



BOSTON COLLEGE

CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH LEARNING

# Jews, Christians & Visuality: New Approaches

2014 Corcoran Chair International Conference

March 9-10, 2014

Chestnut Hill Campus of Boston College,  
140 Commonwealth Avenue, Chestnut Hill, MA, 02467

Sunday 9 March, 2014, 12.00 PM-6.00 PM: Gasson 305

Monday 10 March 2014, 9.00 AM-3.30 PM: Corcoran Commons Heights Room

Over the past two decades, both the study of "Jewish Art" and of "Jews in Art" has been expanding from the antiquarian and philological (or philiconic) to comprehend theoretical perspectives familiar from the study of visual and material culture in the wider scholarly universe of art historical, historical, textual and cultural studies. The relationship between Jewish and Christian visual culture in the medieval Latin West is a signal element in this re-evaluation.

*Jews, Christians & Visuality: New Approaches* will bring together art historians, historians and scholars of text and culture to consider such topics as image as text, iconography as exegesis, the book as material culture icon, and the possibilities for (and discontents of) historical localization and contextualization. It promises to consolidate a significant shift in the field that has been felt but not, as yet, marked.



## Participants

Pamela Berger (Boston College)  
Zsafia Buda (Oxford University)  
Aleksandra Buncic (University of Sarajevo)  
Matilda Bruckner (Boston College)  
Adam Cohen (University of Toronto)  
Jonathan Elukin (Trinity College)  
Marc Michael Epstein (Vassar College/Boston College)  
Julie Harris (Spertus Institute)  
Leor Jacobi (Bar Ilan University)  
Abby Kornfeld (The City College of New York)  
Hartley Lachter (Muhlenberg College)  
Ruth Langer (Boston College)  
Emma O'Donnell (Boston College)  
Linda Safran (University of Toronto)

**JEWS, CHRISTIANS & VISUALITY: NEW APPROACHES**  
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**Sunday 9 March, 2014, 12.00 PM-6.00 PM: Gasson 305**

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- Words of Welcome** James Bernauer, S. J.,  
Director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Boston College
- Greeting** Marc Michael Epstein,  
Visiting Corcoran Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations, Boston College
- 12:30-1:40 p.m. Introduction**  
“The Illuminated Haggadah: Fourteenth-Century Contexts”  
Adam S. Cohen, University of Toronto
- 1:45-3:45 p.m. Session 1: Contrarywise: Starting with a view from the margins**  
*Jonathan Elukin, Trinity College, Chair*  
  
“Meanings in the Margins: Text and Image in the Medieval Haggadah”  
Abby Kornfeld, The City College of New York  
  
“‘The End of the Deed is Implicit in the First Thought’:  
Implied ensuing action in medieval manuscripts made for Jewish  
audiences.”  
Marc Michael Epstein, Boston College / Vassar College
- 3:45-4:00 p.m. Break**
- 4:00-6:00 p.m. Session 2: Seeing God and Seeing Eachother: Ocular meditations**  
*Hartley Lachter, Muhlenberg College, Chair*  
  
“The iconography of God’s presence in  
medieval Hebrew and Christian illuminated manuscripts”  
Aleksandra Buncic, University of Zagreb  
  
“The Eyes have it: Looking at Looking in the Iberian Haggadot”  
Julie A. Harris, Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership

**Monday 10 March 2014, Corcoran Commons Heights Room**

**9:00-11:00 a.m.**      **Session 3: Texts and Contexts**  
*Matilda Tomaryn Bruckner, Boston College, Chair*

“‘And the earth did not cover him’: The murder of Zechariah and its revenge”

Zsófia Buda, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Yarnton Bodleian Library, Oxford

“Pharaoh Alfonso the French Falconer”

Leor Jacobi, Bar Ilan University

**11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**      **Lunch Break**

**12:30-2:30 p.m.**      **Session 4: Between Jews and Christians**  
*Ruth Langer, Boston College, Chair*

“Jews and Arts in Medieval Apulia”

Linda Safran, Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies

“Stars and Bones: Revisiting Ezekiel’s Visions”

Pamela Berger, Boston College

**2:30-3:30 p.m.**      **Concluding Roundtable Discussion**  
*Hartley Lachter, Muhlenberg College, Chair*

Adam Cohen, University of Toronto

Emma O’Donnell, Boston College



The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning is devoted to the multifaceted development and implementation of new relationships between Christians and Jews that are based not merely on toleration but on full respect and mutual enrichment. This defining purpose flows from the Mission of Boston College and responds to the vision expressed in Roman Catholic documents ever since the Second Vatican Council.

The building of new, positive relationships between Jews and Christians requires sustained collaborative academic research. Therefore, under the Center's auspices scholars and thinkers representing diverse Jewish and Christian perspectives engage in intense and ongoing study of all aspects of our related yet distinct traditions of faith and culture.

Educationally, we are committed to the goal that "Jews and Judaism should not occupy an occasional and marginal place in [Christian religious education]: their presence there is essential and should be organically integrated" (*Notes*, 2). We are convinced that Jews and Christians enrich and deepen their respective identities by joint educational endeavors. The Center is thus dedicated to conducting educational research and to offering programs, both in the university and the wider community, in which Christians and Jews explore their traditions together.

In short, the Center applies the scholarly resources of a Catholic university to the task of encouraging mutual knowledge between Christians and Jews at every level (*Notes*, 27).

[*Notes* = Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, *Notes on the Correct Way to Present Jews and Judaism in Preaching and Teaching in the Roman Catholic Church* (1985).]

### **CONTACT THE CENTER**

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