




Abraham & Sons

Jewish/Muslim Genealogies,
Theoretical Interventions

A Research Workshop

13-14 May 2024, Berlin



Abraham, the biblical/Quranic protagonist and his sons, Ishmael and Isaac, are associated with mighty tales of sacrifice and rescue. The binding of Abraham's sons, while being anchored in major Jewish and Muslim traditions, it's also a well-known subject of literary, philosophical, and artistic interventions. Different versions of the tales – adaptations, additions, and corrections – are found in the Talmud, in Midrash and Tafsīr, in liturgical poetry, in modern literature and in contemporary theory, all of which aim to “rescue the sons.” These writings address the dialectics of sacrifice and salvation, the concept of tradition and its tensions (masoret; turāth/taqlid), the conditions of ethical judgment, the issues of divine violence and human justice, often associated with gender criticism.

This workshop discusses a few of these major texts from the biblical and Quranic sources, via Midrash and Tafsīr, to contemporary literary compositions, addressing the bindings of Abraham's sons as a method of learning. The framework of the workshop is comparative, dealing with both Jewish and Muslim sources, Hebrew and Arabic scriptures and texts, while reflecting European and German(-Jewish) perspectives of the aqedah/aqīdah (the binding/sacrifice of the sons, the act of belief). In doing so, the workshop explores how study itself, efforts of re-interpretation, acts of conversation and dialogical, critical forms of learning create an ethical intervention, while offering a renewal of Jewish-Arab scholarship.

Abraham & Sons

Jewish/Muslim Genealogies, Theoretical Interventions

Day I, 13.5.2024: Genealogies

Prof. Liliana Ruth Feierstein, Prof. Galili Shahar - Introduction

Session I (10:15-11:45)

The Tale of Sacrifice – What is Being Told, What is Left Untold?

Ms. Liliana Furman; Mr. Jad Kiadan, Dr. Maysoon Shibi, Mr. Loay Wattad, Ms. Avigail Ben Dor Niv
Genesis 22, 1-19; *Quran* 37: 99-113

Session II (12:15-13:45)

Midrash, Tafsīr, Literary Theory – How does Exegesis Save Life?

Ms. Liliana Furman; Mr. Jad Kiadan; Dr. Maysoon Shibi; Mr. Loay Wattad, Ms. Avigail Ben Dor Niv
Bereshit Rabbah 22; *Tafsir Ibn Kathir* 37: 99-113

Lunch Break

Session III (16:15-17:45)

Gender Matters

Dr. Zahiya Kundos; Ms. Orphée Senouf-Pilpoul

Quran 28: 1-17; 19: 1-40; Bonnie Honig, *A Feminist Theory of Refusal*, “Introduction”

Day II, 14.05.2024: Interventions

Session IV (10:15-11:45)

Another Abraham? Revelation, Sacrifice, Justice?

Prof. Khaled Furani; Dr. Gilad Shenhav

“Reason Opening to Revelation”; *Quran* 37: 99-113; Immanuel Kant, Revelation and Reason; Walter Benjamin on Justice.

Session V (12:15-13:45)

The Tale in its Counterparts: Hebrew, Arabic, World Literature

Mr. Ido Fuchs

Ghassan Kanafani, *Returning to Haifa*

Lunch Break

Session VI (16:15-17:45)

On Laughter (Another Abraham, a Different Story?)

Mr. Yarden Ben-Zur; Ms. Tal Yechezkely

Kafka's Letter – The Other Abraham; Hélène Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa”