

The Fourth Israeli Conference for the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities (4th ICSCS)

Pre-conference Workshops day Monday 19.03.2012

08:30 – 09:30 Registration (near room 363, Education building)

09:30 – 12:00 Parallel Workshops – Part 1

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch Break

13:00 – 15:30 Parallel Workshops – Part 2

15:30 – 16:00 Break

16:00 – 18:00 Plenary Session, Open to the Public,

(Hecht Auditorium, Main Building)

Chair: **Prof. Nadav Davidovitch** (Ben Gurion University in the Negev)

Disciplinary Struggles: Introducing Spirituality into the Academia

Prof. Jonathan Halevy (Director General, Shaare Zedek Medical Center),

Prof. Ofra Mayseless (Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Haifa),

Dr. Yaki Menschenfreund (The Open University)

	Workshop 1 (Room 363, Education Building)	Workshop 2 (Room 463, Education Building)	Workshop 3 (Room 464, Education Building)
Part A	Alternative Responses to Minority Religions Prof. Eileen Barker (London School of Economics)	Kabbalistic Psychology Prof. Les Lancaster (Liverpool John Moores University)	Knowing When to Get Out of the Way: Research Musings on Transpersonal Therapies
Part B	Does Humanism Require Spirituality? Prof. Paul Heelas (Erasmus University Rotterdam)	and Dr. Menachem Kallus (University of Haifa)	Prof. Harris L. Friedman (Florida University) and Prof. Douglas MacDonald (University of Detroit Mercy)

The Fourth Israeli Conference for the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities (4th ICSCS)

Conference Papers Presentation day Tuesday 20.03.2012

08:00 – 08:45 Gathering & Refreshments (Hecht Auditorium, Main building)

08:45 - 10:15 Morning Session (Hecht Auditorium)

Chair: **Prof. Moshe Idel** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Greetings & opening remarks – **Prof. Ofra Mayseless** (University of Haifa)

Music – **Ruti Halvani** (vocals) and **Dr. Dana Amir** (piano)

Lecture: **Prof. Paul Heelas** (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Inner-Life Spiritual Humanism: Healing/the Therapeutic and the Cultivation of Humanity

Discussion with the Audience

10:15 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:45 – Parallel Sessions A – (located in various rooms, To Be Announced)

12:45 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:15 – Parallel Sessions B – (located in various rooms, To Be Announced)

15:15 – 15:30 Break

15:30 – 17:15 – Parallel Sessions C – (located in various rooms, To Be Announced)

17:15 – 17:30 Break and Refreshments

19:00 – 17:30 - Evening Session (Hecht Auditorium)

The Involvement of the State in the Contemporary Spiritualities Field – Sociological, Psychological and Legal Perspectives

Chair: **Prof. Eileen Barker** (London School of Economics)

Prof. Eli Somer (University of Haifa)

The Psychological State of Individuals in New Religious Movements: Is There a Reason for Concern

Prof. Ariel Bendor (Bar-Ilan University)

The Legality of Criminalizing Cult Activities

Ms. Yael Hermel (Director of Services for the Individual and the Family, Representative of the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services)

The Report of the Israeli Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services's Team for the Examination of the Phenomenon of Cults in Israel

Discussion with the Audience

Note: The majority of the Lectures is in Hebrew. Lectures in English are colored in light gray.

Parallel Symposia A

Symposium A1 Contemporary Spiritual Identity: A Multicultural Perspective (Hecht Auditorium)

Chair – Dr. Tally Katz-Gerro (University of Haifa)

1. **Religion as Embodied Spirituality** Mr. Stuart Nelson (University of California – Santa Barbara)

2. **Spiritual Identity as a Dialectical Experience** Ms. Pninit Russo-Netzer (University of Haifa)

3. **Corralling the Self, Transforming the Self: Mussar, Therapy, and Self-Discipline in the Lives of Jewish-American Adults** Ms. Arielle Levites (New York University)

4. **On the Link Between Life Characterized by Immediacy and a Unifying Epistemology: New Evidence from the Rain-Forests of Southern India** Dr. Daniel Naveh (University of Haifa, Bar-Ilan University)

5. **Spirituality, Authenticity and Truth** Ms. Francesca Montemaggi (Cardiff University)

Symposium A2 Complementary Medicine and Spirituality (Senate Room, 29th floor, Eshkol Tower)

Chair – Dr. Yuval Yonay (University of Haifa)

