

# Ancient Greece and Ancient Israel: Interactions and Parallels (10th to 4th Centuries BCE)

October 28 - 30, 2012

Room 496, Gilman Building, Tel Aviv University



TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  תל-אביב  
Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities

EUROPEAN NETWORK for the STUDY of ANCIENT GREEK HISTORY

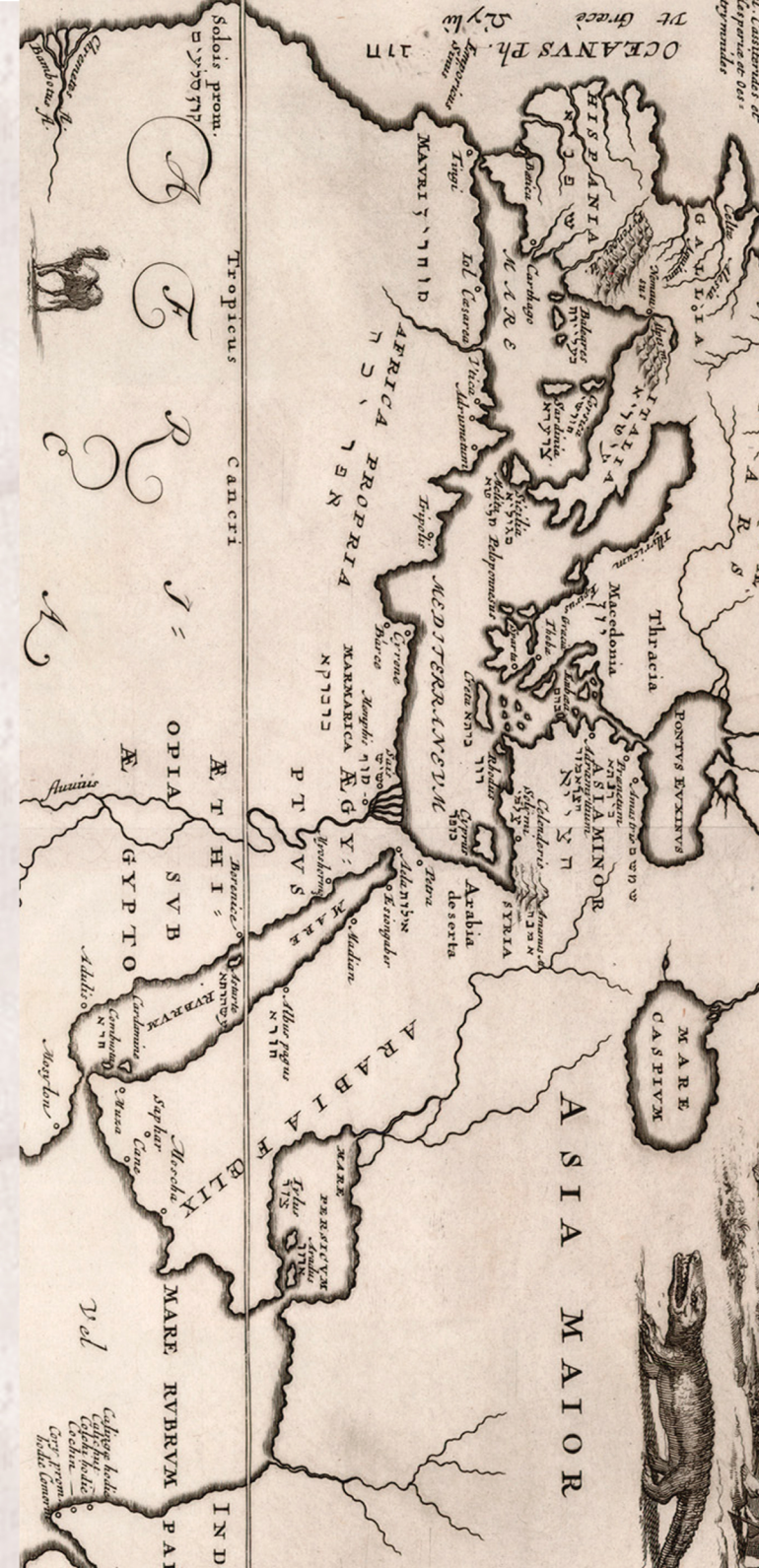
with the support of the  
**GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG**

Conference Organizers:  
Irada Malkin • Alexander Fantalkin  
Tel Aviv University

The world of the Hebrew Bible, or the Old Testament, has often been studied against the background of Near Eastern civilizations. Yet, aside from the enormous hinterlands of the Near East, the ancient Land of Israel also neighbored the Mediterranean. As a collaborative conference between the *European Network for the Study of Ancient Greek History* and *Tel Aviv University*, we wish to concentrate on interactions and parallels between the ancient Greek world and the Eastern Mediterranean, with an emphasis on the period before the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

How do we, at the start of the third millennium CE, perceive and interpret the almost simultaneous arrival of the two cultures whose self-definitions still mark out the meaning of western civilization? We wish to discuss the key concepts of "parallels, similarities, and influences" in the context of the Eastern Mediterranean. Are they due to general human reaction to comparable historical situations or do they depend on actual contacts and influences, directly or via third parties? Drawing on specific case-studies we will discuss the usefulness of these key terms and analyze the likely contexts for interaction and/or the evidence of actual contacts.

The question of what is comparable as such and what is owed to actual influence is often debated. Whereas former approaches tended to regard the issue of influence literally, "in-fluence," "flowing into," as if cultural contacts are necessarily uni-directional; their "source," therefore, needed to be identified and located in a hierarchy that is either temporal ("who was first?") or spatial ("first from where?"). Such approaches may indeed be valid at times. Today the cutting edge of the discourse of civilizational parallels and contacts seems rather to consist in a multi-directional, non-hierarchical perspective, which may hopefully find its expression in the conference.



