



Laughing Off The Trauma of Jewish History: Humor and Antisemitism

NOVEMBER 29@ 7 PM

Foundation Hall, Wagner College, One Campus Road, Staten Island
Wine and Cheese Reception, courtesy of Dr. Victor and Kim Avis
RSVP Required to Holocaust.center@wagner.edu

**Dr. Avinoam Patt, Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies,
University of Connecticut**

Why the Bicycle Riders? Why the Jews? It has been commonly remarked that among the defining features of Jewish humor is the tendency to laugh at the Jewish self. As a people with a long history of persecution, Jews have neutralized the hostility of the outside world, first by internalizing it and then by detonating it through a joke. Jews have also used humor as a weapon against the powerful and as a coping mechanism to deal with persecution and trauma. In this talk, Prof. Patt will examine the many functions of Jewish humor as a response to antisemitism and the Holocaust, and ask whether the Jewish tradition of responding to persecution with punchlines can still be effective today.



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