

# QUARANTINE IN THE JEWISH GHETTO

CONFINEMENT AND CONTAGION IN EARLY EUROPE

A TALK BY

Joshua Teplitsky



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

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In 1713, plague ravaged the city of Prague. Disease claimed the life of a full third of the city's denizens. Beyond the immediate impact of natural disaster, human ambitions to contain and cope with the plague yielded a series of measures designed to sanitize the city and limit the spread of contagion. Many of these measures were directed against the Jewish denizens of the city, limiting their already circumscribed settlement, prohibiting their commerce with Christian residents, and casting particular suspicions upon Jews of foreign origins. In this lecture, we explore the place of "natural" disaster as it exacerbates and heightens concerns over forms of "difference"—a point as salient as ever in an age of global contagion. We will trace the measures taken that highlighted Jewish difference and isolated Jews from Christians even as we peer through official orders to note moments of cooperation between neighbors of ostensibly opposite faiths.

Joshua Teplitsky is assistant professor of history at Stony Brook University. Prior to coming to Stony Brook he held the Albert and Rachel Lehmann Junior Research Fellowship in Jewish History and Culture at Oxford University. He has published articles in *Jewish Social Studies* and *Jewish History* and is currently working on a monograph about the library and life of David Oppenheim of Prague (1664-1736).

**Monday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30PM, 2015**

**Library East,  
Judaica Suite**

*This event is free and open to the public.  
For more information 352 392 9247*



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