



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2018 – 2019

Tuesday, December 25, 2018

16:15 – 17:45

Gilman Building, room 449

Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

Irina Dumitrescu

Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn

Charismatic Performances in Medieval Literature

My talk begins with a brief discussion of the term “charisma”, describing its historical development and the limitations of scholarly definitions that focus primarily on positive qualities. I then suggest ways of thinking about charisma that emphasize its complex union of superhuman and vulnerable qualities in a single individual, and discuss some of the questions I am currently asking about famous, fascinating, or enchanting people in historical texts. For the rest of my lecture, I describe the charismatic performances depicted in Peter Abelard’s *Historia Calamitatum*, Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Legend of Good Women*, and two anonymous fourteenth-century romances, *Emaré* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. I touch on the use of models to bolster charismatic authority, the contrast between power and frailty, the workings of fame, and the use of props, clothing, and hair in charismatic performances.

*** The lectures will be held in English

<https://www.contextualizing-the-self-workshop.com/>