I hope that the winterschool will add to my academic credentials, as well to the actual knowledge base so essential for my two areas of research.

The background against which codification took place in the early modern period, alongside the effect of printing, are critical to the understanding of Rabbi Moshe Isserles’ works and his powerful legal style. Likewise are they critical to his influence on codification and on ritual throughout the Ashkenazi world from this time onwards.

The manner in which Isserles and his contemporaries read texts and especially wrote texts in a way that would be ready for print is very important to my research. The ability to follow the actual production of texts is critical in the understanding of early cultural processes in the area of Jewish law, as well as the very rapid impact of the early modern period upon it. I very much hope that the winterschool will accordingly enhance my research.

Clearly the adjacent history that ostensibly preceded Isserles, and which I hope that the winterschool will also address, is also important to my area of research.

At the same time, I hope that a more general and comprehensive understanding of the production of texts may contribute to the understanding of the way in which ordinances were written, preserved and updated in the course of the generations, beginning with the early modern period and onwards.

The ordinances and the notebooks constitute a unique textual genre. That genre is important in the research of Jewish history and that of the development of texts, books, writing and printing.