

## **Hillel's visiting lecturer to introduce 'Stories of Ex-Hasidic Jews'**

10/08/14

Dr. Lynn Davidman, professor of Jewish Studies and Sociology at the University of Kansas (KU), will visit the Alfred University campus Thursday, Oct. 16 to present “Becoming Un-Orthodox: Stories of Ex-Hasidic Jews” at 5:30 p.m. in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center. The program, sponsored by Hillel at Alfred University, is open to the public free of charge.

Davidman's most recent book, “Becoming Un-Orthodox,” integrates her new and growing fascination with the sociology of the body and the centrality of embodiment to all social interactions. “Leaving a religious community is not only a matter of losing faith; rather, but is accomplished through the medium of the body. Similarly, coming out as an LGBTQ person is a major change in identity that is not solely cognitive, but is rooted in changes in habitual practices,” an issue she addresses in the book and will also speak about in her talk.

Davidman holds a bachelor of arts degree from Barnard College, New York City; a master of arts degree from the University of Chicago; and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. She joined the KU faculty as the Beren Distinguished Professor of Modern Jewish Studies in fall 2008.

Davidman serves on the advisory board of the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University and is a member of the editorial board for *Qualitative Sociology*.

The mission of the Hillel House is to provide students with a comfortable living community and to support the activities of Hillel, the Jewish students' organization on campus. It is both home to a community of Jewish students and a center for addressing religious, cultural, and ethical concerns in American society.