**UCL**

**Institute of Jewish Studies**

Institute of Jewish Studies Summer Conference 2018

In conjunction with the

**International Organization for Targum Studies (IOTS)**

**The Aramaic dialects within their Late Antique environment**

**The development of the Targums within their wider interpretative milieu.**

**July 9-12, 2018**

University College London

NB: The conference will start with an evening lecture on July 9th.

The study of the local influences on the dialect of Onqelos and Jonathan, long considered to represent a direct development of Middle Aramaic, and sometimes held to reflect little to no signs of any

specific provenance (Western, Eastern, Central Aramaic), is attracting renewed attention,

which warrants the re-opening of the question about these Targums' dialect and provenance.

Moreover, the provenance and integrity of the dialect of the Late Targums remains unsolved.

These days their Aramaic is considered a learned, written dialect divested from a vernacular

basis, but despite arguments of a considerable Syriac influence, its provenance is as yet

unclear.

At the literary and exegetical level, the milieu of composition and transmission raises questions

about the *meaning* of parallels between targumic and non-targumic exegesis. Exactly how

does targumic exegesis relate to its rabbinic parallels? What are the differences in terms of

contents, context, presentation, and narrative arc? The mere observation that parallels exist

does not analyse the relationship at a level that is anywhere near profound enough to be

meaningful.

Beyond the old questions of literary dependence, we still need to establish whether targumic

exegesis reflects signs of a non-rabbinic, late rabbinic or other specific local environment. In

spite of the evidently close connection between targumic and rabbinic exegesis, questions

linger about the precise relationship between the Targums and the rabbinic milieu, whether

in Roman Palestine, Babylonia or Jewish communities elsewhere, and the wider society in

which they took shape and to which they inevitably responded. This conference seeks to address these questions and many more.

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# Booking through Eventbrite is advised - details to be announced.

# Both free and donation tickets are available

# *There is no admission charge but voluntary contributions help us continue to keep our events open to all*

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