



האגודה הישראלית
לחקר דתות
THE ISRAELI ASSOCIATION
FOR THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS



Cults and Rituals

Fourth Annual Conference – The Israeli Association for the Study of Religions

In cooperation with

The Program in Religion Studies at the University of Haifa

The Fourth Annual Conference of the Israeli Association for the Study of Religions (IASR) will focus on “Cults and Rituals.” The conference will convene under the auspices of the Program in Religion Studies at the University of Haifa. Sessions will be held on March 31st 2020 at the University of Haifa's main campus, atop Mount Carmel. The city of Haifa itself is home to Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious communities, and is a center for the Bahá'í Faith. Adherents of the Druze religion are based in villages and towns located a few kilometers from the university's Mount Carmel Campus.

Our theme for this year's annual conference relates to broad avenues of research within the scope of cults and rituals – whether ancient or contemporary – that reflect varied forms and perceptions of religious praxis; the modern scholarly engagement with cults and rituals and its quest to define these phenomena in light of its diverse manifestations; as well as a focus on ritual theory per se.

The Opening Session will be dedicated to the ancient Near East, and the Keynote Lecture will be delivered by **Dr. Andrea Kucharek** of Heidelberg University, who studies ancient Egyptian burial rituals.

We encourage you to submit proposals for presentations – in either English or Hebrew – that relate to the conference's theme from a range of disciplines and approaches. Abstract (of up to 300 words) should be emailed to the IASR Secretary at israel.iasr.2015@gmail.com by 1 October 2019. Replies will be sent back by 1 November 2019. Each speaker will be accorded 20 minutes for his/her presentation, followed by 10 minutes for Q&A. Scholars whose proposal will be accepted will be required to pay the IASR's yearly membership dues (which include the conference registration fee) in order to present their paper. This could be done in situ, upon registration.

The Conference's Academic Committee:

Amos Megged, Moshe Blidstein, Ithamar Gruenwald, Nira Pancer, Zur Shalev and Shai Feraro.