



Reproductive Justice, Jewish Ethics, & Family Planning: Post-Roe Realities

Thursday evenings, April 20 and 27 and May 4, 2023, 7:30-9 PM ([Click here to register](#))

SESSION ONE (April 20) — FOUNDATIONS: CHOICE & JUSTICE

- What are current realities on the ground post-Roe for reproductive health care and choice?
- What ideas do Jewish tradition and ethics offer about when life begins, women's right to reproductive freedom, and other key questions?
- How do individual ethics/decisions (including those that are religiously informed) differ from ethically-grounded policy decisions (including those that are religiously informed)?
- What is "reproductive justice" and where did the framework come from? How does (or might, or should) it play into Jewish ethics, personal decisions, and policy making? How can we increasingly view the issue of reproductive choice (and our individual choices) through a reproductive justice lens?

Helpful Resources

Post-Roe Realities on the Ground

- [Abortion Laws State-by-State from Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
- [Medication Abortion Updates from NCJW](#)
- Contraception (and other) Complications: [Potential Challenges](#), [Catholic Hospital Systems](#)

Jewish Ethical Views

- [Jewish Perspectives on Reproductive Realities](#) (Brief Background on Relevant Halakha)
- [Atlantic article by NCJW Scholar-in-Residence by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg](#)
- NCJW Source Sheet @ [Sefaria, prepared by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg](#)

Reproductive Justice Framework

- [NCJW's Reproductive Justice Basics](#)
- [Reproductive Justice Briefing Book](#) (published online by UC-Berkeley Law School)

Reproductive Choice and Religious Liberty/Establishment Clause

- Columbia Law School [briefing on Religious Liberty and Abortion Rights](#)
- [Mother Jones article on recent religious liberty cases](#)
- [Religious Freedom and American Jews](#) (from Sources journal)

More Background:

- Paul Root Wolpe, PhD (Emory Center on Ethics) on [Jewish Bioethics \(lengthy video\)](#). Created for doctors, but includes explorations of abortion, question of what makes Jewish ethics Jewish
- From Center for Reproductive Rights-- [Case in Depth: Dobbs v Jackson](#)

SPEAKER BIOS

Jamille Fields Allsbrook is the Senior Policy Advisor for the [Office of Population Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) where she advises the Deputy Assistant Secretary on policy matters impacting the programs the office administers, as well as health care and public health issues impacting sexual and reproductive health and adolescent health. She also spearheads the office's efforts around external stakeholder engagement.

Fields Allsbrook was most recently the Director of [Women's Health and Rights at the Center for American Progress](#), where she oversaw policy development and strategic planning related to maternal and reproductive health care, as well as ensuring women's health needs were considered in health care reform, research, and public health policies. Prior to joining American Progress, Fields Allsbrook was a senior policy analyst at [Planned Parenthood Federation of America](#), where her portfolio focused on health care finance and reform. Additionally, Jamille previously held a clinical fellowship at the Harvard Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation, a teaching law clinic, where she supervised students while maintaining a portfolio focused on health care access and social determinants of health for people living with chronic illnesses, such as HIV. She is also a recipient of the [If/When/How Reproductive Justice](#) Fellowship. Through that fellowship, she worked at the National Health Law Program to increase health care access for low-income populations and improve public and private coverage.

Fields Allsbrook has a law degree, with a certificate in health law studies, and a Master of Public Health from St. Louis University. She also has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri. Currently, Fields Allsbrook teaches a course on health care reform at the University of Maryland School of Law, and she previously served on a number of public health and health care boards and committees. Fields Allsbrook's writing, research and commentary has been featured in the Washington Post, MSNBC, The Hill, Essence Magazine, and Telemundo, among other national and local media.



Mira Beth Wasserman's work as rabbi and scholar bridges Talmud study, community building, and the pursuit of social justice. Wasserman is director of the [Center for Jewish Ethics](#) and Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Wasserman's research focuses on the art of the Babylonian Talmud and on how the Talmud can be deployed to support contemporary Jewish ethics. Her book, [Jews, Gentiles, and other Animals: The Talmud after the Humanities](#), is an exploration of what it means to be human according to the Talmud; it was awarded the Salo Baron Prize for the best first book in Jewish studies published in 2017. In connection with the Ethics Center, Wasserman engages in public scholarship on race, gender, and Jewish ethics. In 2021, she was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support new research and develop curricula on [race, religion, and American Judaism](#).

Wasserman is Rabbi Emerita of Congregation Beth Shalom in Bloomington, Indiana, where she served for over a decade and where her work in education led to the publication of a children's book, [Too Much of a Good Thing](#).

Her doctorate in Jewish Studies is from the University of California at Berkeley, her rabbinic ordination is from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and she is an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Hebrew Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies from Barnard College.