Traditional gender categorizations are deeply embedded in Jewish culture from the story of Adam and Eve and laws of purity and impurity to modern-day expressions of the masculine ideal in American Jewish life. Jewish conceptions of masculinity have also made a profound impact on wider culture. Consider the image of Superman conceived and created by Jews in Cleveland, Ohio in the first half of the twentieth century. Yet masculinity is a particularly under-explored topic.

How do the ancient rabbis understand gender and how is it used? What does Judaism have to say about responsibilities of men in a #MeToo moment? How does a highly structured Jewish religion that centers so much on gendered responsibilities address issues of transgender identity? As individuals and as a community, Jews face these pressing questions as do many Americans. Recent scholarship and popular culture analyzes these questions and deepens our understanding of Jewish identities, gender relations, social and family life, and religious texts. This year’s Lichter Lecture series, “Envisioning Jewish Man: Past, Present and Future” examines Jewish masculinity from antiquity to modernity. Join our speakers as they explore topics including perspectives on gender and shame, ideals of masculinity in American culture, and the spiritual journeys of the Pfefferman family in the Emmy-award winning television series Transparent.

All lectures are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. Dietary laws observed.

Reservations are encouraged: Contact Brandi Forbes, Department of Judaic Studies at (513) 556-2297 or forbesbi@uc.edu

Parking: A limited number of prepaid parking tickets for senior citizens is available for the on-campus lectures. In order to secure a ticket, those interested should contact Brandi Forbes at (513)556-2297 or forbesbi@uc.edu
Sarah Imhoff
Associate Professor, Religious Studies, Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University
Title: “Are Jewish Men Manly? A Story of American Masculinity”
Date: 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 4, 2018
Location: Taft Center, 1 Edwards, UC Uptown Campus

About the Speaker: Sarah Imhoff is Associate Professor in Religious Studies in the Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University where she also serves as an affiliate faculty in the Gender Studies Department. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2010. Her recent book, Masculinity and the Department. She received her Ph.D. from the University serves as an affiliate faculty in the Gender Studies Program at Indiana University where she also Professor in Religious Studies in the Borns Jewish

Michael L. Satlow
Professor of Religious Studies and Judaic Studies Brown University
Title: “Men, Women, and Shame among Jews in Antiquity”
Date: 7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 25, 2018
Location: Taft Center, 1 Edwards, UC Uptown Campus

About the Speaker: Professor Michael Satlow teaches in the Religion Department of Brown University. He received his Ph.D. in Ancient Judaism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1993. His research focuses on the social and religious history of Jews and Judaism in antiquity. Satlow is well regarded for his ability to make academic work interesting and accessible for public audiences. In particular, he writes and teaches about sexuality, gender, marriage, and family in late antique and rabbinic Judaism. Among his many books and articles are How the Bible Became Holy (2014), Creating Judaism: History, Tradition, Practice (2006), Jewish Marriage in Antiquity (2001), and Tasting the Dish: Rabbinic Rhetorics of Sexuality (1995). He is also the editor of The Gift in Antiquity (2013) and a co-editor of Religion and the Self in Antiquity (2005).

Rabbi Susan Goldberg
Rabbinic Consultant for the T.V. series “Transparent;” Rabbi, Wilshire Boulevard Temple in Los Angeles
Title: “In the Wilderness (Midbar): the Spiritual Journey of Transparent”
Date: 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 11, 2018
Location: Mayerson JCC, 8485 Ridge Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236

About the Speaker: Rabbi Susan Goldberg has served as the rabbi at Wilshire Boulevard Temple in the Koreatown neighborhood of Los Angeles since 2013, where she has worked to renew LA’s east-side Jewish community. In 2014 she became a script consultant for the critically acclaimed TV series, Transparent, a story of a Los Angeles family coping with the news that its father and husband, Morton Pfefferman is transgender. The main characters in the series are Jewish and the themes it addresses are culturally Jewish. The show won a Golden Globe Award in 2015 for best television series. Rabbi Goldberg advises the producers of the series on how to integrate Jewish themes into the story of this contemporary, Jewish family in L.A. She also consults with the costume department on the most appropriate wardrobe for the female Rabbi character in the show (played by Kathryn Hahn), and, naturally, she serves as a model for the Hahn character. Prior to becoming a rabbi, Goldberg was a dancer and choreographer, performing in venues all over the world and teaching Laban Movement Analysis in a number of universities. She is committed to cross-cultural dialogue and social justice and facilitates workshops for many well-known national organizations. In conjunction with the Mayerson Jewish Community Center (JCC) and as part of the annual Global Day of Jewish Learning
Parking: Free parking is available at the Mayerson JCC.