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.

“Killing Converts: A New Ritual Murder Accusation in Late-Imperial Russia”

April 3, 2016, 18:00 – 20:00;

Gilman building, room 262

**The lecture will be held in English**