Swig Program in JSSJ Fall 2021 Events

We are excited to announce the fall 2021 events for the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice. Though we remain hopeful that soon we will be able to gather for events in-person on a regular basis, due to the fluid nature of the pandemic the majority of our events will continue to be online at this time. In this newsletter, you will find information about these online events, including links to register. As always, every event is free and open to the public. If you have questions, please contact Swig JSSJ Program Assistant Director Oren Kroll-Zeldin.

Night Watch with artist Shimon Attie: LBGTQI+
Tuesday, Sept. 21 | 6:30–8 p.m. | Location TBD (on-campus)

The Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice is co-hosting the West Coast debut of artist Shimon Attie’s **Night Watch**, a floating media installation featuring 12 video portraits of refugees granted political asylum in the United States. The silently displayed images largely feature members of international LGBTQI+ communities, as well as unaccompanied minors, who fled tremendous violence and discrimination in their homelands of Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Peru, and Russia. During this presentation, Attie will discuss the exhibit as well as his creative process. In addition, an off-campus field trip to see the *Night Watch* project will be held the previous Saturday, Sept. 18 (visit [Eventbrite](#) or the [Catharine Clark Gallery website](#) for more information about the Sept. 18 show; free admission if you pre-register with [Victoria Farlow](#)). These two programs are part of our “Open Doors” Sukkot celebration. Co-sponsored by the USF Museum Studies Program.

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**Feeling Jewish: Nostalgia and American Jewish**
Religion
Tuesday, Oct. 5 | 6:30–8 p.m. | ONLINE

Over the last half century, American Jews have increasingly told nostalgic stories about Eastern European Jewish immigration to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. Based on her book, *Beyond the Synagogue: Jewish Nostalgia as Religious Practice*, Religious Studies Professor Rachel B. Gross will speak about American Jewish longing for the past as expressed through artisanal delis, picture books, historic synagogues, and Jewish genealogy. Asserting that these nostalgic activities are forms of religious practices, Gross illuminates how many American Jews are finding and making meaning within American Judaism today.

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Racial Justice in Twenty-First-Century America: Jews, People of Color, and Multiculturalism
Marcella White Campbell will deliver the seventh annual Swig JSSJ Program Human Rights Lecture, followed by a conversation between her and USF Rabbi-in-Residence Camille Angel. As the new executive director of Be’chol Lashon—a not-for-profit educational organization strengthening Jewish identity by raising awareness about the ethnic, racial, and cultural diversity of Jewish communities and experiences—White Campbell will speak about the imperative for racial justice in twenty-first-century America in the Jewish communities and beyond.

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The Visual is Political: Citizen Videography and Documentary Cinema in Israel/Palestine
How is oppression represented onscreen in Israel/Palestine? What can we learn from both cinema and everyday videos filmed on cell phones and camcorders about how power structures the visual field in the Middle East, how the visual in turn impacts the political, and how resistance is embedded in people’s self-representation of their lives? This talk brings together Professors Shirly Bahar (Columbia University) and Liat Berdugo (USF), two scholars and artists who study the moving image in Israel and Palestine. Bahar’s 2021 book, *Documentary Cinema in Israel-Palestine: Performance, the Body, the Home*, analyzes the new wave of documentaries that center on Palestinians’ and Mizrahi Jews’ (Jews of Middle Eastern origins) historical and lived experiences of pain and oppression across Israel/Palestine and beyond. Berdugo’s 2021 book, *The Weaponized Camera in the Middle East: Videography, Aesthetics, and Politics in Israel and Palestine*, draws on unprecedented access to the citizen-recorded video archives of B’Tselem, an Israeli NGO that, among other projects, distributes cameras to Palestinians living in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza to contribute to the discourse of human rights work through the documentary form of image-making.

Register Now »