



Idit Alphandary

FORGIVENESS AND RESENTMENT IN THE AFTERMATH OF MASS ATROCITY

JEWISH VOICES IN LITERATURE AND FILM

BOOK LAUNCH: A WORKSHOP PROGRAM

9 May, 2024 | 16:00 | PERSPECTIVES ON JEWISH TEXTS AND CONTEXTS

Gilman Building for Humanities, Room 496, Tel Aviv University

Join us on ZOOM:

<https://tau-ac-il.zoom.us/j/84380677686?pwd=dE5sdWM1QXBEOQW9iMmlEQVg4SU5oQT09#success>

TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת
UNIVERSITY תל אביב
جامعة تل ابيب



THE PORTER INSTITUTE FOR
POETICS AND SEMIOTICS

EVENT PROGRAM

16:00 GATHERING AND COFFEE

16:30 GREETINGS

**CHAIR: PROF. URI S. COHEN, HEAD OF PORTER
INSTITUTE, TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY**

- Prof. Vivian Liska, University of Antwerp, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Distinguished Professor Emeritus Henry Sussman, University of Buffalo, Yale University

17:00 FIRST PANEL

- Prof. Nehama Verbin, Tel Aviv University
- Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Brenkman, CUNY Graduate Center and Baruch College
- Prof. Shai Lavi, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Tel Aviv University

17:45 COFFEE BREAK

18:00 SECOND PANEL

- Prof. Ilit Ferber, Vice Dean for Research, Faculty of the Humanities, Tel Aviv University
- Dr. Abraham Rubin, University of Dayton
- Dr. Shaul Setter, Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

19:00 CLOSING REMARKS

- Dr. Idit Alphandary, Tel Aviv University

Thursday, May 9, 2024

SHORT PROSPECTUS

Since October 7, 2023, the conflict between Israel and Hamas has intensified to an unprecedented degree. At the core of this escalation are mass atrocities never seen before in this conflict. Hundreds of Israeli civilians were mutilated, raped, and butchered by Hamas militants on October 7. Thousands of Palestinians civilians have been, and continue to be, killed by Israel's retaliatory military response. The recently published book, *Forgiveness and Resentment in the Aftermath of Mass Atrocity: Jewish Voices in Literature and Film*, studies the responses of witnesses and survivors to the worst acts human beings can inflict on each other.

This violence will eventually subside, cease-fire talks will take place, and both Israelis and Palestinians will have to begin the process of healing from the atrocities they have experienced. Forgiveness and the expression of resentment constitute two responses that may ultimately enable the two warring nations to emerge from the trauma and destruction of the present. The ability to extend forgiveness and articulate resentment depends on but also generates recognizing the humanity of the offender, the other person, the neighbor. Mutual recognition of the other's humanity is key to accepting the basic demand shared by both sides: self-determination in an independent and secure state. In confronting the challenges of our political present this workshop turns its attention to the ways that problems of such magnitude were faced in post-war Europe.

In the aftermath of World War II Jewish thinkers who survived the Holocaust wrote about forgiveness and resentment when considering a future in which humanity could be rebuilt. Healing, they believed, necessitated the recognition of the humanity of the other side. What would it mean for Jews to recognize the humanity of the German in the aftermath of Nazism? This German could be a bystander or worse a Nazi. In the current conflict we need to clarify if we expect that the families of those murdered on October seven to forgive and resent the murderers themselves? This is what the book is about, it is highly topical for the stated reasons, this is what the suggested topics are.