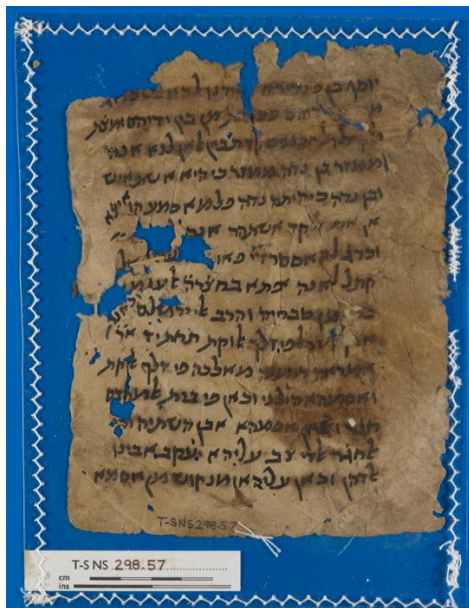


Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar

Co-sponsored by the departments of AMESALL, History, and Religion
and the Program in Global Medieval Studies

Jesus in Judeo-Arabic: *Toledot Yeshu* in the Medieval Near East



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Toledot Yeshu (TY) is a long-lived polemical body of literature that treats the life of Jesus, entertaining to some, obnoxious to others. This anti-Christian narrative has been a best-seller among Jews since its initial anonymous composition in Late Antiquity and continuing through medieval and modern times. Recent research has highlighted the extent of its popularity and its wide variety of renditions among European Jewish communities. TY, though, was also highly popular among Jews living under Muslim rule in the Near East and Mediterranean. It is attested in a surprising variety of renditions in Judeo-Arabic, and also circulated extensively in the Near East in Hebrew. In my presentation, I will introduce the composition, highlighting and detailing its early and significant Judeo-Arabic attestations. I will also contextualize the Jewish presentation of Jesus within the Arabic-speaking contexts of the medieval Near East, considering how this parodical Jewish story transmitted so extensively forms part of a multi-confessional patchwork of traditions about Jesus in Arabic.

Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 10:30

Miller Hall room 115 (14 College Ave.)

Please RSVP to info@jewishstudies.rutgers.edu

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