June 19

9:00-9:30 Registration
9:30-10:00 Greetings and Opening Remarks:
Eliahu Assis, Dean, Faculty of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University
Ilia Rodov, Workshop Organizer, Bar-Ilan University

10:00-11:30 Session 1. Keynote Lecture
Chairperson: Elisheva Revel-Neher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Jelena Bogdanović, Iowa State University
Nesting of the Altar Canopy and the Church in the Byzantine-rite Tradition

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-14:00 Session 2. Sanctity on Display
Chairperson: Katrin Kogman-Appel, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität
Elisheva Revel-Neher, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Unseen Presence, Ever-present Absence: From the Biblical Ark of the Covenant to the Torah Ark

Jelena Bogdanović, Iowa State University

June 20

9:30-11:30 Session 4. German Torah Shrines in the Middle Ages and Beyond
Chairperson: Jelena Bogdanović, Iowa State University
Simon Paulus, University of Stuttgart and Braunschweig University of Technology
The Torah Ark in the Medieval Synagogue: Structural and Tectonic Characteristics
Annette Weber, University of Heidelberg
The Torah Ark as the Gate of Mercy in the Middle Ages and Beyond
Ilia Rodov, Bar-Ilan University
Mystery Encircled and Enclosed: Pediments of Medieval Ashkenazi Torah Arks
Zvi Orgad, Bar-Ilan University
Paint me... the Ark

11:30-12:00 Coffee Break

14:00-15:00 Lunch
15:00-16:30 Session 3. Sanctity and Ritual
Chairperson: Steven Fine, Yeshiva University
Leor Jacobi, Bar-Ilan University
An Art Historian on the Talmud, Calling the Holy Ark “Arna” and Dangerous Things
Yechiel Goldhaber, Jerusalem
Opposition Override: The Decalogue Tablets on the Torah Ark
Jeffrey Woolf, Bar-Ilan University
Between Aron and Kapporet: The Torah Ark in Halakhah

16:30-17:00 Closing Remarks

Session 5. Modern Torah Shrines: Structure and Message
Chairperson: Annette Weber, University of Heidelberg
Sergey Kravtsov, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Domed Torah Arks in Eastern Europe: Breaking Baroque Schemes
Bracha Yaniv, Bar-Ilan University
The Warka Torah Ark: A Test Case of Jewish Iconography
Miriam Grobman, The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People, Jerusalem
Triumph of the Torah: Gate-Shaped Synagogue Arks in Belarus
Mirko Przystawik, Braunschweig University of Technology
Aedicula, Ciborium, and Baldachin: Architectural Patterns in Nineteenth-Century Torah Arks

17:00-17:30 Closing Remarks

Organizers: Ilia Rodov, Leor Jacobi, Zvi Orgad