

Conference Program

The Synagogue in Ancient Palestine: *Current Issues and Emerging Trends*

University of Helsinki
21-24 September 2016

Wednesday September 21, 2016

Location: University of Helsinki, Porthania Building (Yliopistonkatu 3), Sali II

- 18:00 **Public lecture** organized by the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME):
"Samson in Stone: New Discoveries in the Ancient Village and Synagogue at Huqoq in Israel's Galilee", Prof. Dr. Jodi Magness (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
- 19:00 **Reception** for conference participants
Location: University of Helsinki, Faculty of Theology (Vuorikatu 3), Faculty room (5th floor)

Thursday September 22, 2016

Location: University of Helsinki, Main building (Yliopistonkatu 4/Favianinkatu 33), Sali 10

- 9:15-9:30 **Opening words** by organizers

Session 1: Contextualizing synagogue art

- 9:30-10:20 **Keynote lecture:** *Visual vs. Virtual Reality: Interpreting Synagogue Mosaic Art*
Zeev Weiss (Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel)
- 10:20-10:50 *A Re-reading of the Japhi'a Circle*
Géza G. Xeravits (Selye J. University, Slovakia)
- 10:50-11:20 *Coffee & tea break (30 min.)*
- 11:20-11:50 *The Style of the Synagogue of Beth Alpha Mosaics*
Lidia Chakovskaya (Moscow State University, Russia)
- 11:50-12:20 *The Appearance of the Menorah in Ancient Jewish Art*
Gary Gilbert (Claremont McKenna College, USA)
- 12:20-13:50 *Lunch (1.5 hours)*

Session 2: Leadership, power and daily life in the synagogues

- 13:50-14:40 **Keynote lecture:** *Writing as Power: Texts, Pictures, and Daily Life in Ancient Levantine Synagogues*
Karen B. Stern (CUNY Brooklyn College, USA)
- 14:40-15:10 *The Role of Jewish Priests in Early Synagogue Leadership and Worship*

Matthew J. Grey (Brigham Young University, USA)

15:10-15:40 *Coffee & tea break (30 min.)*

15:40-16:10 *The Upper Room as Triclinium? Textual and material evidence*
Eric Ottenheijm (University of Utrecht, the Netherlands)

16:10-16:40 *The Art of Persuasion: The Socio-Political Context of Public Synagogue Debates in the Second-Temple Period*
Jordan J. Ryan (Wheaton College, USA)

17:30-18:30 **Visit** to the Helsinki Synagogue (Rabbi Simon Livson)

19:00 **Dinner** for conference presenters

Friday September 23, 2016

Location: University of Helsinki, Main building (Yliopistonkatu 4/Favianinkatu 33), Sali 10

Session 3: Synagogues in the late antique landscape

9:30-10:20 **Keynote lecture:** *Floors, Benches, and a Platform. The Synagogue at Horvat Kur as Liturgical Space*
Jürgen K. Zangenberg (Leiden University, the Netherlands)

10:20-10:50 *Galilean Synagogues in the Context of Ancient Religious Competition*
Raimo Hakola (University of Helsinki, Finland)

10:50-11:20 *Coffee & tea break (30 min.)*

11:20-11:50 *How Many Synagogues Were Found, Where and Why?*
Chaim Ben David (Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Israel)

11:50-12:20 *The Torah shrine in Byzantine synagogues*
Ulla Tervahauta (University of Helsinki, Finland)

12:20-13:50 *Lunch (1.5 hours)*

Session 4: Early synagogues and the 70 CE 'watershed'

13:50-14:20 *The Early Roman Synagogue at Khirbet Qana*
Tom McCollough (Centre College, USA)

14:20-14:50 *Reassessing the Impact of 70 CE on the Origins and Development of Palestinian Synagogues*
Wally Cirafesi & Anders Runesson (University of Oslo, Norway)

14:50-15:20 *Coffee & tea break (30 min.)*

15:20-15:50 *A Jewish Village and a Public Building from the Second Temple Period and the Bar Kokhba Revolt at Horvat 'Ethri, Judean Shephelah*
Boaz Zissu (Bar Ilan University, Israel)

15:50-16:20 *Early Synagogues: Some thoughts on the why and how of their appearance*
Rick Bonnie (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Saturday September 24, 2016

Location: University of Helsinki, Main building (Yliopistonkatu 4/Favianinkatu 33), Auditorium XIII

Session 5: Dating the late antique synagogues

- 9:30-10:20 **Keynote lecture:** *The Huqoq Synagogue: A Regional Variant of the Galilean Type*
Jodi Magness (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA)
- 10:20-10:50 *Ancient Synagogue Dating and the Primary Source Data Divide*
Chad Spigel (Trinity University, USA)
- 10:50-11:20 *Coffee & tea break (30 min.)*
- 11:20-11:50 *Dating Capernaum Synagogue by Stylistic Method. Some Aspects of its Reconstruction*
Svetlana Tarkhanova (Russian Academy of Architecture and Building Science, Russia)
- 11:50-12:20 *Supporting a regional typology of the ancient synagogues in Israel*
Mordechai Aviam (Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee, Israel)
- 12:20-13:00 **Discussion and closing words** by organizers
- 13:00-14:30 *Lunch (1.5 hours)*
- 14:30-17:00 Helsinki city center tour (optional)
Gathering spot: Front side of the University of Helsinki Main Building (Fabianinkatu 33, on the side of the Senate Square)