Are Genes Jewish?
Conceptual Ambiguities in the New Genetic Age
Genes ARE Jewish!
The End of Ambiguity in the New Genetic Age
How do you conceive a Jew?
• With a Jewish egg?
• Or via a Jewish womb?
The attribution of Jewish identity to genetic substance is a contingent social act, not an objective biological truth.
Whether used to
• configure the Jewish past or
• conceive the Jewish future

Genes have now become Jewish
Genetic evidence that suggests links and continuities between contemporary Jews and Jewish communities of the past is circumstantial, speculative and only acquires meaning when interpreted in terms of received oral tradition or existing historical narratives (Abu el-Haj, 2012)
Y chromosome tracing provides evidence that only some Jewish men have paternal lines that likely originated in the Middle East, possibly ancient Palestine, during a time frame that roughly corresponds to conventional timelines of Jewish history.
…mitochondrial DNA studies *suggest* that up to 70% of contemporary Ashkenazi women *might* descend from just four maternal founders, who *may* have had Middle Eastern origins.
Jewishness can be characterized at the genetic level as a tapestry, in which the threads are represented as shared segments of DNA (Ostrer, 2012)
Jews are in fact a homogeneous group with all the scientific trappings of what used to be called a “race.” (Ostrer, 2012)
We live in a “genes are us” world
(Nelkin and Lindee, 1995)
the genetic history of Jews today simply seems to be fun.
...when social contexts shift, as they invariably do, how durable and appealing will this conflation of Jews and genes continue to be?