

Scribes, Illuminators and Patrons: An Illustrated Dialog in Medieval Manuscripts

Aleksandra Buncic (Harvard University)



THURSDAY

April 4, 2019

5:15 pm

3335 Dwinelle Hall
UC Berkeley Campus

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This event is open and free
to the public

Through a careful analysis of miniatures from the medieval illuminated manuscript known as the Sarajevo Haggadah, this talk will explore the ways in which the medieval book workshop served as a locus of intense Jewish-Christian dialogue and debate. The miniatures of the Sarajevo Haggadah are the witnesses of this encounter and artistic and intellectual exchange.

By examining the extraordinary range of ways in which God's presence is depicted in the Sarajevo Haggadah in light of contemporaneous Jewish and Christian iconography, it will seek to establish the origins of the Sarajevo Haggadah in mid-fourteenth century Catalonia, shed new light on the state of the Jewish-Christian relations in this turbulent context and, finally, suggest how the upheavals of this period in northeastern Spain may, in turn, provide the key to unlocking some of the Sarajevo Haggadah's most intractable iconographic mysteries.

Aleksandra Buncic, graduated *summa cum laude* from the Department of Art History at the University of Zagreb, where she had been researching the iconography of a fourteenth-century Spanish illuminated manuscript produced for Jews known as the Sarajevo Haggadah.

Her research on this extraordinary manuscript has received several awards including fellowships from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2010-2011, 2015-2016), Duke University in North Carolina (2013), and Rutgers University in New Jersey (2014). She is spending the current academic year (2018-19) as a Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at the Harvard University.

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