The IU Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association’s 2020 conference will focus on the cultivation of kinship and community amongst Jews as well as between Jews and non-Jews. How do we define Jewish kinship or Jewish family, and how are these understandings gendered? How do these definitions draw the boundaries that constitute Jewish communities? What role has kinship or community played in the lives of Jews, both historically and today? How do discourses of nationalism and belonging interact with ideas of Jewish kinship and community?

We invite papers on: Jewish conceptions and experiences of family, including endogamous and interfaith/interethnic marriage, dating, and/or parenthood, as well as the role of institutions and cultural production in the fostering of Jewish community outside the home, including work on Jewish friendship, comradeship, and mentorship. We also encourage work which explores the potential problems and limitations of community, including intra-Jewish conflict.

This conference will feature the Lillian Solotkin Lecture keynote address on Thursday evening delivered by Professor Mara Benjamin, the Irene Kaplan Leiwant Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, and Chair of the Mount Holyoke Jewish Studies Program; it will otherwise consist of themed panels of graduate students grouped according to research interests. Participants will deliver a 20-minute paper with faculty response and questions at the end of each panel.

Participants will cover their own travel and lodging expenses. Meals will be provided.

Proposal submission deadline: Friday, October 25, 2019

We invite graduate students to submit proposals for their papers, which should include the following information: a paper title, an abstract of between 150-300 words, contact information, including name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, and graduate institution.

Please send proposals as an e-mail attachment to jsgsacon@indiana.edu

This conference is open to all graduate students working on Jewish Studies. Abstracts will be evaluated based on quality and fit. This is an interdisciplinary conference and we welcome papers from the fields of

History
Anthropology & Sociology
Journalism
Music
Literature
Religion
Folklore
Visual & Performance Art
and
Political Science

Final decision will be made no later than mid-December. If you are invited to speak, we ask that you submit a full version of your paper no later than Friday, January 17, 2020.