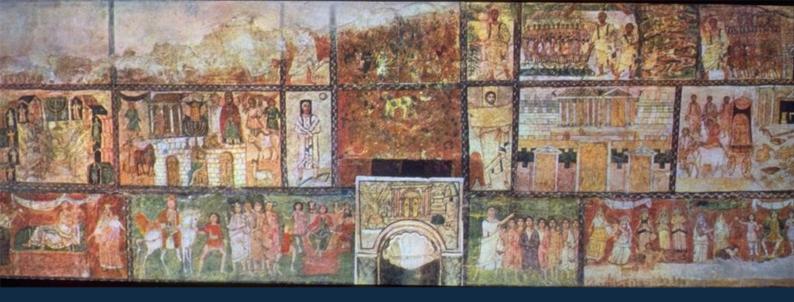
## VISUALITY IN JEWISH GREEK LITERATURE

• A SEMINAR •



14–15 July 2022 University of Cambridge In-Person and Online



# Interactions between Greek and Jewish Visual Cultures beyond Idolatry

The encounter between Judaism and Hellenism in antiquity has often been framed in agonistic terms. A perennial and paradigmatic case of this cross-cultural conflict has been idolatry: the Hellenistic world was full of figurative art, while the Jewish tradition eschews images and representations of things. Yet since the work of Goodenough, this polarity has been untenable, as scholars have elucidated the rich archaeological evidence for Jewish art and its relation to Hellenistic forms. Conversely, scholars such as Milette Gaifman have been unpacking the rich tradition of aniconism in Greek art. The binary is being challenged within scholarship on both cultures. Still, a focus on artistic representation is only one aspect of how a culture sees. Cultures may also have their own epistemologies of vision, ethics of viewing and theologies of ritual material, presentation and decoration. All these aspects together can be termed a culture's visuality.

In this two-day seminar it is our aim to move beyond the traditional debates around idolatry which have so influenced the historiography of early Jewish-Greek interactions. By widening our remit to focus on the range of visualities inscribed in Jewish texts written in Greek we seek to inaugurate the exploration of Jewish Greek visuality. This in turn will allow us to gain a more nuanced perspective on the cultural dialogue between Judaism and Hellenism.

#### **PROGRAMME**

Click here to view the abstracts

Thursday, 14 July	
12.00PM	Coffee and Tea Available
12.45PM	Introduction and Welcome Max Leventhal and Logan Williams
1.00PM	The Politics of Iconicity: Material Epiphany, Human-Divine Reciprocity, and Social Power Alexander Chantziantoniou, Cambridge
2.00PM	Honour and Shame in Josephus' Clothing Imagery Katie Turner, independent/KCL
3.00PM	Break
3.15PM	The Jewish Sibyl Narrates Star Wars Helen Van Noorden, Cambridge
4.15PM	Looking through Moses: Seeing the Dream in Ezekiel's Exagoge Elizabeth Stell, Oxford
5.15PM	Break
5.30PM	The Procession and Praise of the Righteous in Ben Sira 44–50

Crispin Fletcher-Louis,

Gloucestershire

6.30PM Break

7.00PM Dinner

#### Friday, 15 July

9.00AM	Coffee and Tea Available
9.30AM	Defeating Death by the Visual Logos: The High Priest in Wisdom of Solomon Logan Williams, Durham
10.30AM	Visual Descriptions in the Hebrev and Greek Texts of Esther and their Artistic Afterlives Joshua Alfaro, Salzburg
11.30AM	Break
12:00PM	God Gazing: Reflections on the Relationship between God's (In)visibility and (In)corporeality Deborah Forger, Dartmouth
1.00PM	Philo on the Visible Cosmos and the Invisible God Matthew Sharp, St Andrews
2.00PM	Closing Remarks Max Leventhal and Logan Williams

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For any further inquiries, please contact the convenors, Max Leventhal (ml649@cam.ac.uk) and Logan Williams (logan.a.williams@durham.ac.uk)