



TEL AVIV אוניברסיטת  
UNIVERSITY תל אביב

The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

# Contextualizing the Self: Creating and Recreating the First Person

An Interdisciplinary Workshop 2016 – 2017

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Tuesday, April 25, 2017

12:15 – 15:45

Gilman Building, room 449

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Chairman: Prof. Aviad Kleinberg

Lecture by:

**Paola Tartakoff**

Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Rutgers University

*“Conversion and Competing Identities in Medieval Europe:  
The Case of a Contested Child”*

Respondent: Prof. Tamar Herzig

Department of History, Tel Aviv University

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**Paola Tartakoff** is associate professor of History and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. As a social and cultural historian of the Jews in medieval Spain and northern Europe, she is fascinated by the history of conversion to and from Judaism, both in its own right and also as a lens through which to examine broader cultural dynamics. In particular, she seeks to understand how constructions of individual identity and the nature of communal boundaries can illuminate how Jews have understood themselves in relation to others, as well as how non-Jews have viewed Jews. Her most recent publications include *Between Christian and Jew: Conversion and Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon, 1250–1391* (2012) and a journal article “Testing Boundaries: Jewish Conversion and Cultural Fluidity in Medieval Europe, 1200–1391” (2015). She is currently working on a book project titled *Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder in Medieval Europe*, which establishes a more conceptually and geographically expansive framework for the study of medieval Jewish conversion.

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\*\*\* The lecture will be held in English