

Lament, Reading and Therapy

Joint KCL/Oxford workshop

5 November 2018

Oriel College, Oxford

This workshop considers the composition, performance, and repetition of texts of lament, loss and healing. We understand the writing and reading of these lament traditions to be the work of therapy. Presentations will explore how interpretive communities – collective and individual – internalise, interpret and translate experiences of trauma and fracture into new readings, rewritten scripture, and radical prayer.

Introductory Remarks, 9:00–9:15

9:00 Paul Joyce (London) and Hindy Najman (Oxford)

Session 1, 9:15–10:45

Chair: Ben Morgan (Worcester College)

9:15–10:00 Ilit Ferber (Tel Aviv University), ‘Lament and Revenge: Two Approaches to Loss’

10:00–10:45 Hindy Najman (Oriel College), ‘Between Radical Hope and Non-Redemptive Reading’

10:45–11:00 Break

Session 2, 11:00–12:30

Chair: Jonathan Stökl (King’s College London)

11:00–11:45 David Janzen (Durham), ‘Traumatic Speech and the Rejection of Narrative in Lamentations’

11:45–12:30 Paul Joyce (King’s College London), ‘Denial, Hope and the Integration of Loss’

12:30–1:30 Lunch

Session 3, 1:30–3:15

Chair: Arjen Bakker (Oriel College)

1:30–2:30 Andrew Mein and Anna Rowlands (Durham), ‘Biblical Consolation and the Avoidance of Lament’

2:30–3:15 Joanna Collicutt (Ripon College Cuddesdon), ‘About Himself or Someone Else?: Lament and Solidarity in the Narrative of Philip and the Ethiopian’

3:15–3:30 Break

Session 4, 3:30–5:00

Chair: Mark Edwards (Christ Church)

3:30–4:15 Annette Volting (Oriel College), ‘The Medieval Daughter Zion: Re-writing Allegories of Anger and Desire’

4:15–5:00 Paul Mandel (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies), ‘Contours of Crisis: The Re-Citation of Tales of Destruction for Edification and Catharsis in Midrash Lamentations Rabbah’

5:00–5:15 Break

Keynote, 5:15–6:30

Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriental College)

Galit Hasan-Rokem (Hebrew University), 'Ancient Hebrew Lamenting: Voices of Desolation and Power'

6:30–7:00 Reception