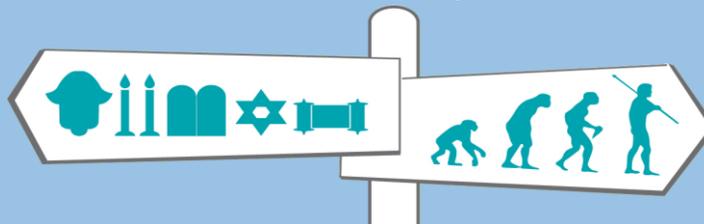


Call for Papers:  
3rd Conference on Judaism and Evolution  
December 28-29, 2016



Over the past decade and a half, religious studies programs are progressively more willing to open their fields to scientific scrutiny. Whereas in the past, social science was taboo within religious institutions, today there is a growing interest in the examination of religious systems, laws and practices using the same tools applied to all social phenomena. Although fundamentalists are still wary of the social sciences, in the history of religious practice, fundamentalism has been a relatively marginal phenomenon.

Perhaps due to the stronger fundamentalist (Haredi) influence on religious studies, Judaic Studies faculties tend to be insular. Certain inroads are being made, but is clear that with few exceptions, the deep exploration of biological, psychological, sociological and evolutionary forces that went in to the evolution of religion in general and into Judaism in particular, is still viewed as suspect.

At the Center for the Study of Bio-social Perspectives on Judaism at the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem in cooperation with Bina Yitzrit in Austin, Texas we are engaged in the teaching and research of Jewish Religious Practice from bio-psycho-social perspectives. Our team includes psychologists, biologists, independent researchers, rabbis, rabbinical students and MA students of Judaic Studies. We have hosted two international conferences. Keynote presenters have included Dr. Melvin Konner, Prof. Craig T. Palmer & Dr. Andy Thomson.

**We are planning a conference for December 28-29, 2016.** Professors David Buss and Tom Ellis will give our keynote presentations, focusing on their work with Bina Yitzrit.

We are looking to expand our scientific perspectives and hope you will be interested in presenting a paper, proposing a round table discussion or an academic colloquium. We aim to bring together leading academics, researchers and scholars to exchange and share their ideas and research results.

**We have a particular interest in Jewish religious practice, but papers that address the practice of any religious tradition are welcome. Please ensure that a major focus of the work is religion as understood biologically, evolutionarily. Evolutionary-psychologists are especially encouraged to use this platform.**

The languages of the conference will be English and Hebrew. Plenary sessions will be translated simultaneously. The Schechter Institute will publish selected papers in Hebrew after rigorous peer-review and translation, if needed.

**Abstracts of up to 500 words can be sent to:**  
[jerusalem.religion.conference@gmail.com](mailto:jerusalem.religion.conference@gmail.com)  
**Submission Deadline: September 30, 2016**

Full papers to be considered for translation and publication are requested by November 15, 2016

There will be additional cultural/scientific activities:

\* A visit to the Israel Museum's Archeology Exhibit, termed "One of the best exhibits of evolution anywhere". \* A trip to the Nahal Me'arot Nature Reserve, also known as the Wadi el-Mughara Caves. The site at Mount Carmel near Haifa shows evidence of prehistoric man's settlements and unique evidence of a first burial.

\* For those interested in early arrival, we can arrange a Christmas visit to Bethlehem on December 25. Additionally we will plan a visit to a synagogue for Friday night prayer-services on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of December.

**Thank you for your interest.**

**Paul Shrell-Fox,  
Program Chair & Head of Scientific Committee**