



CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY
JEWISH STUDIES

cordially invites you to a lecture by

Mary Gluck

Brown University

The Jewish Ambassador Joke: Mor Wahrmann and the Performance of Jewish

The talk explores the cultural taboos associated with the articulation of Jewish identity in the liberal public sphere of fin-de-siecle Hungary. It re-examines the career of the Jewish politician, Mor Wahrmann, by reading it through the lenses of the so-called “Jewish ambassador” joke, which Wahrmann invented and used to define his implicit cultural agendas and political strategies. The central argument of the lecture is that, though Jewish identity was consistently excluded from the official public realm, it was freely performed and celebrated in the popular cultural sphere of commercial entertainment and humor.

The lecture is part of a larger book project entitled, “The Invisible Jewish Budapest,” which attempts to recuperate the lost world of Jewish urban experience that flourished in Budapest between 1867 and 1914. Its hypothesis is that Jews became secularized by reconstituting themselves as actors and spectators within the cultural public sphere of the emerging metropolis

**Tuesday, March 20 at 6 p.m.
in Gellner Room
Budapest, 1051 Nádor utca 9.**

Mary Gluck is Professor of History and Comparative Literature at Brown University, where she teaches courses in modern European cultural and intellectual history. Her areas of specialty are Central European Jewish history, modernism, popular culture, aesthetic theory and the history of bohemianism. She is the author of *The Generation of Georg Lukacs, 1900-1918* and *Popular Bohemia, Modernism and Urban Culture in Nineteenth-Century Paris*. She is currently completing a book on “*The Invisible Jewish Budapest: The Making of a Central European Metropolis.*”



A reception will follow