

## **“Satires in Jewish languages (Judeo-Spanish, Yiddish) in contemporary times (19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> cc.): confronting the crises of the modern Jewish world through laughter.”**

INALCO, Paris, June, 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

International one-day conference organized by the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies and the Middle East and Mediterranean Research Center (CERMOM) at the Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations in Paris (Inalco).



### **Conference presentation:**

Satire, as a literary device combining realism and social criticism, has been an essential mode of expression for vernacular Jewish languages (in prose, in poetry, or on stage) to confront the radical transformations both Ashkenazi and Sephardi populations have gone through since the 19th century.

This one-day conference aims at creating new bonds between researchers studying Judeo-Spanish and Yiddish languages in order to analyze both the similarities and differences in the satirical use of vernacular tongues traditionally considered as minor and associated with the private sphere. The development of periodicals and the opening of these popular languages to new fields (science, politics, belles-lettres) favored the appearance of a critical and comical literature which played on the discrepancy between the traditional world, reflected in the very fabric of the language, and the new social realities brought by modernity: industrialization, new ideologies (Socialism, Zionism, etc.), evolutions in religiosity (secularism, assimilation, etc.).

### **Conveners:**

Arnaud Bikard, Assistant Professor in Yiddish, Inalco, Paris.

Marie-Christine Bornes-Varol, Professor in Judeo-Spanish, Inalco, Paris.

## Schedule

### Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

Venue: Salons at Inalco, 2 rue de Lille, 75007, Paris.

8:30 Welcoming of the participants.

8:45 Greetings

#### Keynote lecture:

9:00 **Elena Romero (CSIC – Madrid)**

*Humor sefardí : Sátiras judeoespañolas en prosa y en verso*  
(Sephardic Humor: Judeo-Spanish Satires in Verse and Prose)<sup>1</sup>

#### First panel: Satire between Universalism and Particularism

9:45 **Arnaud Bikard (Inalco – Paris)**

*A Panorama of Yiddish Satire in 1911 on the basis of the New York Anthology Humor und Satire*

10:15 **Peter Nahon (Paris-Sorbonne)**

*Railler la langue et la religion : La satire gasconne sur l'inauguration du temple de Bayonne en 1837*

10:45 **Binyamin Hunyadi (The Hebrew University in Jerusalem)**

*The Rivalry between the 'Limping Good-for-Nothing' and the 'Crazy Philosopher': Irony and Self-Irony in Yiddish-Anarchist Satirical Literature (1885–1914)*

11:15 **Judith Cohen (York University – Toronto)**

Performance and commentary of a Judeo-Spanish satirical Song

11:30 Coffee break

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<sup>1</sup> An English translation of Pr. Romero's lecture will be provided.

## **Second panel: The satirist and his portrait**

11:45            **Gil Ribak (University of Arizona)**

*The Master of Language and Folklore: The Strange Career of Yisroel-Yoysef Zevin (תשר"ק א"ק Tashra"ק)*

12:15            **Orito Lukie Nagatsuka (Tokyo University)**

*The Invention of the Trickster: re-reading Elia Karmona's Autobiography in Comparison with Trickster tales in the Ottoman Empire*

12:45            **Michèle Tauber (Paris 3 – Sorbonne-nouvelle University)**

*From Soft-Hearted Humor to Fierce Satire in the Singer Brothers' Autobiographical Short Stories*

13:15            Lunch

## **Keynote Lecture**

14:15            **Ber Kotlerman (Bar Ilan University)**

*Visualizing the Yiddish Humor: Sholem Aleichem and Charlie Chaplin*

## **Third panel: Elaborating a language for satire**

15:00            **Sara Gimenez (Inalco, Paris)**

*Jeux de mots, ambiguïtés et doubles sens au service de la satire dans les proverbes de Salonique*

15:30            **Yaad Biran (The Hebrew University in Jerusalem)**

*The Joke's on You: The Unreliable Monologist in Yosef Tunkel's Satire*

16:00            **David Bunis (The Hebrew University in Jerusalem)**

*Turkish Elements in Judezmo Satire : An Early Symptom of Language Shift?*

16:30            Coffee break

#### **Fourth panel: Satire and the crises of modernity**

- 16:45      **Vivi Lachs (Pears Institute for the Research of Antisemitism - University of London)**  
*Der blofer 1911-13: What London satire tells us about immigrant life*
- 17:15      **Eliezer Papo (Ben Gurion University of the Negev)**  
*Seder Agada of Salonican Newspaper El Rizon – La Flecha, as an anti-Establishment Satire*
- 17:45      **Nikki Halpern (Independent researcher)**  
*A Round-Trip to the Alter Heym – the Forverts' section "In der alter heyms" and its satirical captions to pictures.*
- 18:15      **Yonith Benhamou (EHESS, Paris)**  
*Graphic Jewish Satirical Productions : The Emergence of Yiddish Caricatures in the 20th Century*
- 18:45      Concluding discussion
- 19:00      Closing reception