



The Bernardin Center for
Theology and Ministry

WINTER SHAPIRO LECTURE

“DANGEROUS RELIGIOUS IDEAS: *WRESTLING WITH THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN SOCIETY*”

SPEAKER: RABBI RACHEL MIKVA, PH.D.

Basic notions in the biblical tradition such as chosenness, salvation, reward and punishment - even the notion of Scripture itself - have all been wielded in ways that have caused both harm and good. The most progressive concepts of liberation and prevention of a permanent underclass are also presented in the Bible in ways that can prove dangerously destabilizing. Drawing upon her research in the history of Jewish and Christian exegesis Dr. Mikva will explore how the tools of interpretation are consistently brought to bear in shaping and reshaping the meanings of these religious ideas and their impact on society.



Rachel S. Mikva, Ph.D. currently serves as Assistant Professor and Rabbi Schaalman Chair of Jewish Studies at Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS). Dr. Mikva received her Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary in June 2008, having successfully defended her dissertation, entitled “*Midrash vaYosha* and the Development of Narrative in Medieval Jewish Exegesis.” Dr. Mikva's book, *Broken Tablets: Restoring the Ten Commandments and Ourselves*, was selected in 2000 as one of the “Significant Jewish Books” of the year. Raised in Chicago, Dr. Mikva received her Bachelor of Arts with Distinction at Stanford University. She was awarded her Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters and was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati (1990). Before returning to academia, Dr. Mikva served as a congregational rabbi for thirteen years in Chicago and New York.

Tuesday
February 23, 2010

4:00 p.m. - Lecture

5:00 p.m. - Reception

Catholic Theological Union
5401 S. Cornell Ave., Chicago
Building 5416—Second Floor

Complimentary parking available in the CTU garage.

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