



Bar-Ilan University

**D** **Dahan Center**  
for Culture, Society & Education in the Sephardic Heritage  
The Aharon & Rachel Dahan Center



Ashkelon Academic College



University of Cape Town



**KAPLAN CENTRE**  
JEWISH STUDIES & RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN



The Ben-Zvi Institute  
for the Study of Jewish  
Communities in the East



Historical Jewish Press  
עיתונות יהודית היסטורית

International Conference

**Jews in  
Colonial  
and  
Postcolonial  
Africa**

**Monday - Wednesday, 18-20 Av, 5776**

**August 22-24, 2016**

**University of Cape Town, South Africa**

## **Academic Committee:**

Prof. Adam Mendelsohn, Chair, University of Cape Town

Prof. Yaron Harel, Chair, Bar-Ilan University

Prof. Shimon Sharvit, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College, Ashkelon

Prof. Yaron Tsur, Tel-Aviv University

Prof. Milton Shain, University of Cape Town

Prof. Eyal Ginio, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

## **Conference Director:**

Dr. Shimon Ohayon, Director, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

## **Organization and Production:**

Ms. Ora Kobelkowsky, Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

Ms. Janine Blumberg, Kaplan Centre, University of Cape Town

## **Information and Registration:**

The Dahan Center for Culture, Society and Education  
in the Sephardic Heritage

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 Dahan Center Bar-Ilan University

International Conference  
**Jews in Colonial and Postcolonial Africa**

**Monday, 18 Av 5776, 22 August 2016**  
**Café Riteve, 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens**

**18:45-22:00**

**Gala Dinner**

**Chair: Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Director, Dahan Center,  
Bar-Ilan University

**Greetings:**

**Mr. Arthur Lenk**, Ambassador of Israel to South Africa

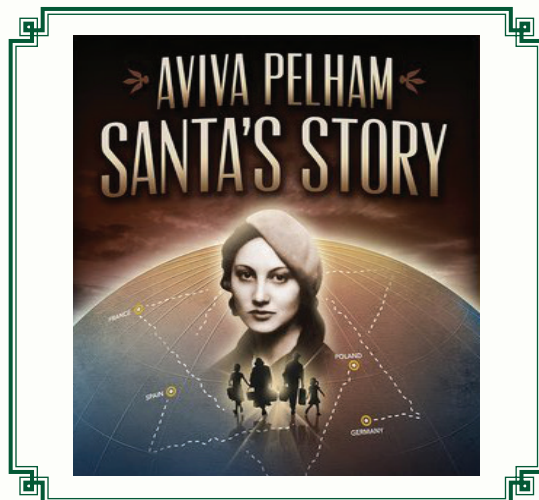
**Prof. Adam Mendelsohn**, Director, Kaplan Centre for  
Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town

**Prof. Yaron Harel**, Chairman, Academic Committee  
Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

**Ms. Ann Harris**, President, African Jewish Congress

**Artistic Program**

A musical selection from *Santa's Story*, created by and  
featuring award winning performer Aviva Pelham and  
her musicians



**Tuesday, 19 Av 5776, 23 August 2016**  
**South African Jewish Museum**  
**Nelson Mandela Auditorium**

**09:00-09:30**

**Arrival and Registration**

**09:30-09:45**

**OPENING SESSION -Case Studies from the  
French Sphere of Influence**

**Chair: Dr. Shimon Ohayon**, Director, Dahan Center,  
Bar-Ilan University

**Greetings:**

**Prof. Shimon Sharvit**, Rector, Ashkelon Academic College,  
Ashkelon

**Prof. Eyal Ginio**, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the  
Hebrew University

**09:45-11:15**

**Lectures:**

**Prof. Yosef Yuval Tobi**, University of Haifa

*The Literary Manifestations of the Encounter of the  
Tunisian Jewry with the French Rule*

**Mr. David Biton**, Jewish studies, Ono Academic College

*"As a maidservant before her mistress"?*

*Colonialism and post-colonialism in the writings of  
Moroccan scholars*

**Dr. Vered Sakal**, Minerva Humanities Center, Tel Aviv  
University

*Halachic Writing in French Algeria: A Critical Reading of  
Abraham Ankawa's "Kerem Hemer"*

**11:15-11:30**

**Coffee Break**

11:30-13:00

## SESSION 2:

### Case Studies from the British Sphere of Influence

**Chair: Prof. Eyal Ginio**, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University

**Prof. Yaron Harel**, Bar-Ilan University

*The Unique Case of the Syrian-Jewish Immigrants in Egypt*

**Dr. Eli Goldstein**, Ashkelon Academic College

*The de Menasce and Mosseri Families during the end of the 19th Century and Early 20th: Zionism, Egyptian Nationalism and Anti-Socialism*

**Prof. Nahem Ilan**, Chair of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Ono Academic College, Jerusalem Campus

*The Jewish Community in the Sudan: The Most Modern Community in the East in the First Half of the 20th Century?*

13:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

## SESSION 3: Jews and the Colonial Project

**Chair: Prof. Milton Shain**, University of Cape Town

**Dr. Tsivia Tobi**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*The Contribution of the European Scholars (Les Pères Blancs) to the Research of Jewish Tunisian Folklore*

