Protestant Bible Scholarship: Antisemitism, Philosemitism, and Anti-Judaism

26–27 May, 2019
Oriel College, University of Oxford
Conveners: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Arjen Bakker (Oriel)

Sunday 26 May

8:30–9:15 Coffee
9:15–9:30 Opening remarks: Hindy Najman (Oriel) and Arjen Bakker (Oriel)

Session 1 — Chair: Yaacov Yadgar (St Anne’s)
9:30–10:15 Anna Sapir Abulafia (Lady Margaret Hall) – Jacob and Esau and the Interplay of Jewish and Christian Identities in the Middle Ages
10:15–11:00 Sarah Pearce (University of Southampton) – Antisemitism and Philo’s Alexandria
11:00–11:45 James Aitken (University of Cambridge) – Language and Cultural Identity of Hellenistic Jews: Legacies of the 19th Century

11:45–12:00 Break

Session 2 — Chair: Tessa Rajak (Somerville)
12:00–12:45 Nathan MacDonald (University of Cambridge) – Isaac Watts’ Imitation of the Psalms and the Challenge of Judaism for English Reformed Theology
12:45–13:30 Bernard Levinson (University of Minnesota) – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe’s “Zwo wichtige ... bibliische Fragen ...”: His Reconstruction of the “Original” Version of the Decalogue and the Myth of Jewish Particularism and German Universalism

13:30–14:30 Lunch

Session 3 — Chair: Martin Goodman (Wolfson)
15:15–16:00 René Bloch (University of Bern) – Antisemitism and the Study of Ancient Antisemitism
16:00–16:15 Break

Session 4 — Chair: Zuleika Rodgers (Trinity College Dublin)
16:15–16:20 Welcome: Neil Mendoza, Provost (Oriel)
16:20–17:05 Hermann Lichtenberger (Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen) – Karl Georg Kuhn – a Tübingen career in the Dritte Reich
17:05–17:50 Loren Stuckenbruck (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich) – Unreflected Antisemitism: Time and Eschatology in Protestant Scholarship on the Historical Jesus and Paul

17:50–18:00 Break

Keynote Lecture — Chair: Arjen Bakker (Oriel)
18:00–19:15 Irene Zwiep (University of Amsterdam) – But the Jews survive still…The Hebrew Bible between Hebraica Veritas and Academic Study

19:15 Reception
Monday 27 May

8:30–9:00  Coffee

Session 5 — Chair: Paul Joyce (King’s College London)

9:00–9:45  Konrad Schmid (University of Zurich) – The Rise and Fall of the Notion of ‘Spätjudentum’ in Biblical Scholarship

9:45–10:30  Steven Weitzman (University of Pennsylvania) – Biblical Archaeology and the Post-War Battle Against Antisemitism

10:30–11:15  Katherine Southwood (St. Johns) – Challenging Material in the Hebrew Bible: The Difficulties Involved in Communicating with a Non-specialist Audience

11:15–13:00  Weston Library visit

César Merchan-Hamann (Bodleian Library, Curator of Hebraica, Judaica and Semitic Manuscripts) – Censorship of Hebrew prints in the Bodleian

13:00–13:45  Lunch

Session 6 — Chair: Jennifer Strawbridge (Mansfield)

13:45–14:30  Matthew Novenson (University of Edinburgh) – Anti-Judaism and Philo-Judaism in Pauline Studies, Then and Now


15:15–16:00  Olivia Stewart Lester (Loyola University Chicago) – Judaism and Anti-Judaism in the Sibylline Oracles

16:00–16:15  Break

Session 7 — Chair: Scott Scullion (Worcester)

16:15–17:00  Paula Fredriksen (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) – ‘And Peace Upon the Israel of God’: A Non-Reformation Reading of the Letters of Paul

17:00–17:45  John Barton (Campion Hall and Oriel) – Reflections on Jon Levenson’s Article “Why Jews are Not Interested in Biblical Theology”

17:45–18:00  Break

18:00–19:20  Responses and general discussion — Chair: Hindy Najman (Oriel)

Panel:

18:00–18:10  Markus Bockmuehl (Keble)
18:10–18:20  Jan Joosten (Christ Church)
18:20–18:30  Simon Gathercole (Cambridge)
18:30–18:40  George Brooke (University of Manchester and University of Chester)
18:40–19:20  General discussion

19:20–19:30  Closing remarks — Hindy Najman (Oriel)

19:30–20:00  Reception