THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FUND CONFERENCE
ON NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ACCOMMODATION OF
RELIGIOUS LAW IN MODERN STATES:
CRITICAL AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

23-24.8.2022
26-27 Menachem-Av 5782
Rabin Observatory, 8th floor of Rabin Building, University of Haifa

Organizers: Karin Carmit Yefet, Ido Shahar, and Muhammad Al-Atawneh
8:30-9:00 Reception

9:00-9:15 Greetings

Professor Oren Gazal-Ayal, Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Haifa
Dr. Uriel Simonsohn, Head of the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies
Mr. Edgar Khayat, Member of the Public Committee of the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies

9:15-9:30 Opening Remarks

Dr. Ido Shahar, University of Haifa

9:30-11:15 Panel 1: Religious Family Law and the State: An Israeli Perspective

Moderator and Respondent: Professor Moussa Abu-Ramadan, Université de Strasbourg
Professor Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Bar-Ilan University:
Non-State Marriages in Israel within the Context of the Global Marriage Debate
Dr. Ram Rivlin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem:
What Makes Religious Tribunals “Religious?” A Lesson from Israeli Rabbinical Courts
The Hon. Judge Wejdan Hleihel, Dr. Karin Carmit Yefet, and Dr. Ido Shahar, University of Haifa:
The Muslim Wife Between the Israeli Shari’a Court and the Civil Family Court: A Conservative Revolution in Liberal Clothing

Professor Pamela Laufer-Ukeles, The Academic College of Law and Science:
Looking Beyond Binary and Exclusive Parenthood: Multiple and Functional Parenthood in Jewish and Israeli Law

11:15-11:30: Coffee Break

11:30-13:30 Panel 2: Religious Family Law and the State: Middle Eastern Perspectives

Moderator and Respondent: Professor Ron Shaham, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Professor Baudouin Dupret, Directeur de recherche au CNRS:
Establishing Filiation Relationships in Islamicate contexts: A Comparative Perspective on the Practice of Islamic Positive Law
Professor Jocelyne Cesari, University of Birmingham and Georgetown University:
Shari’a as God’s Law: A Genealogy of the Modern Understanding of Islamic Law in Syria and Turkey

16:45-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-17:45 Closing Session: Concluding Remarks

Moderator: Professor Muhammad Al-Atawneh, Ben-Gurion University
Professor Yueksel Sezgin, Syracuse University:
Global and Historical Trends in Muslim Family Law Reform: Muslim-Majority vs. Muslim-Minority States
Professor Shahar Lifshitz, Bar-Ilan University:
The Accommodation of Religious Marriage in Modern States: A Liberal Perspective

18:45 Dinner for conference participants at the Kosher Druze restaurant Nura’s Kitchen accompanied by a lecture about the Druze religious tradition
24.8.2022  DAY TWO

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9:00-12:00 Encounters with Judges in Religious courts:
The Appellate Melkite-Catholic Ecclesiastical Court, speaker: Chief Justice Dr. Elias Dao
The Haifa Shari’a Court, speaker: Dr. Iyad Zahalka, Director of Israeli Shari’a Courts and qadi in the Shari’a Court of Appeals
The Haifa Rabbinical Court, speakers: Rabbi Daniel Edry, Chief Rabbinical Judge, and Judge Rabbi Sinai Levy

12:00-18:00 The Cultural Mosaic of Haifa Bay: A Guided Tour

Haifa:
Visit to the Baha’i World Center, the Shrine of the Báb, the Baha’i Gardens, and the Universal House of Justice. Specifically, we will discuss the origins of this faith in Persia and how it came to be established as a world religion, as well as the relationship between Haifa, the rise of modernity, and religious pluralism.

Acre (Akko):
Visit to the spectacular “Or Torah” or Tunisian Synagogue, which is covered from floor to ceiling in mosaic scenes from the Bible and Jewish history and also contains over 140 stained glass windows.
Visit to the Al Jazar Pasha Mosque, the largest mosque in Israel outside of Jerusalem. We will explore the history of the site, which was once a madrasah as well as a mosque, as well as Islam’s place in Israel’s cultural mosaic.

Moussa Abou Ramadan
Ruth Halperin-Kaddari
Ram Rivlin
Wejdan Hleihl
Ido Shahar
Karin Carmit Yefet

Pamela Laufer-Ukeles
Ron Shaham
Baudouin Dupret
Jocelyne Cesari
Irene Schneider
Dorothe Engelcke

Noya Rimalt
Michael J. Broyde
Brian Bix
Radhika Rao
June Carbone
Naomi Cahn

Muhammad al-Ataw
Yuksel Sezgin
Shahar Lifshitz

Conference Website