

# Eyewitness Narratives

Interdisciplinary Symposium

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, November 25-27, 2007

## Program

Sunday, November 25

16:00—17:45

**Greetings.** Israel Bartal, Dean, *Faculty of Humanities, The Hebrew University*

**Introduction.** Leona Toker, *Department of English, The Hebrew University*

**“Eye and I: Negotiating Distance in Eyewitness Narrative.”** John Eakin, *Indiana University, Bloomington*

Moderator: Ruben Borg, *Department of English and Italian Department, The Hebrew University*

18:05 Reception

Monday, November 26

9:30—11:00 **War Memoirs**

**“Eyewitness vs. Mediated Narratives of Lost Cities at the End of the Middle Ages: Acre, Constantinople, Granada.”** Cyril Aslanov, *Department of French, The Hebrew University*

**“Eye-witnessing vs. Flesh-witnessing in Military Memoirs from the Middle Ages to Modern Times.”** Yuval Noah Harari, *Department of History, The Hebrew University*

Moderator/Respondent: Lawrence Besserman, *Department of English, The Hebrew University*

Coffee Break

11:30—13:00 **Illness Narratives**

**“Thaumaturgy at One Remove: Descriptions of Illness and Miraculous Cure in the Later Middle Ages.”** Esther Cohen, *Department of History, The Hebrew University*

**“The Word Pitched against the Wordless: Witnessing in Illness Narratives.”** Shlomith Rimmon-Kenan, *Department of English, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

Moderator/Respondent: H. M. Daleski, *Department of English, The Hebrew University*

Lunch

16:00—17:00 **“How Can You Pinpoint What Is ‘Latent’ in a Text?”** Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, *Stanford University*  
Moderator/Respondent: Sanford Budick, *Department of English, The Hebrew University*

Tuesday, November 27

9:30—11:30 **Annals and Archives**

**“Swearing in Ceremony: The Police in the Kovno Ghetto, November 1, 1942.”**  
Dalia Ofer, *Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University*

**“Narrative Tensions: The Archive and the Eyewitness.”** Jeffrey Wallen, *Hampshire College*

**“Stalinist Confessions in an Age of Terror.”** Igal Halfin, *Department of History, Tel Aviv University.*

Moderator/Respondent: Israel Bartal, *Department of Jewish History, The Hebrew University* (Dean, Faculty of Humanities)

Coffee Break

11:45—13:15 **Witnessing in Literature and Other Media**

**“In the Third Person: J. M. Coetzee's Autobiographical Sequence and Testimony in Post-Apartheid South Africa.”** Louise Bethlehem, *Department of English and Program in Cultural Studies, The Hebrew University*

**“Fires in the Mirror: On the Pyrotechnics of Eyewitness Acting.”** Carola Hilfrich, *Program in Cultural Studies and Department of General and Comparative Literature, The Hebrew University*

**“Witnessing and World-Making in the Age of Mass Media,”** Paul Frosh, *Department of Communications and Journalism, The Hebrew University*

Moderator/Respondent: Emily Miller Budick

Lunch

15:00—17:00 **Common Denominators**

**“The Body as Testimony: Eyewitness and Fleshwitness,”** Manuela Consoni, *Scholion, Jewish History Department and Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

**“The Vicious Other within One’s Self: A Comparative Study in Personal Narratives of Political Victims,”** Amos Goldberg, *Scholion* and *Department of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

**“The Concept of Moral Truth in Eyewitness Accounts,”** Richard Freadman, *Lingnan University*

Moderator/Respondent: Dan Laor, *Hebrew Literature, Tel Aviv University*

Coffee Break

**17:00—18:30 The Gulag and after**

**“Literature and Document: An Essay in InterContextuality.”** Leona Toker, *English Department, The Hebrew University*

**“The Gulag Prisoner and the Bolshevik Soul: Rehabilitation Narratives.”** Nanci Adler, *Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, University of Amsterdam)*

Moderator/Respondent: Alexander Kulik, *Department of Russian and Slavic Studies, The Hebrew University*

**18:30—19:30 Round-Table Discussion**