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Kabbalah and Contemporary Spiritual Revival: Historical, Sociological and Cultural Perspectives

International Workshop funded by The Israel Science Foundation and The Goren-Goldstein Center for Jewish Thought

Ben Gurion University, May 20-22, 2008

Conference Hall A (Ulam Knasim Aleph)

Program


[Abstracts](#)
[Participants](#)

Tuesday, May 20th

▪ **Reception** 9:30-10:00

▪ **1st session** 10:00-11:30

Boaz Huss Introduction 

Greetings: **Prof. Rivka Carmi**, President of Ben Gurion University of the Negev 

Prof. Haim Kreisel, Director of The Goldstein-Goren International Center for Jewish Thought 


Boaz Huss: [Studying Contemporary Kabbalah: Achievements and Challenges](#) 

Philip Wexler: [Toward a Social Psychology of Contemporary Spirituality](#)  *

▪ **2nd session** 11:45-13:15

Chair: **Philip Wexler**

Jonathan Garb: [The Spiritual-Mystical Renaissance in the Contemporary Haredi World](#) 

Michele Rosenthal: ["Are you willing to cover your head?" Notes on the Spiritual Economy of Blessings at Rabbi Amnon Yitzhak's Lectures](#) 

Lunch Break

▪ **3rd session** 14:30-16:00

Chair: **Elliot Wolfson**

Wouter Hanegraaff: [Kabbalah in *Gnosis* Magazine \(1985-1999\)](#) 

Graham Harvey: [Paganism: Negotiating Between Esotericism and Animism](#) 

▪ **4th session** 16:30-18:00

Chair: **Graham Harvey**


James R. Lewis: [The Science of Kabbalah](#)

Chava Weissler: [Performing Kabbalah/"Kabbalah" in the Jewish Renewal Movement](#) 

Wednesday, May 21st

▪ **5th session** 9:00-11:15 (Please accept our apologies for the quality of the recordings in this session).

Chair: **Jody Myers** 



Marianna Ruah-Midbar: [Jewish Spirituality in the New Age – Emerging Jewish-Israeli Phenomena in the Junction with New Age Culture](#)  **Q&A** 



Joseph Loss: [Transforming Experiences in the Practice of Buddha Dhamma \(the Path of the Buddha\) in Contemporary Israel](#)  **Q&A** 

Adam Klin-Oron: [Messages for the End: Eschatological Thought in 20th Century Channeling and its Israeli Varieties](#) 

▪ **6th session** 11:45-13:15

Chair: **Zeev Gris**

Zvi Mark: [The Contemporary Renaissance of Breslov Hasidism—Ritual, Tikkun and Messianism](#)  **Q&A** 



Jonatan Meir: [The Revealed which Conceals: R. Shalom Sharabi's Kabbalah, Esotericism and the Printing of Kabbalistic Books](#)  Q&A 

Lunch Break

▪ **7th session** 14:30-16:00



Chair: **James R. Lewis**

Jody Myers: [Kabbalah for the Gentiles: Diverse Souls and Universalism in Contemporary Kabbalah](#)  Q&A 

Yaakov Ariel: [From Habad Emissaries to Kabbalah Centers: New Jewish Religious Movements and the Revitalization of Judaism in the later decades of the Twentieth Century](#) 
Q&A 

▪ **8th session** 16:30-18:00

Chair: **Yakov Ariel**

Elliot R. Wolfson: [Apocalyptic Transposition and the Status of the Non-Jew in Habad Mysticism](#)  Q&A 

Yoram Bilu: [Making the Absent Rabbi Present: Virtuality, Iconophilia, and Apparitions in Messianic Chabad](#)  Q&A 

Thursday, May 22nd

▪ **9th session** 9:30-11:00

Chair: **Chava Weissler**

Rachel Werczberger: [Jewish Self-Healing - The Case of Jewish Spiritual Renewal in Israel](#)
 Q&A 

Shlomo Fischer: [Can New Individualist Spiritualism Also Coexist with Violence and Collective](#)

[Commitments? New Spiritual Developments among the Religious Zionist Community in Israel](#)



Q&A



▪ **10th session** 11:30-13:00

Chair: **Boaz Huss**

Tamar Katriel: [Precursors to Contemporary New Age Spirituality in Israeli Cultural](#)

[Ethos](#)



Q&A



Omri Ruah-Midbar: [A Comparative Study of Current Spiritualities through three Musical](#)

[Versions of 'Im Nin'alu'](#)



Q&A



* Please accept our apologies for the quality of this recording.