



Universität Hamburg

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ספקנות

Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies
JEWISH SCEPTICISM

DR. CHANNA PINCHASI ON YALTA AND SCEPTICISM

LECTURE SERIES:
**GENDER &
SCEPTICISM**

TOPIC

Yalta is a unique figure in Rabbinic literature. In scattered references in the Talmud we are introduced to a knowledgeable, distinguished woman who is a Torah scholar. A short story in Tractate Berahot sheds a somewhat confusing light on her personality: was Yalta a spoilt and peevish woman or rather a subversive character, through which Hazal, the Jewish sages of the Talmudic era (ה"ר), criticise themselves?

During the presentation I will discuss various interpretations of the story, which will guide us between sceptical and anti-sceptical points of view. These interpretations will refer to the symbolic layers of the story and its context, to traditional and feminist commentaries, and to gender characteristics of the Hebrew language. All of these hermeneutical options will enable us to examine whether Yalta's story should make us sceptical or hopeful as to Hazal's attitude towards women.



BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Channa Pinchasi wrote her PhD at Bar Ilan University on Gender Constructions in Midrash Eikhah Rabbah, offering a feminist interpretation to this classical Rabbinical text. Dr. Pinchasi is a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute and facilitates a feminist Beit Midrash for female leaders. She lives in Jerusalem and is a mother of four.

MAIMONIDES CENTRE
FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

25 JULY 2016

6:00 PM

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