

JEWES, RACE, and RELIGION

A Free Online Lecture Series Beginning January 2021

We are in the midst of what might be a major new chapter in the history of race relations in the United States, with untold numbers of protestors demanding that the country confront abiding race-based injustice. Among the consequences of this movement is a wider recognition of how race and racism are interwoven into all aspects of society, including government, education, health, and religion.

In an effort to deepen public understanding of race, this series uses the prism of Jewish experience to examine intersections of race and religion, drawing lessons from the history of antisemitism, examining the role of Jews in the racialized culture of the United States, and exploring the role of race in Jewish identity. Leading scholars in Jewish Studies, Critical Race Studies, and Religious Studies will share insights and research that deepens the conversation about race, racism and anti-racism in contemporary society, both American and Jewish.

This program is offered in conjunction with the Penn course Religious Studies/Jewish Studies 207 taught by Steven Weitzman, director of the Katz Center, but is meant to work as a stand-alone series, free and open to the public.

Audiences are invited to attend individual talks or the entire series. Visit us at katz.sas.upenn.edu for more details.

REGISTER HERE

Is the Talmud Racist? / Jan 28

Mira Wasserman, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, & Steve Weitzman, University of Pennsylvania

Zakhor: Alex Haley's Roots, Scriptures, and the Race for America / Feb 4

Richard Newton, University of Alabama

Jews and the Religion of Whiteness / Feb 11

J. Kameron Carter, Indiana University at Bloomington

Religion and White Supremacy in the United States / Feb 18

Sophie Bjork-James, Vanderbilt University

Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s / Feb 25

Marc Dollinger, San Francisco State University

Limpieza de Sangre and the "Clash of Civilizations"; Or, What Hath the Soul to Do with Racialized Bodies? / Mar 4

Sylvester A. Johnson, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Race, Class and Privilege:

How Latino Jews Navigate Life in the United States / Mar 18

Laura Limonic, College of Old Westbury at the State University of New York

"We are the Ethiopian Hebrews, Brothers to the Fair White Jew": Race, Religion, and Jewish Identity in Harlem / Mar 25

Judith Weisenfeld, Princeton University

Funny—You Don't Look Jewish! / Apr 8

Helen Kim, Whitman College, & Noah Leavitt, Whitman College

The Diaspora Within: Mizrahi Jews from Minneapolis to Jerusalem / Apr 15

Claris Harbon, Al Akhawayn University

Purity Politics and the Problem of Jewish Solidarity / Apr 22

Shana Sippy, Centre College

All talks will take place on Zoom, Thursdays, 1:30–2:30 pm ET



HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER
FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES

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Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

The organizers are grateful for the support of the University of Pennsylvania Campaign for Community, and Penn's Paideia Program.