



Herbert D. Katz Center
for Advanced Judaic Studies
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Penn's Katz Center Announces Its New Cohort of Fellows in Judaic Studies Monday, April 3, 2017

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is pleased to announce its 2017–2018 cohort of fellows. These 18 scholars, hailing from prestigious institutions throughout the United States, Europe, and Israel, will convene in Philadelphia for a year of research and discussion on the theme of **Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World**.

The researchers will explore the theories, institutions, and paradigms that have shaped Jewish views of nature, and the cultural and religious consequences of that engagement. With topics ranging from rabbinic medicine to the deployment of science in Israeli nation-building, the distinguished cohort includes Christine Hayes (Yale University), Gad Freudenthal (French National Center for Scientific Research), J. H. Yossi Chajes (University of Haifa), Christian Wiese (Goethe University), and Anat Mooreville (University of California, Davis). The full list of the fellows and their research topics, as well as a list of affiliated scholars, are available at <http://katz.sas.upenn.edu/news/2017-fellows>.

“This year’s fellowship theme offers the Katz Center an opportunity to explore the terrain between the humanities and the sciences,” says the Katz Center’s Ella Darivoff Director, Steven Weitzman. “Some fellows are scholars of magic and mysticism or experts in ancient religious sources; some study technology or medicine; and others focus on Jewish culture in modern secular contexts. We are excited to bring all these perspectives together, and look forward to many new insights into how culture and religion shape people’s understanding of the natural world.”

About the Katz Center and the Fellowship Program:

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies is a global leader in the study of Jewish civilization, dedicated to supporting Jewish studies scholarship at the highest level as an integral part of the humanities. The only institution devoted exclusively to postdoctoral research in this field, it houses a superb rare book and research Judaica library and draws on the strengths of the wider scholarly community of the University of Pennsylvania. It also publishes a flagship journal in the field of Jewish studies, the *Jewish Quarterly Review*.

The aim of the Katz Center’s fellowship program is to facilitate individual and collaborative research on a common theme each year, propelling the field forward and opening new vistas in the humanities and social sciences. Fellows share their work with academic colleagues in weekly seminars, annual colloquia, and volumes of selected essays published through the Jewish Culture and Contexts series at University of Pennsylvania Press.

The Katz Center also presents a number of lectures and discussions for wider audiences including students and the members of the public, through partnerships with local institutions.

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