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Jindal Centre for Israel Studies (JCIS) Graduate Seminar

Wednesday, 11 February 2015, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Classroom No. XXV
O.P. Jindal Global University
Sonipat Narela Road, Sonipat- 131001 , Haryana



Jindal School of International Affairs
India's First Global Policy School

Women in the Jewish Tradition: Feminist Responses and Innovations



SPEAKER

Professor Yudit K. Greenberg

*George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Professor of Religious Studies
Director*

Jewish Studies Program Rollins College Florida and

Fulbright-Nehru Scholar at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, 2015

Professor Greenberg's fields of teaching and research include modern and contemporary Jewish thought, women and religion, and cross-cultural studies of the body. She writes on issues related to language, love, and the body in religious and philosophical writings. Greenberg is the author of *Better than Wine: Love, Poetry and Prayer in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig* (Scholars Press), and has written numerous articles in modern and contemporary Jewish thought in leading journals such as *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*. She has contributed essays to several books in modern and postmodern Jewish philosophy, and is presently completing her second book entitled *Divine Love and Eros in Jewish Thought*. Her *Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions* was published in November, 2007.

Greenberg has lectured nationally and internationally, has served as co-chair of the studies of Judaism section of the American Academy of Religion and is on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. A native of Israel, she has been a very active voice and presence in the religious and spiritual life of the Central Florida community. She has been a visiting scholar at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard and, in spring 2001, was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Jewish Studies at Oxford University.

Abstract

The widespread modernization and change in Jewish communal life, in which women play an integral part, is a phenomenon that is being influenced by patterns in Western society and religion. Recent trends attest to the profound attainments by women, but also the backlashes and an ever-growing schism within the Jewish community, especially between the liberal and the ultra-Orthodox camps. Despite the current culture wars in Israel and the U.S., the gains made by women, not only in liberal but also in modern Orthodox Jewish life and thought are significant. In this lecture, I map recent innovations in Jewish life and thought that have enabled women's religious equality as well as their intellectual and spiritual creativity. In particular, I review advances in the areas of ritual and education and the intellectual contributions of feminist thinkers to shaping the discourse on women in Judaism, and include "voices" of women who are integral to the ongoing process of Tikkun (Hebrew, mending) of women's status in Judaism.

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