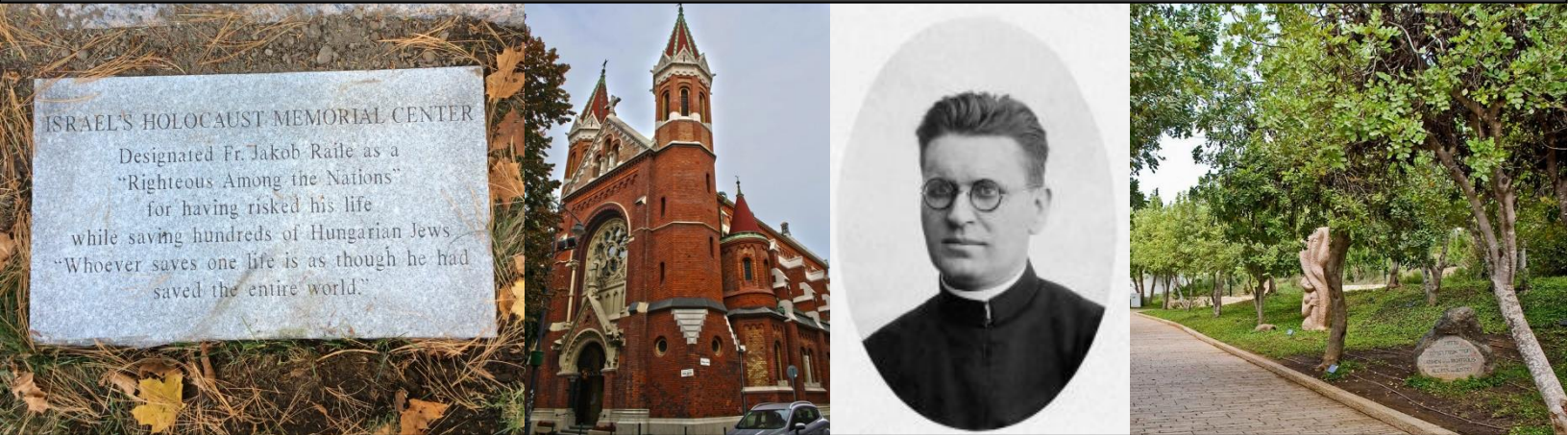


# BOSTON COLLEGE

Center for Christian-Jewish Learning

2015-2017 Report

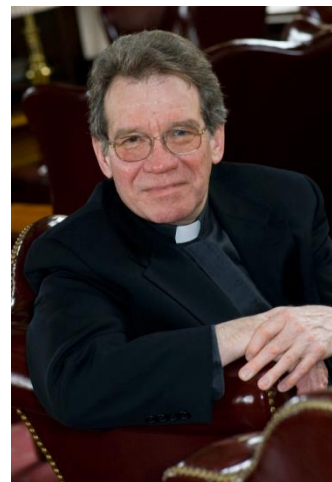


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## Director's Welcome

The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning has continued its commitment to the enhancement of interreligious relations during these last two years. Our report reflects but some of the energy at Boston College that is devoted to caring for the intellectual and spiritual lives of our faculty, students, and friends. In my years as the Center's director I have come to appreciate how important is its effort to bring faculty and students into new groupings that are able to examine difficult issues from fresh perspectives. A very successful example of this was the seminar that brought together Christian, Jewish, and Muslim graduate and professional students to discuss how their different faiths deal with the challenges faced by poor people and the adequacy of those traditions in their thought and practice of charity and justice. The students themselves selected this theme and the Center is very grateful to them for their vigorous engagement with this seminar and project. As a result of its success, my intention is to establish other interdisciplinary seminars for the next two years: one will be devoted to how the three major Abrahamic faiths approach altruism as a moral ideal and the other will study how these same traditions confront the challenge of contemporary violence.



James Bernauer, S.J.

We at the Center are also very grateful to our Visiting Corcoran Professors for their work with our students and for all the knowledgeable figures their annual conferences bring to the campus. The scholars who participate in these meetings come from many different states and countries and they leave Boston College with a strong impression of the deep commitment and extensive resources that the university is dedicating to the cause of interfaith understanding. Corcoran Visiting Professor Adele Reinhartz drew on her vast knowledge of the Gospel of John to have us face some of the continuing problems that our Christian scriptures sometimes create, especially in liturgical settings where Judaism may be publicly disparaged. This theme of anti-Judaism will certainly be under scrutiny during the coming year, this time from the perspective of the Lutheran tradition. The Corcoran Visiting Chair for 2017-2018 is Professor Christine Helmer who is a specialist on Luther's life and writings and we are pleased that she will be here during what has come to be called the "Luther Year," during which there is widespread observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his sparking of the Protestant Reformation. My own interest in this anniversary led me to several activities in Germany this summer, especially to an excellent exhibit in Berlin that explored the use that Nazism made of some of Luther's writings in justifying anti-Semitism. As a teacher of regular courses on the Holocaust, I will now spend even more time on how monuments of modern Christian insight may come to be transformed into weapons of anti-Jewish hostility.

At a variety of speaking engagements in the course of this year I have found much interest in the question of the historical relationships between Jews and Jesuits and especially about their particular dealings during the period of the Holocaust. Those dealings have been a focus for my recent scholarship and this summer I was able to revisit the Holocaust Center in Jerusalem (Yad Vashem) as part of my investigation. *The Journal of Jesuit Studies* will publish an issue in 2018 for which I am the Guest Editor and this issue will be devoted to the examination of the fifteen Jesuits who have been honored by Yad Vashem as "Righteous of the Nations" for having risked or lost their lives in saving Jewish people during World War II. I was fortunate to know personally two of these remarkable individuals while I lived as a student in the Jesuit Community in Paris where they also resided, and so I look forward to the publication of this journal's recognition of early Jesuit pioneers in new partnerships between Jews and Christians. My principal reason for the trip to Jerusalem, however, was to participate in a conference that is sponsored every few years by the central Jesuit office in Rome: "Jesuits in Dialogue with Jews and Judaism." We began these meetings in 1998 in Krakow, Poland where we went to Auschwitz, and continued them in Boston, New York, Zug, Switzerland and once before in Jerusalem. Jesuits from Europe, Asia and the United States shared important conversations on the state of our efforts in Jewish-Christian relations and reconciliation. At each of our meetings we have met with Jewish thinkers and leaders and this summer we were fortunate to have the opportunity for discussions with Professor Daniel Boyarin of Berkeley among

others. The central topic of our conversations was the State of Israel within the perspectives of Orthodox Judaism and the secular Zionist project. We will bring back to our local communities the very sophisticated approaches to Israel and Palestine that were discussed in Jerusalem.

I hope that you will find our report informative and encouraging because it displays how the bonds between Christians and Jews continue to strengthen. The Center's two Associate Directors deserve most of the credit for how satisfying and successful its programs have been and my gratitude to them is profound: Professor Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Fitzpatrick Markey. I am also very grateful to the many colleagues and students, friends and neighbors who come to our events and contribute their own experiences to our own dialogues.

James Bernauer, S.J.  
Kraft Family Professor  
Director, Center for Christian-Jewish Learning

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## Report of Ruth Langer, Associate Director



Ruth Langer

I continue to represent the Center in a number of different venues—on campus, nationally, and internationally. I had the privilege of spending the academic year 2016-17 on sabbatical, mostly in Jerusalem, where I began a long-term project of reassessing the early history of Jewish liturgy. While this project mostly has implications for internal Jewish understanding, it will also impact our understanding of the ritual world into which Christianity emerged. It will also need to take into account the cross influences between the liturgical lives of our two communities as they developed in proximity to each other.

