in collaboration with the University of California Dickens Project, explored 'mapping' as an organizing metaphor across a range of themes and cultural practices.

HCMH sponsored a panel in the conference titled “Holy Quests” chaired by **Dr. Zur Shalev**, HCMH co-director.

Conference organizers: **Dr. Zoe Beenstock**, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Haifa; **Dr. Galia Benziman**, English Department, The Hebrew University.

HCMH End-of-Year Gathering



6th June 2019. HCMH researchers and team members gathered for this End-of-Year celebration. The day started at the Haifa Museum of Art, where we visited the fascinating exhibition “[Fake News, Fake Truth](#)”. The exhibition presents the work of several artists, among them Damien Hirst’s “Treasures from the Wreck of the Unbelievable”. In the second part of the day, our researchers presented their work. We went on to celebrate the departure of guest scholars and postdoctoral fellows, as well as the recruitment and arrival of new HCMH members.

International Advisory Committee Visit

18-20th November 2018. We have had the honor of hosting Prof. Greg Woolf, University of London, Prof. John Haldon, Princeton University and Prof. Sabine Schmidtke, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, for an intensive and fruitful visit. During the visit the committee met with students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty members and administrators. In our final meeting we benefited from short and long-term recommendations by committee members, some of which have been immediately implemented.

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First Executive Board Meeting

3rd April 2019. HCMH Executive Board members came together for the first time in order to support future plans and promote new ideas.

Executive Board Members from the University of Haifa: **Prof. Jonatan Ben Dov**, Department of Jewish History and Biblical Studies & Head of the Executive Board, **Dr. Vardit Garber**, Head of Library Administration and HCMH's Executive Board Administration Delegate, **Dr. Ayelet Ben-Yishai**, Head of the Department of English Language and Literature, **Prof. Ido Izhaki**, Vice President and Dean of Research, **Mr. Tamir Frank**, Senior Director, Head of Research Authority, **Prof. Yossi Ziegler**, Head of School of History.

External Executive Board Members: **Dr. Daniella Talmon-Heller**, The Department of Middle Eastern Studies, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, **Prof. Iris Shagrir**, Head of the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies, The Open University of Israel, **Prof. Daniela Dueck**, Department of General History, Bar-Ilan University, **Prof. Youval Rotman**, Department of Jewish History, Tel Aviv University, **Prof. Miriam Frenkel**, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University and **Mr. Eran Mordohovich**, HCMH's Executive Board Public Delegate, Head of Icomos Israel and North Region Architect at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Research Groups:

Kinship and Community in the Early and Medieval Islamic Mediterranean

3-4th December 2018. One of our groups, "Kinship and Community in the Early and Medieval Islamic Mediterranean", convened in Haifa this winter. The group, led by **Dr. Uriel Simonsohn**, University of Haifa, and **Dr. Oded Zinger**, Buber Fellow, Hebrew University, brought together scholars from the UK, Spain, France, and Belgium, who will meet several times over the next two years. The group aims to explore the overlapping and competing loyalties between kinship and confessional commitments in early and medieval Islamic dominated lands, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean Basin. For full details, visit the group's [page](#) on our website.

The group will reconvene on **January 9-10, 2020** in Oxford.

From Canaanites to 'Phoenicians' and 'Philistines': Maritime Connectivity and Use of Coastal Resources as an Adaptation to Changing Political and Environmental Conditions CA. 2000–500 BCE

Another group, "From Canaanites to 'Phoenicians' and 'Philistines': Maritime Connectivity and Use of Coastal Resources as an Adaptation to Changing Political and Environmental Conditions CA. 2000–500 BCE", formed under the leadership of **Prof. Assaf Yasur-Landau**, Department of Maritime Civilizations, and **Prof. Ayelet Gilboa**, Department of Archaeology, University of Haifa.

The aim of this group is to look at changes in maritime activities and other forms of adaptations to living by the sea during the period spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the end of the Iron Age (ca. 2000–500 BCE). Special attention will be given to the impact of two groups of variables: climate and sea level changes on the one hand, and fluctuations in political circumstances connected with the domination of empires, on the other hand.

The group's first meeting will take place in San Diego in **November 2019**, and will be hosted by Prof. Thomas E. Levy from UCSD and Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Part of the meeting will take place during the annual ASOR meeting, in a special session titled "Marine Adaptation in the Mediterranean: From Prehistory to Medieval Times", organized by **Assaf Yasur-Landau, Gil Gambash and Tom Levi**.

