



International Conference

**THE MEDICI AND THE JEWS:  
RELIGION, CULTURE, AND URBAN STRATEGIES  
IN EARLY MODERN FLORENCE**

Gilman Humanities Building, Lecture Hall 496, Tel Aviv University  
13-14 June 2018

*The Medici Archive Project  
The Morris E. Curiel Institute for European Studies  
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies  
The S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies  
The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
Tel Aviv University*

# Conference Program

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**Wednesday, 13 June 2018**

**09:15-09:45** Gathering

**09:45-10:00** Welcoming Remarks

**Aviad Kleinberg** (Head, Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University)

**Miriam Eliav-Feldon** (Chairperson, The Historical Society of Israel)

**10:00-11:30:** Session I: *The Medici and the Ghetto*

Chair: **Shai Zamir** (University of Michigan)

**Stefanie Siegmund** (Jewish Theological Seminary)

*The Construction of the Ghetto and the Reconstruction of Gender*

**Piergabriele Mancuso** (The Medici Archive Project)

*Staging Segregation: Religious Practices, Political Ideology, Financial Planning and the Institution of the Florentine Ghetto*

**Lorenzo Vigotti** (Columbia University)

*A Real Estate Project in Early Modern Florence: Social Housing and Public Services in the Ghetto*

**11:30-12:00** Coffee Break

**12:00-13:00** Session II: *Jews and Converts in Medici Florence*

Chair: **Yakov Mascetti** (Bar Ilan University)

**Samuela Marconcini** (Centro Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea, Milan)

*Jewish Converts in Florence after the Establishment of the Ghetto*

**Tamar Herzig** (Tel Aviv University)

*From the Ghetto to the Convent: Ex-Jewish Nuns in Grand Ducal Florence*

**13:00-15:00** Lunch Break

**15:00-16:30** Session III: *Jews and the Social Elites under the Medici*  
Chair: **David S. Katz** (Tel Aviv University)

**Fabrizio Lelli** (Università del Salento)  
*Cultural Trends in Jewish Renaissance Florence*

**Alessio Assonitis** (The Medici Archive Project)  
*Italian Ghettos in Early Modern News Networks*

**Francesca Bregoli** (City University of New York)  
*The Merchants at the Casino: Sephardic Elites and Tuscan Culture*

**16:30-17:00** Coffee Break

**17:00-18:30** Session IV: *Jewish Thought in Medici Florence*  
Chair: **Inbar Strul Dabull** (Tel Aviv University)

**Brendan Dooley** (University College Cork)  
*Jewish Wisdom, Medici Princes: Kabbalah and More in Grand Ducal Florence*

**Cedric Cohen-Skalli** (University of Haifa)  
*The Socio-Political Space of the Da Pisas and its Cultural Meaning*

**Judith Weiss** (Ben Gurion University)  
*Between Florence and Rome: Giles of Viterbo and the Kabbalah*

**Thursday, 14 June 2018**

**10:00-10:30** Gathering

**10:30-12:00** Session V: *Jews, Christians, and Cultural Production*  
Chair: **Carlotta Paltrinieri** (The Medici Archive Project)

**David Malkiel** (Bar Ilan University)  
*Jewish-Christian Relations in Renaissance Italy: Resolving a Historiographical Debate*

**Yakov Z. Mayer** (Tel Aviv University)  
*Jews and the Florentine Baptistery*

**Sefy Hendler** (Tel Aviv University)  
*Cellini's Dog: From Barucco to Baruch Hu, Some Reflections on the Artist's Identity*

**12:00-14:00 Lunch Break**

**14:00-15:30** Session VI: *The Venetian Antecedent*

Chair: **Benjamin Arbel** (Tel Aviv University)

**Donatella Calabi** (Università IUAV di Venezia)

*The Ghetto of Venice: Different Communities, Height of Buildings and Density of Population*

**Anastazja Buttitta** (Ben Gurion University)

*Jews and Art in the Venetian Ghetto*

**Martina Massaro** (University of Padua)

*A Historical Journey across the Venetian Ghetto Boundaries: From the End of the Republic to the Twentieth Century*

**15:30-16:00 Coffee Break**

**16:00-17:30** Session VII: *Conclusions, Final Remarks & Roundtable Discussion*

**Alessio Assonitis and Tamar Herzig**

Conference organizers:  
**Tamar Herzig & Alessio Assonitis**

**For Further information**

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