

The David Patterson Lectures

Week 8

Dr Karen E. H. Skinazi
(University of Bristol &
Salo and Jeannette Baron Visiting
Fellow in Jewish History, OCHJS)

Contemporary Mizrahi and Sephardi Literature in the Diaspora

Dr Karen E. H. Skinazi is Associate Professor of Literature and Culture and Director of Liberal Arts at University of Bristol. She is the author of *Women of Valor: Orthodox Jewish Troll Fighters, Crime Writers, and Rock Stars in Contemporary Literature and Culture* (Rutgers UP, 2018) and writes about women's literature, Jewish-Muslim relations, and Mizrahi culture in the diaspora.

Abstract: The recent publications of Elizabeth Graver's novel *Kantika*, Corie Adjmi's novel *The Marriage Box*, and Carol Isaacs's graphic memoir *The Wolf of Baghdad* marked a watershed moment in Jewish culture; although several memoirs have been given critical attention, these creative imaginings of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews' experiences of immigration to and life in the diaspora widen the tent of Jewish literature. Along with other cultural productions that have emerged to surprising popularity – e.g., the Israeli novel and television series *The Beauty Queen of Jerusalem*, the Turkish series *The Club* – these works are imbued with the language (Ladino, Judeo-Arabic) and customs of Sephardim. Moreover, they are unapologetically feminocentric, giving texture and rhythm to the lives of Sephardic women across the twentieth century. I will discuss the ways this new wave of writing rethinks the category of Jewish literature and participates in a greater, global awareness about the history of Sephardic and Mizrahi women.

Thursday, 5 December 2024
6 – 7 pm (UK time)

This lecture will be a hybrid session which will be accessible both online (see below) and in person in the Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre.

No need to register if attending in person.

In order to participate in this lecture online, please register at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqd-uorTMpH9fCo8zcIY6RWKyXF6Q11Dub>

ALL LECTURES ARE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Refreshments to follow



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