I continue to be involved in several larger collaborative projects in the field as well. For the fiftieth anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews issued a new, lengthy document that reviewed the state of the dialogue and called for further thinking in several areas. This, plus a few other texts, resulted in consultations in which I participated in Philadelphia and Cambridge, England as well as a collection of articles to which I contributed, published in *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*. Another article will appear shortly in *Louvain Studies* as part of a forum in response to a book on *Nostra Aetate*, and yet another in a conference volume. I am also part of a multi-year international consultation under the aegis of the International Conference of Christians and Jews seeking to create resources to enable more effective dialogue between Jews and Christians about the Israeli and Palestinian context, an issue that has been lurking but is rarely raised among dialogue partners. I am on the editorial team of the resultant book that is nearing completion.

After six years as chair of the Council of Centers in Jewish-Christian Relations, the North American association of which our Center is a founding member, I have now passed on the baton. While our primary task was and is to plan and implement a substantive annual conference, secondarily, we also have responded to issues as they have arisen, and created ongoing venues for informing each other and the world about Christian-Jewish relations. Our 2016 conference, celebrating American religious diversity, was held jointly with the International Conference of Christians and Jews, which we hosted at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Our 2017 conference, focusing on the question of how best to



integrate Islam and race relations into our dialogic context, was held in Manhattan, hosted by the Union Theological Seminary and the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Council is also the owner of the peer-reviewed e-journal, *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*, which our Center publishes. In this capacity, I continue as one of the journal's co-editors.

My lecture venues in the past two years have reflected my varied locations. For the anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, I was asked to lecture in cities including in St. Paul, Minnesota, Chicago, and Philadelphia. I also participated in August 2016 in a public dialogue with a Dutch Reformed minister in Cape Town, South Africa, and lectured on a variety of topics as faculty at the *Limmud* Conference of the Jewish community in Johannesburg. I returned to the US in November 2016 and lectured on dialogue issues both in Orlando and Dayton. I delivered lectures on liturgical issues, often in Jewish-Christian contexts, in these venues as well as in Jerusalem, Muenster and Paderborn (Germany). One special venue was in the context of a week-long trip to Israel with a group of emerging Evangelical leaders in February 2016. Reflecting on the development of synagogues while standing in their remains, including in Magdala, the town of Mary Magdalene, and Capernaum, was a powerful experience. I continue to be involved in a regular Jewish-Evangelical dialogue in the US as well.

As a professor teaching Judaism in the Theology Department at a Jesuit and Catholic university, every course remains either explicitly or implicitly an exercise in Christian-Jewish relations. This ranges from my annual, two-semester, comparative undergraduate core course, to courses on Jewish theologians or aspects of Jewish theology, to courses directly on the contemporary dialogue. All these different aspects of my life and work keep me challenged—as I seek to challenge others to join us in our search for a world of interfaith understanding.

Ruth Langer  
Professor of Jewish Studies  
Center Associate Director

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## Corcoran Visiting Chairs in Christian-Jewish Relations

### **Adele Reinhartz, 2015-2017**

Prof. Adele Reinhartz was the 2015-2016 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. Prof. Reinhartz is Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, in Canada. Her main areas of research are New Testament, early Jewish-Christian relations, and the Bible and Film. She is the author of numerous articles and books, including *Befriending the Beloved Disciple: A Jewish Reading of the Gospel of John* (Continuum, 2001), *Scripture on the Silver Screen* (Westminster John Knox, 2003), *Jesus of Hollywood* (Oxford, 2007), *Caiaphas the High Priest* (University of South Carolina Press, 2011; Fortress 2012) and *Bible and Cinema: An Introduction* (Routledge, 2013). Prof. Reinhartz is the General Editor of *The Journal of Biblical Literature*. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2005 and to the American Academy of Jewish Research in 2014.



Adele Reinhartz

During Prof. Reinhartz's tenure as the Corcoran Chair, she completed her book on the Gospel of John and the "parting of the ways" between Judaism and Christianity (Fortress Press); organized two major conferences, "Fringe Benefits: Marginality and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World" and "The Gospel of John and Jewish-Christian Relations"; taught a course on the gospel of John; and gave public lectures.

