



SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE מכון  
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## **Boys Will Be Boys? Changing Images of Masculinity in Jewish Tradition**

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In this class, Paul Nahme examines how images of the masculine in Jewish tradition have changed over time and explores possible ways in which this rich cultural heritage could help us to refine healthier models of manhood in light of #metoo.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

In this session, Paul offers that a culture's vision of manhood is not static but can change over time. This opens the possibility that we may choose to actively shape these images as a culture, as a community, and as individuals. He proposes that this process can happen through a willingness of men, to be vulnerable and to engage in reflective practice.

Some questions for further consideration:

1. What are the attributes most commonly associated with our image of masculinity? Strength? Decisiveness? Certainty? Objectivity?
2. What might men lose if masculinity were to take on new or different attributes?
3. Can Jewish tradition offer us alternative models of masculinity?
4. How must our associations with masculinity shift for it to no longer be toxic?
5. What is challenging about thinking of masculinity as changeable rather than static?
6. What resources do we have for imagining ourselves otherwise than how we have been expected to be?