

# E518

Wed, Apr 26, 2023 12:42PM 24:13

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

episodes, nerds, podcast, feels, season, listen, jihad, reintroducing, megan, rants, teaching, religion, fun, twitter, rachel, coronation, evie, live, people, favorite

## SPEAKERS

Megan Goodwin, Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst

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Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst 00:17

This is keeping it 101. A killjoys introduction to religion podcast in 2022 2023. Our work is made possible through a UVM reach grant as well as a Luce AAR advancing public scholarship grant. We're grateful to live teach and record on the current ancestral and unseeded lands of the Abenaki Wabanaki and Auco Cisco peoples, and as always, you can find material ways to support indigenous communities on our website. What's up nerds pile up? I am Megan Goodman, a scholar of American religions race, gender and politics. Hi, hello. I'm Ilyse Morgenstein-Fuerst a historian of religion, Islam race and racialization and South Asia Banter. This is where we do bants. Hi, where are you? What's What's all this please? I'm in my bachelor pad. I'm living in Birmingham in the UK for this six month seven six and a half month period and I live in an artless bachelor bad. There's nothing on the walls is just killing me softly with your page. Birmingham is lovely and has a lot of color was what it was a lot of color. But this apartment does not. Well, well. But I am in the Empire, which is very exciting. But I will say nerds if one more person asks me if I'm like excited about the coronation. I just feel like you don't really know me. Like you don't really know me and I'm out here telling personal stories on this podcast in this intimate forum where I'm in your ears, and you have the audacity, the gumption to ask if I give a flying fuck about a king? I do not. I do not, I mean sorry, to our UK listeners, because all of y'all quite frankly are a little bit royalists when it comes down to it. Because everyone's pretty excited. There's a lot of like, commemorative stuff. And as a historian, sure, but like, I'm old enough to remember when Saturday Night Live got interrupted for Princess Diana's death, and everyone was so upset that Charles was still a person. So no, I don't give a shit about the coronation. I know what not going. Were you not, were you not invited? I'm shocked. I'm shocked. I think I think the question is, is am I joining the throngs and like, Have we met? I do I want no part of a throng. Jewish women who are 4'11" do not do well in mobs. That is we should in fact when I see your mob, or you no, unsafe immediately no in... Why would you ever be in a a group of people that large? unclear Because again, we have lived in some places Megan we have been around people who are so excited that they have to burn a car. Yeah, no thank youthank you. No thank you, mobs are not for short Jewish women. No, I don't. I don't care for that. Alright, so you will not be attending the coronation of what's his face? Drag? Shall we wrap up this season? Sure. Great. The end of the third year slash fifth season but three plus because we did the summer thing. Yeah, we are a little engine that could. This is where I make an AW sound or like definitely where you do the choo choo. Yeah.

