



Judaism, Science and Medicine Group Annual Conference

Judaism and Public Health:

Living in the Shadow of Pandemics

March 27, 2022

9 a.m.–6 p.m. (MST)

online via Zoom | free and open to all

info + registration

jewishstudies.asu.edu/science

ASU Jewish
Studies
Arizona State University

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has upended the life of all people worldwide, is still raging, despite the invention of a vaccine against the virus. The annual Judaism, Science, and Medicine Group (JSMG) conference will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic from historical, sociological, legal, philosophical, and ethical perspectives. Special attention will be paid to clinical and practical lessons learned since the beginning of the pandemic, and the diverse responses of the Jewish community to the pandemic. Through interdisciplinary examination of accumulated data, the conference will reflect on the past and future of living in the shadow of pandemics.

organized by
ASU Jewish Studies

sponsored by the **Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies** and **Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism** at Arizona State University

with support from the **Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine Endowment** at Arizona State University

9–9:15 a.m.

Welcome

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Director of Jewish Studies
Arizona State University

Jeffrey Cohen | Dean of Humanities
Arizona State University

9:15–10:15 a.m.

The Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Keynote Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine

respondent: Noah J. Efron | *Bar Ilan University*

keynote address

**The Community as Patient:
Jewish Responses to Pandemics**
Paul R. Wolpe | *Emory University*

10:15–11:30 a.m.

The Bible through an Epidemiological Lens

chair: Timothy Langille | *Arizona State University*

Impure or Infectious? A New Look at the Bible
Yitzhaq Feder | *University of Haifa*

The Ten Egyptian Plagues as a Powerful Metaphor for Emergence of Epidemics
Michael Kosoy | *KB One Health, LLC*

Can Mathematical Modeling Guide Pandemic Response, or is the Prescription Given in Leviticus as Good as It Gets?
Peter Rez | *Arizona State University*

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Legal and Halachic Dimensions of Pandemics

chair: Joel Gereboff | *Arizona State University*

Jewish Law COVID's Responsa: From Asher to Zelig with Many Stops along the Way
Michael Broyde | *Emory University*

Conservative Judaism Responds to the COVID-19 Pandemic
Elliot Dorff | *American Jewish University*

Between 'Safe' and 'Safe Enough': Bodily Protection in Pandemics
Joan S. Friedman | *Wooster College*

Making Decisions on Public Health: Who Has the Legal Authority
Alan Jotkowitz | *Ben Gurion University*

1 – 1:30 p.m.

Break

1:30–3 p.m.

Care and Caring in Pandemics: Clinical, Psychological, and Social Dimensions

chair: Michael Yudell | *Arizona State University*

Suspension and Reversal of the Law (Halakhah) in Disease, Plagues, and COVID-19

Y. Michael Barilan | *Tel Aviv University*

Moral Distress and Critical Care:

A New Approach Inspired by COVID-19 Pandemic

Jason Weiner | *Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles*

Disruptions and Opportunities: The Impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. Jewish Community

Janet Aronson | *Brandeis University*

3–4:30 p.m.

Jews and the History of Pandemics

chair: Stanley Mirvis | *Arizona State University*

Jews, Pandemics, and Social Exclusion: A Overview

Joshua Teplitsky | *Stony Brook University*

Jews, Rats, and Fleas: New Perspectives on Plague

Susan Einbinder | *University of Connecticut*

Zoonic Pandemics: Pigs, Power, and Knowledge

Jonathan K. Crane | *Emory University*

Pandemics and the Future of Humanity

David Passig | *Bar Ilan University*

4:30–5:45 p.m.

Ethics, Theology, and Spirituality in the Time of Pandemic: A Roundtable

chair: Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan | *Arizona State University*

The Theological Ramifications in a Post-COVID World

Shaul Magid | *Dartmouth College*

Theological Seminary Ethics in the Time of COVID-19: Seeking Resilience

Rachel Mikva | *Chicago Theological Seminary*

Pandemics, Musar, and the Ecological Crisis: Can We Save Ourselves from Ourselves?

Shai Cherry | *Adath Jeshurun, Philadelphia*

5:45–6 p.m.

Conclusion

Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan | *Arizona State University*