



Welcome to the annual Paideia Alumni Conference!

Below you can find the detailed conference programme, session topics and information about our presenters.

For more information about Paideia and the Paideia Alumni Association, please visit: [www.paideia-eu.org](http://www.paideia-eu.org).

If you would like to join any of the sessions, we kindly ask you to register online: <http://paideia.wufoo.com/forms/alumni-conference-guest-registration-form/>

*Looking forward to seeing you in Budapest!*

Sara Stojković  
Alumni Coordinator

Conference venue:  
Erzsébetvárosi Közösségi Ház  
Wesselényi u. 17, (VII k.)  
Budapest, Hungary

Questions?  
Please email [sara.stojkovic@paideia-eu.org](mailto:sara.stojkovic@paideia-eu.org)

Budapest

Thursday 30/4

15:30

*Registration*

16:30

*Opening of the Conference*

16:45

**Natalia Yakimchuk:** “The Zoharic understanding of evil and its impact on the Sabbatian antinomianism”

**Karina Shyrokykh:** “Leo Strauss’ political theory through the glasses of Maimonides”

Friday 1/5

14:00

**Linda Ban:** “Everybody welcome! – Are they?”

**Dominik Rößler:** “The Song of Songs, Jewish and Christian interpretation as identity building”

15:00

**Nikki Halpern:** “Are we there yet?”

16:00 – 17:00

**Daniel Silverstein:** Moische House and Psychosemitic

Saturday 2/5

12:30

**Moshe Halbertal:** “Judaism and the Ethics of Memory”

14:15

**Michael Miller:** “Coffee House Judaism – Jewish Cultural Life in Contemporary Hungary”

19:30

**Anneli Rådestad and Daniel Silverstein:** “Leaving an Eco-Jewish Footprint”

**Marcell Kenesei:** Haver Foundation

Budapest

## Conference presenters:



### **“THE ZOHARIC UNDERSTANDING OF EVIL AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SABBATIAN ANTINOMIANISM”\***

During the presentation the short analysis of the Zoharic, Lurianic and Sabbatian understanding of the evil, its origins and the role in the cosmological process, will be given. Zoharic passage concerning the image of the sea serpent and its connection with the evil will be read in hevrutot and analyzed.

*Natalia Yakimchuk has studied philosophy, anthropology, the history and philosophy of religion, Latin and Greek. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Religion Studies at Moscow State University. (Krister Stendahl fellow 2008-09)*



### **“LEO STRAUSS’ POLITICAL THEORY THROUGH THE GLASSES OF MAIMONIDES”\***

Focusing on the reasons behind Strauss’ interest in Maimonides’ philosophy, we will trace the development of Strauss’ philosophy and particularly political philosophy and seek Maimonidean influences.

*Karina Shyrokykh has obtained a Master of Philosophy at the International Solomon University in Kiev. She has studied Yiddish language, literature and culture at New York University and at Tel Aviv University. (Krister Stendahl fellow 2008-09)*

\* [NB: Please note that the above two sessions will take place simultaneously]



### **“PERSONAL MOSES”, A SHORT STORY YIDDISH MUSICAL “A spiritual, intelligent, comedy entertainment!”**

*Martin Schubert has worked for Planet-Interview.de and several German newspapers giving popular Jewish and Israeli Artists a platform in Germany. He has studied Theology at the Humboldt University of Berlin, focusing on inter-religious relations.*

*Piotr Mirski obtained his master’s degree in Philosophy from the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. He was the author and the manager of two local programs closely connected to Jewish culture: "Mosaic of Cultures" and "Jewish Songbook". In the context of those projects he led Jewish music workshops and edited a Polish-Yiddish songbook.*

*(Krister Stendahl fellows 2008-09)*



## EVERYBODY WELCOME! – ARE THEY?\*

What is more attractive to us - to belong to a club that welcomes everybody or to a club where they select the members? Or perhaps Woody Allen was right, and we don't want to belong to a club that accepts us as member?!

*Linda Ban is the founder and director of an adult 'Mini School' at Frankel Synagogue in Budapest, and is actively involved working with children at the Sunday School. She has previously worked as a coordinator for the Hillel Foundation in Budapest, she has been a teacher of Judaism and program coordinator for the Frankel Leo Street synagogue, and has also served as the director of Marom, the organization of Masorti youth in Hungary. (Wallenberg fellow 2001-02)*



## “THE SONG OF SONGS, JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATION AS IDENTITY BUILDING”\*

In my investigation I am going to focus on *Shir haShirim Rabba*, and to contrast it with Origen's commentary to the Song of Songs (*Commentarii in Canticum canticorum*). The comparison of these interpretations may elucidate the different attitudes of both religions towards carnal love and the relevance of spiritual within their respective religious systems. This talk hopes to get a better understanding of the connection between the building of a religious identity and certain traditions and strategies of interpretation.

