



Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture

Contact: Hollis Barnhart
212-501-3074
hollis.barnhart@bgc.bard.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bard Graduate Center Jewish Material Culture Public Lecture Series **“Beyond the Temple: Jewish Households from the Maccabees to the Great Revolt against Rome”**

New York, NY, September 18, 2017—Bard Graduate Center is pleased to announce the first public lecture series of its project dedicated to the study of Jewish Material Culture. In October, **Andrea M. Berlin**, James R. Wiseman Chair in Classical Archaeology, Boston University; Leon Levy Foundation Professor of Jewish Material Culture, Bard Graduate Center, will deliver a series of three lectures entitled “Beyond the Temple: Jewish Households from the Maccabees to the Great Revolt against Rome.” **Alex P. Jassen**, **Karen B. Stern**, and **Azzan Yadin-Israel** will each respond to one lecture and also offer a corresponding lunchtime talk the following day. RSVP is required. To register visit bgc.bard.edu/events. The lectures are free and will take place in the Lecture Hall at 38 West 86th Street.

October 10, 6 pm

Lecture 1, **Andrea M. Berlin**: Mediterranean Cosmopolitans and the Maccabees
Response by Alex P. Jassen

October 11, 12:15 pm

Lunchtime Talk: On the Emergence of Jewish Cultural Practice in the Second Century BCE,
Alex P. Jassen, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

October 17, 6 pm

Lecture 2, **Andrea M. Berlin**: Class Divides: Jewish Daily Life in the time of Herod the Great
Response by Karen B. Stern

October 18, 12:15 pm

Lunchtime Talk: Class Divides: Reading, Writing, and Jewish Daily Life through Graffiti
Karen B. Stern, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Brooklyn College, CUNY

October 24, 6pm

Lecture 3, **Andrea M. Berlin**: The Great Revolt, and Its Jewish Afterlife
Response by Azzan Yadin-Israel

October 25, 12:15 pm

Lunchtime Talk: Material Culture and Rabbinic Isolation: A Cultural Ecology Perspective
Azzan Yadin-Israel, Professor of Jewish Studies, Rutgers University

more...

Jewish Material Culture at Bard Graduate Center, which launched in fall 2017 with major funding from the Leon Levy Foundation and additional funding from the David Berg Foundation, incorporates a one-semester visiting professorship in Jewish material culture with the field rotating between ancient, medieval, and modern. The Leon Levy Foundation Professor teaches a graduate seminar, and delivers a series of public lectures that will be the focus of subsequent workshop meetings and eventually be published in BGC's Cultural Histories of the Material World book series.

"The study of the Jewish past is probably the first 'area studies program,' and it began in the first decades of the nineteenth century. But it has been almost entirely focused on textual sources. With this project we hope to make an intervention in a large, thriving literature," said **Dean Peter N. Miller**. "As a think tank for material culture, Bard Graduate Center has the intellectual and institutional resources to successfully launch this line of inquiry."

In spring 2018, **Laura Leibman**, professor of English and Humanities at Reed College, will join the BGC faculty as the second Leon Levy Foundation Professor of Jewish Material Culture. Leibman, a scholar of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American Jewish material culture and the Jewish diaspora, will focus her seminar on the radical transformation of Jewish American identity during the early Republic as the Jewish people struggled to gain full civil rights. Her public lecture series, tentatively titled "The Art of the Jewish Family: Material Culture in Early New York," will complement BGC's longtime research and teaching commitment to the material culture of New York City.

About Bard Graduate Center

Bard Graduate Center is a teaching and research institute, located in New York City, devoted to the cultural history of the material world. Our distinguished faculty draw on methodologies and approaches from art history, archaeology, anthropology, social and cultural history, philosophy, and the history of science and technology. Our world-renowned library supports research and study throughout the institution. We offer MA and PhD degrees that prepare students to become scholars, curators, and museum professionals; promote innovative research through visiting fellowships and institutional partnerships; organize academic lectures, seminars, and symposia; and publish scholarly journals and monographs. Learn more at www.bgc.bard.edu.

###