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**Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder: A Medieval Mystery, Unraveled  
Online Public Lecture, March 3**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – In England in 1234, Jews were charged with abducting, circumcising, and converting a five-year-old Christian boy to Judaism. As a result, Jews were executed, and Jewish homes were looted and torched. Professor Paola Tartakoff, Chair of the Rutgers Department of Jewish Studies, will shed new light on the events of 1234 as she examines the links between conversion, circumcision, and accusations of ritual murder during that period.

Tartakoff will draw from her new book, *Conversion, Circumcision, and Ritual Murder in Medieval Europe* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020), with a response by Professor David Shyovitz, Northwestern University, during the program.

This online event will be held March 3 at 7:00 p.m. on the Zoom platform. Free and open to the public, it is presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life at Rutgers University. Advance registration is required at [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu).

Paola Tartakoff, a professor of history and Jewish studies at Rutgers University, is also the author of *Between Christian and Jew: Conversion and Inquisition in the Crown of Aragon, 1250–1391* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012).

David Shyovitz is associate professor of history and Jewish studies at Northwestern University and the director of NU's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. He is the author of *A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017) and the forthcoming "*O Beastly Jew!*" *Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages*.

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.