### **Christine Helmer, 2017-2018**

Christine Helmer is the 2017-2018 Corcoran Visiting Chair in Christian-Jewish Relations. Prof. Helmer is Professor of German and Religious Studies at Northwestern University. In June 2017, Professor Helmer was awarded an honorary doctorate in theology from the faculty of theology at the University of Helsinki in Finland. Her area of research and teaching specialization is Christian theology from historical, systematic, and constructive perspectives. Her work is focused on German intellectual history with primary interest in the theology of Martin Luther, the philosophy and theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher, and the flourishing of scholarship on Luther and on religion in early twentieth-century Germany, known as the Lutherrenaissance. Prof. Helmer is the author of many articles and books, including her monograph *The Trinity and Martin Luther* (Zabern 1999) and her new book *Theology and the End of Doctrine* (Westminster John Knox Press 2014).



Christine Helmer

During Prof. Helmer's tenure as the Corcoran Chair, she will focus her scholarship on the combined influence of the Luther Renaissance and the Jewish Renaissance on the modern study of religion and then the tragic end of this story with the appropriation of the Luther of the Luther Renaissance by National Socialism and its deployment in the Nazi racial regime. She will work on a projected book on the subject of theology, namely the impact of the work of Jewish and Christian scholars, separately and in conversation with each other, during the period of the Jewish Revival and Luther Renaissance, in early twentieth-century Germany. She will also offer a graduate seminar on Luther and the history of reception of his ideas. Prof. Helmer will organize an international conference on Luther's anti-Judaism in the context of late medieval Europe.

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## **Center Courses**

### **Religious Quest: Comparative Perspectives**

This course explores Judaism and Christianity through their apparent points of contact as well as their differences. The spring semester of this course delves into the creation narratives of Genesis, studying the two communities' interpretations of the biblical text and how it and its interpretations shape people's lives. It considers such topics as birth and death, marriage and reproductive ethics, ecology, economic justice, and the Sabbath. (Ruth Langer)

### **Passover in Midrash & Talmud**

Fundamental to any understanding of Judaism is an ability to enter into its formative literature, Midrash and Talmud, the primary texts of Jewish learning. Focusing on texts (in translation) relevant to the celebration of Passover, this course introduces students to the rabbinic approach to Scripture and their means of making it relevant in their (and our) world. This understanding is heightened by comparisons to early Christian modes of disclosure on the same themes. (Ruth Langer)

### **The Holocaust: A Moral History**

The tragic event that ruptured modern western morality is examined from a variety of perspectives. This course examines the testimony of both its victims and its perpetrators. Special attention is given to consideration of the intellectual and moral factors which motivated resistance or excused indifference. The course concludes with interpretations of its meaning for contemporary morality and of its theological significance for Christians and Jews. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

## **Fascisms**

This course in cultural & political philosophy studies twentieth-century European Fascisms as ideologies, practices of political religion and forms of erotic community. The special focus is Fascism's appeal as a force for moral, spiritual, and erotic renewal in Western culture. (James Bernauer, S.J.)

## **The Gospel of John and Parting of the Ways**

How, when, and why Christianity moved out of the “big tent” of first-century Judaism to become a major religious, political, and social movement of its own is one of the most important—and most elusive—issues in the study of ancient Judaism and Christianity. A text that is central to this issue is the Gospel of John. This course examines this gospel in its social and historical context, as well as in the history of interpretation, in order to understand its contribution to our understanding of the development of early Christianity out of its Jewish matrix. (Adele Reinhartz)

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## **Center Programs**

### **A Catholic Society in Transition: Religion in Recent Quebec Films February 16 and March 14, 2016**

Prof. Adele Reinhartz hosted a two-part film series, featuring films (*C.R.A.Z.Y.*, 2005 and *Félix Et Meira*, 2014) from Quebec that relate, in different ways, to the rapid transformation of Quebec society from one of the most traditionally Catholic societies in the world to one of the most secular. One aspect of such transformation pertains to relationships to “others” including Jews and to other societies, including Israeli/Palestine.



