The presentation explores the marriage patterns of the Sephardi Jewish communities, paying special attention to when Sephardim began marrying Ashkenazi Jews, thereby giving birth to a new type of Jewish identity, neither fully Ashkenazi nor fully Sephardic, but Argentine. Although initially Sephardim respected the boundaries of their communities of origin, and usually married ‘within’, as the twentieth century progressed and new spaces for interaction of Jews from different origins became available, choosing a marriage partner outside of the ‘group’ became more common. The presentation will argue that loyalties to communities of origin were slowly superseded by a sense of belonging to the Argentine nation.

Adriana M. Brodsky, Associate Professor of Latin American History at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, obtained her PhD from Duke University in 2004. Her book Sephardi, Jewish, Argentine: Creating Community and National Identity, 1880-1960 which focuses on the Sephardic communities that settled in Argentina from the end of the 19th century to mid-20th century, is forthcoming with Indiana University Press. She has co-edited with Raanan Rein a book titled The New Jewish Argentina (Brill, 2012), and most recently, with Beatrice Gurwitz and Rachel Kranson, a special issue of the Journal of Jewish Identities on Jewish Youth in the Global 1960s. She has also published on Sephardi schools in Argentina, on Jewish Beauty Contests, and on Argentine Jewish (and Sephardi) Food. Her new project explores the experiences of Argentine Sephardi youth in Zionist movements from the 1940s-1970s.

This talk is jointly sponsored by the Latin American Studies Center, the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, and the Nathan and Jeanette Miller Center for Historical Studies.

Wine and cheese will be served. In order to help us estimate attendance RSVP at millercenter@umd.edu or call at 301-405-4299.