

Dedicated to the loving memory of  
**Prof. Tamar Alexander**



one of the Society's founders and a member  
of its Steering Committee

**The Society's Steering Committee**

Eliezer Papo, Tamar Alexander,  
Yaron Ben-Naeh, Ricardo Muñoz Solla,  
José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim

**Academic Committee**

Eliezer Papo, Haviva Pedaya, Jonatan Meir,  
Peter S. Lehnardt, Cengiz Şişman, Vuk Dautović

**Organizing Committee**

Eliezer Papo, Nesim Bencoya,  
Avishag Ben-Shalom, Bariş Telimen

The Eleventh Annual Conference of the  
Society for Sephardic Studies

## Sephardic Jews Between Messianism and Modernity

The conference is being organized  
in cooperation with

the Sephardic Studies Research Institute  
of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev,

the Izmir Jewish Heritage Project and the  
Jewish Community Foundation of Izmir,

the Ottoman-Turkish Sephardic Culture Research Center  
and the Quincentennial Museum of Turkish Jews,

the Center for Sabbatean Sephardic Culture,

the J.R. Elyachar Center for Studies  
in Sepharadi Heritage,

the Council of Sephardic and  
Oriental Communities – Jerusalem

and with the support of Republic of Türkiye Ministry  
of Culture and Tourism, Izmir Metropolitan  
Municipality and Izmir Konak Municipality

**Izmir, October 9-13, 2023**





Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>

**Portugal Synagogue**

Portekiz Sinagogu, Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 926. Sk. No:44,  
35370 Konak/İzmir

09:00-09:45 **Registration**

09:45-10:30 **Opening Ceremony**

*Words of welcome from*

**Nesim Bencoya**, the Izmir Jewish Heritage Project

**Abraham Sevinti**, the Jewish Community Foundation of Izmir

**Silvio Ovadia**, the Quincentennial Museum of Turkish Jews

**Avraham Shalom**, the Council of Sephardic and Oriental Communities – Jerusalem

**Barış Telimen**, the Center for Sabbatean Sephardic Culture

**Regina Boxer**, patron of the Sephardic Studies Research Institute, Ben-Gurion University

**Eliezer Papo**, the Society for Sephardic Studies

10:30-11:15 **Session 1. Opening Keynote Speaker**

Chairperson: **Eliezer Papo**

**Jacob Barnai**, University of Haifa

The Jewish Community of Izmir between the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Centuries

11:15-11:45 **Coffee Break**

11:45-12:45 **Session 2. Sacred Topography of Izmir**

Chairperson: **Ricardo Muñoz Solla**

**Maoz Kahana**, Tel-Aviv University

One Lock, One Axe: The Oral Life of a Particular Shabbat in the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue

**Şakir Çakmak**, Ege University and **S. Burçak Çıkıkcı**, independent researcher

Aspirations and Recommendations Concerning the Restoration of Izmir's Orehim/Forasteros (Foreigners) Synagogue

12:45-14:00 **Lunch Break**

14:00-15:30 **Session 3. Restoring Jewish Messianism**

Chairperson: **José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim**

**Peter Sh. Lehnardt**, Ben-Gurion University

*Ma'ase Yeşurun*: A New Kind of Sephardic Messianism as Depicted by R. Aaron HaKohen of Dubrovnik

**Haviva Pedaya**, Ben-Gurion University

Ottoman-Sephardic Tradition of Moderate Apocalypses, from Šabbetay to R. Yehudah Alkalay

**Eliezer Papo**, Ben-Gurion University

*For Torah shall Emanate forth from Zemun and the Word of the Lord from Serbia*: R. Yehudah Alkalay's Concept of Messiah/Theodor Herzl and His True Origins

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

16:30-18:00 **Session 4. The Jewish Community of Izmir:  
Language, Identity and Livelihood**

Chairperson: **Avraham Shalom**

**David M. Bunis**, Hebrew University

The Language of Rabbi Avraham Palacci's *Sefer We-Hoxiah Avraham*

**Rachel Saba Wolfe**, Ben-Gurion University

*What Language shall He Teach His Children?* The Language Debate in Izmir's Judeo-Spanish Press as a Matter of Identity

