FEINSTEIN LECTURE:
BOOKS, LETTER-WRITING AND THE WRITTEN WORD
IN EARLY JUDAISM

Malka Z. Simkovich

Description: During the Second Temple period, Jews began to collect their writings in archives and libraries. Why did libraries become so important to Jews during this era, and what can they tell us about early Jewish attitudes towards sacred texts? This lecture will shed light on these questions by exploring early Jewish sources that refer to book collection and production as the realm of both divine and human activity.

Dr. Malka Z. Simkovich is the Crown-Ryan Chair of Jewish Studies and the director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She is the author of The Making of Jewish Universalism: From Exile to Alexandria (2016) and Discovering Second Temple Literature: The Scriptures and Stories That Shaped Early Judaism (2018), which received the 2019 AJL Judaica Reference Honor Award. Simkovich’s articles have been published in academic journals such as the Harvard Theological Review and the Journal for the Study of Judaism, and in mainstream publications such as The Jewish Review of Books and The Christian Century. She is involved in numerous interreligious dialogue projects which help to increase understanding between Christians and Jews.