A Conference
Organized by the University of Vienna

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Pázmány Péter Catholic University of Hungary
Gesellschaft der Freunde der Universität Tel Aviv

“Can Polemics Innovate?”
Change and Continuity in Jewish–Christian Polemics from Late Antiquity to the Modernity

November 14-15 2017
Main Building of the University of Vienna, Universitätsring 1
Staircase 8, 2nd floor
Office of the dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology
Tuesday, 14 November 2017

9.00 – 9.15 Welcome Remarks by Gerhard Langer and Károly Dániel Dobos

9.15 – 10.00 Keynote Address:
Jeremy Cohen (Tel Aviv University): Changing Faces of Jewish-Christian Polemics: Between History and Historiography

10.00 – 11.30 Session 1. Chair: Gerhard Langer (University of Vienna)
Ora Limor (Open University of Israel): Holy Places as Polemical Arguments
Israel Yuval (Hebrew University): The Concept of Rest in Judaism and Christianity: Sabbath Versus Sunday

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee Break

12.00 – 13.30 Session 2. Chair: Israel Yuval (Hebrew University)
Philippe Bobichon (CNRS, IRHT): A Bird’s Eye View on the Jewish Anti-Christian Literature in the Western Countries (10th to 17th c.)
Daniel J. Lasker (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): Jewish Anti-Christian Polemics in Islamic Countries and the Unchanging Nature of the Jewish-Christian Debate

13.30 – 15.00 Break for lunch

15.00 – 16.30 Session 3. Chair: Daniel J. Lasker (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)
Alexandra Cuffel (Ruhr University): Eastern Encounters Beyond Byzantium: Patterns of Medieval Jewish-Christian Polemics from the Caucasus to the Indian Ocean
Yaacov Deutsch (David Yellin College): Continuity and Change in the Toledot Yeshu Traditions

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break

17.00 – 18.30 Session 4. Chair: Jeremy Cohen (Tel Aviv University)
Ursula Ragas (University of Vienna): Polemics and Politics: An Example from the Middle Ages
Daniel Stein-Kokin (University of Greifswald): “Halakhicized” and “Relicized”: The Transformations of the Sambatyon Legend in the Medieval and Early Modern Period

Dinner

Wednesday, 15 November 2017

9.00 – 10.30 Session 5. Chair: Ram Ben-Shalom (Hebrew University)
Chaim Hames (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): Autobiography and Polemic: The Cases of Herman Judah and Anselm Turmeda

Carsten Wilke (CEU): Between Empathy and Controversy: Abraham Gómez Silveira (1656-1741) and the Theologians of the Huguenot Exile

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30 Session 6. Chair: Ora Limor (Open University of Israel)
Károly Dániel Dobos (PPCU - University of Vienna): “The Birth of Literature from the Spirit of Polemics”: Evolution of a Close-Knit Family of Polemical Texts

12.30 – 14.00 Break for lunch

14.00 – 16.15 Session 7. Chair: Philippe Bobichon (CNRS, IHT)
Regina Grundmann: (University of Münster): Humour, Satire and Polemics in Modern Parodies of the Babylonian Talmud

Ram Ben-Shalom (Hebrew University): Continuity and Change in Modern Jewish-Christian Polemics: The Treatise of Elazar Shalom of Poland
Maria Diemling (Canterbury Christ Church University): Teaching Jewish-Christian Relations: Challenges and Opportunities

Concluding remarks by Gerhard Langer and Károly Dániel Dobos