**Orly C. Meron**, Bar-Ilan University  
Jewish Entrepreneurship in Izmir: Sephardic Commercial Networks

**Nesim Bencoya**, project manager  
Izmir Jewish Heritage Project

18:00-18:45 **Session 5. Closing Keynote Speaker**  
Chairperson: **Avishag Ben Shalom**

**Dina Danon**, Binghamton University  
Rethinking Jewish Modernity: Class and Community in Ottoman Izmir

18:45-20:00

**Projection of the movie**  
*Father Language*

by **Rami Kimchi**

(55 minutes)

Followed by Discussion,  
Led by the Movie Director



09:00-13:00 **Excursion: La Juderia de Izmir**

Starting point: Havralar Meydanı / Synagogues Square  
Havralar Meydanı 937 Street no.3

13:00-14:30 **Lunch Break**

### Parallel Sessions

#### **Sinyora Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 927. Sk. No:79,  
35250 Konak/İzmir

#### **Eş Hayim Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 937. Sk. 5 C,  
35250 Konak/İzmir

14:30-16:30

#### **Session 6. Portraits**

Chairperson: **Efrat Lederfein-Gilboa**

**Jonathan Vardi**, Hebrew University  
The Ottoman Copyists of Andalusia's Golden Age: Modern Philology and Traditional Heritage

**Talha Kaan Ünlü**, Amasya University  
An Effective Community: The Salonica Jewish Community in the Sixteenth Century and its External Relations, through the Notes of Samuel de Medina

**Shai Srougo**, University of Haifa  
Traditional Ottoman Practices on the Thessaloniki Waterfront: Jewish Stevedore Work Culture (1900-1920)

**Dina Eliezer**, independent researcher  
Rescuing History: The Race to Save Izmir's Priceless Rabbinic Library and its Jewish Heritage

#### **Session 7. Communities at Crossroads**

Chairperson: **Peter Sh. Lehnardt**

**Dotan Arad**, Bar-Ilan University  
Image, Self-Image, Reality: Attitudes of Sephardic Sages toward the Mustaribs

**Ricardo Muñoz Solla**, Universidad de Salamanca  
Caminos mesiánicos a la utopía: el caso de los judeoconversos de Úbeda y Baeza

**José Alberto Rodrigues da Silva Tavim**, Universidade de Lisboa  
Image, Self-Image, Reality: Attitudes of Sephardic Sages toward the Mustaribs

**David Manrique**, Ben-Gurion University  
Between Theurgy and Education: Sabbatian Ladino Translations of the Zohar



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

17:00-19:00

**Session 8. The Jewish Community of Izmir: Characters and Edifices**

Chairperson: **Dina Danon**

**Marcos Silber**, University of Haifa  
Messianic Memories, Jewish Nationalism and the Izmir Setting; R. Ḥayyim Falachi meets Adam Mickiewicz

**Miguel Ángel Espinosa Villegas**, University of Granada  
Between Sefarad and Turkey: Tradition and Modernity in the Architecture of Izmir Jewry

**Hatice Ayşegül Demir, Nihan Bulut** and **Mine Hamamcioglu-Turan**, Izmir Institute of Technology  
The Remains of the Jewish Hospital in Kemeraltı and the Challenges Facing its Preservation

**Doğa Filiz Subaşı**, Yozgat Bozok University  
Los judíos de Izmir a través de un nuevo libro conjunto: *The Jewish Pearl of the Aegean: Izmir*

**Session 9. Books, Theater and Music**

Chairperson: **Pilar Romeu Ferré**

**Avishag Ben-Shalom**, Ben-Gurion University  
When Realism torn into Romanticization: Sexuality of Elderly Female Characters in Laura Papo Bohoreta's Social Plays

**Donatella Melini**, Pavia University  
Arab Instruments, Jewish Luthiers, Christian Musicians: The Annals and Construction of Musical Instruments in Europe between the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Century

