Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal

Professor Siegal is a linguist and a philologist. He recently chaired the department of Hebrew Language at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and served as the head of its Language, Logic and Cognition Center. He is currently a visiting professor at Yale University.

Philological Inquiries with Sociolinguistic Constraints: The Case of Hebrew and Aramaic

Philological studies often assume that one of the most reliable tools for the study of ancient texts is their language. This assumption relies on yet another assumption, namely that linguistic systems are unified and stable. This talk will question the validity of this last assumption with data from sociolinguistic studies. These data indicate that languages are not monolithic nor stable. The goal of this paper is to introduce these challenges and discuss how they should reshape future philological studies.

Thursday, October 26, 2017 at Noon
67 George Street, room 104

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