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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

# Khirbet Qeiyafa in the Shephelah



**Saturday, September 6, 2014**  
**University of Bern**

**Hallerstr. 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room No. 205**

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Sekretariat: c/o Universität Zürich, Religionswissenschaftliches Seminar,  
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## Schedule\*

from 09.00	Arrival: Coffee & tea
09.30–09.45	Prof. Dr. Silvia Schroer, University of Bern <i>Welcome and Introduction</i>
09.45–11.00	Prof. Dr. Yosef Garfinkel, Hebrew University, Jerusalem <i>Khirbet Qeiyafa and the Kingdom of Judah</i>
11.00–11.45	Prof. Dr. Aren Maeir, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan <i>Khirbet Qeiyafa in Its Regional Context: A View from Philistine Gath</i>
11.45–12.45	Response 1 & 2: Archaeological and Historical Aspects Prof. Dr. Thomas Römer, University of Lausanne Dr. Stefan Münger, University of Bern
12.45–14.00	Lunch**
14.00–14.30	Plenary Discussion Discussion Moderator: Prof. Dr. Thomas Römer
14.30–15.15	Prof. Dr. Silvia Schroer, University of Bern <i>Iconographic Finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa</i>
15.15–16.00	Prof. Dr. Benjamin Sass, Tel Aviv University <i>The Epigraphic Finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa in Context</i>
16.00–16.30	Response 3: Prof. Dr. Axel Knauf, University of Bern
16.30–17.15	Panel Discussion
17.15	End of the SGOA-Conference

\* A reader (pdf) can be requested.

\*\* Registration in advance will be helpful.

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## Abstracts

Prof. Dr. Yosef Garfinkel, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

### *Khirbet Qeiyafa and the Kingdom of Judah*

Khirbet Qeiyafa is a massive fortified city located on the summit of a hill overlooking the Elah Valley. This is a key strategic location in the biblical Kingdom of Judah, on the main road connecting Philistia and the Coastal Plain to Jerusalem and Hebron in the hill country. Our excavations unearthed, for the first time in the archaeological research of Israel, a fortified city in Judah from the late 11th–early 10th centuries BCE. This dating is based on radiometric dating from Oxford University. The urban planning, food habits, administration and cult are all different from finds uncovered at Philistine or Canaanite sites, and from sites in the northern Kingdom of Israel. The site exhibits typical elements known only in the Kingdom of Judah. These characteristics had already been developed by the time of King David.

Prof. Dr. Aren Maeir, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan

### *Khirbet Qeiyafa in Its Regional Context: A View from Philistine Gath*

The very interesting finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa have brought on a flood of interpretations. In this paper, I would like to discuss the significance and regional context of the finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa from the perspective of the excavations at nearby Philistine Gath (Tell es-Safi/Gath), the major polity in Southern Israel at the time. This will enable to suggest a broader understanding of the finds at Khirbet Qeiyafa, and their significance for reconstructing the cultural and political history of the Southern Levant during the late Iron Age I and early Iron Age II.

Prof. Dr. Silvia Schroer, University of Bern

### *Iconographic Finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa*

This presentation will focus on the model shrines discovered in the 2011 season, ask for the iconographic traditions which help to explain their meaning and finally try to contextualize the finds within the broader framework of the site. What can the shrines tell us about cult at Khirbet Qeiyafa?

Prof. Dr. Benjamin Sass, Tel Aviv University

### *The Epigraphic Finds from Khirbet Qeiyafa in Context*

My presentation addresses the first Qeiyafa ostrakon only; unfortunately the other epigraphic finds from the site were not available to me on 30 April 2014, when these lines were written. The subjects to be taken up are the dating of the ostrakon's archaeological context, and the position of its script within the evolution of the alphabet in Iron I–IIA. The possible language of the ostrakon will be tackled, too.

## Participants

**Yosef Garfinkel**, \*1956 in Haifa/IL; Professor of Prehistoric and of Archaeology of the Biblical Period at the University of Jerusalem; director of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological project; studied Geography, Prehistory and Archaeology at the Hebrew University and Anthropology at Harvard University; PhD (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) 1992; focus of research: Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods in the Near East, history of dance, the biblical kingdom of Judah.

**Aren Maeir**, \*1958 in Rochester/USA; Professor at Bar Ilan University; director of the Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project; studied Archaeology and Jewish History at the Hebrew University and Archaeological Science at the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology at MIT; PhD (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) 1997; focus of research: Bronze and Iron Age cultures of the Eastern Mediterranean, especially those of the Ancient Levant.

**Stefan Münger**, \*1967 in Bern/CH; adjunct researcher at the Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Bern/co-director of 'Kinneret Regional Project'; studied theology in Bern and iconography, archaeology and archaeometry in Fribourg, Heidelberg and Kiel; PhD (University of Bern) 2011; main focus of research: the archaeology of the Late Bronze and Iron Age periods in the Southern Levant, glyptic art of the Ancient Near East, digital archaeology.

**Ernst Axel Knauf**, \*1953 in Düsseldorf/D; associated professor of Old Testament and the Biblical World at the University of Bern; studied Theology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tübingen; Dr. theol. (University of Kiel) 1982, habil. 1986; main focus of research: the formation of the Former Prophets, Arabia and the Bible, a social scientific approach to the history of ancient Israel/Palestine, the history of the Hebrew language in its Central Semitic context.

**Thomas Römer**, \*1955 in Mannheim/D; chair 'milieux bibliques' at the Collège de France and Professor of Hebrew Bible at the University of Lausanne; studied Theology and Science of Religion at Heidelberg, Tübingen and Paris; Dr. theol. (University of Geneva) 1988; main focus of research: formation of the Hebrew Bible, especially Pentateuch and Former Prophets.

**Benjamin Sass**, \*1948 in Jerusalem/IL; Professor of Archaeology at the Tel Aviv University; studied Archaeology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; PhD (Tel Aviv University) 1985; main focus of research: Archaeology of the Levant, West Semitic epigraphy.

**Silvia Schroer**, \*1958 in Münster/D; Professor of Old Testament and the Biblical World at the University of Bern; studied Theology and Classics at Münster, Munich and Fribourg; Dr. theol. (University of Fribourg) 1986, habil. 1989; main focus of research: Women in the Biblical World, the iconography of Israel/Palestine and the Ancient Near East.