1. **The Uses of Spirituality in Kosher Medicine** Dr. Tsipy Ivry (University of Haifa)

2. **Spirituality as a Professional Source of Authority in Chinese Medicine in Israel** Ms. Eline Zehavi (University of Haifa)

3. **Can Holism be Practiced in a Biomedical Setting? A Qualitative Study of the Integration of Complementary Medicine to a Surgical Department** Dr. Yael Keshet (Western Galilee Academic College), Dr. Eran Ben-Arye (The Technion, University of Haifa), Dr. Elad Schiff (Bnai Zion Medical Center)

4. **Between Caring and Mitzvat "Visiting the Sick": On Concrete Spirituality in Nursing** Dr. Sara Shachaf (University of Haifa)

Symposium A3 Contemporary Shamanism (Includes an experiential part) (Room 363, 3rd Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Prof. Benny Shanon (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

1. **Communicating Experiences with Nature and Creatures** Mr. Joel Jojola (A Native American Traditional Adviser)

2. **Santo Daime - Local Community Ritual Meets The Cultic Milieu** Mr. Tom Orgad (Tel-Aviv University)

3. **Healing the Soul: Shamanic Grief Treatment** Prof. Nahum Megged (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

4. **Shamanism as 'Psychologized' Religion? Comparative Views between France and Nepal** Prof. Lionel Obadia (Université Lyon 2)

Symposium A4 Judaism – Contemporary Currents and Phenomena (Room 466, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Zohar Segev (University of Haifa)

1. **Textual 'Tikkun' (Divine Repair) and Healing Practices in the Kabala Yeshiva** Mr. Shlomo Guzman-Carmeli (Bar-Ilan University)

2. **Inventing Jewish Rituals: Between Tradition and Innovation on Alternative Weddings and Funerals in Israel** Dr. Anna Parshizky (Western Galilee Academic College)

3. **Rabbis That Don't Believe in God** Ms. Reut Hochman (University of Haifa)

4. **'As Ridiculous As Kosher Pork': Why is Messianic Judaism a Special Case?"** Prof. Faydra Shapiro (Wilfrid Laurier University)

5. **"Psychotorahpy" – Torah, Judaism and the Psychotherapy discourse** Dr. Semadar Cherlow (Bar-Ilan University)

Symposium A5 Western Esotericism (Room 464, 4th Floor Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Danielle Gurevitch (Bar-Ilan University)

1. **From Real to Mystical Biography (the Prophet Zor Alef's Case)** Prof. Ekaterina Anastasova (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences)
2. **Breathing Together: Spiritual and Bodily Therapy in Late Nineteenth-Century Palestine** Dr. Julie Chajes (Ben Gurion University in the Negev)
3. **The Fall of Magicians: Magical Myth of Russian Symbolists** Dr. Uri Daigin (Bar Ilan University)
4. **Spirituality as the Source of Evil in the Russian Literature and the Provoslavic Tradition** Prof. Rina Lapidus (Bar Ilan University)
5. **Professing Esotericism? Scholars, Students, Practitioners and the Idea of a Holistic Curriculum** Prof. Peter Forshaw (University of Amsterdam)

Symposium A6 Spirituality in Art (Room 463, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Prof. Eitan Steinberg (University of Haifa)

1. **Orphaned Land: An Israeli Heavy Metal Band's Relation to Spirituality, Identity, and Coexistence** Dr. Berel Dov Lerner (Western Galilee Academic College)
2. **Israeli Rock Music in Dialogue with God** Ms. Amira Ehrlich (Levinsky College of Education)
3. **Imaginal Resonance: Spiritual Awakening in Response to Mystical Poetry** Dr. Dorit Netzer (Institute of Transpersonal Psychology, California)
4. **Shifting Landscape, Body & Soul: Immersive Cinema as a Locale Utilized for Healing and Transformation. Werner Herzog, Cave of Forgotten Dreams, 3D, 2010** Dr. Lila Moore (Zefat Academic College, London Metropolitan University)
5. **The Spiritual in Postdigital Art: Creativity/Biofeedback/Kabbalah** Prof. Mel Alexanberg (Emunah College, Jerusalem)

Symposium A7 Spirituality in Educational Institutions (Room 272, 2nd Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Prof. Lily Orland-Barak (University of Haifa)