*Dominik Rößler is a student of Philosophy, Comparative Literature and Religious Studies with an emphasis on Jewish Studies. He has studied at the University of Potsdam and the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. (Krister Stendahl fellow 2008-09)*

\* [NB: Please note that the above two sessions will take place simultaneously]



## “ARE WE THERE YET?”

In the aftermath of World War I, borders were redrawn, a new map of the scars of trauma and change. In reformed and emerging countries, ethnic and national groups would have social structures recognizing and protecting their identities, their cultures. Such government programs had to be financed and negotiated. The peace talks leading to the Treaty of Versailles considered these issues as well as others. And the Jews were there too. We will consider the story of the Jewish delegation, another step in an epic journey.

*Nikki Halpern has a Masters degree in Comparative Literature from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a DEA from the Université de Paris 7. Since moving to Paris, she has focused her studies in the field of Yiddish, and participated in a two-year training course in Yiddish culture. (Krister Stendahl fellow 2008-09)*



## PRESENTING: MOISHE HOUSE AND PSYCHOSEMITIC

Moishe House London is an experiment in post-denominational Jewish community...our six housemates come from very diverse Jewish backgrounds and are practicing different kinds of Judaism, as well as pursuing their own interests and careers.

Psychosemitic is a not-for-profit organisation that facilitates transformative interaction between Muslim, Jewish and Middle Eastern individuals and communities in the UK. We do this through cultural events, education programmes and through social action. ([www.psychosemitic.com](http://www.psychosemitic.com))

*Daniel Silverstein is an emcee/spoken word artist, inter-faith activist, educator and events promoter base in London. His current projects include Muslim-Jewish poetry workshops in schools, a Muslim-Jewish hip hop band ([www.myspace.com/linesoffaith](http://www.myspace.com/linesoffaith)) and, slowly but surely, creating a Hip Hop Siddur ([www.myspace.com/dannyraphael](http://www.myspace.com/dannyraphael))*



## "JUDAISM AND THE ETHICS OF MEMORY"

The lecture will relate to the issue of what we mean by memory and what it is to remember, especially in light of the issues of modern Jewish Identity.

*Moshe Halbertal is Professor of Philosophy and Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Halbertal was visiting professor at Harvard Law School and Fellow at the Society of Fellows, Harvard University. He is also the chairperson of Paideia's Academic Committee. His publications in English include *Idolatry* and *People of the Book* both published by Harvard University Press.*



## "COFFEE HOUSE JUDAISM: JEWISH CULTURAL LIFE IN CONTEMPORARY HUNGARY"

This talk will examine the various forms of Jewish identity and Jewish cultural expression in contemporary Hungary, placing them in the context of twentieth-century and early twenty-first century Hungarian Jewish history.

*Michael Miller is Assistant Professor in the [Nationalism Studies Program](#) at the CEU. He received his Ph.D. in History from Columbia University, where he specialized in Jewish and Central European History. His research focuses on the impact of nationality conflicts on the religious, cultural and political development of Central European Jewry in the nineteenth century.*



## LEAVING AN ECO-JEWISH FOOTPRINT\*

(Together with Daniel Silverstein)

What's so Ecological with Judaism and what's so Jewish with Ecology? Learn how you can green your closest community and explore what ancient Jewish texts have to say about some of the environmental issues the globe is facing today.

*Anneli Rådestad works as a freelance journalist in Israel and Sweden. She has an M.A. in Israeli Society and Politics from the Hebrew University, an MA in Journalism at the Stockholm University, and has graduated from the American University of Paris with a BA in Comparative Literature. Anneli writes articles about the Israeli and Palestinian societies for the Jewish Chronicle in Sweden. (Wallenberg fellow 2001-02)*



## PRESENTING: HAVER FOUNDATION\*

The founders of the Haver Informal Jewish Educational Public Benefit Foundation are Jews and non-Jews who wish to reach out to young people in the spirit of the name they chose. They believe that by organizing and conducting open discussions and lectures around the subject of Jews and Judaism, they can successfully fight prejudice and misconceptions about Jews and Judaism and promote increased levels of understanding and acceptance. [www.haver.hu](http://www.haver.hu)

*Marcell Kenesei received his Masters degree in Political Science from the ELTE University in Budapest. He teaches for the Haver Foundation, where he organizes and leads Holocaust Educational programs and other projects that focus on understanding and tolerance; and is currently working with the Israel Cultural Center in Budapest that is set to open in Autumn 2009. (Beer fellow, 2007-08)*

\* [NB: Please note that the above two sessions will take place simultaneously]