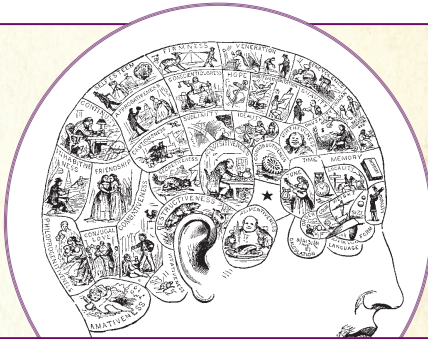


JEW S BEYOND REASON



KATZ CENTER
PUBLIC PROGRAMS
2015-2016

EXPLORING EMOTION, THE UNCONSCIOUS, AND OTHER DIMENSIONS OF JEWS' INNER LIVES



THE MIND, as the Jewish philosopher Philo of Alexandria recognized two thousand years ago, does not operate by reason alone, but is also guided by powerful appetites and passions.

In every age, from biblical prophecy to Yiddish literature to Freud, Jews have acknowledged this essentially human irrationality in a myriad of ways. This year's research fellows at Penn's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies are focused on those aspects of internal life that lie beyond reason: emotions and feelings, the unconscious, sensation, imagination, mental illness, magic, and the intellect itself.

The Katz Center presents this first installment of a year-long series of public programs celebrating all things beyond reason. Through partnerships with local host institutions, the center's fellows and colleagues connect with non-academic audiences in a spirit of shared exploration.

“My Fingers Stand Like Ten Numbered Sins”: The Challenges of Women’s Yiddish Poetry

ZOHAR WEIMAN-KELMAN

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

Tuesday, November 10 | 7:30 PM

Main Line Reform Temple
410 Montgomery Avenue,
Wynnewood, PA 19096



By turns emotional, spiritual, and erotic, the poems of Yiddish speaking women put Bubbie in a whole new light. Writing poetry allowed Jewish women of the early twentieth century to break free from oppressive realities, challenging the boundaries of their Jewish worlds, and engaging many different aspects of Jewish tradition. In turn, as Zohar Weiman-Kelman shows, these women's poems connect us across history to them in a uniquely personal and powerful way, challenging our assumptions about the Jewish past.

Zohar Weiman-Kelman earned her doctorate at UC Berkeley, has held prestigious fellowships at the University of Toronto and the University of Haifa, and will take up a new position at Ben Gurion University in January 2016. Her research explores intersections of Jewish history and queer theory, with a completed book manuscript on Jewish women's poetry in the twentieth century and a new project on Yiddish sexuality.



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THE HERBERT D. KATZ CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA IS A RESEARCH INSTITUTE DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION IN ALL ITS FORMS. EACH YEAR THE CENTER INVITES LEADING SCHOLARS FROM EUROPE, ISRAEL, AND THE UNITED STATES TO GATHER IN PHILADELPHIA AND ADVANCE THE STATE OF RESEARCH ON A COMMON THEME.