### **A Rebellious Son? Jesus and His Mother at the Wedding in Cana**

**Prof. Adele Reinhartz**

**March 2, 2016**

In the Gospel of John, chapter 2, Jesus, his mother, his brothers, and the disciples are at a wedding in Cana in the Galilee. Inexplicably, the wine runs out while the celebrations are in full swing. When Jesus' mother points out the problem to her son, hoping he will help, his answer is surprising: “Woman, what does this have to do with you and me?” This lecture by Prof. Adele Reinhartz looked closely at this exchange in the context of the norms and expectations of parent-child relationships in Jewish and Greco-Roman societies, and considered its role in the Gospel's overall presentation of Jesus. This event was co-sponsored by the School of Theology and Ministry and the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning.

### **A Dedication Honoring Fr. Jakob Raile, S.J.**

**April 10, 2016**



Fr. Jakob Raile, S.J.

The Center hosted a dedication for Fr. Jakob Raile, S.J., who is recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial Center as “Righteous Among the Nations” for having risked his life while saving hundreds of Hungarian Jews. Fr. James Bernauer, S.J., Kraft Family Professor and Center Director, delivered welcoming and introductory remarks. Prof. Deborah Dwork, Rose Professor of Holocaust History and Director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, spoke on the historical context and heroism of Fr. Raile's actions.

**Etty: A Play**  
**April 27, 2016**

Etty is a play drawn from the diaries of Etty Hillesum, a poetic, young Dutch woman, searching for the meaning of her life—and all life—during the terror Nazi occupation. This performance at Boston College was co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning and the Theology Department.



**Towards the Ends of the Earth: Land in the Jewish-Christian Dialogue**  
**The Fifth Annual John Paul II Lecture in Jewish-Christian Relations**  
**Rev. David Neuhaus, S.J.**  
**October 30, 2016**

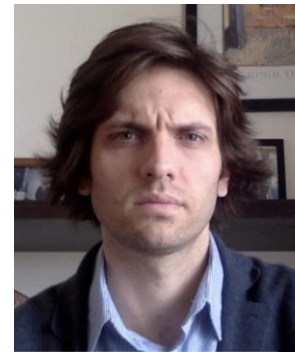


Rev. David Neuhaus, S.J.

Rev. David Neuhaus, S.J. delivered the Center’s fifth annual John Paul II lecture in Jewish-Christian relations. His talk addressed: the question of the Jewish claim to the Land of Israel, the Church’s position on the Jewish claim to the land, our constant search for justice and peace in a broken world, and Catholic-Jewish dialogue in a new age of respect and cooperation.

***The Confessions of the Flesh* in the Foucault Archives**  
**Agustin Colombo**  
**February 23, 2017**

Center Visiting Scholar Agustin Colombo delivered a talk on the newly available personal archives of Michel Foucault. The presentation focused on the unpublished 4th volume of the *History of Sexuality: “The Confessions of the Flesh”* housed at the Fonds Foucault. It tackled the Augustinian problematization of desire (*libido*). By considering this particular point, the talk aimed to use a key topic of Foucault’s unpublished book in order to better approach its relevance for the whole project of the *History of Sexuality* and the new perspectives and readings that it opens. One of those openings is a possible foreshadowing of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism.



Agustin Colombo

**The Psalms: Jewish-Catholic Dialogue through Shared Praise**  
**Prof. Andrew Davis**  
**March 2, 2017**



Andrew Davis

Andrew Davis, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Boston College, delivered a lecture exploring the Psalter as a valuable resource for Jewish-Christian dialogue. Christian readers of scripture have long been enlightened and inspired by Jewish exegesis, and today we have more opportunities than ever to read Scripture through the eyes of other faith traditions. Reading “shoulder to shoulder” with Jews is a way to learn the Psalms’ significance in Jewish tradition and also to reflect in new ways about their importance for Christian faith. This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning and the School of Theology and Ministry.



## **The Music of the Psalms: From King David’s Time to Our Own**

**Robert Cohen**

**March 22, 2017**

Music historian Robert Cohen delivered a musically rich presentation on the Psalms, which occupy a paramount place in the world’s liturgy. His lecture addressed: What is it about their spiritual scope and emotional breadth that gives them such power? What can we learn from their language and poetry, and from the *music* of the Psalms: from the time of the Second Temple through the Renaissance, and from Colonial to contemporary America? How do the diverse styles of their musical settings—cantorial and choral music; Hasidic and American folk; European and American classical; bluegrass and reggae; a cappella, gospel, and “world music”—speak to us and move us?



