



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

Pre-conference **Workshops** day

Monday 19.03.2012

8:30 – 9:30 Registration (near room 363, Education building)

9:30 – 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 Davidivitch** (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)

Three Parallel Sessions

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



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

Conference Papers Presentation day

Tuesday 20.03.2012

8:00 – 8:45 – Gathering & Refreshments (Hecht Auditorium, Main building)

8:45 - 10:15 - Morning Session (Hecht Auditorium)

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

Greetings

Opening remarks – **Prof. Ofra Mayselless** (University of Haifa)

Music

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

17:30 – 19:00 - 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

Discussion with the Audience

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

Parallel Symposia A

Symposium A1 Contemporary Spiritual Identity: A Multicultural Perspective

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

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

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

1. **Ritual Embodiment and Crisis in Neo-Shamanism: A Converging System** Mr. Denise Lombardi (École Pratique Des Hautes Études –Paris, Università', Milano Bicocca – Milano)
2. **Ayahuasca Religions: Ritual Use of Psychoactives, Mediumship and Spirituality in Contemporary Brazil** Prof. Alberto Groisman (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina - Brazil)
3. **Santo Daime - Local Community Ritual Meets The Cultic Milieu** Mr. Tom Orgad (Tel-Aviv University)
4. **Healing the Soul: Shamanic Grief Treatment** Prof. Nahum Megged (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
5. **Shamanism as 'Psychologized' Religion? Comparative Views between France and Nepal** Prof. Lionel Obadia (Université Lyon 2)

Symposium A4 Judaism – Contemporary Currents and Phenomena

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. **Psychotrapy – Tora, Judaism and the New Spirituality** Semadar Cherlow (Bar-Ilan University)

Symposium A5 Western Esotericism

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 Provoslavlic Tradition** Prof. Rina Lapidos (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

Chair – To Be Announced

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 Mor (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

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. **The Discourse of Spirituality in Israeli Public Schools- Longitudinal Study** Prof. Nurit Zaidman (Ben-Gurion University in the Negev) and Dr. Ofra Goldstein-Gidoni (Tel-Aviv University)
3. **“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)
4. **“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)
5. **Education and 'Body': The Yogic Posture as 'Body-oriented Pedagogy'** Mr. Oren Ergas (University of Haifa)

Parallel Symposia B

Symposium B1 Spiritual-Therapeutic Discourse

Chair – Prof. Freema Elbaz-Lubish (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

Chair – Dr. Eran Ben-Arye (The Technion; University of 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)
4. **Religion and the Restoration of Health: Analysis from the Traditional Akan of Ghana** Mr. Samuel Awuah-Nyamekye (University of Cape Coast [Ghana], University of Leeds)

Symposium B3 Women in Contemporary Theology

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

Chair – Dr. Gadi Yishay (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

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

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** Ms. Kaidi Tamm (Justus Liebig University Giessen)

Symposium B7 Martin Buber as a 21st Century Spiritual Teacher

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 Shwartz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Parallel Symposia C

Symposium C1 Transpersonal Psychology - Research Advances in Contemporary Spirituality

Chair - To Be Announced

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

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

Chair - Prof. Rachel Lev-Wiesel (University of Haifa)

1. **Contemporary Spiritualities and Changes in the Social Construction of Childbirth in Israel** Ms. Michal Geva (Tel-Aviv University)
2. **You Are Renewed Unto Me: Practical and Hermeneutical Alternatives to the Traditional Wedding Ritual** Dr. Irit Koren (Bar-Ilan University)
3. **What Every Woman Knows – Traditional Arab Women Healers in Israel** Dr. Ariela Popper-Giveon (The David Yellin Academic College of Education)
4. **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 Jewish Renewal

Chair - Prof. Haviva Pedaya (Ben-Gurion University in the Negev)

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

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

1. **Islamic Sufism in Response to the Contemporary Global** 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, Glocal** Dr. Chen Bram (Van Leer Institute and Hebrew University)
4. **Spirituality and Messianism in the Sufi Global Sphere** Prof. Itzhak Weismann (University of Haifa)

Symposium C6 Contemporary Paganism Includes a demonstration of a ceremony

Chair – To Be Announced

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

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

1. **What is Spiritual-Humanistic Education** Prof. Ron Margolin (Tel-Aviv University)
2. **Spirit and the Essence of Education** Prof. Dan Inbar (Van-Leer Institute)
3. **Being an Educator In Israel** Dr. Nirit Raichel (Gordon College of Education; Kinneret College on the Sea of Galilee)
4. **From Critical Pedagogy to Critical Theology** Dr. Yotam Hotam (University of Haifa)

Conference's Academic Committee

Chair: Prof. Ofra Maysel (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)

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

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