**Judith Cohen**, York University  
Music in Portuguese Crypto-Jewish Life: A Quarter-Century of Change and Adaptation



**Parallel Sessions**

**Sinyora Synagogue**

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35250 Konak/İzmir

**Eş Ḥayim Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 937. Sk. 5 C,  
35250 Konak/İzmir

9:00-11:00

**Session 10. Sabbatian Studies I**

Chairperson: **Barış Telimen**

**Moisés Orfali**, Bar-Ilan University  
Prayers and Liturgical Poems by R. Isaac Aboab da Fonseca and R. Solomon Oliveira in Honor of Šabbetai Ševi

**María José Cano Pérez**, University of Granada  
La figura de Šabbetai Ševi en la literatura creativa: *El viaje de Baldassre* de Amin Maalouf

**Efrat Lederfein-Gilboa**, Ben-Gurion University  
From Constantinople to Reggio: Benjamin haCohen Vitali's Commentary on Lamentations

**Gila Hadar**, University of Haifa  
The Sephardic Family in the Throes of Crisis: The Aftermath of the Mass Conversions to Islam following Šabbetai Ševi

**Session 11. The City of Izmir in Jewish Literature**

Chairperson: **Nesim Bencoya**

**Michal Moskovitz**, Bar-Ilan University  
The Sephardic Jews in Izmir as Reflected in the Novel *Seniorita from Izmir* by Michal Moskovitz

**Jan Miklas-Frankowski**, University of Gdańsk  
The Image of Smyrna in Olga Tokarczuk's *The Books of Jacob*

**Susy Gruss**, Bar-Ilan University  
Esmirna – mi ciudad, mi comunidad, mi lugar

**Tania María García Arévalo**, University of Granada  
Entre Esmirna, El Cairo y Jerusalén: análisis preliminar de la novela *La sinyatura del kontrato*

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

11:30-13:30

### Session 12. Sabbatian Studies II

Chairperson: **Rami Kimchi**

**Noam Lefler**, Tel-Aviv University  
Abraham Yaxini – Dreams and Destiny

**Eliezer Baumgarten**, Ben-Gurion University  
**Uri Safrai**, Herzog College  
Between R. Moses Zaccuto and R. Nathan of Gaza: *Tiqqunim*, Zohar Commentary and Prayer Intentions

**Miquel Beltrán**, University of the Balearic Islands

**Meritzell Blasco**, University of Barcelona  
Kabbalistic References in Abraham Miguel Cardozo's Letter to the Judges of Izmir  
Defending the Fallen Messiah

### Session 13. Sephardic Networks

Chairperson: **Maoz Kahana**

**Susanne Marten-Finnis**, Universities Bremen and Portsmouth  
The Sephardic Community in Late Sixteenth-Century Zamość: Understanding Urban Neighborhood Principles in Light of Polish-Ottoman Relations

**Benedetto Ligorio**, Sapienza University of Rome  
The Sephardic Silk Road Bridging Italy and Balkan Cities during the Renaissance

**Yehonatan Elazar-Demota**, University of Antwerp  
The Talmud Torah Eş Hayim School in Eighteenth Century Amsterdam: Private International Law between the Nação and Jews of the Ottoman Empire

**Silvina Schammah Gesser**, Bar-Ilan University  
Converso Traits in the Spanish Baroque Period? Rereading the Eternal Image of Santa Teresa of Ávila as a Pillar of "Hispanidad"

13:30-14:30 **Lunch Break**



14:30-15:30

### Session 14. Ottoman Sephardic Literature

Chairperson: **Svetlana Smolčić Makuljević**

**Iskra Dobrova**, independent researcher  
*Lights and Shadows from the Life of the Bulgarian Jews: The Prose Work of the Sephardic Poetess Grazia Albohayre (1925-2018)*

