Achaemenid to Greek Rule Transition in Palestine: Between Old and New

My lecture will focus on the Hellenistic period as the primary age of formal western control over the East. I will review royal Ptolemaic and Seleucid policy concerning the ’foundation’ of Palestinian urban centers against the background of their social and political history. I will thus make a distinction between founding as the establishment of a settlement where none previously existed, and founding as a formal step in which an existing settlement is accorded recognized urban status, the so-called polis. Accordingly, I will aim at the administrative role Palestinian urban centers have had under Greek rule. Modes of fortifications, street networking, private dwellings, cult structures, fortresses, burial practices, and selected epigraphic finds will be presented throughout my talk in terms of „break” and „continuity“, as an outcome of the transition from Achaemenid to Greek rule. I will end my talk by discussing the meaning of Hellenization under the Ptolemies and Seleucids as opposed to the Hellenization under the Hasmoneans.

Prof. Dr. Oren Tal (Tel Aviv University)

Images in Transition
The Southern Levant and its Imagery between Near Eastern and Greek Traditions from 5th to 3rd Century BCE

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