

Previous Tenenbaum Lectures

- 1990 Irving Howe, "The Immigrant Jews and American Culture"
- 1991 Michael Lerner, "Judaism as the Metaphysics of Radical Transformation"
- 1992 Martin A. Cohen, "Sephardic Jewry: Leaven of the Modern World--A Commemoration of the Quincentenary of Their Expulsion from Spain"
- 1993 Susannah Heschel, "German Churches in the Third Reich"
- 1994 Laurence Thomas, "Fragility Through Prisms of Evil: Moral Lessons from the Holocaust and American Slavery"
- 1995 Bernard Lewis, "The Judeo-Islamic Tradition"

Previous Solomon-Tenenbaum Lectures

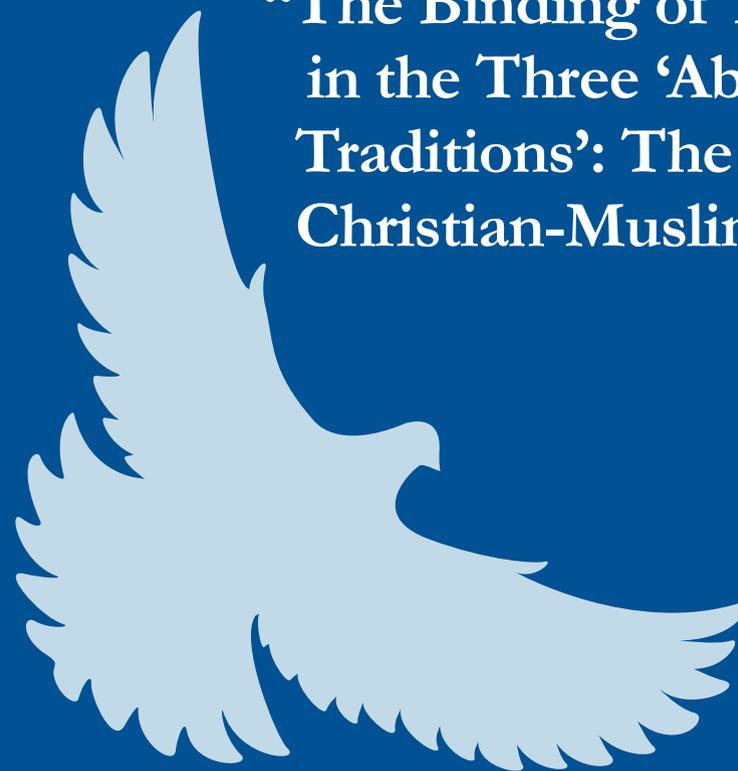
- 1996 Saul Friedlander, "Two Jewish Historians in Extremis: Ernst Kantorowicz and Marc Bloch in the Face of Nazism and Collaboration"
- 1997 Louis H. Feldman, "Admiration and Hate of the Jew in Classical Antiquity"
- 1998 James L. Kugel, "Whose Fault Was the Fall of Man? The Bible's First Interpreters on Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden"
- 1999 Anna E. Rosmus, "My Jewish Mission: A German Woman's Search for the Truth"
- 2000 Deborah E. Lipstadt, "For the Sake of Truth and Memory: *David Irving v. Deborah Lipstadt*--Personal Perspectives from a British Courtroom"
- 2001 Elliot Dorff, Mary Boys (2001 Bernardin lecture), and Muzammil Siddiqi, "Neighbors and Strangers: What Does Faith Require of Us?" A Jewish-Christian-Muslim Dialogue
- 2002 Yossi Klein Halevi, "After the Collapse of the Left and the Right: Toward a New Israeli Consensus on Territories and Peace"
- 2003 Thomas Friedman, "The Middle East: An Update on Changing Events"
- 2004 James Carroll, "Anti-Semitism: The Old and the New"
- 2005 Thomas Cahill, "The Gifts of the Jews"
- 2006 Elie Wiesel, "Night"
- 2007 Paula Hyman, "Anti-Semitism, Gender, and Jewish Identity in Modern Europe"
- 2008 Steven Nadler, "The Spinoza Problem: Secular Judaism and the Question of Jewish Identity"
- 2009 Ruth W. Messinger, "Global Vision: Opening Our Eyes to Injustice"
- 2010 Jonathan D. Sarna, "Ulysses S. Grant and the Jews: An Untold Story"
- 2011 Rabbi Burton L. Visotzky, "Sage Tales: The Power of Rabbinic Story and What It Can Teach Us Today"
- 2012 Todd Gitlin, "The Chosen Peoples: American, Israel and the Ordeals of Divine Election"
- 2014 Nancy K. Miller, "My Memoirs Made Me Jewish: Family, Memory, and the Writing Self"
- 2015 David Nirenberg, "Does the History of Anti-Judaism have anything to do with the Present?"
- 2016 David Blumenthal, "Salvadore Dali's 'Aliyah: The Rebirth of Israel'"

About the College of Arts and Sciences

While the University of South Carolina was chartered in 1801, it officially opened its doors in 1805 and opened a world of possibilities to its students. At the time, it boasted one building, two faculty members, and nine students. The curriculum was based on the study of Latin, ancient Greek, and mathematics. Two hundred years later, this core curriculum is still taught in the USC College of Arts and Sciences.

