



תלמוד ירושלמי

Early Islam and Late Antique Judaism

August 3–4, 2026
9AM–6PM

Braun Room, Swartz Hall
45 Francis Avenue, Cambridge, MA
Harvard Divinity School

A conference exploring the connections between early Islam and Late Antique Judaism, featuring scholars working at the intersection of rabbinic Judaism, the Qur'an, and early Islam to reflect on the interactions between Muslim and Jewish communities in the early Islamic centuries, with a particular focus on religious, literary, and social exchange.

ORGANIZED BY:

Mohsen Goudarzi, Harvard Divinity School

Shari Lowin, Stonehill College

Holger Zellentin, University of Tübingen

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

<https://tinyurl.com/lajei>

For more information please
contact Ani Kalousdian
akalousdian@hds.harvard.edu



CENTER
for JEWISH
STUDIES



The Yanoff Taylor
Lecture and
Publication Fund



PRINCE ALWALEED BIN TALAL
ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL

CMES

THE CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

QASLA



erc
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

EARLY ISLAM AND LATE ANTIQUE JUDAISM

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

August 3-4, 2026 | Braun Room, Swartz Hall | Harvard Divinity School | Cambridge, MA

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026

9:20-
10:40am

(How) Can we Reconstruct the Identity of the Jews of the Qur'an?

- **Isaac W. Oliver**

"Uncanny Phenomena, Extraordinary Teachings: Discerning the Provenance and Patterns behind the Selection of Rabbinic Teachings within the Quran"

- **Nicolai Sinai**

"Qur'anic Polemics and the Problem of Verisimilitude"

10:40-11:00AM • COFFEE BREAK

11:00-
1:00pm

Ritual Koiné, Divergent Dialects: Ṣalāt, Circumcision, and the Making of Communal Identities

- **Ari S. Gordon**

"Recognized but Unexplored: Ritual Koiné in Late Antiquity and Early Islam"

- **Stefanie Rudolf**

"How Jewish is Ṣalāt? On the Limits of Rabbinic Models of Qur'anic Prayer"

- **Raashid S. Goyal**

"The Islamic Rite of Circumcision: The Judaic Context of Ibn 'Abbās' Ruling on the Arghal"

1:00-2:00PM • LUNCH

2:00-
4:00pm

Between Destruction and Exile: the Jews from the Bible's Kebar to Arabia's Khaybar

- **Mohsen Goudarzi**

"Israel as Adam: History, Election, and Destruction in the Qur'an"

- **Saqib Hussain**

"Israelite Exile and Diaspora in the Qur'an"

- **Yaara Perlman**

"Muhammad's Evaluators of the Date Produce in Khaybar"

4:00-4:30PM • COFFEE BREAK

4:30-
5:50pm

Studies in Sūrat al-Baqarah: Adam and Abraham between Islamic exegesis and rabbinic traditions

- **Nadja Abuhussein**

"Tested with 'Words': Abraham and Divine Speech in Q 2:124 and Palestinian Piyyut"

- **Ana Davitashvili**

"I will make you bleed as you made this tree bleed: Eve's punishment and the emergence of menstruation in Isrā'iliyyāt"

EARLY ISLAM AND LATE ANTIQUE JUDAISM

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

August 3-4, 2026 | Braun Room, Swartz Hall | Harvard Divinity School | Cambridge, MA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

9:20-
10:40am

Solomon and the Demons between the Qur'an and Apocryphal Jewish Literature

- **Hythem Sidky**
"Reading Over Their Shoulders: Tracing Specific Jewish Apocrypha and Grimoires in the Qur'anic Milieu"
- **Mahdi Saleh**
"Angels in Babylon: Hārūt and Mārūt (Q 2:102) between Meccan Demonology and Medinan Polemic"

10:40-11:00AM • COFFEE BREAK

11:00-
1:00pm

Bearing the Word of God: Qur'anic Polemic and Jewish and Christian Sources

- **Sean W. Anthony**
"It does not befit al-Rahmān to take a child ...: Late Antique Arabia and the Qur'anic Polemic against Divine Filiation"
- **Holger Zellentin**
"How Close is too Close? Reading Song of Songs Rabbah and the Qur'an in Conversation"
- **Shari Lowin**
"On the Jews as Laden Donkeys, Panting Dogs, and the Overturned Mountain in the Qur'an and the Midrash"

1:00-2:00PM • LUNCH

2:00-
4:00pm

Islamic Traditions and/in the Oral Torah

- **Shlomo Zuckier**
"'Oral Torah' Between Late Talmudic and Early Islamic Discourse"
- **Eliav Grossmann**
"The Mother of Scripture: An Islamicate Sugya"
- **Marianna Klar**
"A Synoptic Analysis of Rabbinic Parallels to Qur'anic Divorce Legislation"

4:00-4:30PM • COFFEE BREAK

4:30-
5:50pm

Moses in Islam and Muhammad in Judaism: Grappling with Each Other's Prophet

- **Reuven Firestone**
"Denying and Finding Muhammad in the Bible: On Jewish Responses to the Qur'an's Claims of Biblical References/Allusions to Muhammad (a'lām/dalā'il al-nubuwwa)"
- **Madeline Wyse**
"The Body of Moses and the Shared Narrative Culture of Arabian Jews and Early Muslims"