

Presenter: Youval Rotman, Tel Aviv University

Title: **“Anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim views in early Byzantium”**

Panel: Ancient History

Early Christian literature often makes use of literary stereotypes in order to portray the Jews as the religious rival par excellence, this in contrast to anti-pagan representations which after the sixth century lose their prevalence. This paper analyzes the anti-Jewish Byzantine attitude in view of the arrival of a new religious rival on the Byzantine scene: Islam. In contrast to the anti-Jewish attitudes, the anti-Muslim attitudes in Byzantium were not thoroughly examined. Comparing the representations of Jews with those of Muslims in Byzantine literature from the period of the Muslim expansion expansion will show whether the Byzantine anti-Jewish attitude was modified in view of the arrival of Islam, and will enable to develop a new perspective regarding anti-Jewish representations in Byzantium.