The College has grown significantly from the University's humble beginnings and now as the oldest, largest, and most diverse college at USC, it comprises 25 buildings, 500 faculty, and more than 9,000 students. The College has changed names several times in the past few decades and came full circle with its reconstitution as the College of Arts and Sciences on January 16, 2005. While the roots of the College are firmly planted in the past, the College is growing into the future. Think of the possibilities.

"The Binding of Isaac in the Three 'Abrahamic Traditions': The Jewish- Christian-Muslim Debate"



By Jon D. Levenson, Ph.D.
Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies
The Divinity School, Harvard University

Tuesday, February 7, 2017
7:30 p.m.
Campus Room at Capstone House
University of South Carolina

2017
SOLOMON
TENENBAUM
Lectureship in Jewish Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
College of Arts and Sciences

Lecture Program

“The Binding of Isaac in the Three ‘Abrahamic Traditions’: The Jewish-Christian-Muslim Debate”

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

7:30 p.m.

Campus Room at Capstone House
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Welcome and Remarks

Lacy K. Ford
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Introduction of Speaker

Stanley Dubinsky
Director, Jewish Studies

Guest Lecturer

Jon D. Levenson, Ph.D.
Albert A. List Professor of Jewish Studies
The Divinity School, Harvard University

Refreshments and a book signing following the lecture

Solomon-Tenenbaum

Lectureship in Jewish Studies

The Solomon-Tenenbaum Visiting Lectureship in Jewish Studies is presented annually to the University of South Carolina faculty, students, and the larger community. The University proudly acknowledges the benefactors, the late Melvin and Judith Solomon, of Charleston, SC, and Samuel and Inez Tenenbaum, of Columbia, SC, whose generosity created a Jewish studies endowment that exists to support the lectureship, to enhance the library collection, and eventually, to establish a chair of Jewish studies.

Others are invited to make gifts to enlarge the Jewish studies endowment. These gifts provide academic resources to study the Jewish experience from its beginnings to the present.

The Solomon-Tenenbaum Lectureship continues the Tenenbaum Visiting Lectureship in Judaic Studies, which began in 1990. The Tenenbaum Visiting Lectureship was given in memory of Samuel's father, Meyer Warren Tenenbaum, and his mother, LaBelle Florence Tenenbaum.

Program Description

The episode that Jewish tradition calls “The Binding of Isaac” and Christian tradition terms “The Sacrifice of Isaac” plays a major structuring role in each tradition. Dr. Levenson will examine the ways the two traditions have appropriated their common scriptural story, to better understand both the similarities and the differences between the two traditions. The parallel text in the Qur’an, in turn, exhibits strong overlaps but also revealing differences from both the Jewish and the Christian sources and helps us understand the strengths and the limitations of the claim that these three religious traditions constitute varieties of one “Abrahamic Religion.”

Jon D. Levenson, Ph.D.

Guest Lecturer

Dr. Levenson's work concentrates on the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible, including its reinterpretations in the “rewritten Bible” of Second Temple Judaism and rabbinic midrash. In addition, one of his courses deals with the use of medieval Jewish commentaries for purposes of modern biblical exegesis, and another focuses on central works of Jewish theology in the twentieth century.

Dr. Levenson has a strong interest in the philosophical and theological issues involved in biblical studies, especially the relationship of premodern modes of interpretation to modern historical criticism. Much of his work centers on the relationship of Judaism and Christianity, both in antiquity and in modernity, and he has long been active in Jewish-Christian dialogue.

His book *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life* (Yale University Press, 2006) won a National Jewish Book Award and the Biblical Archaeology Society Publication Award in the category of Best Book Relating to the Hebrew Bible published in 2005 or 2006. *Choice*, a publication of the American Library Association, listed *Inheriting Abraham: The Legacy of the Patriarch in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam* (Princeton University Press, 2012) as one of the Outstanding Academic Titles for 2013. His new book is *The Love of God: Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism* (Princeton University Press, 2015). In all his work, Dr. Levenson's emphasis falls on the close reading of texts for purposes of literary and theological understanding.