

## **Queer Mikveh Project Are Jews Indigenous? Resource List**

*This resource list was compiled by panelists and participants from our Are Jews Indigenous? workshop with Rosa Blumenfeld-Romero*

### **Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address**

#### **Books**

[Hospicing Modernity](#) by Vanessa Machado de Oliveira

[My Grandmother's Hands](#) by Resmaa Manakem

[Pedagogy of the Oppressed](#) by Paolo Friere

#### **On Anti-Zionism**

[Twelve Steps of Anti Zionism](#) By Noa Grayevsky and Hadar Ahuzia

Doikayt - DerBund.org

#### **Palestinian Voices**

[Interview with Fauda, an anarchist Palestinian group in the West Bank](#), on the current moment

#### **Mizrahi/Sephardi Jews**

[MENA Jewry after "the Middle Eastern Turn": Modernity and Its Shadows](#)

#### **On Jewish Spirituality and Healing**

[Institute for Jewish Spirituality](#)

[Kolot Chayeinu](#) - non-Zionist NYC synagogue

[Transcending Jewish Trauma](#)

[Jewish Ancestral Healing Podcast](#)

#### **On Anti-semitism**

[JFREJ Understanding Anti-semitism poster](#)

### **Questions from participants to wrestle with**

#### **Healing**

What does Jewish healing look like to you?

How can white Jews heal the wounds that have caused our fear, without unnecessarily centering or speciously victimizing ourselves? ([Transcending Jewish Trauma](#) is a great resource for this, thank you to Jo Kent Katz who developed it)

#### **Nomadism**

- Do we belong to everywhere and nowhere and not even because we chose it?
- If we look at the matriarchs and patriarchs of our stories, were they nomadic?

- What about pogroms? And how did that impact Jews being nomadic?
- Can we trade the conditional acceptance we fought for back in, and re-obtain our nomadic peoplehood, even if it's only on the individual or small community level?
- How does Kibbutz fit in and or upholds the same systems mentioned?

### **Choice in participation in Capitalism**

- Does anyone not get to choose?
- How is there a choice? We are all in this globalized capitalist system and forced into nation states and identities to greater or lesser extent.
- Many of the capitalist jobs that Jews took were because they were barred from other jobs or because Christians etc could not do certain jobs like moneylenders. I am having issues with the word "choice" "forced choice" maybe?

### **On Indigeneity**

If we understand indigeneity as a framework, if we agree “indigenous folks don’t dominate” we must acknowledge a difference between a framework and a lineage. There are Native folk by lineage who have been indoctrinated into systems of oppression. Does that make them not Native? Why can’t we talk about Jewish folks this way? By recognizing the history/ lineage, but also disrupting the colonialist mindsets? And maybe then we get to the question: what do we need to do to revive true Jewish indigenous frameworks for living and relating?

Is it possible for Jews (esp of European descent) to have a direct relationship to the land historically known as Israel ethically, without participating in the harm or displacement of Palestinian people? Can historic indigeneity be reclaimed without one group of people having sole right to that land and enforcing it in a violent manner?

Can a person become indigenous in the way a person could become capitalist or communist?

For diasporic, anti-zionist Jews, what might it mean to become indigenous to place?

Is it possible for indigenous people to become colonizers if they take over another indigenous groups’ land?

Is one group's connection to the land more important than the other, or are we both deeply connected in different ways?

How can we give voice to the injustices Palestinians have experienced without falling into the conspiracy theories that fuel anti-semitism?

How do we invite Israeli Jews into this right relationship without another casting out?

### **Retracing Roots**

In what ways can those of us who have been historically forced into the “sub-oppressor” category do our “coming home-work?” Are there any resources that you recommend?

What resources or advice do you have for someone who is trying to come back to their Jewish spirituality in a queer, anticolonial way?

How do we deal with people spreading [Khazar theory](#) instead of accepting we have historical roots (in Palestine)?

I know that whether or not settlers stay on the land is up to the Palestinians. But what if all settlers are asked to leave? Will anyone be kept from visiting or living near their religious pilgrimage sites?

### **Diaspora**

How do we handle the yearning, pain and the call to go “home” (to ancestral home) that’s in our prayer when AT THE SAME TIME, we are a diasporic people who have so much else holding us in so many other places, even in lands to which we might never feel like we necessarily (want) to belong - at least not exclusively?

What would a healthy diaspora look like in terms of Jews engaging in Land Stewardship and other Land Based practices which are core to Indigeneity in Diaspora. Is “Diasporic Indigeneity” a possibility?