Okay. All right. Yeah, let's, let's bring this spring one on home. Because it's rough. It's rough. Okay. We need to land the plane immediately. Hey, let's wrap up the season? so this year nerds, we did two series. "So glad you asked", And "incorrect". And honestly, it was actually way more fun answering listener questions than I expected it to be. So yeah, I agree. So we've ranted about things we felt like ranting about good. Yes. Great and honestly kind of took a bit of a break from like a smoothly you planned syllabus style. All 18 episodes have to fit together. Yeah, it was harder to write and to plan and organize. But yeah, it was it was different and fun. Yeah, I'm actually genuinely pleased with how these one off episodes came together. And they felt as like the primary writer and researcher of a lot of them like I think they were it was it was nice now I have to connect everything back to some thesis statement from four episodes prior. But I also think magnet let us be serious we had our like serious rants about like reproductive health care and jihad, but also very silly. Like we got to be silly this season. Anyway, we haven't before so good one. I have my own opinions about this, but I'm curious. What What was your favorite? Like? What like, what'd you like about the season? What was your favorite bit? Okay, all right, I see you doing the thing. At the end of the day when we're all home from school and we're sitting around the dinner table and what my favorite part of the season was I did not make you do, roses, thorns, and... it's time this time. Um, I think some of my favorite stuff is exactly kind of what you're pointing to where we got to talk about stuff that we're passionate about and that we're angry about or excited about. But it didn't all have to kind of come together and feed a central thesis. So like, I got to yell about monsters, which was super fun. And I got to do some research on the Easter Bunny. And then people yelled at me on Instagram, which that was a first. I get yelled at in a lot of places, but not usually on Instagram. Anyway, yeah. Instagram is a safe space for both of us. Yeah. Like we do not engage in work on Instagram, except in the podcast handles. So yeah, I agree. Like, apparently my voice is super annoying. But the good news is you can just turn it off when it's on the internet. You just don't have to listen to me unlike when you're trapped in one of my classrooms. So good news for that person. Yeah, monsters in the Easter Bunny, I think were my favorite and particularly watching you just lose your entire shit? Goish children not just being able to get candy from the parents who love them. Because how could you just say out loud that you love your child? That episode broke me and listening to it, when it dropped was like a surreal experience to know when I truly had to leave the room like to listen and go oh, this is when I had to go compose myself in the kids bathroom. Because I was like hyperventilating? Yeah, what was your favorite thing? What did you like? um, I'd like to be able to yell about something and then not have to make it a runner or a thesis. So like, I love being able to do a whole episode on calendars. Hilarious. I really liked actually being able to flex some of the more Islamic Studies one off that hasn't yet fit into how we had structured like thematic or theory based seasons. So like, saying a whole thing about Jihad and being like, this is my wheelhouse. I have a book that has had in the title, right? Like this is, this was kind of fun for me to do some of that. Grounded expertise work. But mostly, I liked when we just got to be silly. Like it was really fun to do a monsters episode because I have no investment. Like, like nerds Listen, a lot. I care a lot that like, like, Jihad feels like something that we have to get right that there's like real stakes when we're teaching about jihad in public. But there's like not real stakes when we're talking about monsters, both because it's not my work, but also because like, we can get at the things that we talked about in that episode in different ways in other places. And so like, we can be a little bit more fun and silly, because it's not the one off episode about race, alterity and gender, right. Like, monsters is a vehicle for us to talk about those other things. But Jihad has to be jihad. It can't be anything else. And I like both of those for different reasons. Yeah. Yes, I would agree with that. Also, I found a number of those episodes. very teachable. And I'm not sure what a season where all of those things would have fit together. Feeding one central thesis would have looked like so yeah, I like the flexibility. Yeah, they felt like snack bites. Yeah. Like this isn't this is a tasty treat. It's tiny foods. Sorry. I got I got really hooked on the Shira and the princesses of power in

the last six months. And and Treptow who is clearly the autistically coded, like Princess of power has a whole thing about tiny foods and lovely to go places that have tiny foods. So this was just a whole episode like a whole season. All right, well, of all the things that you did like if tiny foods, is there anything you change? About the content? I don't think that I would I thin I would like to think about moving forward, what collaboration looks like where I still feel kind of more, I guess, involved in the process, because one of the things that was great about this semester or the season was that we had so much help so we did most of our labor early, and then Evie and Rachel and Juliana took over and that was amazing for a ton of reasons but it also left me feeling kind of like, I don't know, a little bit further removed from the work than I usually do, which is both good and bad. Like I didn't, I didn't have it to be that close in it for an extended period of time while also teaching full time this year. So it was amazing to have that help. But I guess I also missed kind of having my fingers in all of the pies in the same way. So I'm not sure that that's a change. It's just a thing that I am noticing about myself. That makes sense How about you? I loved having our team. That was great. And I'm going to miss it next year, which we'll talk about in a second. Yes. But I think I think some of our one off episodes, I don't think I'd change the content either. But as we're thinking about what to do next, I think, I think being more deliberate, about like, serious, funny, serious funny would be kind of smart. And I think caring less actually, about how things teach or come off is my next goal. Because I think I'm very worried about like, what is the use? And I'm curious if part of the use is just enjoyment, like plenty of people listen to our podcast cause they like it, not because they're like constantly imagining how they will then use it. And so I think if the use could just be enjoyment from my end as like, like it historically with the primary episode writer, that that is a looser way to think about the writing and the planning, then like, Okay, in this class, I could imagine this episode working in this way. And like, I think that should be there. That's not like a lot of our audience, our faculty and teachers. But as the primary writing thesis, I think I'd like to change that. I think, I think the episodes were you and I thought we were having a good time. They are a little bit more chaotic, but they are also fun to listen to. And not just like, like I noticed when I'm listening, I'm having a better time than when I'm like, Okay, there's where we hit the thesis. There's where we there's a resupply the evidence, like my brain is, is operating in a different way. And I think I think I'd like more fun, more joy, more silly. I like the idea of more fun and more joy and more silly rather than like what is the pragmatic use of this piece of labor that we are doing Listen, your girl has been going to therapy? Yeah, straw. I like it. I like it. It feels anticapitalist to me. It feels very in the keeping of our patron saint. Sara Ahmed. Yeah, let's, let's try and see how that feels. Yeah, I'm into it. So what what are we going to do next year? Well, I think we're gonna stick with this one off style, I don't think I'll be totally honest, I don't think either of us have it in us to do what we had done for the first two, two and a half years where like, we literally planned out 18 to 20 episodes. It looks like a book. If you look at our outlines. It looks like a book chapter where it's like a book, where each episode is sort of a chapter of that book that stands alone, but also works the best in conversation with each other. Like we're writing multiple books, both of us, we don't have space for that. So I think we're going to do, we're going to do that one off. I personally, I'm curious to hear what you think actually, I didn't write this in the script. I'm curious what you think I thought our so glad you asked episodes worked better than are incorrect episodes, broadly speaking, but I'm happy to keep both of those. I think I think both of those formats worked for us and we got a lot of downloads. So I think they're working for our audience too. Okay. And I think Goodwin I think that we should rerelease some early episodes, I think we should maybe reintroduce a couple of them. I think we should give some like, hey, when we said this two and a half years ago, here's where we're thinking, here's this episode. I think, listen, listeners, you might not know this, but we have released over 75 episodes in three years, which is incredible. Yeah. And you might not know that dear nerds. But that's actually like a high performing podcast. And considering we do not have formal producers, like we are the production team. It's bonkers. Like truly like we

