Dependency and Autonomy in Intercultural Relations: Israel and Aram as a Case Study
June 5th-9th, 2016
Institut für Altes Testament der Universität Leipzig, in Cooperation with Bar Ilan University, Israel
at the Bibliotheca Albertina, University of Leipzig

Sunday, June 5th (at the Faculty of Theology, Martin-Luther Ring 3, SRI)
10:00–17:00: Pre-Conference Workshop on Maresha Aramaic Inscriptions (Chair – Esther Eshel, Ramat-Gan)
Participants: Joachim Quack (Heidelberg), Mark Geller (Berlin), Holger Gzella (Leiden), Hans-Werner Fischer-Elfert (Leipzig), Christa Mueller-Kessler (Jena), Michael Langlois (Strasbourg) and Minerva Center Members from Germany and Israel
Coffee/tea and a light lunch will be provided at the venue
18:00 – Dinner for Participants
18:00 and 20:00 – Cultural Events (optional – tickets must be pre-ordered by participants through organizers; see list of options attached)

Monday, June 6th
11.00-14.00 Registration (Foyer) and Coffee/Tea
14:00–16:15: Opening Session: Greetings (Chair – Aren Maeir/Ramat Gan)
Musical Interlude
16:15-18:30 Public Papers (Chair: Angelika Berlejung/Leipzig)
16:15-17:00 Public paper: Johny Messo (Leader, World Council of Arameans) – Syrians in Exile and the Religious Situation in Syria
17:00-17:45 Public paper: Markus Hilgert (Direktor Vorderasiatisches Museum/Berlin) – Protecting and Developing the Archaeological Heritage of Iraq and Syria: Political and Institutional Responsibilities
17:45-18:30 Public Paper: Shlomo Shpiro (Bar-Ilan University/Ramat-Gan) – The Political Background of the Destruction of Antiquities
18.30 Reception
19.30 Conference Dinner for the Speakers and Special Guests: Restaurant Ratskeller
Tuesday, June 7th
9:00–12:30: Section I: Cultural Autonomy and Independence in the Historical Sciences (Chair – Andreas Schüele/Leipzig)
9:00-9:45: Jan Dietrich (Aarhus) – Autonomous Decision Making in the Ancient World: A General Introduction and Comparison
9:45-10:30: Paul Weirich (Columbia, MO) – Models of Cultural Transmission
10:30-11:15: Christoph Wulf (Berlin) – The Implicit Decision Making in Rituals
11:15-11:45 Coffee/Tea Break
11:45-12:30 David Smith (Glasgow) – National-cultural Autonomy in Ethnically Diverse Societies: Theoretical Approaches and Practical Challenges in Modern and contemporary Europe

12:30-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-18:45: Section II: Aram and Israel in the Biblical Sources (Chair – Israel Finkelstein, Tel Aviv)
15:15-16:00: Yigal Levin (Ramat-Gan) – Aram and Arameans in the Book of Chronicles
16:00-16:45: Hadi Ghantous (Beirut) – Hazael & David: The Shaping of the Davidic-Solomonic Kingdom
16:45-17:15 Coffee/Tea Break
17:15-18:00: Thomas Römer (Paris/Lausanne) – The Strange Conversion of Naaman, Commander of the Aramean Army (2 Kgs 5)
18:00-18:45: Nili Wazana (Jerusalem) – From Joshua to Zakkur: Biblical and Aramaic Descriptions of Military Coalitions
19:00-20:00 Public Paper (Chair – Jan Dietrich/Aarhus): Israel Finkelstein (Tel Aviv) – Israelite Identity Formation in the 10th-8th cent. BCE
20:15 Dinner for Participants

Wednesday June 8th
8:00-12:15: Section III: Archaeological Perspectives on the Arameans in the Northern Levant (Chair – Gunnar Lehmann/Beer-Sheva)
8:00-8:45: Dominik Bonatz (Berlin) – The Myth of Aramaean Culture
8:45-9:30: Martin Makinson (Bern/Paris) – Identity and Material Culture: Looking for the Elusive Iron Age I and II Aramaeans in Northern Syria through Archaeological Lenses
9:30-10:15: Mirko Novák (Bern) – Guzana (Tell Halaf) and the ‘Cultural Code’ of Aramaean Architecture
10:15-10:45: Coffee/Tea Break
10:45-11:30: Daniele Morandi Bonacossi (Udine) – Aramaeans in Central-Western Syria: The Material Evidence from Iron Age Mishrifeh
11:30-12:15: David Schloen (Chicago) – Neo-Hittite Styles and Aramean Kingship in Iron Age Sam‘al
12:15-14.00 Lunch Break

14:00-19:30: Section IV: Archaeological Perspectives on the Aramean/Israelite Inter-relations in the Southern Levant (Chair: David Schloen/Chicago)
14:00-14:45 Suichi Hasegawa (Tokyo) – En Gev in the Iron Age: Material Culture and Political History
14:45-15:30: Nava Panitz-Cohen (Jerusalem) – Excavations at Tel Abel Beth Maacah and Their Contribution to Understanding Southern Aram and Northern Israel
15:30-16:30: Adi Eliyahu and Vanessa Workman (Ramat Gan) – Workshop I: Comparative Metallurgy in the Iron Age Levant

16:30-17:00 Coffee/Tea Break

17:00-17:45: Yifat Thareani (Jerusalem) – The Archaeology of Imagined Community? Tel Dan in the Iron Age IIA
17:45-18:30: Gunnar Lehmann (Beer-sheva) – Hazael in the South
18:30-19:30: Assaf Kleiman (Tel Aviv) – Workshop II: The Excavations at Tel Hadar – Work in Progress

20.00 Dinner at the Restaurant AM COSPUDENER SEE

Thursday, June 9th

8:30–13:00: Section V: Historical Perspectives on Aramean-Israelite Interactions (Chair – Michael Streck/Leipzig)
8:30-9:15: Omer Sergi (Tel Aviv) – The Kingdom of Geshur and the Expansion of Hazael into the Northern Jordan Valley: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives
9:15-10:00: Karel van der Toorn (Amsterdam) – Cultural (or Religious) Interaction between Arameans and Israelites in Papyrus Amherst 63
10.00-10.30 Coffee/Tea Break
10:30-11:15: Christian Frevel (Bochum) – The Role of Hazael’s Expansion in the Birth of a Judahite State
11:15-12:00: Herbert Niehr (Tübingen) – The Relations between the Kingdoms of Hamath and Israel (10th to 8th cent. BCE)
12:00-13:00: Cornelia Wunsch (London), Johannes Hackl (Leipzig), Amena Fadhil (Baghdad) – Workshop III: New Texts from al-Yahudu in Iraq

13.00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-18:00: Section VI: Historical Perspectives on Later Periods (Chair – Angelika Berlejung/Leipzig)
14:30-15.15: Leeor Gottlieb (Ramat-Gan) – From Translation to Midrash: On the Role of Aramaic Targum towards the End of the First Millennium CE
15:15-16:00: Marco Frenschkowski (Leipzig) – Are Syrians Aramaeans? Syriac Ethnic Identity in Hellenistic and Roman Times
16:00-16:30 Coffee/Tea Break
16:30-17:15: Stefan Schorch (Halle) – Aramaic Prayers of the Samaritans, and their Contribution Towards a History of Aramaic Literature
17:15-18.00: John Healey (Manchester) – Arameans in Transitions: Hellenization and the Roots of Aramaic Christianity

18:00 Departure or Cultural Event