40TH ANNUAL

CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

December 21 - 23, 2008
Grand Hyatt Washington
Washington, DC
The Association for Jewish Studies wishes to thank the Center for Jewish History and its constituent organizations—the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Sephardi Federation, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Yeshiva University Museum, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research—for providing the AJS with office space at the Center for Jewish History.

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ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES
Goals and Standards

AJS Goals and Standards

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American Jewish Historical Society
American Jewish University
Arizona State University, Jewish Studies Program
The Center for Cultural Judaism
Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies
Cornell University, Jewish Studies Program
Duke University, Jewish Studies Program
Foundation for Jewish Culture
Georgetown University, Program for Jewish Civilization
Hebrew College
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion
Indiana University, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program
The Jewish Theological Seminary, The Graduate School
Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies
Northwestern University, The Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies
Old Dominion University, Institute for Jewish Studies and Interfaith Understanding
Pennsylvania State University, Jewish Studies Program
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies
Stanford University, Taube Center for Jewish Studies
Trinity College, Jewish Studies Program
The University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies
University of California, Los Angeles, Center for Jewish Studies
University of California, San Diego, Judaic Studies Program
University of Connecticut, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life
University of Denver, Center for Judaic Studies
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Program in Jewish Culture and Society
University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Judaic & Near Eastern Studies Department
University of Michigan, The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
University of North Carolina at Asheville, Center for Jewish Studies
University of Oregon, Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies
University of Pittsburgh, Jewish Studies Program
University of Tennessee, The Fern and Manfred Steinfeld Program in Judaic Studies
The University of Texas at Austin, Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies
University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program
University of Washington, Jewish Studies Program, Jackson School of International Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Center for Jewish Studies
Vanderbilt University, Program in Jewish Studies
Washington University in St. Louis, Program in Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Studies
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
York University, Centre for Jewish Studies
Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to present the program for the Fortieth Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. This year, the AJS holds its conference in Washington, DC. As has been the case over the past four decades, the annual conference is the most visible of the organization's activities. The program reflects a great deal of creative energy and hard work on the part of many people, and I want to thank all participants for what promises to be a series of rich and rewarding sessions and plenary events. As even a cursory perusal of the program will show you, the AJS Annual Conference continues to flourish. This year's conference is particularly significant, as it marks forty years since a small group of Jewish Studies scholars met on the campus of Brandeis University to discuss the state and direction of the field, and went on to establish the AJS. The Program Committee has scheduled many special events to examine the history of the Association and the field. Please see descriptions of these events, and other conference functions, below.

HOTEL, REGISTRATION, BADGES, MEALS
All sessions will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, DC. Floor plans on pages 14–15 of this Program Book show their location and arrangement. The Sessions at a Glance table on pages 16–20 provides a summary of events with their locations and times. If you have not as yet registered for the conference, you may do so on-site in Washington, DC at the Conference Registration Desk located in the Independence Foyer (you may pay by cash or check). Materials will also be available if you wish to renew or take out a new AJS membership for 2008–2009. Badges and kosher meal confirmations will be sent to U.S. and Canadian addresses for those who have registered and paid all fees by the November 14 deadline. Attendees coming from outside North America: please pick up your badges, meal confirmations, and program books at the AJS Registration Desk. Badge covers will be available on-site. Please remember that conference badges must be worn at all times for admission to the sessions and the Book Exhibit. Security personnel at the entrance to the Exhibit and elsewhere in the hotel will be checking badges and will only admit those who have registered for the conference.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
The Annual AJS Business Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 AM in Constitution A. All AJS members are invited to attend.

WELCOME RECEPTION AND ANNUAL GALA BANQUET
We thank the various Jewish Studies programs, departments, institutions, and foundations that have generously co-sponsored the Annual Gala Banquet on Sunday, December 21 at 6:45 PM in the Constitution Ballroom (see page 119 for a list of banquet sponsors). Please join us at 6:15 PM in the Independence Foyer for the Welcome Reception preceding the banquet.

