

Sarah Imhoff

*Introduced by
Professor David Koffman*



Tuesday, October 14th, 2014

3:00–4:30pm, Room 764

7th Floor – Kaneff Tower

York University

*RSVP to cjs@yorku.ca by
October 7th, 2014*

Genes, Race and the Anxiety of Jewish Identity

What does it mean when we talk about “Jewish DNA”? The idea that there is “Jewish DNA” is scientifically and religiously unsupportable, and yet this gene-based mode of defining who is a Jew has become widespread. “Genes, Race, and the Anxiety of Jewish Identity” analyzes the ways our conversations about Jewish identity can recall aspects of racial discourse, even while we refuse the term “race.”



Sarah Imhoff, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies and the Borns Jewish Studies Program at the Indiana University writes on gender and American Judaism, the role of the body and medical discourse in Jewish identity, and the history of the field of Religious Studies, especially in its relation to US law. She is currently completing a book manuscript entitled *Masculinity and the Making of American Judaism*.