release as many episodes as professionally produced podcasts. And one of the things What is wrong with us? I mean, I'm gonna I have several answers, but I think we're gonna save that for like, family therapy. But I think I think rereleasing is a style that lots of podcasts use where they like go back to an old episode and they reintroduce it truly with like a two minute intro and then and then do that. I think if we have space, that's that is a thing that makes sense for us. And nerds we know exactly which episodes you're listening to, and which ones you're not. And so I think that there's something because like, we track the data. So I think there's a way that re-releasing Some of the things that got lost that are really good, right like I think some of our sex and gender episodes from season two are really good, but they're not as as downloaded and so I'm curious if like reintroducing them when we have a bigger listenership is the right time or, or maybe I'm signing you up for work now, maybe editing some of our like Greatest Hits that get downloaded constantly. There's never a week that someone's not downloading them, and like responding to it or reintroducing it or something like that. But those are my thoughts. Yeah. All of that. I like all of that. Also, we have been talking about maybe doing some radio friendly edits for folks who are teaching younger nerds so that maybe grade school in high school people can listen to our podcast without any swearing. And that's definitely you. I don't I don't say any of that damn hell out. Very demure well, I'm shy. So. So radio edits, reintroducing, maybe updating some stuff. Yeah, I think playing with some of the content that we already have. And then also, yeah, just continuing to collect nerd questions and requests, keep them coming. Definitely let us know what you want to hear. And do it quick. Because we're probably recording a lot over the summer. So get them in. Yeah, I Yeah. I think in the spirit of joy and experimentation and collaboration and resisting, like a metric of utility. Yeah, I think we just mess around play with some of the stuff we already have and don't know do episodes on stuff we feel like talking about and just see what happens. Yeah, that sounds great to me. Cool. Let's do that. Also, just as a as a looking back in a soft focus yearbook moment. This season has been so smooth because of our interns, Rachel Zieff, Evie Wolfe and Juliana Finch and the sponsoring that we had from AAR Luce and UVM's reach grant. Next year, we do not have these fantastic incredible RAs or grant funding. So we are keeping this going. But we're also going to be really transparent, because transparency is good pedagogy. Frankly, we just did not have the space or energy to seek out more grants or write them more when them this year. So yeah, in part we're scaling back because we are self funded again. And valuing labor means that we also have to value our own labor. That feels like a lie. But I also know it's true. I know I have to say it I feel like I'm literally a little nauseated just like just having said that, which I'm going to explore that with my own therapist was like, you know, I wrote this part out word for word, so that one of us would have to say it, because otherwise we wouldn't know we would just be like, everything's fine, but it's, it is fine. It's just going to look different because you don't have the funds or the support that we did last year. So we're gonna change the shape of the show a little by doing reflections in shorter pieces, because that is something that works with the resources and time that we have. We're thinking about maybe starting a Patreon, which again, complicated feels about that, but not no. might see more on tick tock and by we I mean at least I definitely mean at least Yeah. Maybe more in your inbox with our newsletter, so you know, stay tuned. We don't 100% know what next season looks like. But we know there will be a next season and well, it's us so it'll be fun and weird and maybe you'll learn something Yeah, maybe there's also our Evie and Rachel made stickers. Oh, yeah. Yeah, you should definitely stay tuned for stickers stickers or we're staying tuned for Yeah. So as usual the too long didn't listen sum up which is my job, I guess is it's not my job. I just like love doing it. That's like, bring it all together. We've got another season of episodes coming probably with some rereleases. I'm so glad you asked some rants about stuff we really care about. Megan and I are still working on and eventually submitting our podcast book, religion isn't done with you. Yep. And yeah, Megan. Is there anything else you want to tell the nerds? What did I leave out of the script? You know what, here's what here's what's going to happen. I'm going to do a public accountability