1. **Graduate Training around Spirituality and Psychology: Curricular, Pedagogical and Advisement** Dr. Aurelie Athan (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Ms. Marina Mazur (Teachers College, Columbia University)
2. **"A New Education" in Israeli School Systems: The Influence of "New Age" Values on the Israeli Educational System through the Development of Emotional, Social and Spiritual Skills** Mr. Yoni Tsouna (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
3. **"Poverty and Resourcefulness": On the Formative Significance of Eros in Educational Practice** Dr. Boaz Tsabar (Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The David Yellin Academic College of Education)
4. **Education and 'Body': The Yogic Posture as 'Body-oriented Pedagogy'** Mr. Oren Ergas (University of Haifa)

Parallel Symposia B

Symposium B1 Spiritual-Therapeutic Discourse (Hecht Auditorium)

Chair – Prof. Freema Elbaz-Luwisch (University of Haifa)

1. **Confusion of Tongues: The Emotional-Psyche and Spiritual Tongues in Therapy** Dr. Alon Raz (The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College; University of Haifa)
2. **Integration of Spiritual Therapeutic Conversation into Psychological Therapeutic Conversation** Dr. Zahi Arnon (The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College)
3. **"Surely the Lord is in this Place": On Religious Dreams and Experiences in Psychotherapy** Ms. Ruth Netzer (Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and Arts)
4. **The Therapist as a Teacher: A Call for Transformation - Reflections from a Zen Buddhism Perspective** Ms. Iris Dotan Katz (Tel-Aviv University)

Symposium B2 Religion and Spirituality, Health and Healing (Senate Room, 29th floor, Eshkol Tower)

Chair – Dr. Eran Ben-Arye (The Technion; Family Medicine, Haifa)

1. **Effect of Inquiry based Stress Reduction (IBSR) Intervention on Health and Well-Being** Dr. Shahar Lev-Ari (Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center; Tel-Aviv University)
2. **The Relationship of Religious Involvement to Chronic Disease Among U.S. Immigrants** Dr. Ephraim Shapiro (New York University)
3. **Alternative Healing and Spirituality in Japan: A Glance at Fasting Training Centers** Mr. Girardo Rodriguez Plasencia (Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, Japan)

Symposium B3 Women in Contemporary Theology (Room 463, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Sharon Halevi (University of Haifa)

1. **Satan as the Liberator of Woman in Contemporary "Dark Spirituality"** Mr. Per Faxneld (Stockholm University)
2. **The Paradox of the Sober Believer Feminist Theology and its Dialectical Relation to the Existentialist Theology** Dr. Hannah Kehat (Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and Arts, Givat Washington Academic College)
3. **A Credible Inner Voice: Orthodox Feminism in Israel as a Model for Personal Construction of Belief in a World of Conflicts** Ms. Galit Yanay-Ventura (The Max Stern Yezreel Valley College, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev)
4. **The Divine as a Verb: Gender/Political Spirituality in Mary Daly's Philo-Theology** Dr. Hagar Lahav (Sapir Academic College)

Symposium B4 Comparative Research between Kabbalistic and Asian Traditions (Includes a meditative experiential part) (Room 466, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Gad C. Isay (University of Haifa)

1. **Mindfulness and the Cultivation of Virtue in the Piaseczner Rebbe** Rabbi James Jacobson Maisels (University of Chicago)
2. **Strategies for a Comparative Analysis of the "Thought-transformation" Practices of the Circle of the Besht and the "Path of transformation" practices of the Annutaratantra** Dr. Menachem Kallus (University of Haifa)
3. **The Secret of Human Fingers in 13th Century Kastillian Kabbalah and the Mudrās of India: A Comparative Study** Dr. Orna Rachel Wiener (Bar-Ilan University)

Symposium B5 Christianity in Intercultural Crossroads (Room 464, 4th Floor Education Building)

Chair - Dr. Jenny Horowitz (University of Haifa)

1. **"Natural theology" of Arda: Christianity for Contemporary World?** Dr. Zoya Metlitskaya (Moscow Lomonosov State University)
2. **The Narrative and Educational Philosophy of Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew Speaking Catholics in Israel** Dr. Arie Kizel (University of Haifa)
3. **Christianity in Korea: From Antagonist and Marginal to the Center Stage Player** Dr. Alon Levkowitz (Bar Ilan University)

Symposium B6 Social Justice and Activism – Spiritual Aspects (Includes an experiential part) (Room 363, 3rd Floor, Education Building)

Chair - Prof. Yossi Yona (Ben-Gurion University in the Negev)

