



University
of Victoria



What's Wrong with 'Religion'?

Daniel Boyarin

Thursday, January 21

5:00-6:00 p.m. PST

Meeting URL: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/96971529046?pwd=a1JWRk-JYWVUxbUpmYUVPeGhPSHFGdz09>

What makes one a Jew? In this lecture I hope to show why it is a bad idea to imagine the Jews as a “religion,” and still less a “faith.” To put it another way: it is unsatisfactory to posit the Jews as a group defined by and comprised of those folks who share particular beliefs and practices dependent on those beliefs. The Jews, I assert, are not and never have been defined by a shared “religion,” and, moreover, should avoid being so pegged.

Daniel Boyarin is Professor of Talmudic Culture in the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and Rhetoric at UC Berkeley. His most recent book is *Judaism: The Genealogy of a Modern Notion*.

<https://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/csrs/>