Embodiment in Jewish Feminist Theology
Seminar @ CU Boulder; Location shared upon RSVP
Space is limited; RSVP to CUJewishStudies@colorado.edu or here

Can human bodies be holy? Can they help us understand the divine, or only separate us from it? In contesting the denigration of both corporeality and women in Western thought, feminist theologians have identified the embrace of embodiment as a central task. In the eyes of Jewish feminist thinkers, rabbinic texts and practices offer a mixed legacy for embarking on the project of reclaiming the role of the body. Professor Mara Benjamin's talk will examine embodiment as both obstacle and path to God, using Rachel Adler's "Tumah and Taharah: Ends and Beginnings" (1976) and her later recantation of that essay, "In Your Blood, Live: Re-Visions of a Theology of Purity" (1993).

Thursday, April 11, 2019 • 5:00-7:00pm
From Embodiment to Intersubjectivity:
Rethinking Feminist Views on Maternity
Seminar @ DU; Location & readings shared upon RSVP
Space is limited; RSVP to cjs@du.edu

Childbearing and childrearing hold a complicated place in feminist thought: motherhood anchors the identification of women with embodiment in Western philosophy; at the same time, maternity offers untapped resources for rethinking bodies, intersubjectivity, ethics, and other fundamental questions. In this seminar, Professor Mara Benjamin will draw on Judith Plaskow's “Woman as Body: Motherhood & Dualism” to assess the risks of and rewards of giving maternity a central role in feminist thought.

Mara Benjamin is Irene Kaplan Leiwant Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Mount Holyoke College. She is the author of Rosenzweig's Bible: Reinventing Scripture for Jewish Modernity (Cambridge, 2009) and The Obligated Self: Maternal Subjectivity and Jewish Thought (Indiana, 2018). She holds a Ph.D. in modern Jewish thought from Stanford University and has taught at the University of Washington, Yale University, and St. Olaf College.