PLENARY PANEL
This year the Program Committee has arranged for a very exciting plenary panel that is open to all conference participants and the wider Washington, DC community. On Sunday, December 21 at 8:00 PM in the Constitution Ballroom, immediately following the Gala Banquet, we will celebrate forty years of the AJS with the plenary, Reflections at Forty: Past Presidents on the Founding of the AJS and the Field of Jewish Studies. This panel will feature past AJS presidents: Judith Baskin, Chair (University of Oregon), David Berger (Yeshiva University), Robert Chazan (New York University), Jane Gerber (The Graduate Center, CUNY), Lawrence Schiffman (New York University), Robert Seltzer (Hunter College, CUNY), and Ruth Wisse (Harvard University). Topics will include debates at the conception of the AJS, changes in the field over the past forty years, and new directions in Jewish Studies. The panelists will share prepared remarks, respond to each other's comments, and take questions from the audience.
FILM FESTIVAL
Thanks to the sponsorship of the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Maryland, the AJS conference will feature its second film festival, running from Sunday, December 21 through Tuesday, December 23. Films of interest to Jewish Studies scholars and teachers will be screened continuously in the Conference Theatre. A list of these films can be found on pages 63–64 of the program book. The festival will feature two special evening screenings: on Sunday, December 21, at 9:30 PM, The Hebrew Lesson (directed by David Ofek, Elinor Kowarsky, and Ron Rotem; 2006) and on Monday, December 22, at 9:30 PM, Being Jewish in France (directed by Yves Jeuland; 2007). A special thanks to Professor Bernard Cooperman for organizing the series.

POSTER SESSION
The AJS is pleased to present a Poster Session on Monday, December 22 in the Independence Ballroom (in the Book Exhibit Hall). The poster session will feature multimedia presentations by scholars across the field of Jewish Studies. On December 22, posters will be on display from 8:30 AM–6:30 PM; scholars will be available to answer questions and discuss their research during the formal Poster Session hours of 10:30 AM–12:30 PM (a coffee reception sponsored by the Center for Jewish History will be held from 10:30 AM–11:15 AM as part of the Poster Session).

BOOK EXHIBIT AND AJS 40th ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBIT
The AJS welcomes representatives of leading publishers of Jewish Studies scholarship; major foundations supporting Jewish Studies research; and archives and research centers, who will be exhibiting at the AJS Annual Conference. Peruse the latest books in the field, purchase texts at significant discounts, and learn about fellowship, grant, and research opportunities for students and scholars. You will also enjoy an exhibit of AJS founding documents and photographs in the Book Exhibit Hall, marking the 40th anniversary of the first AJS meeting. The Center for Jewish History will sponsor two coffee breaks in the Book Exhibit Hall: Monday, December 22 from 10:30 AM–11:15 AM and from 4:00 PM–4:30 PM.

SCHOLARS FROM EASTERN EUROPE
The AJS wishes to again welcome the participation of several scholars from Eastern Europe at its Annual Conference, as part of the AJS's initiative to support and cooperate with Jewish Studies programs in Eastern Europe. The AJS gratefully acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Hungary, YIVO, and a friend of the AJS for underwriting the costs associated with the Travel Grant Program.

CAUCUSES, MEETINGS, AND RECEPTIONS
The AJS conference provides the opportunity for several caucuses, colloquia, and groups to meet. These special events include the Works in Progress Group in Modern Jewish Studies on Tuesday, December 23 at 1:45 PM; the Directors of Jewish Studies meeting on Monday, December 22 at 8:30 AM; the annual AJS Women's Caucus Breakfast on Monday, December 22 at 7:00 AM; the Sephardi/Mizrahi Caucus Lunch on Monday, December 22 at 1:00 PM; and the American Academy for Jewish Research session, “Judaism or Judaisms? The Post-Modern Challenge,” on Monday, December 22 at 11:15 AM. The Center for Jewish History will also be sponsoring two coffee breaks on Monday, December 22: from 10:45 AM–11:15 AM, and from 4:00 PM–4:30 PM in the Book Exhibit. For a list of other receptions open to all AJS members, see the listing of daily program events.

EVENTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND EARLY CAREER SCHOLARS
All graduate students are warmly invited to a Graduate Student Reception held by the AJS in their honor on Monday, December 22 at 9:30 PM in Farragut Square. This event will provide graduate students the opportunity to meet informally and to speak with AJS administrative staff and board members. Recipients of AJS Graduate Student Travel Grants will also be introduced and honored at this gathering. Graduate students and early career scholars are also encouraged to attend two special sessions of particular interest to those entering the academic profession: on Monday, December 22, at 1:00 PM, a lunchtime meeting on Pedagogy and Jewish Studies will discuss ways in which the AJS can support...
its members’ work as teachers; and on Tuesday, December 23, at 8:30 AM, the session **Mediating Jewish Studies to Nonacademic Audiences** will explore the challenges and opportunities of writing for and teaching general audiences.

**INTERVIEWS**
The AJS has set aside rooms where institutions may conduct job interviews in comfortable surroundings. AJS policy prohibits the use of private guest rooms for interviews and offers confidential scheduling of interviewing facilities. Pre-reservation with the AJS office is required.

**SERVICES**
The *Bulfinch* and *Latrobe* meeting rooms have been set aside at 4:00 PM on Sunday, 7:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Monday, and 7:00 AM on Tuesday to accommodate conference participants who wish to organize egalitarian and traditional religious services, respectively.

**HANUKAH CANDLELIGHTING**
Those who wish to light Hanukah candles on Sunday and Monday evenings may do so in the Zephyr restaurant (Lobby Level) at 6:30 PM (please bring your own candles and menorah). An attendant will remain in the room until 8:30 PM to make sure all hotel fire regulations are adhered to. Candles may not be lit in guest rooms.

**CHILDCARE**
The Parents Childcare Co-op has made arrangements for affordable childcare in the hotel during conference meeting hours. Pre-registration is required. For further information, please contact Andrea Lieber at lieber@dickinson.edu. The children’s program is funded by a grant from the Center for Cultural Judaism (www.culturaljudaism.org). Please note: the Parents Childcare Co-op is an independent initiative and is not sponsored by nor affiliated with the Association for Jewish Studies. The Association for Jewish Studies assumes no liability for the use of these services.

**A PERSONAL NOTE**
I would like to extend my warmest welcome to you, the members of the AJS and participants in this year’s program. As always, I am delighted to see long-standing friends and colleagues—veterans of the AJS conferences—and take particular pleasure in welcoming new members and those attending the conference for the first time. The organization, and particularly this 40th Annual Conference, reflects the best of your efforts. The conference provides us with a way to keep up with our own and related fields in Jewish Studies, a function that is particularly important for an interdisciplinary organization such as ours. The formal sessions, as well as the informal discussions with colleagues and friends, nourish our scholarly work and energize our teaching. I would like to express a special thanks to Sara Horowitz, President of the AJS, for her support, and to Rona Sheramy, Executive Director of the AJS, for her dedicated and invaluable attention to all aspects of the program. I also thank Kristen Loveland, AJS Grants and Program Coordinator; Karin Kugel, AJS Webmaster and Program Book Designer; and Aviva Androphy, AJS Program Assistant, for their hard work and attention to detail. I am grateful to Paula Hyman for her good judgment and help in adjudicating the Graduate Student Travel Grants. I thank the division heads for the close attention they have given this year’s proposals, the members of the program committee for their wise counsel on the shaping of the program, and other volunteers who have shared their time and expertise. Enjoy the conference. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions for next year’s program.

Sincerely,

*Marsha Rozenblit*  
Vice President for Program
CONFERENCE INFORMATION

CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202) 582-1234 | Reservations: (800) 233-1234
www.grandwashington.hyatt.com

CHILDCARE

The Parents Childcare Co-op has made arrangements with Corporate Kids Events to provide affordable childcare during conference meeting hours.

*Pre-registration is required.*

The children’s program is funded by a grant from the Center for Cultural Judaism.

Contact Andrea Lieber at (717) 245-1482 or lieber@dickinson.edu to register.

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VISITING WASHINGTON, DC

The AJS website has extensive information about visiting Washington, DC, including transportation to and from the airport, cultural sites and activities, and kosher and vegetarian restaurants near the hotel.