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Collaborations

Collaboration with IMS, Crete



29th May – 1st June 2019. Our team members participated in a conference held by the [MSA](#) (Mediterranean Studies Association) at the University of Crete, Rethymnon, Greece. Among the topics presented at the conference were inter-cultural exchanges of knowledge, a study of Venetian sunken ships, and a comparative study of ancient harbors in the Mediterranean. HCMH co-director **Dr. Zur Shalev** met with colleagues from the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS) at the University of Crete and examined options for future collaboration through different approaches: History, Archaeology and Environment.

Collaboration with Aix-Marseille University, LabexMed, and Centre Jean Bérard (CJB)



17-18th June 2019. The workshop “[The Ports and Port Environments of the Ancient Mediterranean](#)” took place at Centre Jean Bérard in Naples, Italy. The workshop was produced jointly by LabexMed from the University of Aix-Marseille and by HCMH from the University of Haifa. The scientific committee included **Dr. Gil Gambash**, Co-director of HCMH and **Dr. Milena Mimmo**, LabexMed, CCJ. The aim of the meeting was to examine ports and port-environments in antiquity from multiple perspectives, and to facilitate cross-disciplinary approaches to this complex issue. The HCMH delegation was supervised closely by our administrator, **Ms. Shiri Barnhart**, and included **Dr. Gil Gambash**, **Dr. Chiara Maria Mauro**, **Dr. Anna Gutgarts**, **Dr. Renard Gluzman**, **Mr. Ehud Arkin Shalev**, **Ms. Eleonora Bedin**, **Dr. Emmanuel Nantet**, and **Mr. Moshe Bram**.

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Forthcoming events 2019-20

Mediterranean Forum

The Mediterranean Forum will continue to host leading scholars who engage with Mediterranean history. We are delighted to announce our distinguished speakers for the upcoming academic year (2019-20):

26th November 2019. Prof. Guy G. Stroumsa, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: “Communicating religion in the late antique Mediterranean”.

7th January 2020. Dr Georg Christ, the University of Manchester: Title TBA.

19th May 2020. Prof. Richard J. A. Talbert, University of North Carolina: “Time Keeping in the Roman World”.

HCMH post-doctoral lectures

21st November 2019. Dr. Inbar Graiver, Jointly with the Department of General History

Date to be announced. Dr. Shlomit Bechar, Jointly with the Department of Maritime Civilizations

Book Launch – “The Family in Late Antiquity - between Kinship and Community”

7th May 2020. Co-edited by **Dr. Uriel Simonsohn** (Haifa) and **Dr. Yaniv Fox** (Bar-Ilan), *The Family in Late Antiquity - between Kinship and Community* (Jerusalem: Mosad Bialik, forthcoming in 2019) is a collection of essays in Hebrew from leading scholars of diverse historical, linguistic, and disciplinary expertise. The essays in the volume touch upon tensions and overlaps between kinship and communal affiliations in late antique Christian, Jewish, and Islamic contexts, throughout the lands extending from the Oxus to the Atlantic.

More events will be announced in due course.

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People

Post-Doctoral Fellows – 2018-19



Dr. Anna Gutgarts recently completed an article on conflicts and municipal mechanisms in Crusader Jerusalem, (forthcoming in *New Studies in the Archaeology of Jerusalem and its Region*). Another article, forthcoming in *Urban History*, examines social and spatial processes that shaped the urban fabric of Frankish Jerusalem, placing them within the broader framework of urban development among settler societies of the medieval Mediterranean.

As part of her current project on the urban environments of the medieval Mediterranean, Anna presented her comparative analysis of case studies from the Latin East and Southern Italy in several conferences and seminars held this year. Most recently she presented her research on the cityscape of Frankish Acre in a workshop organized by the HCMH in collaboration with LabexMed, held in Naples. She will present additional findings from her work on urban conflicts in the medieval Mediterranean later this summer, in two international conferences in the UK and Australia.

Anna leaves us to become a Buber fellow at the Hebrew University.



Dr. Chiara Maria Mauro worked this year on the research project “Closed Harbours during the Archaic and Classical periods: a re-examination of documented cases based on written and archaeological sources”. The results of this study were presented at the Mediterranean Studies Association 2019 in Rethymno (Crete) and at the International Workshop “Port and Port environments of the Ancient Mediterranean” in Naples (Italy). Moreover, they were merged into a paper, written with the collaboration of Dr. Gil Gambash and which is currently under review for publication.

