

We cordially invite you to  
the international conference on

אנחנו מתכבדים להזמין אתכם  
לכינוס בין-לאומי

# Tracing Topoi

Monday–Wednesday,  
May 18–20, 2026

at The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities  
43 Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem

בימים שני עד רביעי  
ב' עד ד' בסיוון, התשפ"ו  
בבית האקדמיה,  
רחוב ז'בוטינסקי 43, ירושלים

## Monday, May 18, 2026

9:00 **Gathering**

9:30 **Greetings**

**Margalit Finkelberg**, Academy Vice President;  
Tel Aviv University

**Leona Toker**, Academy member,  
Head of the Academic Committee of the Conference

10:00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 1**

Moderator: **Margalit Finkelberg**,  
Academy Vice President; Tel Aviv University

E. R. Curtius, the *Topoi*, and the Place of Rhetoric  
in Literary Study

**Rita Copeland**, University of Pennsylvania

11:00 Break

11:15 **Session 1**

**BEFORE AND AFTER THE BIBLE**

Moderator: **Shmuel Feiner**,  
Academy member; Bar-Ilan University

Beyond Double Stories: David and Michal's Marriage  
Plot (1 Samuel 18:17–28) as a Transformed Folktale

**Natan Evron**, Tel Aviv University

The Prophet as Doppelgänger

**Guy Stroumsa**, Academy member;  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

12:15 Break

12:30 **Session 2**

**EUROPEAN MEDIEVAL IMAGINATION**

Moderator: **Jon Whitman**,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

On Kings, Kitchen Boys and Rings:  
The Horn Romances and Lover's Return Ballads as  
a Comment on Church and State Relations and Class

**Orit Klein Vartsky**, Tel Aviv University

Clashing Topoi in the *Prioress's Tale*

**Jonathan Stavsky**, Tel Aviv University

13:30 Lunch

14:30 **Session 3**

**MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC SCHOLARSHIP**

Moderator: **Sarah Stroumsa**, Academy member;  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Topos of the "Meeting of Great Minds" in  
Medieval Arabic Philosophy

**Ahmed H. al-Rahim**, University of Virginia

From Astrologer to Saint: The "Prediction Topos"  
in Islamic Historiography as a Mirror for Tracing  
Cultural Shifts in Islamic Societies

**Or Amir**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

15:30 Break

15:45 **Session 4**

**FROM THE BIBLE TO OUR TIMES**

Moderator: **Chanita Goodblatt**,  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Intertextual Prophet:

Elijah as a Topos within the Zoharic Literature

**Hillel Feuerstein**, Hamburg University

The Evil Queen Reconsidered: Early Modern Queens,  
Biblical Models, and Cultural Representation

**Yafit Shachar**, Tel Aviv University; Ben-Gurion  
University of the Negev





## Tuesday, May 19, 2026

8:30 **Gathering**

9:00 **KEYNOTE LECTURE 2**  
 Moderator: **Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan**,  
 Academy member; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Literary Topoi in Flaubert:  
 Between Poetics and Aesthetics  
**Carsten Meiner**, University of Copenhagen

10:00 Break

10:15 **Session 5**  
**FAMILIAL REALITIES AND  
 DYSTOPIAN IMAGINATION**  
 Moderator: **Yael Shapira**, Bar-Ilan University

Satan's Topoi:  
 Authorship Disnarrated in *The Monk* (1796)  
**Zoe Beenstock**, University of Haifa

Hoarders and Dragons  
**Galia Benziman**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Novercal Archetype and Onwards:  
 The Topos of the Wicked Un-mother  
**Usnat Atamna**, Al-Qasemi Academic College of  
 Education, Baqa al-Gharbiyye  
**Phillip Lobo**, Ball State University Teachers College

11:45 Break

12:00 **Session 6**  
**TRANSFORMATIONS OF TOPOI  
 IN FICTION AND FILM**  
 Moderator: **Shuli Barzilai**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*The Arrow of Gold*:  
 Joseph Conrad and the French Courtesan Novel  
**Hannah Landes**, Azrieli College

The Wilderness Topos in Contemporary  
 Detective Fiction and Film  
**Hana Saliba-Salman**, The Academic Arab College  
 for Education, Haifa

13:00 Lunch

## Wednesday, May 20, 2026

8:30 **Gathering**

9:00 **Session 7**  
**REFLECTION AND SELF-REFLECTION  
 IN POETRY**  
 Moderator: **Ruben Borg**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Au lieu d'un topos*:  
 Gathering the Absent Flowers of Literature  
**Laurent Milesi**, West University of Timișoara

The Topos of *Translatio studii* in Russian  
 and Ukrainian Modernist Poetry  
**Edward Waysband**, University of Pennsylvania

Exile and Aliyah in Postwar American Poetics:  
 David Antin and Shirley Kaufman  
**Lonnie Monka**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

10:30 Break

10:45 **Session 8**  
**EXILE OR ESCAPE?**  
 Moderator: **Eli Lederhendler**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Flight from Eden and the Escape from the  
 Garden: The History of a Counter Topos  
**Efraim Sicher**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Exile as a Topos:  
 From Trauma to Renewal  
**Márcia Vinha**, The University of São Paulo

12:00 Lunch

13:00 **Session 9**  
**FLOW AND INTERRUPTION**  
 Moderator: **Avner Holtzman**,  
 Chairperson – Humanities Division of the Academy;  
 Tel Aviv University

*Flânerie* in Modern(ist) Fiction  
**Adina Ciugureanu**, Ovidius University, Constanța

The Unfinished Manuscript  
**David Hadar**, Beit Berl College; Kaye College

14:00 Break

14:15 **Session 10**  
**TOPOI AND STEREOTYPES**  
 Moderator: **Ruben Weiss**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The "Unwanted Jew" in Diaries, Memoirs, and  
 Testimonial Literature of Romanian Jewish Writers  
**Arleen Ionescu**, West University of Timișoara

"The Broken Promise" in the Promised Land: The  
 Topos in Three Novels about Mandatory Palestine  
**Eitan Bar-Yosef**, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Topos of Hebraic Letters  
**Shira Wolosky**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

15:45 Break

16:00 **Closing Session**  
**FROM TOPOI TO A META-TOPOS**  
 Moderator: **Sanford Budick**,  
 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Meta-topos*: Theorizing the "Master Plan" of Composition  
**Jon Whitman**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

16:30 **Closing Discussion**

→ **להרשמה Registration** ←

Admission is free with advance registration, subject to available seating | הכניסה בהרשמה מראש, ללא תשלום ועל בסיס מקום פנוי

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