Please see www.ajsnet.org/wdc.html for details.
Thank you to the

Marsha L. Rozenblit, University of Maryland, Chair
Christine Hayes, Yale University
Judith Hauptman, Jewish Theological Seminary
Gershon Hundert, McGill University
Paula Hyman, Yale University
Shaul Kelner, Vanderbilt University
Eric Lawee, York University

Pamela S. Nadell, American University
Shira Kohn, New York University, Student Representative
Sara R. Horowitz, York University, ex-officio
Rona Sheramy, Association for Jewish Studies, ex-officio

Bible and the History of Biblical Interpretation
Hindy Najman
University of Toronto

Talmud, Midrash, and Rabbinics
Azzan Yadin
Rutgers University

Yiddish Literature
Kathryn Hellerstein
University of Pennsylvania

Modern Jewish Literature
Wendy Zierler
HUC–JIR

Modern Hebrew Literature
Barbara Mann
Jewish Theological Seminary

Medieval Jewish Philosophy
Daniel Frank
Purdue University

Jewish Mysticism
Lawrence Fine
Mount Holyoke College

Modern Jewish Thought and Theology
Ken Koltun-Fromm
Haverford College

Jewish History and Culture in Late Antiquity
Seth Schwartz
Jewish Theological Seminary

Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Literature, and Culture
David Berger
Yeshiva University

Sephardi/Mizrahi Studies
Norman Stillman
University of Oklahoma

Modern Jewish History in Europe, Asia, Israel, and Other Communities
Derek Penslar
University of Toronto

Modern Jewish History in the Americas
Beth Wenger
University of Pennsylvania

Israel Studies
S. Ilan Troen
Brandeis University

Holocaust Studies
Jack Kugelmass
University of Florida

Jews and the Arts
Carol Zemel
York University

Social Sciences, Anthropology, and Folklore
Shaul Kelner
Vanderbilt University

Gender Studies
Chava Weissler
Lehigh University

Linguistics, Semiotics, and Philology
Benjamin Hary
Emory University

Interdisciplinary and Other
Andrea Most
University of Toronto
The Association for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce the recipients of the

In the Category of Gender Studies:
ELISHEVA BAUMGARTEN
Mothers and Children: Jewish Family Life in Medieval Europe
(Princeton University Press)

In the Category of Philosophy and Jewish Thought:
MARTIN KAVKA
Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy
(Cambridge University Press)

Please join the AJS for a reception in the authors’ honor on Sunday, December 21, at 9:30 pm in Farragut Square.

Information and application procedures for the 2009 competition will be available on the AJS website (www.ajsnet.org) in February of 2009.

Support for this program has been generously provided by the JORDAN SCHNITZER FAMILY FOUNDATION OF PORTLAND, OREGON.
The Association for Jewish Studies welcomes the recipients of the

RUDOLF KLEIN  
(Szent Istvan University)  
“Creating a ‘Moorish Cathedral’: The Construction of the Great Synagogue in Budapest, 1854-59”

PAVEL LION  
(Russian State University of Humanities)  
“The New Russian Jewish Studies”

IGOR TUROV  
(National University – Kievo Mogilyanska Akademiya)  
“Attitude of the Founders of Hasidism to Gentiles”

MARZENA ZAWANOWSKA  
(Maria Curie – Sklodowska University/University of Warsaw)  
“The Holy Writ and Its Authorship in Medieval Karaite Commentaries on the Pentateuch”

The Eastern European Travel Grant Program has been made possible through the generous support of:

A FRIEND OF THE AJS

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF POLAND

THE YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH
The Association for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce the recipients of the

$16,000 in support of first books

IN SUPPORT OF FIRST BOOKS

MARA H. BENJAMIN
(St. Olaf College)

Rosenzweig’s Bible: Reinventing Scripture for Jewish Modernity
To be published by Cambridge University Press

REBECCA KOBRIN
(Columbia University)

Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora: Between Exile and Empire
To be published by Indiana University Press

JAMES LOEFFLER
(University of Virginia)

The Most Musical Nation: Jews, Culture, and Modernity in the Late Russian Empire
To be published by Yale University Press

