Racial Science, Biopolitics, and Modern Russian Jewishness

A book talk with
Marina Mogilner (University of Illinois at Chicago)

TUESDAY  
MAR. 5  
TIME  
4:00PM  
Pyle Center  
702 Langdon St  
Madison, WI

In the late 19th century, Russian Jews spoke different languages and practiced different traditions. They had complex identities and no territorial homeland. Their inability to conform easily to new standards of nationality meant a future of inevitable assimilation or second-class minority citizenship. The solution proposed by Russian Jewish intellectuals was to ground Jewish nationhood in a structure deeper than culture or territory—biology.

Drawing on her book *A Race for the Future: Scientific Visions of Modern Russian Jewishness*, Marina Mogilner will show how leading Russian Jewish race scientists aimed to produce “authentic” knowledge about the Jewish body to motivate an empowering sense of racially grounded identity.

For more information, visit cjs.wisc.edu/event/tobias2024