

# Israel in the Middle East

May 8, 2014

6:00-8:00 PM

Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 5th Avenue  
Room C 203-205 (Concourse level, one floor below the lobby)



Panelists:

Professor **David Berger** "*Jews, Hostility toward Jews, and the Land of Israel: Past and Present*"

Professor **Mark J. Mirsky** "*A Man of the Left and The State of Israel: Questions about the politics of Imagination, religion, ethics, and social correctness in the Twentieth, and Twenty-First Centuries*"

Professor **Robert David KC Johnson** "*US-Israeli Relationship in Historical Perspective*"

Moderator:

Professor **Sara Reguer**

Live-streaming at <http://videostreaming.gc.cuny.edu/videos/>

Long term at <https://videostreaming.gc.cuny.edu/videos/channel/58/>



The story of Israel as a nation in the Middle East needs to be told. A recent panel at the CUNY Graduate Center entitled "BDS and Academic Freedom" stigmatized the only state in the Middle East that can properly be described as a liberal democracy and whose Arab citizens enjoy full democratic and civil rights as a racist, apartheid, pinkwashing state. (Pinkwashing means that Israel's support for civil rights for all is merely a ploy to deceive the world about its true nature.) The panel will discuss the historic Jewish presence in and connection to Israel and its struggle for peace and security. Israel has been a refuge for Jews pushed to the edge in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and has much to contribute to the well-being of a Middle East at peace with itself.

**David Berger** is Ruth and I. Lewis Gordon Professor of Jewish History and Dean at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University; Emeritus Brooklyn College, CUNY Graduate Center. Primarily a medievalist, he has also written widely about anti-Semitism through the ages and contemporary interfaith relations. He is a member of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations.

**Mark Mirsky** is Professor of English at City College and former Director of the Jewish Studies Program there. Mark has written many novels and has edited a number of anthologies on Jewish culture and history. He is the editor of Fiction Magazine. His essays have appeared in leading newspapers and journals. He has delivered public lectures on a wide range of topics.

**KC Johnson** is Professor of History at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center. He has published several books on US foreign relations and US political history. He served as a Fulbright Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at the Tel Aviv University in 2007-2008.

**Sara Reguer** is Chair, Jewish Studies, Brooklyn College. She specializes in the history of the Jews of the Middle East, Italian Jewry, Jewish women, and modern Israel. She also writes on diplomatic history of the Middle East in the period of World War I and has recently written "The Politics of Water: the Case of the Jordan River."