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ABSTRACT BOOK

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ULTRA-ORTHODOX COMMUNITIES IN ISRAEL

Gad Barzilai

The purpose of my article, which is based on my forthcoming book regarding community law and state law, is to explicate a number of problems in law and politics regarding religious fundamentalism and democracy.

Following a problematisation of a few presumptions regarding democracy and religion and deconstructing the mythical binary distinctions between modernity, religion, and fundamentalism, I explore the case of oriental — Sephardic, fundamentalism in Israel.

By analyzing primary sources of court rulings, rabbinical rulings, a field survey, and original documents, I claim to a compound legal culture at the community level which is not completely divorced from state law and state ideology despite strong primordial attachments. My analysis and conclusions are about legal cultures, consciousness, identities, action and mobilization whilst religion, law, and democracy remain as prominent issues.