

Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar

Co-sponsored by the Department of Religion

Open to faculty and graduate students

A Daf (Yomi) of Her Own:

Gendered Space, Digital Religion, and Transnational Post-Covid Orthodox Judaism



ADAM FERZIGER

Bar-Ilan University, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

New Year's Day 2020 saw a crowd of over 90,000 Jews assemble in freezing temperatures at New Jersey's MetLife Stadium. Instead of the usual football game, the attraction was the *Siyum ha-Shas* of *Daf Yomi*, a ceremony celebrating the completion of the study of the entire Talmud over the course of 7.5 years by learning one page (a *daf*) per day (*yomi*). Scores of parallel events took place on five other continents. Since the inception of the *daf yomi* cycle in the 1920s, the overwhelming majority of partakers have been men. While this remains the case, the 2020 festivities marked a watershed when over 3,000 women congregated in Jerusalem's *Binyanei ha-Umah* Auditorium for the inaugural "Women's *Siyum Shas*." Exploring the processes that precipitated this conspicuous moment, Professor Adam Ferziger will contextualize the expansion of women's *daf yomi* within contemporary Orthodox Judaism's struggles over the religious standing of women and the ways digital technology is reshaping religious practices.

Tuesday, March 22 at 10:30

Miller Hall room 115 (14 College Ave.)

Please RSVP to info@jewishstudies.rutgers.edu

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences