



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

# Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2018 – 2019

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Tuesday, March 26, 2019

16:15 – 17:45

Gilman Building, room 449

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Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

**Jacques Dalarun**

Directeur de recherche, CNRS

**The Last Will Be the First**

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Many medievalists, reacting to a trend which referred to the Renaissance as the period of awareness of individual's uniqueness, tried to situate the awakening of consciousness at different point in the Middle Ages. In my opinion, all the readings which describe the passage from a holistic society to an individualistic society are teleological. I will revisit the question through the folders of some medieval saints. The saint is a remarkable personality, since holiness is always a kind of demarcation, but, in the same time, he/she becomes saint because he/she wants to imitate Christ, Mary, the apostles, or previous saints: his/her identity is to be identic. My hypothesis is that Christianity, the dominant religion of the western Middle Ages, has to fight against ideologies (patriarchal, clerical, monastic, aristocratic, merchant, civic...). The saint finds his/her self in the clashes he/she triggers between evangelical message and worldly ideologies. Then he/she becomes a remarkable individuality in a conformity which does not stop being a transgression.

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\*\*\* The lectures will be held in English

<https://www.contextualizing-the-self-workshop.com/>