

# UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

University Lecturer in Phonetics:  
R.A.W. Bladon, MA MPhil



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Dr D. Katz,  
Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies  
45 St Giles  
Oxford.

16 April 1985

Dear Dr Katz,

I am very sorry that we didn't manage to speak in time before the Linguistics Lecture-list closed.

There were two problems with your proposed course 'Introduction to Yiddish Linguistics' for the Trinity Term. I have sidestepped them as best I can, and I hope you will not object to my decisions. I thought it better that I should act in some positive form, so that the lectures do at least receive some publicity.

One problem is with the title. The Linguistics Subfaculty has an old convention (whose wisdom I personally doubt) that it does not promote on its list lecture courses called "X Linguistics", "X Grammar", "X Phonetics" etc., where X is a language. The view is that these courses should be publicised on whatever list would normally put on courses of language instruction in language X; and that the Linguistics list should be used only when some cross-language element is overt.

The second problem is that the Subfaculty of Linguistics is trying hard to tighten up on avoidance of clashes in the timetable. Your proposed time clashes with a course by Dr Mühlhäusler, and, since his proposal was available to us at our meeting in the week when we decide these things, we naturally intend not to shift Dr Muhlhausler's course.

I hope this explains the background to my decision to publicise your course in the way I have authorised, namely, under the title 'Linguistics in the Yiddish Tradition' and at a time to be announced. The Subfaculty is extremely pleased to be associated with your lecture-course and I hope you understand our position.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R.A.W. Bladon'.

P.P. R.A.W. Bladon



OXFORD CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE HEBREW STUDIES  
45 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LW, England (0865) 511869

FROM THE FELLOW IN YIDDISH STUDIES

R. A. W. Bladon  
University Lecturer in Phonetics  
Phonetics Laboratory  
41 Wellington Square  
Oxford OX1 2JF

24 April 1985

Dear Mr Bladon

Many thanks indeed for your most kind and gracious letter, which I found today upon my return from a visit abroad.

I am writing, firstly, to apologize to you for my error in mentioning the possibility of listing of my course on the Linguistics lecture list to our Administrative Secretary, without considering the potential questions and problems and discussing them with you.

Secondly, may I thank you most sincerely for your kind assistance in including the course on the list, and for the time and trouble you have taken to solve the problems that have arisen.

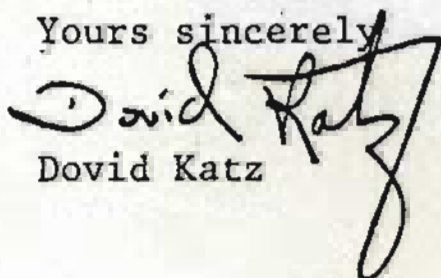
With respect to title, I am most delighted with your proposed 'Linguistics in the Yiddish Tradition'. With respect to time, there will be no problem whatsoever in rescheduling to suit the convenience of the List or of any students who may show interest.

The brief 'history' of the course is as follows. When our first postgraduate research student in Yiddish linguistics, Mr Dov-Ber Kerler, registered in October 1984, I developed it principally for his benefit, and was most delighted that four or five additional people began coming. Should any interested students present themselves now or next term, I would be most happy to start from scratch at a mutually convenient meeting time.

I look forward to the honour and pleasure of meeting with you personally.

With many thanks

Yours sincerely

  
David Katz

**OXFORD CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE HEBREW STUDIES**  
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**FROM THE FELLOW IN YIDDISH STUDIES**

Mr R A W Bladon, MA MPhil  
University Lecturer in Phonetics  
Phonetics Laboratory  
41 Wellington Square  
Oxford OX1 2JF

6 September 1985

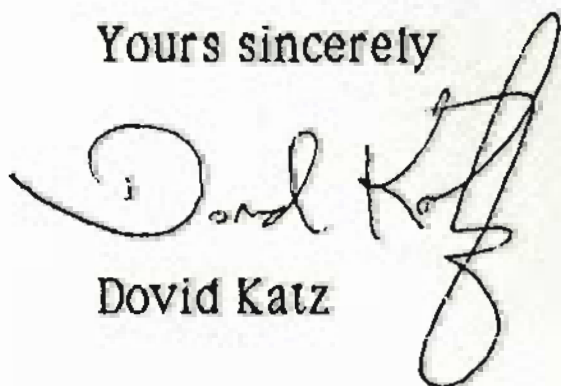
Dear Mr Bladon,

It was very good of you to include 'Linguistics in the Yiddish Tradition' in the Trinity timetable. As you may have heard, I was in the end unable to resolve the many ensuing timetable conflicts and the course was cancelled (although I did continue with our degree students at a more advanced level).

I was wondering whether it was not too late to include a course in Yiddish Linguistics in the Michaelmas timetable. As I have not yet worked out my teaching hours at the Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, I could at this point easily fit in with any timeslot not already taken. All else being equal, the later in the day the better from my own point of view. The proposed title is: "Historical Linguistics and the Case of Yiddish". The course would meet weekly in the Seminar Room (first floor), 45 St Giles.

With many thanks for all your help as always

Yours sincerely

  
David Katz