



# Program in Jewish Studies

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



To the Program in Jewish Studies Community –

I am thrilled to announce that, through the vision of Dr. Samira Mehta, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Women and Gender Studies, the Program in Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado Boulder has received a three-year, \$250,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to launch a new initiative entitled **Jews of Color: Histories and Futures**. Scheduled to officially begin in July 2022, this initiative is a partnership between the Program in Jewish Studies and University Libraries here at CU Boulder, and will seek to recover, study, and elevate the voices and experiences of Jews of color in the United States through four primary areas of activity: (1) a working group of scholars, artists, and activists drawn from diverse communities; (2) the first digital archive centering the experiences of Jews of color, focused on oral histories and hosted by CU's Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections; (3) public conversations on topics including Jews of color, racism, white supremacy, and American Jewish life; and (4) publications, programs, and creative projects exploring these issues.

This initiative is a deeply collaborative effort. As an award-winning scholar of American Judaism and leading expert on race and Jewish studies, [Dr. Mehta](#) will direct this project, serving as Principal Investigator and working with two co-Principal Investigators: [Kalyani Fernando](#), Teaching Assistant Professor and Collection Development Archivist in the University Libraries' Rare and Distinctive Collections, and me. The working group will foster conversations and connections between CU Boulder, other institutions of higher education, artistic communities, and activists and communal organizations, and the project's collecting initiative will build on the [longstanding partnership](#) between the Program in Jewish Studies and the University Libraries. Finally, the initiative's public programming will open up new opportunities for individuals from within and beyond the academy to join together to explore questions relating to race, Jewish life, and American society.



Dr. Mehta will share more details about this initiative in the coming months.

In the meantime, I wish to express the Program's gratitude to the Luce Foundation for its support, and to say how honored and humbled I am that we can provide a home for Jews of Color: Histories and Futures. This project exemplifies a commitment—to producing new knowledge, building new connections, and transforming the world—that stands at the heart of what it can and should mean to be part of a public university in the twenty-first century.

With excitement and gratitude,

Elias Sacks

Director, Program in Jewish Studies

Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies

University of Colorado Boulder