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**“RELIGION, RACE, AND THE EARLY ZIONIST-ARAB ENCOUNTER”
PUBLIC LECTURE AT RUTGERS ON NOVEMBER 18**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – Professor Jonathan Gribetz will speak about the compelling findings in his landmark first book *Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter* (Princeton University Press, 2014) on November 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Douglass Campus Center, 100 George St. in New Brunswick. His prodigious research reshapes our understanding of the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Gribetz asserts that Zionists and Arabs in pre-World War I Palestine developed their mutual perceptions primarily in religious or racial terms, and not in terms of territory or nationalism as conventional wisdom might assume. According to Gribetz, the current singular focus on boundaries misses key elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The lecture “Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter” is free and open to the public. Free parking is available behind the Campus Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive.”) Advance registration is requested by contacting 848-932-2033 or csjlrvp@rci.rutgers.edu. Sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University, the talk is the Ruth and Alvin Rockoff Annual lecture. For more information, visit BildnerCenter.rutgers.edu.

Gribetz, an assistant professor of Near Eastern studies and Judaic studies at Princeton University, teaches about the history of Zionism, Palestine, Israel, Jerusalem, and the Arab-Jewish encounter. His current research focuses on post-1967 Palestinian nationalist interpretations of Judaism and Zionism. Before joining the Princeton faculty, Gribetz was an assistant professor of Jewish Studies and History at Rutgers University, a Starr Fellow in Judaica at Harvard University, and a Wolfe Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto.

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.