Judaism and Public Health: Living in the Shadows of Pandemics

March 27, 2022
9 a.m.–6:15 p.m. (MST)
online via Zoom | free and open to all

info + registration
jewishstudies.asu.edu/science
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 shadows of pandemics.

Welcome
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Director of Jewish Studies
Arizona State University
Jeffrey Cohen | Dean of Humanities
Arizona State University
Dr. Joshua Anbar | on behalf of the Anbar Family
Arizona State University

9:15–10:15 a.m. The Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Keynote Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine
chair and 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.–1:10 p.m. Legal and Halachic Dimensions of Pandemics
chair: Joel Gereboff | Arizona State University
Jewish Laws COVID 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
1:10–1:20 p.m. Break

1:20–3:10 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 Medical Center, Los Angeles

Whose life to save? Allocation of Scarce Resources in a Pandemic
Irit Offer-Stark | Shalom Hartman Institute

Disruptions and Opportunities: The Impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. Jewish Community
Janet Aronson | Brandeis University

3:10–5 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

5–6 p.m. Ethics, Theology, and Spirituality in the Time of Pandemic: A Roundtable
chair: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Arizona State University

The Theological Ramifications in a Post-COVID World
Shaul Magid | Dartmouth College

Ethics in the Time of COVID-19: Seeking Resilience
Rachel Mikva | Chicago Theological Seminary

Mussar as a Source of Spiritual Guidance in the Midst of Pandemic
Amy Eilberg | Spiritual Director, Peace and Justice Educator

6–6:15 p.m. Conclusion
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Arizona State University