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**“Pipeline: How Oil Created the Modern Middle East and How Water Can Transform It”
Lecture to Kick-off Exciting Slate of Fall Programs at the Rutgers Bildner Center**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Professor Rachel Havrelock (University of Illinois at Chicago), will examine the role of oil in the formation of the Middle East and discuss how current regional approaches to water sharing may form the basis for a new political order. The lecture is the first of numerous public programs this fall sponsored by the Bildner Center, including the Rutgers Jewish Film Festival (Oct. 24 – Nov. 3), and talks on topics such as Jews and food and spirituality and health. (For the full program schedule, visit the website: **BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu**)

The lecture “Pipeline: How Oil Created the Modern Middle East and How Water Can Transform It” will be held on Tuesday, October 1, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rutgers Student Center, 126 College Avenue in New Brunswick. The talk is the Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual Program, sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University, and it is free and open to the public. The talk is cosponsored by the Rutgers Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Advance registration is requested by contacting csjlrsvp@rci.rutgers.edu or 848-932-2033. Free parking is available behind the student center.

An associate professor of English and Jewish studies, Rachel Havrelock is the author of *River Jordan: The Mythology of a Dividing Line* (University of Chicago Press, 2011). She is working on a book project that focuses on the lecture topic. She blogs for *The Huffington Post* and is the writer and director of the hip-hop play *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah* about the daily lives of young people in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.