Many religious traditions prescribe different roles for men and women in religious practice and public life. These forms of sex segregation are often at odds with civic society’s ideals of gender equality, as well as with its legal requirements. Honoring both women’s right to equality and the importance of cultural and religious traditions, this conference, hosted by the HBI Project on Gender, Culture, Religion, and the Law (GCRL), will explore the historical roots and theoretical justifications for sex segregation while striving to identify appropriate and effective responses to it.

Space is limited. Please RSVP to hbi@brandeis.edu. Parking is available in the Theater Lot for Sunday’s program. If attending Monday’s program, please park in the Charles River (J) Lot. A shuttle will be provided. Directions and additional details are available on our website: www.brandeis.edu/hbi.

Questions: hbi@brandeis.edu or 781-736-2126.
Gendered Rites/Gendered Rights
SEX SEGREGATION, RELIGIOUS PRACTICE, AND PUBLIC LIFE

Monday, April 15, 2013 | Brandeis University
HASSENFELD CONFERENCE CENTER, LURIA ROOMS, 415 SOUTH STREET, WALTHAM, MA 02453

8:30 am  Continental Breakfast and Registration
9:00 am  Welcome
SYLVIA NEIL, Founder and Chair, HBI-GCRL
LISA FISHBAYN JOFFE, Director, HBI-GCRL

9:15–11:15 am  Panel I: Negotiating Borderlines Between Religion and Public Life: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives
Moderator: BERNADETTE BROOTEN, Brandeis University
Sex-Segregation and the Concept of “Rape Spheres” in Medieval Ashkenaz
MERAV SCHNITZER, Tel Aviv University/HBI-GCRL Scholar-in-Residence
Jewish Women, the State, and the Making of Civil Marriage in Revolutionary Europe
LOIS DUBIN, Smith College
Implications of the Vatican Commitment to Complementarity for Gendered Rites and Gendered Rights
MARY ANNE CASE, University of Chicago
Why was Amina Lawal Sentenced to Death by Stoning in Contemporary Northern Nigeria?: The Interplay of Legal, Public and Gender Boundaries
SARAH ELTANTAWI, Harvard University/HBI-GCRL Scholar-in-Residence

11:15–11:30 am  Break

11:30–1:15 pm  Panel II: Modesty, Sex Segregation and Public Life
Moderator: LAYAH KRANZ LIPSKER, HBI-GCRL Research Associate
“I understood that, as a woman, I was forbidden to approach the front of the bus myself”: Sex Segregation in Public Transportation in Israel
LISA FISHBAYN JOFFE, Director, HBI-GCRL
Niqab Bans and Secular Sex Segregation
BEVERLEY BAINES, Queen’s University Canada
A Beach of Their Own: Israel’s First Gender Segregated Beach
SHAYNA WEISS, New York University
A Mehitza in the Head—Women’s Hair Covering in Rabbinic Texts Read Anthropologically
HILLEL ATHIAS-ROBLES, Columbia University

1:15–2:15 pm  Lunch

2:15–3:15 pm  Panel III: Trends in Sex Segregation: Israel, America and Beyond
Moderator: SYLVIA BARACK FISHMAN, Co-Director, HBI
Women’s Education in Satmar Chasidism
ILAN FUCHS, HBI-GCRL Research Associate
Religious Texts as Segregated Spaces in Judaism and Islam: Challenges in Women’s Access and Study Today
LISA ANTEBY-YEMINI, Universite De Aix En Provence/HBI-GCRL Scholar-in-Residence
Religious Cross-Pollination: The Relationship between Trends Towards Increased Gender Segregation in Israel and American Orthodox Culture
ELANA MARYLES SZTOKMAN, Executive Director, Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance

3:30–4:00 pm  Closing Remarks

Anat Hoffman
Director of Women of the Wall and the Israel Religious Action Center
Anat Hoffman is the chairwoman of Women of the Wall and the executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. Previously, she held a seat on the Jerusalem City Council, where for fourteen years she stood in opposition to the policies of the city’s right-wing and ultra-Orthodox administration. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of tikvah olam (repairing the world).

LISA FISHBAYN JOFFE, Director, GCRL
SYLVIA NEIL, Founder & Advisory Committee Chair, GCRL

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