As part of her interest in ancient harbours and seafaring, Chiara completed this year a book manuscript entitled “Archaic and Classical Greek Harbours in the Greek World”, which was published in March 2019 by Archaeopress. This monograph, beyond exploring the archaeology and history of ancient harbours, contains a Catalogue of the Archaic and Classical harbours of the Greek world in the Aegean and Eastern Ionian sea. Thanks to the support of the HCMH, Chiara is currently working on an online version of this database that will be available in the following months at www.ancientgreekharbours.com

In June 2019, Chiara was awarded with the John Morrison Fund for Hellenic Maritime Studies by the British School at Athens.

Chiara leaves us to take a position in Complutense University in Madrid, in the research group “Eschatia”, directed by Prof. M. Valdés Guía.

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Dr. Meir Edrey has spent the academic year working on several papers, submitted, and to-be-submitted, to peer-reviewed journals, both in cooperation with faculty members and on his own. Two of these papers are directly related to the 'Shavei Zion Figurines Project' funded by the HCMH. The results of this research have been presented at the Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany, and will also be presented at ASOR in San Diego, and ICAANE 2020 to be held in Bologna, Italy.

He has also been working on a monograph titled 'Ancient Jaffa: The Excavations of the Institute of Archaeology, Tel Aviv University', co-authored by Edrey, Gross, and Herzog, which will be published by the end of the year. In the 2019-20 academic year, Meir will continue for a third post-doctoral fellowship in the department of Maritime Civilizations at the University of Haifa.



Dr. Renard Gluzman reports:

This year I dove into archives to extract data on shipwrecks in the Levant, based on written evidence contemporary with the wrecks in question. To date, the Early Modern Shipwrecks database contains reports on 237 such wrecks. The project migrated to the servers of the Younes & Soraya Nazarian Library of the University of Haifa and is currently accessible from this link:

www.earlymodernshipwrecks.org.

I also had the opportunity to present the project to scholars in the University of Haifa, as well as at the Annual Mediterranean Studies Association (MSA) Congress (Rethymnon, 29 May–1 June), and at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies (IMS) based in Crete. I presented two papers on related subjects in international academic conferences: the first on the subject of "'Flagging Out' and Schemes to Disguise the Vessel's Identity in the Late-Medieval Mediterranean", in a conference entitled "Crossing Boundaries? Trade & Connections on the Medieval Mediterranean" (Cambridge, 10-12 April). The second paper on "The practice of *libamento*: relieving cargos on the open sea outside of Venice's port" in a joint workshop organized by the HCMH and Aix-Marseille "Ports et zones portuaires de la Méditerranée Antique" (Naples, 16-19 June).

This May I was granted the "Ugo Tucci Prize" for original unpublished doctoral work on the theme "The Mediterranean between Medieval and Modern Times", granted by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti in Venice, one of the most prestigious Italian Academies. I pass my summer on my boat *Bellatrix* cruising the Aegean Sea and revising my manuscript entitled "Venetian Shipping from the Days of Glory to Decline, 1453–1571", which is scheduled to be published in Brill's series of Maritime History.

Renard will continue his fellowship with HCMH in 2019-20.

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Dr. Oded Cohen reports:

This year I continued my research about the cultural and intellectual role of wandering Jews in the early modern Mediterranean basin. I focused on two main topics: 1. The story of an 18th century Jew from Hebron who traveled to Western Europe in order to print a religious book, and who then went through a complex process of integration and acculturation. 2. The Hebrew book *Yihus ha-Avot*, that was brought from Safed to Europe in the 16th century, and its different versions, written on either side of the Ottoman conquest, which allow us to compare the descriptions of the Holy Places and the way Jews perceived them in the different

periods.

I had the opportunity to present my research at a number of conferences, including: The AJS (Association for Jewish Studies) 50th annual conference in Boston, in December; "The Historical society of Israel Forum for the Early Modern Studies" at Tel Aviv University, in April; The 22rd Annual International congress of the MSA (Mediterranean Studies Association) at the University of Crete, Rethymnon, in May; A joint Workshop of the Center for the Study of Conversion & Inter-Religious Encounters, BGU and Oxford University in Beer-Sheva, titled "Sacred Spaces in the Abrahamic Religions" and more. During the past year I published an article called "Non-kosher beliefs, Kosher Books: Hida's Approach to Sabbateanism" in the *Zion* journal. Another article of mine has been submitted to an international journal.

