



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.



אוניברסיטת תל-אביב  
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law  
The Berg Institute for Law and History

## 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

## 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  
Rabbinic 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

**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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University.