האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

מכון ון ליר בירושלים
THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE
معهد فان لير في القدس

Of Miracles, Events, and Special Effects: Global Religion in an Age of New Media

Lecture by **Prof. Hent de Vries**
Director of the Humanities Center, the Johns Hopkins University

Chair: **Prof. Gabriel Motzkin**
Director, the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

Greetings: **Prof. Reuven Amitai**
Dean, the Faculty of Humanities, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

What characterizes events, in history and politics, individual lives and loves? In what sense might the theology and tradition of miracle belief provide possible responses to this question? This lecture seeks to understand the meaning and role of "events" in public religions in an era of expansion of new technological media through a seemingly counter-intuitive move: a dialogue between traditional theologies of the miracle, modern philosophies of the event, and contemporary media theories of the special effect. The lecture's starting point is the hypothesis that in the current era, we need to learn how to read the "signs of the times" with a deeply pragmatic rather than eschatological perspective.

Hent de Vries is the Director of the Humanities Center at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, with a joint appointment in the Department of Philosophy, and holds the Russ Family Chair in the School of Arts and Sciences. Before joining the faculty at Johns Hopkins, de Vries held the Chair of Metaphysics and its History in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam. During 2012-2015 he will be Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Comparative Religion at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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Admission is free / Parking is not available at the Institute