Doctoral Fellows – 2018-2019



Ms. Michelle Creisher reports:

We conducted our fifth season of underwater excavation on the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck. The season was very successful, and we were able to collect a lot of data. I had the opportunity to present my research and some of my findings at a number of conferences and workshops such as the American Schools for Oriental Research Annual Conference in Denver Colorado in November, 2018, the Annual Conference for the German Society for the Promotion of Underwater Archaeology in Bodrum, Turkey in April, a meeting with the IAA (Israel Antiquity Authority) in June and a workshop for the Levantine Ceramics Project in

Jerusalem in July. We are currently working on scheduling the sixth and final excavation season of the Ma'agan Mikhael B shipwreck for September of this year, where I will finish my data collection and begin the next stage of research.



Mr. Roey Nickelsberg, our doctoral fellow, reports:

During the past six months Roey Nickelsberg explored the southern coast of Dor. The aim of this project is to understand for the first time the coastal and maritime activities along the Carmel coast during the Early Bronze Age.

The archaeological surveys, both on land and underwater, and terrestrial excavations, have led to many new discoveries including a kilometer-long Early Bronze Age site on the coast of Dor. They have also greatly contributed to the overall reconstruction of Dor's maritime history with discoveries such as Bronze Age anchors and a marble cargo of a Byzantine ship.

This work represents a meaningful first step in the project.

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HCMH Faculty Member



Dr. Moshe Blidstein has published a paper in a special issue of the *Journal of Classical Sociology* on the ethnologist and sociologist Arnold Van Gennep, entitled “The Ambivalence of Purification and the Challenge of Transformation in the Rites of Passage and in Early Christian Texts”.

He lectured on purity, ritual and discourse in several conferences, including the School of History Colloquium of Haifa University in November, where he presented on “Filthy Lies and Purest Truth: The Ancient Mediterranean History of an Image”, as well as at a conference in Schwerte (Germany) on purity in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity. At a conference on inner purity and pollution in Ancient Mediterranean religions which took place at the University of Virginia, he

lectured on “Ritualization of inner purity or internalization of ritual purity? The Early Christian case”. This August, he will present a paper at the International Conference on Patristics Studies, Oxford, entitled “Does an oath require a divinity? from Classical to Late Antiquity”.

During the year, Moshe has been working on a book on oaths and swearing in the Ancient Mediterranean. He is also developing a database of sources on Ancient Mediterranean religion keyed by subject, called [Tiresias](#), currently including about 1.4 million subject-tagged references.

Visiting Scholars, 2018-19



Dr. Sundar Henny, joined us for the 2018-2019 academic year. Dr. Henny is a historian of early modern Europe, interested in the history of ethnography, comparatism, and archives. He is an *Ambizione* fellow at the University of Bern and a visiting fellow at the HCMH. His current project, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation, is entitled “Navel of the World: Cross-Cultural Encounters at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1400–1600”. In this project, Christianity’s most prominent pilgrimage destination in Jerusalem serves as a prism for the study of late medieval and early modern notions of cultural and religious diversity. The project takes into account sources from Latin (Western European) as well as from Armenian and Greek pilgrims and residents.

I chose the HCMH for a one-year stay as part of a four-year project (funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation). The project is dedicated to Jerusalem pilgrimage and cross-cultural encounters in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The city of Haifa with its ethno-religious diversity proved to be an ideal setting for this. The HCMH provided an inspiring environment, put me in touch with numerous researchers from here and abroad, and invited me to convene a workshop dedicated to pilgrimage and ethnography. The truly interdisciplinary surrounding at the Center and the ongoing conversation with researchers from related fields will have a lasting impact on my ongoing project.



Prof. Susan Einbinder is the author of *After the Black Death: Plague and Commemoration among Iberian Jews* (Philadelphia 2018) and two monographs on medieval French Jews, *Beautiful Death: Jewish Poetry and Martyrdom from Medieval France* (Princeton 2002), and *No Place of Rest: Literature, Expulsion and the Memory of Medieval France* (Philadelphia 2009). Since 2012, she has been Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut. From 1993-2012, she taught at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. She is a Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America and a grateful recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the NY Public Library’s Cullman Center, the National Humanities Center, the UConn Humanities Institute and more. This year she will be working on a new project exploring Jewish responses to the plague in late medieval and early modern settings. Prof. Einbinder was our guest at the University of Haifa for three weeks between December 2018 and January 2019.

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Dr. Vasileios Syros, University of Helsinki, visited HCMH for two weeks in early December 2018. Syros studies Christian, Islamic, and Jewish traditions of political thought as well as cross-cultural encounters in the early modern period. He collaborated and continues to collaborate with Dr. Cohen-Skalli, who was his academic host. Together they have organized a workshop on traditions of political thought in Mediterranean context.