**Gordana Todorić**, the Gaon Center, BGU  
Haim the Diegetic Mediator

### Session 15. Families and Ethno-Confessional Communities in Izmir

Chairperson: **Nenad Makuljević**

**Siren Bora** and **Yasin Özdemir**, independent researchers  
Izmir Jewry's Socio-Economic and Legal Problems and the Boundaries of the City's Jewish Quarter through the Prism of the Levi Family Archives (1804-1906)

**Yitzchak Kerem**, independent researcher  
Relations and Mutual Influences between Greek-Orthodox and Izmir Jewry from the Late 1800s to the First Half of the Twentieth Century

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

16:00-17:30

### Session 16. Ottoman Sephardic Folk Culture

Chairperson: **Vuk Dautović**

**Sanja Trifunović**, University of Vienna  
Jewish Performer, between Messianism and Modernism

**Hanita Barbiro**, Ben-Gurion University  
The Question of Djoha's Ethno-Confessional Identity

**Nazlı Alimen**, Birmingham City University  
Jewish Women's Ferâces: Fashion in the Ottoman Public Sphere between the Seventeenth and Nineteenth Centuries

### Session 17. Sephardic Diasporas

Chairperson: **Moisés Orfali**

**Isaac Amon**, Jewish Heritage Alliance  
An Extraordinary Age: The Sephardic Diaspora amid the Seventeenth Century

**Javier Leibiusky**, INALCO University, Paris and Goethe Universität, Frankfurt  
Sephardic Immigration from the Ottoman Empire to Buenos Aires – the Story of an Invisible Community (1876-1930)

**Damien Fabre**, Bordeaux Montaigne University  
The Re-Compositions of Sephardic Identity in the Columns of *Le Judaïsme Sepharadi* (1932-1966, Paris, London)



18:00

***Karagöz and Hacivat: Traditional Ottoman Shadow Play***

“Sanathane” 1298. Street. No: 21, Konak/İzmir

19:00

***La ija i la madre, komo la unya i la karne:  
Romansas i kantigas de la tradision sefaradi***

**Judith Cohen & Tamar Ilana**

**Linet & Kamila Saul**

“Sanathane” 1298. Street. No: 21, Konak/İzmir



**Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Parallel Sessions**

**Sinyora Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 927. Sk. No:79,  
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**Eş Hayim Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 937. Sk. 5 C,  
35250 Konak/İzmir

9:00-10:30

**Session 18. Sephardica Balcanica**

Chairperson: **Gordana Todoric**

**Vuk Dautović**, University of Belgrade  
The Sephardic Community of Belgrade in  
the Age of Historicism

**Session 19. Messianism, from the  
Generations that Composed the  
Zohar to Sabbateanism (in Hebrew)**

Chairperson: **Jonatan Meir**

**Ruth Kara-Ivanov**, University of Haifa  
Birth and Anti-Birth: Messianic Dreams  
of Kabbalists from the Thirteenth to the  
Twentieth Century

**Nenad Makuljević**, University of Belgrade  
The Migrations and Remembrance Culture  
of Sephardim in the Ottoman Empire

**Svetlana Smolčić Makuljević**, Belgrade  
Metropolitan University  
The Image of Jews in the Ottoman Balkan  
Visual Culture

**Biti Roi**, Hebrew University  
Theories on Cain and Abel's Reincarnation  
from the Iberian Peninsula to Safed

**Elchanan Reiner**, Tel-Aviv University  
R. Neḥemia haKohen: A Jewish Polish  
Prophet in *Migdal 'Oz*

10:30-11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00-12:00

**The Annual Meeting of the Society for Sephardic Studies**

Items on the agenda:

- Decisions regarding the Twelfth Annual Conference (2024)
- Election of a new Steering Committee member  
(to replace the late Tamar Alexander)

**Venue: Sinyora Synagogue**

Kemeraltı Çarşısı, 927. Sk. No:79, 35250 Konak/İzmir

12:00-13:00 **Lunch Break**

13:15-19:15

**Excursion to the Sardis Synagogue and the Temple of Artemis**



**Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**

08:00-15:00 **Excursion to the Historic City of Ephesus**