

THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

cordially invites you to a lecture by

David Ruderman

"Mingled Identities: Jews, Christians, and the Changing Notions of the Other in Early Modern Europe"

In *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History*, Ruderman explores "a new complexity, an utter confusion of confessional loyalties and religious identities" that typifies Christian-Jewish relations in Europe between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Drawing attention to "boundary crossings between Judaism and Christianity" and new possibilities for "Jewish-Christian syncretistic thinking," he challenges traditional historiographical approaches by introducing the idea of "mingled identities." This concept encompasses Christian Hebraists who sought to reinvigorate their faith by delving into classic Jewish texts and Jewish messianists who drew heavily on Christian soteriological teachings, but also a wide range of complex and often unexpected mingling of ideas, people and religious canons. This lecture will explore these topics, focusing in particular on notions of other.

Tuesday, February 5 at 6 p.m.
Gellner Room
Budapest, 1051 Nádor utca 9.

David B. Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Ella Darivoff Director of the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently a visiting professor in Jewish Studies at CEU. Professor Ruderman was educated at the City College of New York, the Teacher's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Columbia University. He received his rabbinical degree from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, and his Ph.D. in Jewish History from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

He is the author of *The World of a Renaissance Jew: The Life and Thought of Abraham b. Mordecai Farissol* (Hebrew Union College Press, 1981), *Kabbalah, Magic, and Science: The Cultural Universe of a Sixteenth-Century Jewish Physician* (Harvard University Press, 1988), *A Valley of Vision: The Heavenly Journey of Abraham Ben Hananiah Yagel* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1990), *Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe* (Yale University Press, 1995), *Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key: Anglo-Jewry's Construction of Modern Jewish Thought* (Princeton University Press, 2000), *Connecting the Covenants: Judaism and the Search for Christian Identity in Eighteenth-Century England* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007), and most recently, *Early Modern Jewry: A New Cultural History* (Princeton University Press, 2010), which received the National Jewish Book Award in history in 2011. He has also edited volumes on Italian and Early Modern Jewish history, Jewish historiography and other topics. He has produced two courses on Jewish history for the Teaching Company on both medieval and modern Jewish history.



Prior to coming to Penn, he held the Frederick P. Rose Chair of Jewish History at Yale University and the Louis L. Kaplan Chair of Jewish Historical Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. He has taught in the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the Hebrew University and at the American Academy in Berlin. He has served on the boards of the Association of Jewish Studies, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Journal of Reform Judaism, the Renaissance Society of America, and the World Union of Jewish Studies. He was director of the Victor Rothschild Memorial Symposium in Jewish studies and president of the American Academy for Jewish Research. In June, 2001, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture honored him with its lifetime achievement award for his work in Jewish history.

A reception will follow