LATE ANTIQUE CAESAREA
A City of Interreligious and Intercultural Encounters

featuring
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In Late Antiquity, Caesarea was the capital of the Roman province Palaestina and drew diverse populations both from within the country and from abroad. This lecture investigates focal points of encounter, such as the theater and the law school, and argues that Jews, Christians and “Pagans” must be appreciated in the context of lively, triangular relationships which shaped the identity of each group.

Maren R. Niehoff is Max Cooper Professor of Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University, currently also head of the Department and Martin Hengel Fellow at Tübingen University. She has been trained at the Hebrew University, the Free University of Berlin, Oxford and Harvard. She specializes in Ancient Judaism, including both Hellenistic and rabbinic Judaism. Her research focuses on encounters between Jews, Christians and “Pagans”, especially the question of how such encounters affected the identity, philosophy and Bible exegesis of each author or group. Her two recent monographs won the Polonsky Prize for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines: Bible Exegesis and Homeric Scholarship in Alexandria (Cambridge 2011) and Philo of Alexandria. An Intellectual Biography (New Haven 2018). The latter was also a finalist of the Jordan Schnitzer Prize of the Association of Jewish Studies 2019.