on the podcast. Yes, Oh Lord. do you need like a drumroll. I'm gonna stop doing so many things because my body is unhappy when I do too many things. And I don't know what it looks like when I'm not doing too many things. I know what it looks like when I'm doing nothing because I have crashed and burned out. And I know what it looks like when I'm doing too many things because frankly, I spend more Most of my time there, so I'm curious about whether there might be I don't know, a middle path. I don't know. I'm gonna try it. I'm gonna I'm gonna try it. Well, alright nerds. You heard it here first. Next time you see Megan out on Main doing too much your job is to say the middle way. The middle way to shame. This is not it? Yeah. Catholic school. Yeah, I know. Sit down Catholic school, only kneeling. I just tell you, I visited a Protestant church the other day, don't just don't worry about what. And there are cushions. It's like patted on the pews. And my entire brain was just like, this would not have flown. Again, I reiterate from our sports episode, that my orthopedic surgeon said that his pool was sponsored by Catholicism. Yep, yep. Yep. Yeah. So I don't know what y'all are doing. Sure, the doctor souls are has a pool. All right. Don't pack up your staff yet. It's time for homework homework. Homework? The only homework we have is actually for you to sign up for this newsletter via our website because Rachel and Ed have worked really hard to set up the thing and, and make it so it's user friendly. And frankly, because Twitter is dying, and most of our parasocial relationships are happening on Twitter, or we're happening on Twitter. And that has been a really important purpose of this podcast and of like sharing pedagogical tricks and talking about religion out loud. So as Twitter dies, a slow and agonizing death. There are other ways to get us and one of those ways is the newsletter. So we promise not to bother you. It's really just sending out when episodes drops so that we do what essentially a thread on Twitter used to do, along with some teaching tools and guidelines for listening like a reader's guide and for teaching like a teacher's pack. Cool. So we're out there on the internet, and wherever you find us, so like tik tok, Insta, Twitter, internet. I don't know if you can write back to the newsletter, but maybe, let us know if there are topics that you are dying to hear us cover. Like what else do you want to know more about? Oh, religion wise. What was that a final giant cross Atlantic Thank you times infinity plus 100. And shout out to Evie Wolfe, Rachel Zieff and Juliana Finch, the K 101 team, whose work made this pod accessible and therefore awesome listenable social media bowl among many other things for which we are grateful and on a personal note, since Rachel and Evie are my students. Mazel Tov on graduating and thank you for being the best. The best workers every time I have my meeting with them, they are in my office at school and I am in this bachelor pad. And they're just the best. I just love them. So thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Applause Applause you can find Megan that's me on Twitter while she stands @mpgPhD, and Ilyse @profirmf. Or the pod @keepingit\_101 Until that house burns down, find the website at keeping it one on one.com Find us on Insta tick tock and subscribe to our little newsletter I guess drop us a rating or review and your pod catcher of choice and with that peace out nerds do your homework it's on the syllabus. schwimer Are you here to watch the social experiment to tiny