

Cosmopolitanism - Jewish and Postcolonial Perspectives

In collaboration with the Leo Baeck Institute London / Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, University of London

Speakers: Gurminder Bhambra, University of Sussex, Bryan Cheyette, University of Reading, Cathy Gelbin, University of Manchester, Sander Gilman, Emory University

Date: 11 December 2017

Time: 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Venue: Birkbeck, University of London, Clore Lecture Theatre, Clore Management Centre, Torrington Square, Bloomsbury, London WC1E 7JL

Free event open to all:

Book your place [here](#)

'If you believe you are a citizen of the world, you are a citizen of nowhere.'

Prime Minister Theresa May, November 2016

In the aftermath of the vote for Brexit in 2016, Prime Minister Theresa May controversially broached a key issue of our times: how do we identify ourselves, and must our sense of belonging be defined by national borders?

These questions are closely connected to the term *cosmopolitanism*, which has long been the subject of scholarly debate. Cosmopolitanism is often seen as providing a perspective on the world that looks beyond immediate borders and nation states. It is also a term that has been closely wedded to Jewish experiences of modernity, and to the politics of antisemitism. In addition, postcolonial theorists have explored how cosmopolitanism speaks to other minority experiences, both within Europe and beyond.

This event brings together four leading scholars to explore what cosmopolitanism means today.

Sander Gilman, Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts at Emory College, co-author of *Cosmopolitanisms and the Jews* (University of Michigan Press, 2017).

Cathy Gelbin, Senior Lecturer in Film and German Studies at the University of Manchester, co-author of *Cosmopolitanisms and the Jews* (University of Michigan Press, 2017).

Gurminder Bhambra, Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies at the University of Sussex, co-editor of *European Cosmopolitanism: Colonial Histories and Postcolonial Societies* (Routledge, 2017).

Bryan Cheyette, Professor of English Literature at the University of Reading, author of *Diasporas of the Mind: Jewish and Postcolonial Writing and the Nightmare of History* (Yale University Press, 2013).

Welcome and introduction by Daniel Wildmann, Director, Leo Baeck Institute, Queen Mary, University of London. Panel discussion chaired by Brendan McGeever, Acting

Associate Director of the Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck,
University of London.



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