

Revisiting the Jewish Question

April 20, 2026 at UC Irvine

All events in Humanities Instructional Building (HIB) 135

9:30am - Arrival, coffee

10:00 - Seminar on a work in progress by Prof. J. Kameron Carter (UC Irvine)

Materials circulated in advance

10:45am - Break

11:00am - Panel One: Literary

Moderator: Prof. Julia Reinhard Lupton

- Na'omit Sturm Nagel (UC Irvine) - "‘Just Look Jewish’: Esther Kahn and the Escape from Jewish Particularity"
- Ezra Lebovitz (Pennsylvania) - "Under Review: Criticism of Anglophone Literature in In zikh"
- Michael Berlin (Washington and Lee) - "Last Jews: Paul Celan, Muriel Rukeyser, and the limits of Exemplarity"
- Ben Seigle (University of Illinois Chicago) - "*Middlemarch's* Jewish Question and Empire in the Long Twentieth Century."

12:30pm - Lunch (provided to participants)

1:30pm - Panel Two: Political

Moderator: Prof. Liron Mor

- Jonah Henkle (UC Irvine) - "What Would Lenin Say? Revisiting the Second International on the National Question"
- Colin Drumm (Mimbres) - "Hegel's Myth, Marx's Jew"
- Daniela Tolchinsky (Hebrew University) - "On 1967 and the Zionism of American Judaism"
- Rachel Florman (Harvard Divinity School) - "To 'Be' A Jew: Butler on Relationality and Diaspora Identity"

2:50pm - Break

3:00pm - Panel Three: Philosophical-Theological

Moderator: Prof. Margaux Fitoussi

- Avital Schkolnick (Duke) - "Precarious Empathy in Black and Jewish Thought at Times of Gaza's Destruction"
- Lucas Scott Wright (Texas A&M) - "Against History: Infrapolitics contra Metapolitics with Rosenzweig"

- Olivia Gilbert (Yale) - "On the Use and Abuse of Names: Identity and Historical Difference in 19th-century Onomastics between Altgermanistik and Wissenschaft des Judentums"
- Jeff Aqua (UCLA) - "After the Cut: Circumcision, Violence, and Prosthetic Origin"

4:30pm - Break

5:00pm - Keynote Presentation

Prof. Sarah Hammerschlag (University of Chicago):

"Judaism and Minority Politics: Homeopathy or Apotropaeon?"

6:30 - Dinner

Contact co-organizers with questions: Iris Morrell (morrelli@uci.edu) and Jacob Reimer (reimerjl@uci.edu)