The Krakow Jewish Festival ranks among the first and largest Jewish cultural festivals in the world. Over the years, the festival has drawn praise and criticism and no small measure of journalistic and scholarly attention, the majority of which revolves around the strangeness of celebrating Jewish culture in a city whose Jewish population was decimated during the Holocaust. In this talk, professor Kelman will explore what, if anything, people who attend the festival are learning about Jewish life and culture. Approaching the festival as an educational occasion and not merely a performative one, Professor Kelman will argue for an alternative understanding of what Jewish culture might represent to those drawn to celebrating it in the heart of Poland in the 21st century.

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