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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 Kaluźny** (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.

17:45– 18:15: **Ndikho Mtshiselwa** (University of South Africa, Pretoria) [online presentations]

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).

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 Zawawska** (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.

(break)

Session VIII (14:00-15:00) [plenary]

14:00-14:45: Closing Session

15:00: **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)