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, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, emeritus
James Bernauer, S.J., Boston College
Mary C. Boys, Union Theological Seminary
Philip Cunningham, Saint Joseph’s University
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
David Fox Sandmel, Anti-Defamation League

Sunday, March 29, 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Monday, March 30, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Murray Room, Yawkey Center
Boston College Chestnut Hill Campus

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