

The Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project invite you to a Kraft-Hiatt Lecture.

# The Self Beyond Itself:

Rethinking How Individuals can Become Morally More Courageous  
and Societies More Humane

Monday, September 23, 2013  
5:00 - 6:20 p.m.

Mandel Humanities Center  
Reading Room (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)

Heidi Ravven, author of *The Self Beyond Itself*, is a Professor of Religious Studies at Hamilton College, and received her B.A. and M.A. from Brandeis in 1974 (NEJS, Philosophy) and her Ph.D. in 1984 (Philosophy and the History of Ideas).



Heidi Ravven



Donald Katz



Thandeka

Photo by Merrel D. Booker, Jr.

Respondents:

Donald Katz, Neuroscience,  
Dept. of Psychology, Brandeis  
University

Thandeka, Unitarian  
Universalist theologian and  
congregational consultant

Why are some people ethical and others unethical? How do people become unethical or ethical? Do people sometimes act in ethical ways and at other times act in quite unethical ways? How can we get people to be more ethical and more consistently ethical? How can we get ourselves to be better people and act more ethically more of the time?

Heidi Ravven (Professor of Religious Studies, Hamilton College) will talk about her book, *The Self Beyond Itself: An Alternative History of Ethics, the New Brain Sciences, and the Myth of Free Will*, in which she delves into history, theology, the new brain sciences, and the philosophy of Spinoza to come up with a fresh approach to these universal questions. Using examples of perpetrators, bystanders, and rescuers during the Nazi Holocaust, Ravven proposes that both great evil and great good are more often than not the actions of groups and of individuals as members of groups. How can individuals develop the wisdom and the courage to buck group evil, and be rewarded rather than punished for it?

For instructions on how to get to Brandeis:

<http://www.brandeis.edu/about/visiting/directions.html>.

For additional information, please contact [brooten@brandeis.edu](mailto:brooten@brandeis.edu)

Sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, the Kraft Hiatt Fund  
and the Feminist Sexual Ethics Project.