**OCTOBER 28th**

09:45 Coffee & Gathering

10:00-10:15 Greetings:

**Eyal Zisser** (Dean, Faculty of Humanities, TAU)

**Irad Malkin** (European Network/TAU)

**Constitutive Narratives and Comparative World-Views**

**Session I** Chair: **Israel Finkelstein** (TAU)

10:15-11:15 **Oswyn Murray** (Balliol College, Oxford):

*The Western Tradition of Ancient History*

**Hans-Joachim Gehrke** (University of Freiburg):

*Between 'Clash of Civilisations' and Hybridity:*

*Conceptualizing Historical Comparison*

11:15-11:30 Pause

11:30-12:30 **Irad Malkin** (TAU): *Foreign Founders: Greek*

*and Hebrew Colonization*

**Alexander Fantalkin** (TAU): *Comparable*

*Chronologies: The Contexts of Interaction*

12:30-13:45 Discussion Panel:

**Shlomo Bunimovitz** (TAU)

**Bernard M. Levinson** (University of Minnesota)

**Doron Mendels** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

13:45-15:15 Lunch

**Session II** Chair: **Jonathan Price** (TAU)

15:15-16:15 **Kurt Raaflaub** (Brown University):

*The Despotic Template: Authority, Politics and*

*Religion in Early Greek and Hebrew Political*

*Thought*

**Josine Blok** (Utrecht University):

*The Greek and Hebrew Concepts of the Covenant:*

*A Comparative View*

16:15-16:30 Pause

16:30-17:00 **François de Polignac** (EPHE/ANHIMA, Paris):

*Did the Greeks Feel at the Margins of the Ancient*

*Near East?*

17:00-18:00 Discussion Panel:

**Maurizio Giangiulio** (University of Trento)

**Konrad Schmid** (University of Zurich)

**OCTOBER 29th**

**Session III** Chair: **Oded Lipschits** (TAU)

10:00-11:00 **Amir Gilan** (TAU): *A Bridge or a Blind Alley?*

*Hittites and Neo Hittites as Cultural Mediators*

**Marek Węcowski** (Warsaw University):

*The Greek Symposium and the Biblical Marzeah:*

*Contrasts and Parallels*

11:00-11:15 Pause

11:15-12:15 **Jacob L. Wright** (Emory University): *Aegean*

*War Commemoration and the Composition*

*of Biblical Writings*

**Martti Nissinen** (University of Helsinki):

*Prophets and Kings: A Comparison between*

*Greece and Mesopotamia*

12:15-13:15 Discussion Panel:

**Nadav Na'aman** (TAU)

**Thomas Römer** (Collège de France/University

of Lausanne)

13:15-14:45 Lunch

**Session IV** Chair: **Sylvie Honigman** (TAU)

14:45-15:45 **Christian Mann** (University of Mannheim):

*Body and Sports in Israel and Greece: A*

*Comparative View*

**Bruce Louden** (University of Texas at El Paso):

*Jason, Medea, and Aietes: Jacob, Rachel, and*

*Laban: Argonautic Myth and Genesis 27-32*

15:45-16:00 Pause

16:00-17:00 **Thomas Römer** (Collège de France/

University of Lausanne): *The Hebrew Bible and*

*Greek Mythology: Some Case Studies*

**Robin Lane Fox** (New College, Oxford): *Mixed*

*Marriages: Nehemiah, Pericles and Others...*

17:00-18:00 Discussion Panel:

**Margalit Finkelberg** (TAU)

**Israel Finkelstein** (TAU)

**OCTOBER 30th**

**Session V The Phoenicians between Greeks and Hebrews**

Chair: **Moshe Fischer** (TAU)

10:00-11:00 **Benjamin Sass** (TAU): *The First Adaptations of*

*the Semitic Alphabet to Indo-European*

*Languages: Some New Evidence for Phrygian*

*and Greek Writing ca. 800 BCE*

**Rosalind Thomas** (Balliol College, Oxford):

*Phoenicians in the Old Testament and in Greek*

*Writers: A World Apart?*

11:00-11:15 Pause

11:15-12:15 **Assaf Yasur-Landau** (University of Haifa):

*From Canaanites to Israelites and Phoenicians:*

*Cultural Trajectories in Mediterranean Settings*

**Tamar Hodos** (University of Bristol): *Mediation*

*and Multi-Directional Exchanges: The Phoenicians*

12:15-13:15 Discussion Panel:

**Ayelet Gilboa** (University of Haifa)

**Gunnar Lehmann** (Ben-Gurion University)

13:15-14:45 Lunch

**Session VI Human Connectors**

Chair: **Oren Tal** (TAU)

14:45-15:45 **James D. Muhly** (University of Pennsylvania/

ASCSA): *Traveling Craftsmen?*

**Robert Rollinger** (University of Innsbruck/

University of Helsinki): *Craftsmen and*

*Specialists between East and West*

15:45-16:00 Pause

16:00-16:30 **Nino Luraghi** (Princeton University):

*Fighting for the Other: Mercenaries,*

*Culture Contact, and Ethnicity*

16:30-17:30 Discussion Panel:

**Maurizio Giangiulio** (University of Trento)

**Ran Zadok** (TAU)

17:30-17:45 Pause

**Envoi & Reflections: Margalit Finkelberg • Irad Malkin** (TAU)

**Final Discussion**