

It is with great pleasure that I write these words in support of the Talmud Yerushalmi Institute, currently under the able leadership of its founder, Michael Linetsky.

Although the Talmud Yerushalmi finds its origins in the land of Israel and is, in fact, older than its more popular younger sister, the Talmud Bavli, our knowledge of the history of the Yerushalmi's redaction remains in the earliest stages of research. For this reason, the Institute's primary academic goal of researching the Talmud Yerushalmi's redaction – including but not limited to its literary composition and its relationship to other rabbinic texts such as Tosefta, midrashic collections and the Bavli – is of utmost importance. The Institute's work will shed light on hitherto unresolved questions on how the teachings of the Land of Israel developed throughout history and were finally brought together and codified into the literary and legal work which became known as the Talmud Yerushalmi.

Towards these goals the Institute has already scoured the Talmud Yerushalmi and accumulated a database able to automatically produce references on phenomena related to its study – a resource which will prove to be essential to anyone researching the Talmud Yerushalmi or related subjects.

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