**Dr. Graham Dominy**, University of South Africa

*The British Empire's first Jewish Governor: Sir Matthew Nathan as colonial administrator from Cape Coast Castle to Dublin Castle via Natal*

**Mr. Sidney Corcos**, Researcher, Director of the Nature Museum in Jerusalem

*Colonialism in Morocco – The case of the city of Mogador /Essaouira*

15:30-15:45

Coffee Break

15:45-17:15

## SESSION 4 : Photographing the Colony

**Chair: Prof. Nahem Ilan**, Chair of the Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Ono Academic College, Jerusalem Campus

**Prof. Michael Berkowitz**, University College London  
*Jews and photography—in Africa?*

**Ms. Karina Simonson**, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute  
*German colonialism in Africa through Jewish lens: Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Leon Levson*

**Mr. David Guedj**, Tel Aviv University  
*The Photographic Message in the Moroccan Jewish Newspaper L'Avenir Illustré*

17:15-17:30

Coffee Break

17:30-19:00

## SESSION 5: JPRESS: Jews and the Press in Africa

**Chair: Prof. Motti Zalkin**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**Mr. Eyal Miller**, National Library of Israel, Presentation of the project

**Participants:**

**Prof. Irwin Manoim, Prof. Yosef Yuval Tobi,  
Dr. Guy Bracha and Mr. David Guedj**

Wednesday, 20 Av 5776, 24 August 2016

09:30-11:00

**SESSION 6: The South African Story: Part 1**

**Chair: Prof. Adam Mendelsohn**, Director, Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town

**Prof. Motti Zalkin**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
*"Jerusalem of Lithuania" in the Cape: the Cultural Identity of South African Jews in the First Half of the Twentieth Century*

**Mr. Juan-Paul Burke**, University of Cape Town  
*A Tradition of Talmud study in Cape Town and Yeshiva Tachkemoni*

**Dr. Veronica Belling**, University of Cape Town  
*"A Shadow of My Former Self": the Eastern European Immigrant Experience in South Africa*

11:00-11:15

**Coffee Break**

11:15-12:45

**SESSION 7: The South African Story: Part 2**

**Chair: Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Milton Shain**, University of Cape Town  
*'...it is easy to rouse a feeling of hate towards the Jews in this country' D F Malan and the 'Jewish Question' in South Africa, 1930 - 1948*

**Prof. Eyal Ginio**, Chair, The Ben-Zvi Institute and the Hebrew University  
*Shaping Ottoman and Sephardi Identities in a Colonial Context: Sephardi Jews in South Africa and Rhodesia during the Late Ottoman Period*

**Ms. Roni Mikel Arieli**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
*Apartheid Censorship and Holocaust Memory in South Africa: Holocaust denial in the 1970s*

**12:45-13:45**

**SESSION 8: Ethiopian Jews: the forgotten history**

**Chair: Prof. Rachel Sharaby**, Ashkelon Academic College

**Mr. Bar Kribus**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*What Does it Mean to be a Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jewish Monk)? An Examination of the Physical Lives of Members of the Beta Israel Monastic Movement*

**Dr. David Rathner**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

*The Forgotten History: Biographical Narratives of Ethiopian Jews, Former Activists in Political Movements during the Civil War in Ethiopia, 1974 -1991*

**13:45-14:45**

**Lunch**

**14:45-15:45**

**SESSION 9: Ethiopian Jews: Acculturation**

**Chair: Dr. Veronica Belling**, University of Cape Town

**Prof. Rachel Sharaby**, Ashkelon Academic College

*The Sigd holiday of Ethiopian Jews: Religious-historical context and sociological meanings*

**Prof. Hananel Mack**, Bar-Ilan University

*Ethiopean Jews: Traditional Religious Life in Africa meets the Israeli Reality*

**15:45-16:00**

**Coffee Break**



16:00-17:00

**SESSION 10: Jewish futures in Africa?**

**Chair: Prof. Hananel Mack**, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Mohamed Elmedlaoui**, Mohammed V University  
in Rabat

*The consecration of the Hebraic Dimension in the Moroccan Constitution: Its Background and significance*

**Ms. Janice R. Levi**, UCLA

*"The House of Israel" in Ghana*

17:00-18:30

**SESSION 11: The Impact of Israel**

**Chair: Prof. Yaron Harel**, Bar-Ilan University

**Dr. Isaac Hershkowitz**, Bar-Ilan University

*The Entrance to the Land of Israel as an Ideal Spiritual Threshold in the Thought of Rabbi Ya'akov Abessera*

**Dr. Sarit Cofman-Simhon**, Kibbutzim College

*The Journey to Jerusalem: Representing Ethiopian Jews' Immigration in the Israeli-Ethiopian Theatre*

**Dr. Amir Mashiach**, Ariel University & Orot College

*Rabbi Shimon Lavi: Longing for the Land of Israel and Reprioritizing Ideological Values for Communal Work in Tripoli*

18:30-18:45

**Closing Remarks:**

**Prof. Yaron Harel**, Chairman, Academic Committee  
Dahan Center, Bar-Ilan University

**Prof. Adam Mendelsohn**, Director, Kaplan Centre  
for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town



Gardens Synagogue



Inside of the Jewish Museum



UCT

The conference lectures will be accompanied by simultaneous translation