



From Generation to Generation

Scientific and Cultural Approaches to Jewish Genetics

For decades, scholars have been drawing on the methods and findings of genetics to study interactions between biology and culture in Jewish populations, to combat racist notions of the Jews, to investigate diseases common to Jewish subgroups, and to illuminate the origins of the Jewish people. This interdisciplinary series aims to introduce the ways in which scientists today are using genetics to understand Jewish history and disease, and to explore the cultural and social questions that emerge from the study of Jewish genetics.

All presentations will take place on successive Thursdays from 4-5:30 pm in Herrin Hall, Room T175 and are free and open to the public. Stanford students may enroll for the course as a one unit pass/fail course (Biology 127/Jewish Studies 117).

This program is the initiative of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies and Stanford's Department of Biology and made possible by a generous grant from The Koret Foundation.

Co-sponsors include:

Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; Ecology and Evolution Group; Morrison Institute for Population and Resource Studies; Stanford Center for Population Research; Institute for Research in the Social Sciences and Stanford Continuing Studies.

Schedule

September 27

Introduction by Noah Rosenberg & Steve Weitzman (Stanford University) followed by Marc Feldman (Stanford University)
"The Genetics of the Samaritans and other Middle Eastern Peoples"

October 4

Doron Behar (Rambam Medical Center, Israel)
"The Archaeogenetics of the Jewish People"

October 11

David Goldstein (Duke University)
"Jewish Genetics: Historical and Medical Perspectives"

October 18

John Efron (University of California, Berkeley)
"Jews and the Science of Race at the Fin-de-Siècle"

October 25

Roy King (Stanford University) and Aaron Brody (Bade Museum of Biblical Archaeology)
"Genetics and the Archaeology of Ancient Israel"

November 1

Susan Kahn (Harvard University)
"Are Genes Jewish? Conceptual Ambiguities in a New Genetic Age"

November 8

Arno Motulsky (University of Washington)
"Jewish Genetics in Health and Disease"

November 15

Shelley Reuter (Concordia University)
"Tay-Sachs as a 'Jewish' Disease"

November 22

Thanksgiving Break

November 29

Neil Risch (University of California, San Francisco)
"Genetic Diseases in the Ashkenazim and Ashkenazi History"

December 6

Concluding panel (Noah Rosenberg, Steve Weitzman)