



PRAGUE CENTRE
FOR JEWISH STUDIES



Centrum judaistických studií
Kurta a Ursuly Schubertových



David Gans (1541–1613) After Four Centuries: The Legacy of an Early Modern Jewish Polymath

Prague, 27–29 May 2013
Faculty of Arts, Charles University
in Prague

2 Jan Palach Square

Program

Monday, May 27

9am: Official Opening (Main auditorium, no. 131)

I. David Gans as a Prague Jewish Historian (Main auditorium, no. 131)

Chair: Lenka Uličná (Palacký University Olomouc)

9:30am **Rachel Greenblatt** (Harvard University): "In Their Order and in Their Time": Prague, Past and Place in David Gans's *Tsemah David*

10am **Joseph M. Davis** (Gratz College): David Gans and the Habsburg Dynasty

(coffee break)

10:45am **Abraham David** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Between *Tsemah David* and the Hebrew Anonymous Chronicle from Prague on the Jewish Life in Prague in the 16th Century

11:15am **Carsten Wilke** (Central European University in Budapest): Sephardi and Ashkenazi Conceptions of World History: From *Shalshet ha-Kabbalah* (1587) to *Tsemah David* (1592)

11:45am **Martin J. Wein** (New York University/Tel Aviv University): Prague's Ghetto at the Time of David Gans: A Bridge or an Island?

(lunch break)

II. Printing *Tsemah David* (Historical cabinet, no. 201)

Chair: Daniel Boušek (Charles University in Prague)

2pm **Olga Sixtová** (Charles University in Prague): The Early Imprints of David Gans's Works: The Prague Context

2:30pm **Pavel Sládek** (Charles University in Prague): *Tsemah David*: The Message of the Paratexts

3pm **David Sclar** (City University of New York): History of a History: Knowledge and Religious Sentiment Through Printing *Tsemah David*

Tuesday, May 28

III. Gans as a scientist (Main auditorium, no. 131)

Chair: Martin Borýsek (University of Cambridge)

9am Y. Tzvi Langermann (Bar-Ilan University): The Migration of Knowledge within the Writings of the Maharal

9:30am Abraham Melamed (University of Haifa): Between Ancients and Moderns – Gans's Ambivalent Attitude towards Scientific Progress

(coffee break)

10:15am Jeremy Brown (George Washington University): "Pick your Battles Carefully": David Gans on Scientific Discoveries

10:45am Sacha Stern (University College London): David Gans's Contribution to the Modern Study of the Jewish Calendar

- *11:30am Presentation of the Judaica series of the publishing house Academia (Historical cabinet, no. 201)*

IV. Key-note lecture (Main auditorium, no. 131)

Chair: Milan Žonca (Queen Mary, University of London)

6pm Joanna Weinberg (University of Oxford): David Gans Between Jews and Christians

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Seb. Münster, *Cosmographia*, Basel 1544, p. 40.

יש מיני עופות הגדלים באילן ותלויים באילן בחרטומיהם... (אגור, אלף רל"ג)

Wednesday, May 29

V. The Sources and Reception of David Gans' Works (Main auditorium, no. 131)

Chair: Carsten Schliwski (University of Cologne)

9am Stephen Burnett (University of Nebraska – Lincoln): Christian Hebraism in Czech Lands During the Sixteenth Century

9:30am Daniel J. Lasker (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): The Karaite Reception of David Gans's Work

(coffee break)

10:15am Tamás Visi (Palacký University Olomouc): The Brno Manuscript of *Nehmad we-Na'im*

10:45am Gad Freudenthal (Université de Genève): Jessnitz Anno 1743: Contextualizing the Printing of *Nehmad we-Na'im*

11:15pm Maoz Kahana (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Transforming Knowledge: The Role of the *Tsemah David* in 18th–19th Century Rabbinic Literature

(coffee break)

VI. Concluding roundtable and concluding remarks (Historical cabinet, no. 201)

Chair: Tamás Visi (Palacký University Olomouc)

12am David Gans after Four Centuries: The Results of the Prague Conference

1pm Jiřina Šedinová (Charles University in Prague): Translating *Tsemah David* to Czech and English

Related events

For the whole of May, an exhibition about Jewish monuments of Erfurt (Germany) including the famous "Erfurt treasure" can be seen in the foyer of the Faculty of Arts building, 20 Celetná Street.

Thursday, May 23, 6pm

Stephen Burnett (University of Nebraska – Lincoln): Christian Hebraism: An Improbable Early Modern Success Story (organized by the Department for Education and Culture of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 15 Maiselova Street)

Thursday, May 30, 5pm

David Gans and the Astronomers at the Court of Rudolph II (in Czech; organized by the Planetarium Prague)

Thursday, June 6, 6pm

Jiřina Šedinová, Daniel Boušek a Pavel Sládek: The Results of the Prague David Gans Conference (in Czech; organized by the Department for Education and Culture of the Jewish Museum in Prague, 15 Maiselova Street)

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The international conference examining the life and work of David Gans, a significant Jewish scholar active in Prague, is organized by the Prague Centre for Jewish Studies at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague, the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre for Jewish Studies at the Palacký University in Olomouc, and by the Thomas Institute, University of Cologne.

The conference is supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Foundation for Holocaust Victims.



The conference is held under the auspices of Petr Fiala, Minister of Education, Michal Stehlík, Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague, Václav Novotný, Culture Councilor of the City of Prague, and the Embassy of Israel in the Czech Republic.

The Conference is open to the members of general public, all papers are given in English.

<http://pcjs.ff.cuni.cz/>



Embassy of Israel

