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UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Shir ha-Shirim: Song of Songs Conference

Wednesday 24 June - Friday 26 June 2026

at

Faculty of Asian and African Cultures

(former Faculty of Oriental Studies)

Department of Hebrew Studies

University of Warsaw

(Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28 - 'Chopin' Building: 'Schayer' Hall 1:21)

SONG OF SONGS SUNG AND READ INTERTEXTUALLY AND EXEGETICALLY

Program

Wednesday - June 24

10:00–10:30: Registration

10:30–10:45: **Opening of the Conference**

Session I (10:45– 12:45)

10:45–11:15: **Stefan Fischer** (University of Vienna / University of the Free State, Bloemfontein)

Song of Songs - Recent developments in Research.

11:15–11:45: **Łukasz Kalużny** (University of Warsaw)

Reading Love Cognitively: Metaphor and Embodied Meaning in the Song of Songs.

11:45–12:15: **Marianna Slavikova** (Charles University, Prague)

Love as the core of covenant theology in the prophets compared with passionate erotic love as an image of God's love.

(break)

Session II (14:45–16:15)

14:45–15:15: **Eva Vymětalová Hrabáková** (Charles University, Prague)

The language of trees, the whisper of stones, and the conversation between heaven and earth as a song of desire/longing: performative probes into the Song of Songs' sounds in dialogue with Ugaritic resonances.

15:15–15:45: **Caleb Harris** (Charles University, Prague)

Resheph and Aphrodite in Song of Songs

15:45–16:15: **Jaco Gericke** (North West University, RSA)

Song of Songs and the Philosophy of Love.

(break)

Session III (16:45– 17:45)

16:45– 17:15: **Christo Lombaard** (University of Pretoria)

Integrating Song of Songs in the "Bible and sex"– genre: an overview and a South African case study.

17:15–17:45: **Magdalena Wdowiak** (University of Warsaw)

Bodily Imagery and Allegorical Interpretation in Canticles 1:2b: Tannaitic Exegesis and Origen's Commentary.

Thursday - June 25

Session IV (9:15– 10:45)

09:15–09:45: **Lukáš Klíma** (Charles University, Prague)

The Song of Songs within the Hebrew canon (תנ"ך). Terminological and motivic intertextuality.

09:45–10:15: **Aleksandr Farutin** (previously University of Warsaw)

A Possible Editorial Tendency in 4Q107 (4QCantb)

10:15– 10:45: **Filip Sylwestrowicz** (Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary, previously UW)

The Song of Songs and Paul's Theology of Marriage: Exploring Possible Connections.

(break)

Session V (11:15–12:45)

11:15–11:45: **Judy Lam** (University of the Free State, Bloemfontein)

The Poetics of Soul Care: An Intertextual Reading of the Vineyard Metaphor in the Song of Songs.

11:45–12:15: **Pavla Damohorská** (Charles University, Prague)

The Erotic Symbols of Song of Songs in the Jewish Exegetical Literature.

12:15– 12:45: **Anna Kuśmirek** (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw)

Metaphors of Fragrance and Incense in the Song of Songs and Targum: Between Sensuality and Cultic Reinterpretation.

(break)

15:00– 18:00: An internal conference program (for registered participants)

Friday - June 26

Session VI (9:15 – 10:45)

09:15–09:45: **David Biernot** (Charles University, Prague / University of Pretoria)

Erotic Language and Prophetic Consciousness: Abulafia's Hermeneutics of the Song of Songs.

09:45–10:15: **Marzena Zawadowska** (University of Warsaw)

Song of Songs as a historical text in a Medieval Karaite Bible Commentary.

10:15–10:45: **Marek Baraniak** (University of Warsaw)

The Messiah in the Targum Shir haShirim.

(break)

Session VII (11:15 – 12:45) [with online presentations]

11:15–11:45: **Manickam Kumar** (St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore)

Scared Love songs of Tamil Literature and Book of Song of Songs: A Cry for Gender Equality and Individual Human Dignity.

11:45– 12:15: **Peter Ignatius** (Jnana Deepa, Institute for Philosophy and Theology, Pune).

Wine of Love and the Dark One: Conjugal Imagery in the Song of Songs and the Bhakti Devotion of Mīrābāī to Kṛṣṇa.

12:15– 12:45: **Ndikho Mtshiselwa** (University of South Africa, Pretoria)

Unlocking the Politics of Money, Body and Love in Song of Songs through Fifty Shades of Grey and Lwah Ndlunkulu's Song, Notification (feat. Big Zulu).

(break)

Session VIII (14:30-15:30) [plenary]

14:30-15:15: Closing Session

15:30: **End of the Conference**

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Conference Organisers

Marek Baraniak

(University of Warsaw)

David Biernot

(Charles University, Prague)

Stefan Fischer

(University of Vienna)

Christo Lombaard

(University of Pretoria)

Conference Secretary: **Łukasz Kaluźny** (University of Warsaw)