The language of reconciliation and forgiveness fails in the context of atrocities, such as the Holocaust, genocide, and the history of slavery. Apologies cannot magically bring about racial reconciliation or forgiveness. This conference explores the significance and effects of the language of guilt and penance in the context of systemic evils, such as racism and antisemitism. Traditional Jewish and Christian teachings on penance, teshuvah, and atonement propose models for perpetrator-centered practices of change that may be newly relevant in contemporary conflicts over historical legacies of contempt.

**Presenters**

Victoria Barnett, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, retired  
James Bernauer, S.J., Boston College  
Mary C. Boys, SNJM, Union Theological Seminary  
Jonathan Karp, Binghamton University  
Katharina von Kellenbach, St. Mary’s College of Maryland and Boston College  
Ruth Langer, Boston College  
Barbara Meyer, Tel Aviv University  
Beverly Eileen Mitchell, Wesley Theological Seminary  
Emma O’Donnell Polyakov, Merrimack College  
David Fox Sandmel, ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

**Schedule**

- **Sunday, March 29**, 2:00 - 6:00 pm  
- **Monday, March 30**, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  

**Location**  
Murray Room, Yawkey Center  
Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus

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This conference is open to the public.  
Please email cjlearning@bc.edu to register.