



The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities  
The Humanities and Social Sciences Fund

The Israel Society for Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies  
The Samuel Noah Kramer Institute of Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Bar-Ilan University

The Humanities and Social Sciences Fund Conference

# Reading Mesopotamian Literature: Ancient and Modern Perspectives

Celebrating 25 Years of the Publication of *In Those Distant Days: An Anthology of Mesopotamian Literature* by Jacob Klein and Shin Shifra

March 27-29, 2023 | Beck Auditorium (Building 410) | Bar-Ilan University



הספר בחוצות עם עובד

## Monday | 27<sup>th</sup> March

- 10:00 **Gathering and Refreshments**
- 10:30-11:00 **Greetings**  
Amnon Albeck (Rector, Bar-Ilan University)  
Nili Samet (Bar-Ilan University)
- A Retrospective Look at Jacob Klein and Shin Shifra's Anthology of Mesopotamian literature *In Those Distant Days***
- 11:00-12:15 **Session 1**  
Chair: Wayne Horowitz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Gilgamesh and the Deluge**  
Stefan Maul (Heidelberg University)
- The Formation of Lists in Some Akkadian Incantations**  
Tzvi Abusch (Brandeis University)
- 12:15-13:30 **Lunch Break**
- 13:30-15:00 **Session 2**  
Chair: Yigal Levin (Bar-Ilan University)
- Remarks on an Old Babylonian Dialogue between a Father and His Son**  
Ed Greenstein (Bar-Ilan University)
- How did Ancient Mesopotamian Scholars Interpret Their Own Literature?**  
Uri Gabbay (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- "I Have Made a Figurine of My Warlock and Witch": On the Apotropaic Character of the Visual Form in the Ancient Near East**  
Tallay Ornan (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 15:00-15:30 **Coffee Break**
- 15:30-17:00 **Session 3**  
Chair: Yoram Cohen (Tel Aviv University)
- Reading Mesopotamian Literature Computationally**  
Shai Gordin (Ariel University)
- Isaiah 42 as a Reaction to Cyrus' Propaganda: What is the Meaning of the Polemic about "Freeing Prisoners" (Isa. 42:7)**  
Shawn Zelig Aster (Bar-Ilan University)
- The Merciful King: An Assyrian Literary Motif and Its Influence on the Biblical Concepts of Covenant**  
Yigal Bloch (Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem)

12:15-13:30

**Lunch Break**

13:30-15:00

**Session 5**

Chair: Yuval Levavi (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**On Streams and Kings: The Reception of a Mesopotamian Proverb in West-Semitic Writings**

Noga Ayali-Darshan (Bar-Ilan University)

**Gilgamesh Goes West**

Yoram Cohen (Tel Aviv University)

**A New Look at the Literature concerning the Kings of Akkad in Hittite Anatolia**

Amir Gilan (Tel Aviv University)

15:00-15:30

**Coffee Break**

15:30-17:00

**Concluding Session**

(Hebrew with simultaneous translation):

"בימים הרחוקים ההם" ובימינו-אנו:

הספרות המסופוטמית והתרבות העכשווית

"In Those Distant Days" and in Our Own Days:

Mesopotamian Literature and Contemporary Culture

יושבת ראש: נגה איילי-דרשן (אוניברסיטת בר-אילן)

Chair: Noga Ayali-Darshan (Bar-Ilan University)

**הענקת פרס האגודה הישראלית לאשורולוגיה ולחקר המזרח הקדום לתלמיד/ת מחקר על עבודת מחקר מצטיינת**

**Granting the ISAANES Outstanding Research Paper Award for Advanced Research Students**

**אנתולוגיות ועוד אנתולוגיות: האם יש לספרות מסופוטמיה הקדומה השפעה על הקוראים והכותבים המודרניים?**

**So Many Anthologies, So Many Translations...: Does Ancient Mesopotamian Literature Influence Modern Readers and Writers?**

נתן וסרמן (האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים)

Nathan Wasserman (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**ש. שפרה והברית הכנענית**

**The Poet Shin Shifra and the Canaanite Covenant**

דן לאור (אוניברסיטת תל אביב)

Dan Laor (Tel Aviv University)

**תגובה ודברי סיכום**

**Response and Concluding Remarks**

יעקב קליין, אוניברסיטת בר-אילן

Jacob Klein, Bar-Ilan University

**"בצוותא": ישיבת נעילה של חברי האגודה הישראלית לאשורולוגיה ולחקר המזרח הקדום**

## Tuesday | 28<sup>th</sup> March

- 10:30-11:00 **Gathering and Refreshments**
- 11:00-12:15 **Session 4**  
Chair: Uri Gabbay (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- Female Voices in Akkadian Love Literature: From the Lady of the Unforgettable Fruits to the Jealous Zarpanitu in the Divine Love Lyrics**  
Rocio Da Riva (University of Barcelona)
- The Reception and Influence of the Babylonian Epic of Creation in the Ancient World**  
Paul-Alain Beaulieu (University of Toronto)

10:00-13:00

**Guided Tour at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem**  
(for speakers and invited guests)

Led by: Wayne Horowitz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Tallay Ornan (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Noam Mizrahi (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

14:15-15:30

**A Special Workshop for Advanced Students (Israel Museum): Reading Akkadian Magical Texts**

Tzvi Abusch (Brandeis University)

