



Judaism, Science and Medicine Group Annual Conference

# 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](https://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.

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*

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 | *The College of Wooster*

**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*

### Zoonotic 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-Samuelsan | *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-Samuelsan | *Arizona State University*