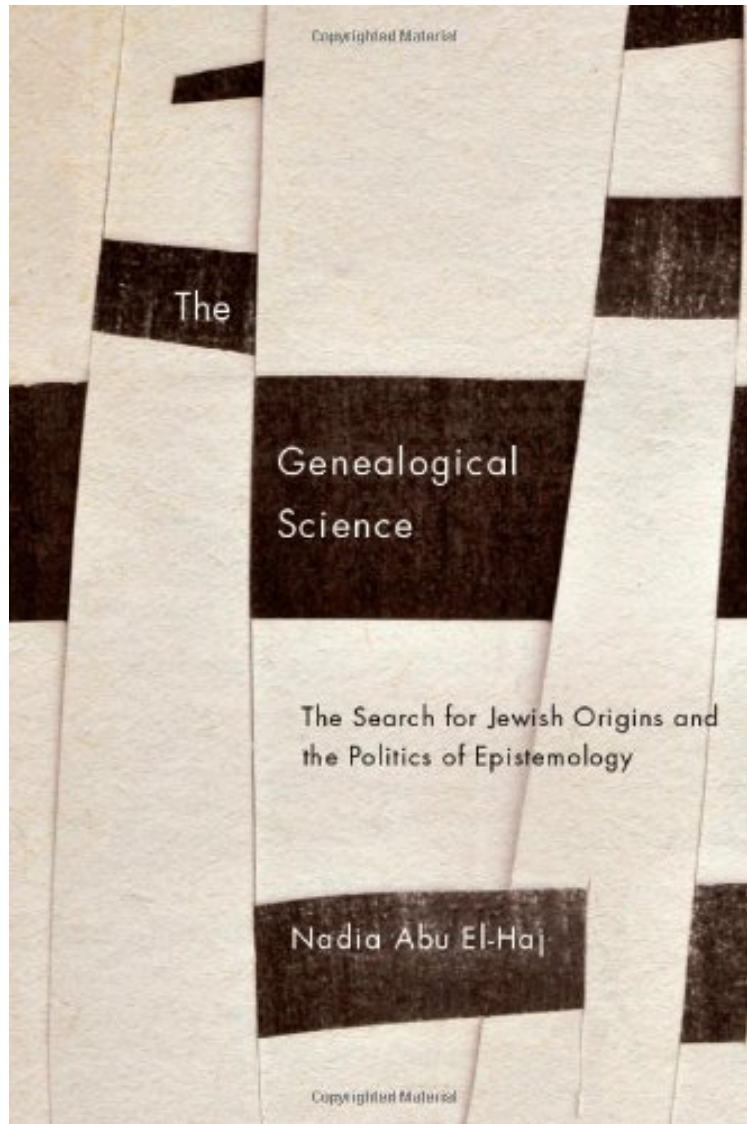


[Download] The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology (Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning)

## The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology (Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning)

*Nadia Abu El-Haj*

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**Nadia Abu El-Haj : The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology (Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Genealogical Science: The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology (Chicago Studies in Practices of Meaning):

9 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Profitable Lies By Ronald Johnson Book Review of "The Genealogical Science, The Search for Jewish Origins and the Politics of Epistemology", by Nadia Abu El-Haj This is a very important book. But I would caution that it is written at a challenging level of detail and vocabulary for, I think, the average reader. What is "epistemology"? Well, look it up via a web search engine. It is a philosophical concept introduced in the 19th Century. One definition presents a graphical display of the concept. Visualize a graph of two overlapping areas, arbitrarily shaped as two overlapping circles. With no attempt to represent the reality of relative size, the circles are made to be equal in area. One circle represents all of science, mathematics - all of the disciplines: that is truth, factual. Epistemology is the attempt to determine what can be known, to be included in that circle. The other circle represents what is believed by some undefined amalgam of humanity. The next step in the speculation is to guess at the area of overlap: Truth which is believed to be true. It could be a number like 30%; If 30% of what we believe is true. Then 70% of belief is myth. For brevity, let me only list the words that I had to look up. It would be well to capture and print the definitions of these words to have at hand a glossary while reading the book, and have a review of the words beforehand: phylogenetic, DNA, genome, ontologically, polymorphisms, haplotype, phenotypic, teleology. The author lays out an important concept in the introduction: DNA is constructed of only four basic building blocks. ACGT: adenine, cytosine, guanine, and thymine - organic molecules. Much later on, the author explains that "Haplotypes" (look it up) are ambiguous for tracing human ancestry, in that similar haplotypes occur in widely separated populations. It might be intuitive to imagine that a set of billions of building blocks, having only four colors, when assembled into arrays of millions, would have recursive, even fractal, patterns of repetition. Thereby, Genetics may be misused when applied to Genealogy. The author describes the for-profit corruption of Genetics the science, by entrepreneurs attaching themselves to academic programs for the purpose of marketing "genetic genealogical test reports". An example is Family Tree DNA, a 12 million-dollar enterprise. The reports satisfy, if the reports confirm what the buyers want to believe. The more skeptical participant, like the author, would notice ambiguities where the report might find the subject to have "relatives" in Africa, but also in Scandinavia. This book is one of a set with Shlomo Sand's "The Invention of the Jewish People". - available on . Sand's approach is by analysis of history, genealogy. Sand refutes false genealogy by exposing contradicting historical records. Nadia Abu El-Haj examines the manipulation of genetic science to produce bogus genealogy. This book is not principally about genetics, but about the misuse of genetics to create the appearance of validity for false genealogy. Nadia Abu El-Haj also wrote a book about Israeli falsification of Archaeology, "Facts on the Ground, Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society", University of Chicago Press, 2001. Similarly, Shlomo Sand wrote, "The Invention of the Land of Israel, from Holyland to Homeland", November, 2012. Also on geographic falsification, there is a book, "Hidden Histories Palestine and the Eastern Mediterranean", by Basem L. Ra'ad, Pluto Press, 2010. All are available on . Finally, in memoriam: Doctor Albert Glock, Professor of Archaeology at Birzeit University. He was a contributor to the reference work, "All That Remains, the Palestinian Villages Occupied and Destroyed by Israel in 1948". published by The Institute for Palestine Studies, 1992 2006. See also, "Sacred Geography, a Tale of Murder and Archaeology in the Holy Land", by Edward Fox, published by Henry Holt and Company, LLC. 2001. (And later by Harper Collins, entitled: "Palestine Twilight, the Murder of Dr. Albert Glock and the Archaeology of the Holy Land", paperback, 2002.) When lies are so profitable, the pursuit of truth can ruin your career, or cost you your life.

The Genealogical Science analyzes the scientific work and social implications of the flourishing field of genetic history. A biological discipline that relies on genetic data in order to reconstruct the geographic origins of contemporary population their histories of migration and genealogical connections to other present-day groups this historical science is garnering ever more credibility and social reach, in large part due to a growing industry in ancestry testing.

An illuminating analysis of the social and political realities with which this scientific question has been entwined. . . . This is a timely, insightful, and exceptionally well-researched book.