

Presenter: Eileen Schuller, McMasters University

Title: **“The Dead Sea Scrolls and Anti-Semitism: Past Results and Future Possibilities”**

Panel: Judaism, Jewish Studies and Anti-Semitism

The unexpected discovery between 1947 –1956 of eleven caves at the site of Qumran near the Dead Sea containing hundreds of ancient Jewish manuscripts came at a crucial time in the aftermath of World War II. This paper will explore some of the implications of this famous discovery in terms of Jewish-Christian relations both in the immediate post-Holocaust era and over the next decades until these documents were finally completely published after some sixty years. The effects of this discovery can be traced on the level of the academic study of Early Judaism and Early Christianity; on the level of formal Jewish-Christian dialogues; and on the more personal and local level. The paper will examine how the Dead Sea Scrolls became entangled, both positively and negatively, with questions of anti-Semitism and Jewish-Christian relations, and explore how ongoing study and new approaches to the Scrolls might enhance their positive contribution in the struggle against antisemitism.