Lunch Seminar
12 College Avenue, Bildner Center, Room 107

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
10:30 AM

Legacy of Blood:
Jews, Pogroms, and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets

Elissa Bemporad
Queens College and The Graduate Center – CUNY

Elissa Bemporad will discuss her new book, *Legacy of Blood: Jews, Pogroms, and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets*, which explores the afterlife of the two most extreme manifestations of tsarist antisemitism—pogroms and blood libels. The book analyzes the role of the genocidal violence unleashed during the pogroms of the civil war in shaping the relationship among Jews, central and local authorities, and their neighbors. Bemporad traces the persistence and permutation of the blood libel in the atheistic Soviet Union throughout the interwar period and into the postwar period and reassesses the interplay between official and popular antisemitism in the USSR from 1917 to the early 1960s. Bemporad sheds light on the ever-changing and at times ambivalent relationship between the state and the Jewish minority group in modern times.

Elissa Bemporad is the Jerry and William Ungar Chair in East European Jewish History and the Holocaust, and associate professor of history at Queens College and The Graduate Center - CUNY. She is the author of *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk* (2013). Bemporad is the co-editor of two volumes: *Women and Genocide: Survivors, Victims, Perpetrators*, with Joyce W. Warren (2018); and *Pogroms: A Documentary History of Anti-Jewish Violence* (with Gene Avrutin, forthcoming). She has recently been a recipient of an NEH Fellowship and a Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

RSVP necessary by February 19
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