1. **How to Create a Paradise on Earth ? – An Experimental Process** Mr. Eyal Slonim (Love Revolution)
2. **The Spirit of the Protest** Dr. Erella Shadmi (Beit Berl College)

3. **New Age Discourse and the 2011 Social Protests- A Rhetorical Analysis** Dr. Sharon Avital (Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya)
4. **Spiritual Aspects of Sustainable Development** Mrs. Kaidi Tamm (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

Symposium B7 Martin Buber as a 21st Century Spiritual Teacher (Room 272, 2nd Floor, Education Building)

Chair - Prof. Ron Margolin (Tel-Aviv University)

1. **Martin Buber: A Double Close-up** Dr. Limor Shreibman [Sharir] (Tel-Aviv University)
2. **Buber's Baby as a Spiritual Father** Dr. Hani Vitelson (Independent Scholar)
3. **I and Thou in Israel today** Dr. Alan Flashman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
4. **Buber, Dialogue, and the Ecological Age: When Humanism Meets Nature** Dr. Eilon Schwartz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Parallel Symposia C

Symposium C1 Transpersonal Psychology - Research Advances in Contemporary Spirituality (Hecht Auditorium)

Chair – Dr. Liora Birnbaum

1. **Self-Expansiveness Theory: A Transpersonal Scientific Approach** Prof. Harris L Friedman (University of Florida)
2. **From Cognitive Neuroscience to Transpersonal Science: Expansiveness and Scale in the Human Construction of Self** Prof. Les Lancaster (Liverpool John Moores University)
3. **The Study of Spirituality Using Quantitative Methods: An Evaluation of their Usefulness for Transpersonal Science** Prof. Douglas MacDonald (University of Detroit Mercy)

Symposium C2 Consciousness, Body and Self perception (Senate Room, 29th floor, Eshkol Tower)

Chair - Prof. Joseph Glicksohn (Bar-Ilan University)

1. **A 3D Consciousness Model - Its Relation to the Self and its Possible Development** Dr. Aviva Berkovich-Ohana (The Weizmann Institute)
2. **Self Without a Body: Examining The Relationship between the Boundaries of the (Sense of) Self and the Boundaries of the Body** Mr. Yochai Ataria (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
3. **Moving into the Square and out of the Box: Effects of Quadrato Motor Training on Cognitive Flexibility and EEG coherence** Dr. Tal Dotan Ben Soussan (Research Institute for Neuroscience, Education and Didactics, Rome)
4. **Somatic Awareness and Mindfulness: Distinction between two Theoretical Constructs** Ms. Noga Tsur, Ms. Ayelet Barak and Dr. Karni Ginzburg (Tel-Aviv University)

Symposium C3 Spirituality, Healing and Health amongst Women (Room 463, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Omna Berick-Aharony (University of Haifa)

1. **Contemporary Spiritualities Discourse and Changes in the Social Construction of Childbirth in Israel** Ms. Michal Geva (Tel-Aviv University)
2. **What Every Woman Knows – Traditional Arab Women Healers in Israel** Dr. Ariela Popper-Giveon (The David Yellin Academic College of Education)
3. **Channeling - Adjustment vs. Distress: The Relationship between Traumatic History, Dissociation and Quality of Life in Women who Practice Channeling** Ms. Tali Stolovy (University of Haifa; Lev Hasharon Mental Health Center)

Symposium C4 The Jewish Renewal Movement (Room 466, 4th Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Yossi Chajes (University of Haifa)

1. **"Psycho-Spiritual" Innovations in the Neo-Hasidic Renewal of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Reb Shlomo Carlebach** Dr. Natan Ophir (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
2. **Post Monotheistic Jewish Theology in Contemporary America: Zalman Schachter Shalomi and Arthur Green** Prof. Shaul Magid (Indiana University)
3. **Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi: Between Jewish and Indian Meditation** Mr. Tomer Persico (Tel-Aviv University)
4. **Practicing Devekut in Jewish Renewal: Learning to Experience God's Presence** Prof. Chava Weissler (Lehigh University)

Symposium C5 Contemporary Sufism in a Globalized Context (Room 464, 4th Floor Education Building)

Chair - Dr. Avraham Elqayam (Bar-Ilan University)

