# Ellie Schainker, Emory University

Ellie Schainker is **Arthur Blank Family Foundation Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies** (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, 2010). She specializes in East European Jewish History; Modern European Jewish History; Imperial Russian history and religious conversions and confessional politics in Russia's western borderlands.

Ellie Schainker's current book project is "Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional "Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth-Century Russia

## "Killing Converts: A New Ritual Murder Accusation in Late-Imperial Russia"

Violence as a concept long framed the relation of the Russian state and imperial subjects to conversion as a boundary-crossing during the long nineteenth century. Many Jews narrated conversion as Christian violence against vulnerable Jewish children; and conversions for many converts and their clerical and administrative allies were often understood as endangered by the violence of Jewish family and community who sought to physically repress deviant behavior. The popular press and jurists mediated this conversation in the late imperial period to mark Jews as both religious and social "fanatics," whose violent intolerance toward apostate kin rendered them undeserving of imperial toleration. In particular ,conservative voices in the late-imperial press linked stories of conversion-inspired violence to the medieval ritual murder accusation to generate a new blood libel myth in which Jews ritually sacrificed their converted family members.

**April 3, 2016, 18:00 – 20:00;**

**Gilman building, room 262**

**\*\*The lecture will be held in English**