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## Syllabus

### **Gender and Jewish Culture – Tradition and Modernization Lviv, July 2013**

The course intends to show the possibilities afforded by applying the gender (cultural sex) perspective in the study of Jewish culture. Proceeding from the analysis of the role of the woman and man in traditional Jewish society, we will present gender difference in the process of modernization among Jewish women and men. In looking at autobiographical materials, we will trace characteristic stages and stories, as well as life's choices of Jewish maskilim (advocates of Haskalah, the Jewish Enlightenment). We will use the examples of the life and work of Pua Rakowska (known as "the Grandmother of Zionism") and Sara Szenirer (reformer of the traditional education system of Jewish girls) to analyze the problem of Jewish feminism, both secular and religious. A gender perspective is particularly instructive in the presentation of the issue of language divisions and assignments. The role of Yiddish – frequently named a women's language – will be discussed, as well as its significance in the revolution of customs among the Jews. Finally, we will analyze the urban nature of Zionism and the ideal of the New Hebrew.

Among others, we will attempt to answer the following questions: Why were women in traditional Jewish culture known as "mute souls"? In what rituals and areas were they forced to remain silent; and where was their voice significant? How did it come to be, that, in spite of the marginalization of Jewish women in traditional Judaism, their contribution and role in Jewish culture is significant? Can we speak of the benefits of marginalization? Why is the traditional ideal of a Jewish man frequently described as somewhat feminized? Did the Zionist rejection of the Diaspora heritage have a gender dimension?

#### 1. The woman and the man in traditional Jewish culture

Roman Marcinkowski, *Kobieta i mężczyzna w ujęciu Talmudu*, „Studia Judaica” t.V - VI, nr 2,1/2003, s. 1-30

Roman Marcinkowski, *Kobieta w opiniach mędrców Talmudu*, „Signa Temporis” t.14/2008, s.7-18

Rachel Biale, *Women and Jewish Law. The Essential Texts, Their History, & Their Relevance for Today*, New York 1984, 1995, tu: *Women and The Mitzvot*), s. 10 - 43

D. Boyarin: *Unheroic Conduct. The Rise of Heterosexuality and the Invention of the Jewish Man*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 1997, tu: *Feminization and Its Discontents: Torah Study as a System for the Domination of Women*.

2. The Jewish woman and modernization processes. Jewish feminism. The cases of Pua Rakowska and Sara Szenirer.

Paula E. Hyman, *Two Models of Modernization: Jewish Women in the German and the Russian Empires*, w: *Jews and Gender. The Challenge to Hierarchy*, ed. Jonathan Frankel, *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, v. XVI, Oxford 2000, pp. 39 - 53.

Joanna Lisek, Pua Rakowska i jej walka o prawa kobiet, „Kwartalnik Historii Żydów”, nr 3 (231)/2009, s. 290 - 299.

Joanna Lisek, „Dos loszn fun jidyszkajt” - ortodoksyjny jidyszizm na łamach „Bejs Jakob” w kontekście religijnego feminizmu żydowskiego w Polsce, w: *Studia z dziejów trójjęzycznej prasy żydowskiej na ziemiach polskich (XIX - XX w.)*, red. Joanna Nalewajko - Kulikov, Warszawa 2012, s. 343 - 368.

3. The male face of Jewish Haskalah – Biographies of Jewish maskilim

Iris Parush, *Reading Jewish Women. Marginality and Modernization in Nineteenth-Century Eastern European Jewish Society*, Brandeis University Press 2004, tu: chapter 5, *The Reading-Biography of Man*, s. 97 - 132.

Salomon Majmon, *Autobiografia*, t. 1-2, tłum. Leo Belmont, Warszawa 2007, fragmenty

4. The Yiddish language and gender questions, Yiddish as a “women’s language,” and its potential in the process of Jewish modernization

Lisek, Joanna. „Jidysz – ginący język kobiet?”, *Pismo feministyczne Zadra*, 16 - 17, nr 1-2 (42-43).

Noami Seidman: *A Marriage Made in Heaven. The Sexual Politics of Hebrew and Yiddish*, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London 1997 (fragmenty)

5. The Zionist image of the New Hebrew in a gender perspective

Artur Kamczycki, *Syjonistyczna antyfeminizacja Żyda*, w: *Nieme dusze? Kobiety w kulturze jidysz*, red. Joanna Lisek, Wrocław 2010, s. 299 - 336.