1. **Islamic Sufism in Response to the Contemporary Global Crisis** Mr. Stephen Schwartz (Center for Islamic Pluralism, USA)
2. **The Renewal Sufi-Spiritual Way in the Israeli Society** Mr. Ghassan Manasra (The Islamic Cultural Center)
3. **Cosmopolitan Sufism in Canada, the Caucasus, and the Middle East: Local, Global, Global** Dr. Chen Bram (Van Leer Institute and Hebrew University)
4. **Spirituality and Messianism in the Sufi Global Sphere** Prof. Itzchak Weismann (University of Haifa)

Symposium C6 Contemporary Paganism (Including a demonstration of a ceremony) (Room 363, 3rd Floor, Education Building)

Chair – Dr. Orna Alyagon Darr (Carmel Academic Center)

1. **Demonstration of a Pagan Ritual for the Festival of Ostara, the Beginning of Spring** Ms. Hadas Goldgeier and Ms. Elizabeth Zohar
2. **"And Not a Word About the Goddess": On Processes of Making and Displaying a Pagan Identity in Israeli Women's Spirituality Festivals and Workshops by Israeli Pagan Women** Mr. Shai Feraro (Tel-Aviv University)
3. **Rituals and Life Cycle Celebrations amongst Israeli Wiccans** Ms. Orly Salinas Mizrahi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
4. **Pagan Ritual as a means of Therapy and Self-Empowerment** Dr. Yael Katz Henkin (Independent Scholar)

Symposium C7 Education – Essence and Spirit (Room 272, 2nd Floor, Education Building)

Chair: Mr. Amir Freimann (The Education Spirit Movement)

1. **From Critical Pedagogy to Critical Theology** Dr. Yotam Hotam (University of Haifa)
2. **Being an Educator In Israel** Dr. Nirit Raichel (Gordon College of Education; Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee)
3. **What is Spiritual-Humanistic Education** Prof. Ron Margolin (Tel-Aviv University)
4. **The Spiritual Dimension of Education** Mr. Shabtai Majar (Bar-Ilan University)

Conference's Academic Committee

Chair: Prof. Ofra Mayseless (University of Haifa)

Dr. Marianna Ruah Midbar (University of Haifa; Zefat Academic College)

Committee Members: Prof. Moshe Idel (Hebrew University of Jerusalem),

Dr. Daniella Gurvich (Bar-Ilan University), Prof. Nadav Davidovich (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev),

Prof. Mario Mikulincer (Interdisciplinary Center in Herzeliya), Prof. Ilana Silber (Bar-Ilan University),

Prof. Yaacov Raz (Tel Aviv University), Prof. Yossi Yona (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

International Advisory Board

Prof. Eileen Barker (London School of Economics)

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Conference Website: <http://spirituality.haifa.ac.il>

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Symposia Overview

Room	Hecht Auditorium	Senate Room, 29th Floor Eshkol Twoer	Room 363 3rd Floor Edu. Building	Room 466 4th Floor Edu. Building	Room 464 4th Floor Edu. Building	Room 463 4th Floor Edu. Building	Room 272 2nd Floor Edu. Building
Symposia A 12:45 – 10:45	Symposium A1 Contemporary Spiritual Identity: A Multicultural Perspective	Symposium A2 Complementary Medicine and Spirituality	Symposium A3 Contemporary Shamanism Includes an experiential part	Symposium A4 Judaism – Contemporary Currents and Phenomena	Symposium A5 Western Esotericism	Symposium A6 Spirituality in Art	Symposium A7 Spirituality in Educational Institutions
	Symposium B1 Spiritual-Therapeutic Discourse	Symposium B2 Religion and Spirituality, Health and Healing	Room 463 Symposium B3 Women in Contemporary Theology	Symposium B4 Comparative Research between Kabbalistic and Asian Traditions Includes a meditative experiential part	Symposium B5 Christianity in Intercultural Crossroads	Room 363 Symposium B6 Social Justice and Activism – Spiritual Aspects Includes an experiential part	Symposium B7 Martin Buber as a 21st Century Spiritual Teacher
Symposia C 17:15 – 15:30	Symposium C1 Transpersonal Psychology-Research Advances in Contemporary Spirituality	Symposium C2 Consciousness, Body and Self perception	Room 463 Symposium C3 Spirituality, Healing and Health amongst Women	Symposium C4 The Jewish Renewal Movement	Symposium C5 Contemporary Sufism in a Globalized Context	Room 363 Symposium C6 Contemporary Paganism Including a demonstration of a ceremony	Symposium C7 Education – Essence and Spirit