

Ari Y. Kelman

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Wednesday
Feb. 10, 2016

6 P.M. Reception
6:30 P.M. Lecture

The Magnes Collection of
Jewish Art and Life

2121 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA

Festival Jewishness: Learning about Jews at Cultural Events

The Krakow Jewish Festival ranks among the first and largest Jewish cultural festivals in the world. Over the years, the festival has drawn praise and criticism and no small measure of journalistic and scholarly attention, the majority of which revolves around the strangeness of celebrating Jewish culture in a city whose Jewish population was decimated during the Holocaust. In this talk, professor Kelman will explore what, if anything, people who attend the festival are learning about Jewish life and culture. Approaching the festival as an educational occasion and not merely a performative one, Professor Kelman will argue for an alternative understanding of what Jewish culture might represent to those drawn to celebrating it in the heart of Poland in the 21st century.

Ari Y. Kelman serves as the Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies at Stanford University, where he is a member of the department of religion (by courtesy), an affiliate of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and a member of the American Studies Committee in Charge. He is the author of "Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States" (UC Press, 2009) and the co-author of Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary, which won a 2010 National Jewish Book Award. He has also co-authored of a number of influential studies of contemporary Jewish identity and culture.

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