Early Modern Rabbinic Court Records
New Material for the Study of Jewish Law and its Implications
A Workshop

Monday–Tuesday, 22–23 June 2015
Room 307

A number of manuscripts reflecting the decisions of rabbinic courts in early modern Western Europe have been recovered from the archives and some have been recently published. This material offers an opportunity not only to expand our sources of knowledge, but to re-examine the place of Jewish law in the daily lives of Jewish communities on the cusp of modernity.

This workshop will bring together individuals familiar with these types of sources, historians of the period, and legal theoreticians to jump-start the integration of this material into the historical and legal history of the Jews. The goal of the conference is to (re)introduce this material to participants by assigning a number of pre-chosen texts to small groups of participants who have different research foci.

Among the questions that will be discussed are the relationship between court records and traditional Jewish legal sources such as codes and responsa; the scope of Jewish legal autonomy that is reflected by the sources; and concomitant questions regarding the extent of legal pluralism and/or forum shopping.

These issues will require participants to contextualize their discussions by referring to the host societies and interactions between Jews and non-Jews in the legal sphere.
**Monday June 22**

14:30    Gathering  
15:00    Greetings  
Ron Harris, Dean, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University  
Ted Fram, Organizing Committee

15:15–17:30  **Session 1**  
Chair: Arye Edrei, Tel Aviv University  
Maoz Kahana, Tel Aviv University  
The Jewish Court Records – An Initial Historical and Institutional Outline  
Suzanne Last Stone, Cardozo Law School and Tel Aviv University Law School  
The Troubled Concept of Legal Pluralism  

18:30  Dinner

**Tuesday June 23**

8:30    Light Breakfast

9:00–10:30  **Session 2**  
Chair: David Schorr, Head of Berg Institute for Law and History, Tel Aviv University  
Ted Fram, Ben-Gurion University  
Sources for Judicial Decisions in the Rabbincic Court of Frankfurt  
Commentators:  
Assaf Likhovski, Tel Aviv University  
Elimelech Westreich, Tel Aviv University

11:00–12:30  **Session 3**  
Chair: Roy Kreitner, Vice-Dean  
Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University  
Evelyne Oliel-Grausz, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne  
Embedded Justice: The Court of the Massari in Early Modern Livorno, a Tuscan/Jewish Court  
Commentators:  
Pinchas Roth, Ben-Gurion University  
Alexander Kaye, Princeton University  
Lunch

14:00–15:30  **Session 4**  
Chair: Lena Salaymeh, Tel Aviv University  
Jessica Marglin, University of Southern California  
Crossing Jurisdictional Boundaries: Between Jewish and Islamic Courts in Nineteenth-Century Morocco  
Commentators:  
Ron Harris, Tel Aviv University  
Iris Agmon, Ben-Gurion University

16:00–17:30  **Session 5**  
Chair: Shai Wozner, Tel Aviv University  
Jay R. Berkovitz, University of Massachusetts  
Autonomy and Integration: Jewish Law and Legal Pluralism in Eighteenth-Century Metz  
Commentators:  
Amihai Radzyner, Bar-Ilan University  
Debra Kaplan, Bar-Ilan University

18:00–19:00  **Session 6**  
Jewish Law and Jewish Courts: Concluding Remarks and Thoughts for Future Directions – A Discussion  
Opening Remarks: Arye Edrei, Tel Aviv University

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**Organizing Committee:** Jay R. Berkovitz, Judaic & Near Eastern Studies, University of Massachusetts; Arye Edrei, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University; Evelyne Oliel-Grausz, Université Paris 1 – Panthéon-Sorbonne; Ted Fram, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University

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