



SMU. PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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**Perkins School of Theology to Host Crypto-Judaism Forum
April 25, 2010**

Dallas, Texas – Perkins School of Theology will host a panel discussion on “Crypto-Judaism in the American Southwest: Hidden Religious Roots of Hispanic Peoples” in the Great Hall of Prothro Hall on the campus of Southern Methodist University, Sunday, April 25th, at 2:30 p.m. A reception will follow.

The forum will include presentations by four scholars in the field, including Dr. Pamela Patton, associate professor of Art History at Meadows School of the Arts, SMU: “Iberian Historical Setting and Roots”; Dr. Stanley M. Hordes, adjunct research professor, Latin American and Iberian Institute, University of New Mexico: “The Dispersion and Presence of Crypto-Jews in the Hispanic Southwest”; Juan Gutierrez, doctoral candidate, Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago: “Religious Expressions Among Crypto-Jews”; and Dr. Gregory Cuellar, adjunct faculty at Perkins School of Theology, SMU and Richland College, Dallas: “Crypto-Jews: An Oppositional Subculture in the U.S. Southwest.”

The Spanish settlement and early presence in the "new world" included a number of persons of Spanish Jewish background who were escaping the Spanish Inquisition. Recent attention has been given to this historic phenomenon. Of particular interest is how people were able to maintain a Jewish religious identity and practice in the context of very strong negative

attitudes. To address this question is to explore the strength of religious and identity belief in the face of religious oppression.

The forum is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Latino/a Christianity and Religions, Perkins School of Theology, the Mexican American Program at Perkins, and the Clements Center for Southwest Studies, Religious Studies Department, and Judaic Studies Department at SMU. The event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact Stephanie Carroll at 214-768-3477 or scarroll@smu.edu.

Perkins School of Theology, founded in 1911, is one of five official University-related schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, Master of Church Ministries, and Doctor of Ministry, as well as the Ph.D., in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.