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### **Rutgers Mini-Courses on Jewish Life Open to the Public**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – New trends in Orthodox Judaism and the history of Jewish farming are the subjects of two virtual mini-courses at Rutgers in February presented by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life. Free and open to the public, they showcase the expertise of Rutgers’ visiting scholars and faculty, bringing these resources to the broader community.

The two-part series “**Innovative Orthodoxies**” will unpack new trends in Orthodox Judaism, including changes in women’s leadership roles and the relationship between Israeli and American Orthodox Jews and practice. Presented by **Michal Raucher**, assistant professor in Rutgers’ Department of Jewish Studies, and **Adam S. Ferziger**, Allen and Joan Bildner Visiting Scholar and Rabbi S.R. Hirsch Chair, Bar-Ilan University, the sessions will be held Thursdays, **February 10 and 17**, from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

“**A Short History of Jewish Farming on Four Continents in the Modern Era**” is a two-part mini-course that explores the Jewish agricultural settlement movement that spanned the Americas, Eastern Europe, and the land of Israel from the 1880s to the 1950s. This important, yet largely forgotten, history, as well as more recent developments in the U.S. and Israel, will be presented by **Jonathan Dekel-Chen**, Allen and Joan Bildner Visiting Scholar and Rabbi Edward Sandrow Chair in Soviet & East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The mini-course is an exciting follow-up to the Bildner Center’s recently launched digital exhibit “Jewish Agriculturalism in the Garden State,” which was also developed by Dr. Dekel-Chen. The mini-course will be held Wednesdays, **Feb. 16 and 23**, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information and to register for these mini-courses, visit the Rutgers Bildner Center website at **[BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu)**. Advance registration required.

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.

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