# SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

## RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

**Eric Meyers**

**(Bernice & Morton Lerner Professor of Religion, Director of The Center for Jewish Studies, Duke University, North Carolina)**

will deliver a paper on

‘The challenge of Hellenism

and the rise of early Judaism and Christianity’

### Friday 21 March 2014, at 9.30 am

in Arts Faculty Building Lecture Theatre 3

Following earlier degrees from Dartmouth College and Brandeis University, Eric Meyers took his Ph.D. in 1969 from Harvard in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures. Appointed to Duke University in 1969, he was promoted to Professor in 1979. From 1975-76 he was Director of the Albright School of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. He was Vice-President for Publications of the American Schools of Oriental Research (1982-1990); Associate Editor of the *Bulletin of ASOR* (1976-93). He has held Fellowships at Oxford and Princeton; guest professorships at Williams College (1993), at Universtät Frankfurt-am-Main (1995), and Freie Universität Berlin (2000). In 2007 ASOR awarded it highest honour to him, the Richard J. Scheuer Medal for distinguished service, and produced a Festschrift for him. He has authored/co-authored 15 books, edited 20 others, and many papers in the field of Hebrew Bible and Biblical Archaeology and Jewish History. He was editor-in-chief of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology of the Near East* (5 vols., 1997), and co-author of the *Cambridge Companion to the Bible* (1997; rev. 2008). He has directed digs in Israel and Italy for more than 35 years. He is completing publication work with his wife, Professor Carol Meyers, on the site of Sepphoris, near Nazareth, capital of the Galilee in the time of Jesus and the place where the Mishnah was compiled under the leadership of Rabbi Judah the Prince. On this trip to Australia, he and his wife are sponsored by the Australian Institute of Archaeology in Melbourne.

Contrary to popular opinion, the rise of Hellenism did not detract from or challenge ancient Judaism and the rise of early Christianity. Rather, it proved to be fertile ground for each to convey its message to a much larger world and in a new language, Greek. It did not take away from the authentic tradition of either, but allowed them to be expressed in a more universal language and culture.

##### ALL WELCOME

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