

BYU Forum Explores Religion's Role in Education

Dr. Ilana M. Horwitz, Professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology at Tulane University, an expert on the impact of faith on education, will speak at the BYU Forum on March 25, 2025, at the Marriott Center.

Horwitz's research shows how religious upbringing shapes academic and career success. Her personal story offers a unique perspective on Jewish culture, and her life experiences have driven her research. In a recent interview with New Book Network, Horwitz shared insights into her work.

"Many people assume that faith and education operate in separate spheres," Horwitz said. "But my research shows that religious values—such as discipline, purpose, and community—play a critical role in academic success."

Born in Russia, Horwitz immigrated to the United States at the age of 7. Her family faced persecution in Russia due to their Jewish faith. Moving to Philadelphia, she was able to immerse herself in Jewish culture, where the large Jewish population allowed her to connect with traditions that were absent in Russia.

Horwitz earned her PhD in Sociology of Education & Jewish Studies from Stanford University. She also holds a master's in international education development from Columbia University's Teachers College and a bachelor's in business administration from Emory University. She currently teaches at Tulane University and serves as the Fields-Rayant Chair of Contemporary Jewish Life at the Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience at Tulane.

Horwitz is the author of several books, including *God Grades*, and *Graduation: Religion's Surprising Impact on Academic Success*, *The Entrepreneurial Scholar: A New Mindset for Success in Academia and Beyond*, and her forthcoming book (under contract), *The Broken Ladder: Why Two-Thirds of Americans Don't Complete College—and Why It's Not Their Fault*.

The BYU Forum is held every Tuesday at 11:05 a.m. and will be broadcast live on BYUtv, BYUtv.org, KBYU-TV 11, Classical 89 FM, and BYU Radio. The event is open to the public.

About BYU

Brigham Young University focuses on both academic and spiritual education. Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the school is deeply intertwined with students' lives. Located in Provo, Utah, BYU serves over 35,000 students and offers a wide range of graduate and undergraduate programs. BYU is ranked among the top universities for student satisfaction and value, with over 100 research centers and institutes.

Media contact: Brooklynn Koon Smith Phone: 801-347-2166