



**Call for Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies  
The 28<sup>th</sup> AAJS Conference, 14-15 February 2016  
Griffith University, Brisbane**

**"Jews, Judaism and the Environment from Biblical Times to the Present"  
AAJS 2016 Brisbane**

From its very beginning, the people of Israel have been known as spiritual and literary. Indeed, the ancient Israelite religion was different from all other religions in that it worshipped one God, believing him to be the source of all creation and professing that he could not possess any *physical* manifestation. However, looking at the history of Israel and at its development, one can note that, both practically and conceptually, the so-called Hebrew people maintained close reciprocal ecological relationships with the *environment*, resulting in fascinating and multifaceted cross-fertilizations and multiple causations. **The theme of AAJS Brisbane (14-15 February 2016), *Jews, Judaism and the Environment from Biblical Times to the Present*, aims to explore Jewish/Jews' interaction with the environment from any perspective.**

Extensive study of the Jewish faith, method of scriptural interpretation, Jewish identity, society, literature, art, philosophy and language throughout history, demonstrates that they were all heavily influenced by geography and ecology, and by no means can they be satisfactorily explained as being the outcome of their spiritual origins alone in terms of Judaism's monotheistic beliefs. The religious connections to the Land of Israel, as seen in the Abrahamic covenant, together with the agricultural regulations in both the Torah and Talmud, need to also be investigated, both for the earlier periods of Jewish history and their importance in the contemporary era. *Jews, Judaism and the Environment* aims to explore the intriguing Jewish phenomenon from **various angles**, stressing the unique interaction with the environment that enabled its endless creativity, reinvention, and seemingly miraculous renaissance after undergoing major crises.

*Jews, Judaism and the Environment* is taking place on 14-15 February 2016 in Brisbane. The conference will be hosted by the Law School Socio-Legal Research Centre of Griffith University to be held at Griffith University South Bank Campus located in the South Bank Parklands in Brisbane city centre.

Papers on other topics will be considered but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the conference theme.

**Please submit your paper proposal by Monday 3 August 2015 to Dr Deborah Cao via email [d.cao@griffith.edu.au](mailto:d.cao@griffith.edu.au). The Subject of the message should be 'AAJS UNSW 2016 Proposal' (All applicants will be informed about the decision by Monday 31 August 2015).**

Submissions must include the following:

- Applicant's full name and institutional affiliation
- Postal and email address
- Abstract of the paper to be presented (no more than 250 words)
- Short biographical note (no more than 50 words).

AAJS encourages students engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the conference committee. Authors should clearly indicate their student status on their submission.

Presenters are also invited to submit written articles for consideration for publication in the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies.

Communication about the conference should be sent electronically to Dr Deborah Cao via email [d.cao@griffith.edu.au](mailto:d.cao@griffith.edu.au).

#### Conference Committee

- Professor Deborah Cao, Conference Co-Convenor
- Dr Antonio Gariano, Conference Co-Convenor
- Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, AAJS President
- Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM
- Dr Esther Jilovsky
- Rabbi Aviva Kipen
- Dr Avril Alba
- Dr Jan Lanicek
- Nikki Marczak
- Dr Myer Samra
- Neta Steigrad
- Anna Rosenbaum
- Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann

As this Conference addresses a small community of scholars, it is imperative that we all support the Association. Thus, it is a requirement that all presenters at this conference must have paid the conference registration fee, which includes the AAJS membership for 2014, by Friday 18 December 2015. Visit [www.aajs.org.au](http://www.aajs.org.au) for details.