

Pardes Learning Seminar



Who Am I? The Complexity of Identity in the 21st Century

June 28–July 2, 2020



Summer
2020

Who Am I? The Complexity of Identity in the 21st Century

Prior to the modern era, the response to the question “Who am I?” was quite straightforward and determined at birth. Family, religion, nationality and gender were a given and were rarely challenged or altered during the course of one’s life. Social structures were very rigid and authoritarian. Questioning, and certainly changing, one’s identity could be isolating and even perilous. Conflicting identities, such as being a Jew in a non-Jewish state, were resolved by the denial of one or the other.

With the advent of Emancipation and the granting of personal liberties, opportunities presented themselves to make choices of identity regarding nationality, peoplehood and religion. Advances in technology allowed for greater mobility and opened up a wider world to which we could be connected. As a result, our options for how we shape our identities were greatly expanded.

In more recent years, we have witnessed huge social changes that have redefined classic understandings of what constitutes a nuclear family and questioned the binary definitions of gender.

Today we are faced with a dramatically growing number of people with hybrid and/or multiple identities, which often may be at odds with each other and are sometimes extremely difficult to reconcile. Each day of the Seminar, examine a different area of identity: individuality, family and community, gender and sexuality, and nationality and universality, from a variety of Jewish sources – Biblical, Talmudic, philosophical and spiritual. Study and analyze complex situations where identities clash. Explore possible solutions alongside ways of living with tension. Our learning will enable us to navigate and balance the multiple identities in our lives.



Topics OF STUDY

- How much of my identity is determined for me and how much can I determine for myself?
- How has the global community impacted the definition and structure of family?
- What place does politics play in defining my identity?
- What can Israel and Diaspora Jewry do to enrich each other's identities?

Communal Leaders. Professionals. Lifelong Learners. You.

Seminar

DETAILS

June 28–July 2, 2020

Tuition: \$1,400 (15% discount before January 1)

Family discount available. See website for details.

Registration

AND INFORMATION

www.pardes.org.il/seminar

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Programming, lunch, tours and some evening meals included.

Flights and accommodations should be arranged individually.

See website for hotel recommendations.