

Harry Radzyner Law School, Reichman University

is pleased to invite you to an international workshop on

Law, Authority and Criticism in Early Rabbinic Literature

Thursday, June 15th 2023, at 09:30 am

Faculty Club, Reichman University Campus, Ha-Universita St. 8, Herzliya

09:30 Coffee

09:50 Greetings

Dr. Ayelet Hoffmann Libson, Reichman University

10:00 **Prof. Christine Hayes, Yale University**

Taking Stock: Rabbinic Self-Criticism through Stock Characters

11:00 **Dr. Haim Shapira, Bar Ilan University**

Challenging Court Decision: Erroneous Judgment in Rabbinic Legal Thinking

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 **Prof. Suzanne Last Stone, Cardozo Law School**

Prophecy and Self-Criticism

14:00 **Prof. Moshe Shoshan, Bar Ilan University**

The Oven of Hakhinai: Charismatic Halakhic Authority and Natural Law

Scholars and students of rabbinic literature are invited to participate.

[Please register Here](#)

Conference Organizer: Dr. Ayelet Hoffmann Libson

Workshop: Law, Authority and Criticism in Early Rabbinic Literature

Recent scholarship of rabbinic literature has emphasized the centrality of authority to rabbinic culture. The rabbis worked to establish their own authority as legal decisors, but they also thought deeply about the role of criticism in limiting power. Many rabbinic discussions, constructed through both halakhah and aggadah, are concerned with the limits of authority and the importance of criticism, whether self-criticism directed inwards towards the rabbinic community or critique of the balance of legal and political powers. Thus, this workshop seeks to explore the following questions: What are the boundaries of legal and political authority, and how do the rabbis set those limits? How do authority and power correlate to truth in the rabbinic worldview? What other methods of cultural critiques do the rabbis employ, and do these differ based on the subject of their criticism?

