



University  
of Victoria



## DR. PINCHAS ROTH

Bar Ilan University, Department of Talmud

### Medieval English Rabbis —Image and Self-Image

**Friday, 23 September | 11:30-12:45 p.m.**

**University Club, Honeysuckle/Salal/Snowberry Room**

Presented by the [Department of English](#)  
and the [Faculty of Humanities](#)

From at least the mid twelfth century until the Expulsion in 1290, England hosted a community of active rabbinic scholars. Although much of their literary heritage has been lost, several treatises and dozens of responsa still survive. This lecture will survey the state of research into the surviving rabbinic texts from medieval England and the life and times of those rabbis whose names are known. In traditional and critical scholarship alike, the rabbis of medieval England are perceived as minor figures, piquant but unimportant. To a large degree, this perception stems from the assumption that medieval Anglo-Jewry as a whole was nothing more than an offshoot of the larger and more vital Jewish community in France. This talk will consider the factual basis of that perception, examining the ways in which medieval English rabbis were seen by their continental Jewish contemporaries and how they saw themselves.

#### ADDITIONAL EVENT

[From Talmud to Tosofot: Towards a Medieval Mode of Rabbinic Thinking](#)  
**Thursday, 22 September | 2:00-4:00 p.m. | Clearihue Building, Room A311**

Dr. Roth will host a seminar for interested faculty and students of all levels, introducing the great book of Jewish law and learning known as the Talmud (second only to the Bible in its importance to Judaism), along with the development of medieval commentaries on it ("Tosofot"). A short advance reading will be available. Please inquire at the Department of English for more details, or contact Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin: [aboyarin@uvic.ca](mailto:aboyarin@uvic.ca).

UVic's Public Lectures Series features accomplished individuals from a vast array of academic and research endeavours. As host of this lecture series, UVic continues its commitment to making a vital impact on people, places and the planet.

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Lansdowne Lecture