



Society for Sefardic Studies | Sociedad de Estudios Sefardíes

**The Society for Sefardic Studies is pleased to invite you to
Its annual conference on:**

Egodocuments of Sefardic Jews

Since the early 1950s, when the historian Jacques Presser invented a new word “ego document”, it has come to be accepted as a useful term for many historians, anthropologists and literary critics. The historian Rudolf Dekker defines egodocuments as “texts in which an author writes about his or her own acts, thoughts and feelings”.¹ The boundaries between egodocuments and other genres, mainly fictional, in Jewish literature, as in other literatures, are blurred. It is true that until the modern period (with a few early modern exceptions) we find almost no Jewish autobiographies. Nevertheless, there are many examples of Jewish egodocuments from the Middle Ages onwards in introductions to books, ethical wills, personal letters and responsa.

The aim of this conference is to clarify and analyze the Sefardic context of the term “egodocument” and also to expose the variety of literary expressions of egodocuments in Iberia and in the Sefardic diaspora from the middle ages to modern times.

¹ R. Dekker, *Childhood, Memory and Autobiography in Holland: From the Golden Age to Romanticism*, New York 1999, p. 12.

**The conference will take place on Tuesday, May 31, 2016
at the Rabin Building, room 3001
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus**