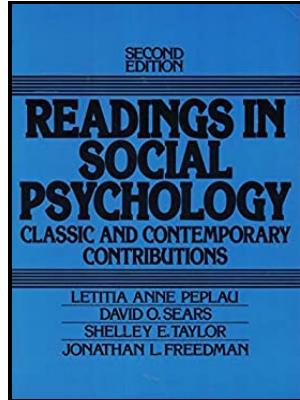


Klezmer America - Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity

Columbia University Press - Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity on JSTOR

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Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity

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KLEZMER AMERICA JEWISHNESS ETHNICITY MODERNITY

By interrogating the fraught and multidimensional uses of Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness, Freedman deepens our understanding of ethnoracial complexities.

De Gruyter

Klezmer America

Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies, 27 3 , 202-203. Freedman therefore prevents us from thinking that we can write clean histories of the American containment of Jewish identity or of American knowledge of Jews--that is, histories that begin in the presumption that the category of Jewish identity is self-evident. Though I don't think his analyses of passing, closeting, and the role of racial logic in the thinking of Jewish identity spread across at least two or three chapters alter the fundamental parameters of the conversation much--like so many others before him he seems to ignore the fact that passing qua passing, that is in fact underscores the self-evidence of the link between race and identity, for example, and despite the problems he rightly claims are introduced into identitarian thinking by the case of Marranos and Conversos problems I

hope see more attention in the near future , it looks to me like he's interested in these problems only because it's still race that makes them worthy of discussion in the context of an analysis of Jewish identity--so often his interventions are fantastically valuable to the study of literature carried out under the banner of Jewish identity.

Klezmer America

Jonathan Freedman Klezmer is a continually evolving musical tradition that grows out of Eastern European Jewish culture, and its changes reflect Jews' interaction with other groups as well as their shifting relations to their own history. Indeed, these academic Journal Studies in American Jewish Literature — Penn State University Press Published: Sep 23, 2011.

Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity (review), Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies

. But what happens when, in the klezmer spirit, the performances that go into the making of Jewishness come into contact with those that build different forms of cultural identity? And this is why works like Jonathan Freedman's Klezmer America are so important. It explores the unexpected parallels and ironic reversals between a cultural dispensation that had ambivalent responses to.

Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity.

It may be that Freedman's destabilizing trajectory needs to be pursued further in order to realize the benefits of liberating Jewish American literary study from the historicist criterion. In other words, I worry he may still take for granted a historical subject we can all recognize as Jewish.

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