Robert Cohen

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## **Jewish-Christian Lecture Series**

### **Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount: For the Law or Against the Law?**

**Prof. Jonathan Klawans**

**September 20, 2016**



Jonathan Klawans

Prof. Jonathan Klawans, Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University, spoke in Prof. Angela Harkins’ “Gospel of Matthew” class, situating Jesus’ teachings about the law in Matthew’s Gospel within a broader late Second Temple context. In addition to his lecture, Prof. Klawans led students in a discussion of purity and the Temple in first-century Judaism.

### **Mark, Women, and the Representation of Judaism in Mark 5:21-43**

**Prof. Mary Rose D’Angelo**

**February 21, 2017**

Prof. Mary Rose D’Angelo, emerita professor at the University Notre Dame whose focuses include New Testament studies, Judaism in Roman antiquity, and women and gender in ancient religion, spoke in Prof. Angela Harkins’ “Gospel of Mark” course.



Mary Rose D’Angelo

## **Kings and Messiahs: Reconsidering Kingship in the Hebrew Bible, Judaism, and Christianity**

**Prof. Garrett Galvin**

**April 6, 2017**



Garrett Galvin, O.F.M.

Prof. Garrett Galvin, O.F.M., Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at the Franciscan School of Theology in California, spoke in Prof. Andrew Davis' "Book of Kings" course, expanding the common view of kingship in ancient Israel by adding the more positive perspectives of Chronicles and Psalms to the negative assessments of the Book of Kings. Since Israelite kingship is foundational for Jewish and Christian understandings of messiah, his expanded view encourages a rethinking of some of the assumptions that lie behind the concept in each tradition.

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## **Annual Corcoran Chair Conferences**

### **Fringe Benefits: Marginality and Identity in the Ancient Mediterranean World**

**2016 Corcoran Chair Conference**

**April 3-4, 2016**

This conference examined the ideas of "hybrid identities" and its component terms—hybridity and identity—by considering a selection of individuals and groups whose activities, allegiances, and/or ideas straddle the boundaries constructed by ancient Jewish, Christian, and pagan leaders.



**Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa and Boston College)**

Hybrid Identities in the Ancient Mediterranean World

**Yonder Gillihan (Boston College)**

King Areios of Sparta Recalls the Discovery of Written Evidence for Spartan-Judean Kinship  
(1 Makkabees 12:19-23)

**Tessa Rajak (Oxford University)**

How to Praise a Jewish Mother of Martyrs in a Greek City: The Panegyric in 4 Maccabees 15-16

**Karin Schlapbach (University of Ottawa)**

Christian Dance and Ancient Mysteries (*Acts of John*)

**Andrew Jacobs (Scripps College)**

"Alone Among His *Gens*": Jews, Christians, and the Hermeneutics of Conversion in a Late Antique Inscription

**Paula Fredriksen (Hebrew University)**

Christ and Cosmos: God's Kingdom as Conquest (1 Corinthians 15)

**Maia Kotrosits (Denison University)**

Subjects in Translation: Crises of Sovereignty and Language between Life and Death (the uses of Aramaic in the Gospel of Mark)

**Joshua Burns (Marquette University)**

Passing and Failing: The Jewish Dilemma in Ancient Rome (Persius, *Satires* 5.176-184)

**Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)**

Between Titus, the Temple and Redemption: The Apostasy of Yosef Meshita  
(Genesis Rabba 65, 26)

**David Frankfurter (Boston University)**

Between Christian and Hellene/Heathen/Local (Shenoute & Pseudo-Athanasius plus terracotta images from 5<sup>th</sup> century Egypt)

**The Gospel of John and Jewish-Christian Relations**

**2017 Corcoran Chair Conference**

**April 2-3, 2017**



The Gospel of John is one of the most beloved books of the Christian canon, appreciated and admired for its sublime theology and poetic language. But the Gospel is also the source of potent anti-Jewish ideas, including the association of the Jews with the devil, that persist to this very day. By focusing on such diverse areas as art, film, music and liturgy, on thinkers such as Luther and Bultmann, on Protestant, Catholic as well as Orthodox Christianity, and, of course, on the Fourth Gospel itself, this conference considered the role that the Gospel has played and continues to play in Jewish-Christian relations.

**Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa and Boston College)**

The Gospel of John in Early Christian-Jewish Relations

**PHEME PERKINS (Boston College)**

Erasure of the Jews in the Farewell Discourse and Johannine Epistles -- Gnostic connections?

**R. Alan Culpepper (McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University)**

Preaching the Hostile References to "the Jews" in Protestant Lectionary Texts

**Eileen Schuller (McMaster University)**

Reading the Gospel of John in the Catholic Lectionary

**Michael Azar (University of Scranton)**

Reading John's "Jews" through Eastern Orthodox Thought and Practice

**Susanna Heschel (Dartmouth College)**

John the Nazi: The Fate of John's Gospel during the Third Reich

**Marcia Kupfer (Independent Scholar)**

*Ecclesia* and *Synagoga* at the Creation

**Richard Walsh (Methodist University)**

"My Kingdom is not of this World": Johannine Jesus Films

**Michael Marissen (Swarthmore College)**

J. S. Bach's Church Cantatas and "the Jews" in the Gospel of John

## Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group

**Trouble in the Tribe**

**Prof. Dov Waxman**

**September 27, 2016**

Prof. Dov Waxman of Northeastern University gave a talk to the Jewish-Christian Dialogue Group on his volume *Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel* (Princeton, 2016). The talk and following conversation focused on chapter 1 "The Changing American Jewish Relationship with Israel" and chapter 3 "The Argument about Israel." The book educates readers on the diversity of voices in the Jewish community, a need in contemporary Christian-Jewish dialogue.



Dov Waxman

## **Jesus of Hollywood**

**Adele Reinhartz**

**November 9, 2016**

Prof. Adele Reinhartz delivered a film screening and talk to the Jewish-Christian Dialogue group titled “Jesus of Hollywood.” Since the advent of the cinema, Jesus has frequently appeared in our movie houses and on our television screens. Indeed, it may well be that more people worldwide know about Jesus and his life story from the movies than from any other medium. The talk examined a number of clips from the Jesus movies, to chart some of the different ways in which Jesus of Nazareth is remade into Jesus of Hollywood.

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## **Poverty and the Poor, Between Justice and Charity: An Interreligious and Inter-Disciplinary Exploration 2016-2017 Center Seminar for Graduate Students**

The Center began its sponsorship of a graduate student seminar focused on the intersection of interfaith dialogue and social or economic justice. Led by Martín Bernales, Reham Elnory, and Hayyim Rothman, all Philosophy Ph.D. students at Boston College, the seminar fosters interreligious and interdisciplinary dialogue among graduate students studying the issues of poverty, charity, and justice as they have been developed in each of the three Abrahamic faiths. It strives to highlight arenas of cooperation, how these have been or may be theorized, and how this might shed light on contemporary efforts both to confront poverty and to build a culture of inter-religious collaboration. The seminar was interreligious in that the group’s leaders and participants were practitioners of each of the three Abrahamic faiths while also welcoming participation on the part of individuals adhering to other faiths or, indeed, to no faith at all. The seminar was also purposefully interdisciplinary, spanning the fields of history, philosophy, theology, and law in readings and discussions. A pluralistic approach was carefully cultivated throughout the seminar. Seven Ph.D. and four Masters students, from the disciplines of philosophy, history, social work, theology, and education, participated in the seminar.



Rabbi Toba Spitzer,  
seminar speaker

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## **2016-2017 Junior Scholars Research Grant Winners**

The Center’s Junior Scholars Research Grants support Boston College undergraduate and graduate students pursuing research that is of value to the field of Christian-Jewish relations. Recipients engage in scholarship, under the guidance of a faculty member, to produce articles, book sections or chapters, conference presentations, digital materials, translations, or other scholarly resources.

