This talk will explore the astonishing popularity of Toledot Yeshu—a parody of the life of Jesus, first attested in Late Antiquity in Aramaic—among the Arabic-speaking Jews of the medieval Islamic world. Presenting Toledot Yeshu as a product of medieval Judeo-Arabic literature and as a Jewish narrative shared and exchanged between the Near East, the Mediterranean and Europe, it will illuminate sustained Jewish interest in the work for more than a millennium and a half in the Near East, as well as the significance of this enduring appeal for understanding Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in the Islamic milieu.

If you or an event participant require disability-related accommodations, please contact nelc@fas.harvard.edu.