Jews and Judaism in Urban Space

SPRING 2011 PROGRAMS

Over the coming semester, the Feinstein Center will place the relationship between American Jews and urbanism in a broad historical context. Through a series of seminars and lectures, we will engage scholars and the public in the breadth of the topic of Jewish urbanism. All of the programs will address the pivotal role of urban environments and contexts as the meeting ground, common ground, and battleground of nascent concepts of identity, ethnicity, and civic responsibility in the evolution of Jewish communities over time. Everyone is invited to attend these events and join the conversation that started this past November at our conference on “Jews & the American City.”

For more information, please visit our website at www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr or join us on Facebook.

FEBRUARY 2, 2011, 3:30 P.M.
The Iniquity of the City: The Agrarian Ideal and Early Israeliite Religion
Women's Studies Lounge, 8th fl., Anderson Hall

Dr. Mark Leuchter, Assistant Professor of Religion, Director of the Jewish Studies Program, Temple University.
Response: Dr. David Stern, Moritz and Josephine Berg Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature, University of Pennsylvania.

Light refreshments will be served.

FEBRUARY 23, 2011, 3:30 P.M.
Anti-Urbanism and the Dead Sea Scrolls
Women's Studies Lounge, 8th fl., Anderson Hall

Dr. Lawrence Schiffman, Ethel and Irvin A. Edelman Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University. Dr. Schiffman is one of the world's foremost authorities on the Dead Sea Scrolls and Jewish sectarianism in Jerusalem and the nearby communities in the Greco-Roman period.

Light refreshments will be served.

MARCH 2, 2011, 3:30 P.M.
The Built Spaces of New York Jews
CHAT Lounge, 10th fl., Gladfelter Hall

Dr. Anne Polland, Vice-President of Education, Tenement Museum. Author of Landmark of the Spirit: The Eldridge Street Synagogue. Dr. Polland is co-writing a history of Jewish New York City with Daniel Soyer.

Dr. Daniel Soyer, Professor, Chair of the History Department, Fordham University. Author of Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York. Dr. Soyer is co-writing a history of Jewish New York City with Anne Polland.

Light refreshments will be served.

MARCH 30, 2011, TIME TBD
Roundtable Workshop: Palestine/Israel and the Modern City
CHAT Lounge, 10th fl., Gladfelter Hall

Co-sponsored with the Mirowski Israel Studies Visiting Scholars Program

This workshop brings together scholars of Palestine/Israel to explore the formation of urban space and its multiple social, cultural, economic, and political ramifications from an interdisciplinary perspective. Questions to be considered include:

• How do cities function as spaces of encounter and how do they function as spaces of isolation?
• What is the relationship between national identity and urban development?
• How do cities define their geographic boundaries?
• What roles do cities play in defining power relationships and centers of privilege?
• How does city space shape, transform or circumscribe gender relations?

APRIL 12, 2011, 11:30 A.M.
Zionism and the Roads Not Taken: Rethinking Mordecai Kaplan’s View of Jewish Nationalism and American Politics
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, 1299 Church Road, Wyncote, PA 19095, 215-576-0800

Co-sponsored with the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College

Dr. Noam Pianko, Samuel and Althea Stroum Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and International Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Author of Zionism and the Roads Not Taken.

Sponsoring Organizations: Feinstein Center for American Jewish History; Jewish Studies; Center for the Humanities at Temple University; and the College of Liberal Arts Research Council.

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