### **Hayyim Rothman, Boston College Philosophy Ph.D. Candidate**

Hayyim Rothman developed a research paper titled “The Jewish Inheritors of Tolstoy: Judah-Leyb Don-Yahiya, Abraham-Judah Heyn, and Nathan Hofshi.” His research examines the shared idea of “loving one’s neighbor as oneself,” a principle that has its theological origins in Jewish scripture. His study contributes to Jewish-Christian studies by “elaborating on an instance of meaningful and productive theological collaboration whereby the real depth of the biblical teaching is collectively articulated.” He also sees his scholarship as “a contribution to Jewish political theology, emphasizing an anti-authoritarian and universalist message which is sorely needed in our increasingly reactionary times.”



**Stephen Rugg, Boston College S.T.L. Student**

Stephen Rugg undertook a research project as part of his thesis, titled “The Apostle Paul’s Prophetic Self-Preservation.” His research reframes Paul’s self-understanding as a prophet. The reframing captures Paul’s “community concern, heraldic activity, dramatic imitation of Christ, and apostolicity, while presenting Paul’s continuity with Jewish categories of religious experience and ministry in a more holistic manner.” His research aims call for “a more engaged Christian self-understanding of continuity with early Judaism(s)” and offer “an opportunity for Jewish-Christian discussions of Paul to find renewed common ground” as well as a “more accurate and fruitful understanding of our differences.”

**Justin Ilboudo, S.J., Boston College S.T.L. Student**

Justin Ilboudo undertook a study of the law of retaliation as it is mentioned in the Hebrew Bible and as apprehended in the Jewish law: “What is the meaning of the law of retaliation in the Hebrew Bible and how has this law been implemented?” He hopes his research will “give a review of interpretations that do not apprehend the law of retaliation literally and therefore help to escape from a literal understanding of the passage of the Gospel according to Matthew” which will help “update available resources on the issue.” His research aims to help Christians, “specifically those who are interested in the study of the Bible and the Christian ministers who do not have chances, during their formation, to know and to study Jewish law.”

**Samantha Fazekas, Boston College Philosophy M.A. Student**

Samantha Fazekas is developing a research paper on symbolic reconciliation as a means of coming to terms with history. Her scholarly purpose is twofold: first, to compare the German model of coming to terms with history to the American process of coming to terms with history; and second, to analyze both processes in conjunction with the reconciliation efforts of the Catholic Church in order to foster the Christian-Jewish dialogue. The aim of her project is to assess the efficacy of symbolic reconciliation by examining previous and recent reconciliation efforts.

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*Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*



The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning publishes *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations*, the electronic journal of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations (CCJR). Prof. Ruth Langer and Dr. Camille Fitzpatrick Markey, Center Associate Directors, serve on the editorial board, as Co-Editor and Managing Editor respectively. This academic journal, the only one fully dedicated to Christian-Jewish relations, publishes peer-reviewed articles, major addresses from the Council of Center's conferences, and book reviews. It may be accessed freely on the internet at its website [www.bc.edu/scjr](http://www.bc.edu/scjr).

The Journal publishes peer-reviewed scholarship on the history, theology, and contemporary realities of Jewish-Christian relations and reviews new materials in the field. In 2015, volume 10 (no. 2) was a *Nostra Aetate*-themed special issue with articles written by the Christian Scholars Group. The volume included six articles and one book review. In 2016, volume 11 included five peer-reviewed articles, one proceeding of the CCJR annual meeting, and 22 reviews. Volume 12 (2017) has currently published ten peer-reviewed articles, including a special section of peer-reviewed articles on the 2015 document from the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews, entitled “The Gifts and the Calling of God are Irrevocable.” Volume 12 also includes a special review section on Amy-Jill Levine’s *Short*

*Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi* (HarperOne, 2014) with four reviews and a response from the author, as well as 15 additional book reviews.

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## **Contact the Center**

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