



Dr. Danna Piroyansky

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Curriculum Vitae

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Dr Danna Piroyansky is a graduate of the University of London (2005), where she was sponsored by the Westfield Trust Research Studentship (Queen Mary, University of London) and the Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORS). Her fields of interest extend from late-medieval political culture, to contemporary social and cultural history, issues of space, identity and memory, and the convergence of political, religious and cultural discourses and practices. She has taught at the history departments at Queen Mary, University of London, and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and is now finishing writing her first book, which studies political culture in late medieval England.

Her publications include:

- \* *Martyrs in the Making: Political Martyrdom in Late Medieval England* (Palgrave MacMillan) forthcoming 2008
- \* “‘Martyrio pulchro finites’: Archbishop Scrope’s Execution and the Creation of a Cult” in *Richard Scrope: Archbishop, Rebel, Martyr*, ed. Jeremy Goldberg (Shaun Tyas) forthcoming 2007
- \* “‘Thus may a man be a martyr’: The Notion, Language and Experiences of Martyrdom in Late Medieval England” in *Martyrs and Martyrdom in England, c. 1400-1700*, eds. Thomas S. Freeman and Thomas F. Mayer (Boydell and Brewer) forthcoming 2007
- \* “Bloody Miracles of a Political Martyr: the Case of Thomas Earl of Lancaster” in *Signs, Wonders, Miracles: Representations of Divine Power in the Life of the Church*, eds. K. Cooper and J. Gregory, *Studies in Church History* 41 (2005), pp. 228-38

GIF Research Project Abstract

From Ramle to Ramla Located on historical routes connecting Jaffa and Jerusalem, Cairo and Damascus, Ramle (with an 'e', being the town's Palestinian name) was an urban centre since its foundation in 716, through Muslim and Christian rule in the Middle Ages, as well as during Ottoman period and British Mandate. In July 1948 most of Ramle's Arab population was displaced, with only few families left in the town's old quarter; some of the Jewish new

immigrants sent to reside in Ramla (with an 'a' - its new, Hebrew name) settled in the houses abandoned by their original owners.

In this research questions of construction of identity, collective memory, property regime and spatial discourse will be investigated by examining the city's overall landscape on the one hand, and, on the other, certain institutions/houses - the market, municipality and cemetery. Although much has been written on the historical buildings and monuments of Ramle/Ramla, very little academic research has been published hitherto on its history, especially in the post 1948 context. This historiographical gap begs for a study of the city's changing landscape - as both reflecting and creating various aspects in the lives of its dwellers. Ramle's old quarter still exists today, even if partially derelict, enabling a research into its shifting faces during the 1950s and 1960s. Moreover, even these days spatial-symbolic changes are still debated: an attempt was made in recent years at replacing some of the old quarter's street-names from the Israeli-Jewish ones they were given after 1948, to ones expressing, instead, the Palestinian heritage of many of its current residents. Unlike the three main Palestinian urban centres - Jerusalem, Haifa and Jaffa - Ramle/Ramla has been a smaller town; exploring it might reveal different patterns and mechanisms in the field of ethnic migration, nation state formation and property regime, than the ones found in the larger cities.