Dr. Elena Gritti, University of Bergamo. I graduated with honors under the supervision of Prof. P. Cesaretti at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Bergamo with a final dissertation on Roman History entitled *Ravenna - Caput Italiae? Indagini recenti sulla città nel contesto dell'alto Adriatico tardo antico*. My PhD was a historical and cultural reconstruction of the context of the late antique hagiographical source 'The Life of saint Severin', entitled *Eugippii Vita sancti Severini*. *Dal testo al territorio: il Norico tardoantico*. Presently, I am a Fellow Researcher at the University of Bergamo.

The aim of my research is the development of a prosopographical reference work on ancient mobility (*Human mobility between Oriens and Transpadana: A prosopographical research (98-604)*), also in a digital format (HUMOT).

"Discovery and Hospitality"! This was the motto of our visiting scholar, Dr. Elena Gritti, University of Bergamo, Italy.

Elena, through the Mobility Project 'Outgoing Visiting Fellow' promoted by her University, spent an entire month researching in our center. An expert on ancient mobility in the Roman Empire, she is writing a prosopographical study of people moving between Northern Italy and the Levant in both directions. During her stay, Elena enthusiastically continued her research work, exchanged with other HCMH scholars, and visited the sites that her sources mention: Caesarea, Bet She'an, Sussita, among others. Before her departure, she delivered a very interesting lecture (see above). We were delighted to host Elena and to give her an academic home for research and discovery. We encourage other scholars and researchers to do the same!

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Our Incoming Post-Doctoral Fellows – 2019-20



Dr. Shlomit Bechar has received her PhD from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In her dissertation she studied the relationship between political change and material culture and the transition from the Middle Bronze Age to the Late Bronze Age as a test case. She was able to show that significant changes in the material culture occurred only after the southern Levant came under Egyptian rule, following Thutmose III's campaign in the 15th century BCE. Shlomit has been a leading staff member of the Tel Hazor excavations since 2007 and has become the co-director of the excavation in 2015.

During her time as a post-doctoral fellow at the HCMH, Shlomit will be working on a project examining ceramic assemblages by focusing on environmental questions. Changes in consumption of storage vessels (quantity, volume and context of their findings) will be examined throughout the third and second millennia BCE and compared to known climate changes.



Dr. Inbar Graiver received her PhD in 2017 from the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies at Tel Aviv University. Her dissertation on asceticism and self-transformation in late antiquity was recently published as a book (entitled *Asceticism of the Mind: Forms of Attention and Self-Transformation in Late Antiquity*) by Toronto University Press. During 2017-2019 she completed a postdoctoral research at Humboldt University, Berlin, and is currently teaching at the History Department at Ben-Gurion University. Her current research is devoted to the late antique and early medieval roots of Western psychology.

Incoming Visiting Scholars, 2019-20

March 2019. Prof. Eric Calderwood, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Prof. Calderwood will be staying in Haifa for three weeks and will present a lecture on his current book project examining contemporary representations of al-Andalus from several Mediterranean contexts, including Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Syria, and Israel/Palestine.

2019-2020. Dr. Rami Tannous will be giving a talk titled "The Late Antique Context of Sūrat Maryam's Nativity Account". Dr. Tannous' research examines literary, cultural and theological aspects of the interaction between the emerging Qur'ānic community, and early Islam in general, and Jewish and Christian late antique traditions. Dr. Tannous received his PhD from the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto.

HCMH Administrator

December 2018 – Today. HCMH welcomes **Ms. Shiri Barnhart** as its new administrator. Ms. Barnhart's responsibilities will include budget control, website updates, conference organizations etc. She arrived at HCMH with meaningful experience as manager of an ERC project.

HCMH NEWSLETTER 2018-19

Miscellaneous Announcements:

New Tenure Track Position Offered

Next year we will be searching for a new HCMH member in the field of environmental History. Please see the [Call for Applications](#) on our website.

HCMH Website

We are constantly updating the [Mediterranean Bibliography](#) webpage. Stay tuned. Moreover, we recently added a new [Publications](#) page.

Library books

So far, 70 books were purchased for the library with HCMH's funding. A list of the books will be uploaded to HCMH's website soon.

Support of Academic Journals

HCMH is now supporting the [Mediterranean Historical Review \(MHR\)](#) co-edited by HCMH's co-director, Dr. Zur Shalev.

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