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Religion and Israel's Economy to be Topic of June 1 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO – Political scientist Nahshon Perez will present "The Shabbat and the Market: Reflections on the Israeli Society in 2008" at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 1, in Room E-27 in the Science Building at Cal Poly.

In his talk Perez will examine the complex interactions between religion and economy since the founding of Israel 60 years ago. He will explain how the new economic framework in Israel -- with its libertarian tendencies -- influences many facets of life, including the relations between synagogue and state.

Nahshon Perez earned his Ph.D. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and is currently a visiting lecturer in the Department of Political Science and the Israel Studies Program at UCLA. He has held fellowships at the University of Toronto, University of Montreal, and the Catholic University of Louvain La Neuve in Belgium.

His research focuses on liberalism and multiculturalism. His publications include articles on toleration and illiberal communities, days of rest in divided societies, the issue of national service in Israel, and the rights of "small" cultures.

The free public lecture is sponsored by Cal Poly's Religious Studies Program, Cal Poly Theisms: A Religious Studies Club, and the College of Liberal Arts.

For more information, contact Stephen R. Lloyd-Moffett, Cal Poly Religious Studies Program, at 756-2475 or slloydmo@calpoly.edu.

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