A Conference at Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire
July 9th–11th, 2006
Ink and blood are two major emblems of self-definition for religious communities that link themselves as much through community, ethnicity, or race as through doctrine and history. Religious power is expressed through blood (e.g., martyrdom) as well as ink (ideology), and both blood and language are vehicles for communication and covenant with the divine. The presumed divine wish for human blood is negotiated through texts, which are in turn united in incarnation, as the word becomes flesh or the blood is presumed to be holy, to be returned to God through sacrificial offering. Conference Participants will address issues related to race, martyrdom, hermeneutics, and nationalism as refracted through Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

The conference is financed by a generous grant from the Ford Foundation for the purpose of reconceptualizing Jewish Studies and improving relations between the fields of Jewish Studies and Islamic Studies.

Conference Participants

Asad Ahmed
Kathleen Biddick
Zachary Braiterman
Denise Buell
J. Kameron Carter
Mark Cohen
Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi
Maimuna Huq
Eran Kaplan
Gregory Kaplan
Lisa Lampert
Hartmut Lehmann
Angelika Neuwirth
Andrew Newman
Christina von Braun

Sunday, July 9th

Plenary Session  4–6 PM, Rockefeller 2

Moderator: Gene Garthwaite, Dartmouth College

Angelika Neuwirth, Humboldt University
Biblical and Islamic Mnemonics in Contemporary Near Eastern Literature and Art

Hartmut Lehmann, Dartmouth College
The German Protestants Quest for National Salvation
Monday, July 10th

Session 1  ~  9 AM–12 PM, Rockefeller Center, 1930s Room

Denise Buell, Williams College
Spilled Ink and Blood: Modern Racism Meets Early Christian Collective Self-Descriptions

Kathleen Biddick, Temple University
Martyrial Times

Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College
Blood, Breast, and Kiss: Revelation and Gender in Jewish-Christian contexts

Session 2  ~  1–4 PM, Rockefeller Center, 1930s Room

Lisa Lampert, University of California, San Diego
To Prove Whose Blood is Reddest: Rethinking Race in The Merchant of Venice

Gregory Kaplan, Rice University
The Biopolitical in Martin Buber’s Conception of Life

J. Kameron Carter, Duke University
Oriental Jesus–Occidental Paul: Race, Myth, and the Conflicted Status of Jewish Flesh in Nineteenth Century German Biblical Scholarship

Plenary Session  ~  4–6 PM, Rockefeller 2

Moderator: Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina, Dartmouth College

Christina von Braun, Humboldt University
Blood and Ink

Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi, Hebrew University
Metaphors Can Kill: From Loving Jerusalem to Loving in Jerusalem
Session 3  9 AM–12 PM, Rockefeller Center, 1930s Room

Asad Ahmed, University of Chicago
Genealogies, Prophetic Sayings, and the Iconisation of the Prophet's Companions: The Case of Sa'd ibn Abi Waqqas

Andrew Newman, University of Edinburgh
Text and Texuality Then and Now: Reading 17th Century Religious Discourse in Iran

Mark Cohen, Princeton University
Maimonides' Code and the Social and Economic Realities of his Time

Session 4  2–5 PM, Rockefeller Center, 1930s Room

Eran Kaplan, University of Cincinnati
Between the Pen and the Sword: Intellectuals and the Jewish National Movement

Zachary Braiterman, Syracuse University
Fanatic Figures: The Circle of Scripture and the Problem of Primitivism in Modern Culture

Maimuna Huq, University of South Carolina
Cultivating and Contesting Religious Subjectivity in Bangladesh: The Politics of Commitment Among Islamic Activist Women