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
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-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