AVINOAM PATT
(University of Hartford)

Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust
To be published by Wayne State University Press

Support for these grants has been generously provided by
The Cahnman Foundation of New York.
Please note: Penn Quarter A and B, and Conference Theatre are located on the Lagoon Level (1B).
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<th>SUNDAY LUNCHTIME 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</th>
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<td>2.1 Shedding New Light on Jewish Continuity</td>
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<td>2.3 A Jew and Philosopher: A Hans Jonas Retrospective</td>
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<td>Constitution A</td>
<td>1.6 Rethinking the “Other”: Problems in Post-Modern Jewish Thought</td>
<td>2.6 Creating Culture/Creatons of Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabin John</td>
<td>The Need to Tell: The Impact of the Holocaust</td>
<td>New Perspectives on Orthodoxy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>The History of Medieval Jewish Philosophy according to Hermann Cohen</td>
<td>Early Modern Messianism(s): Context, Confluence, &amp; Discourse</td>
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<td>MEETING ROOM</td>
<td>MONDAY 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>MONDAY 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM</td>
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<td>Constitution A</td>
<td>8.1 Jewish Studies, Jewish Money, &amp; the Future of an Academic Field</td>
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<td>9.1 Politicized Academe: Reactions to Toaff’s Le Pasque di Sangue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution B</td>
<td>8.2 Maimonides &amp; Spinoza on the Practical Philosophicality of Scripture</td>
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<td>9.2 The (Im)Possibilities of Jewish Secularism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution C</td>
<td>8.3 Marx &amp; the Jewish Question: New Perspectives</td>
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<td>9.3 Biblical Narrative, Law, &amp; History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution E</td>
<td>8.4 Yiddish Prose</td>
<td></td>
<td>9.4 Many Faces of Jewish Nostalgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn Quarter A</td>
<td>8.5 Popular Purity Practices in Late Antiquity</td>
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<td>9.5 New Sources &amp; Perspectives on Early Jewish Mysticism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn Quarter B</td>
<td>8.6 The Bavil &amp; Its History</td>
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<td>9.6 Antisemitism on American Campuses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence G</td>
<td>8.7 Modernity &amp; Modernism in Jewish Art</td>
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<td>9.7 (Modern American) Visual Judaism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence I</td>
<td>8.8 Black-Jewish Relations: Multiple Perspectives &amp; the State of the Field</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renwick</td>
<td>8.9 Sixteenth-Century Kabbalah &amp; Its Aftermath</td>
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<td>9.9 The Gender of Jewish Modernity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnham</td>
<td>8.10 German Jewish Culture: Beyond the Canon</td>
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<td>9.10 New Configurations of Jewish Cultural Nationalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>8.11 The Israel Attachments of American Jews</td>
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<td>9.11 Rabbis &amp; Their Cultural Context(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>8.12 Central European Zionism &amp; the Dialectics of Nationalism</td>
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<td>9.12 Jews and the Modern City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>8.13 Varieties of Crypto-Jewish Experience</td>
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<td>9.13 Insults through the Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cabin John</td>
<td>8.14 Jewish Immigrant Authorship</td>
<td>Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall Independence Ballroom</td>
<td>9.14 The Use of Biblical Sources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>8.15 Intertexts: Primo Levi &amp; Dante</td>
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<td>9.15 Jewish Community &amp; Society in Later Ottoman Times</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For a list of Monday evening receptions open to all conference registrants, see p. 51.

7:30 PM McPherson/ Franklin Square General Dinner

9:30 PM Conference Theatre Film Screening: Being Jewish in France (Part I)
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Constitution A</td>
<td>10.1 Jewish &amp; Environmental Thought</td>
<td>11.1 Political Theology in Recent Jewish Thought</td>
<td>Constitution B</td>
<td>10.2 Gender &amp; Sexuality in Contemporary Literature</td>
<td>11.2 Yiddish Poetry &amp; Prose</td>
<td>Constitution C</td>
<td>10.3 Case Studies in the Modernization of Russian Jews, 1881-1914</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constitution E</td>
<td>10.4 Mediating Jewish Studies to Nonacademic Audiences</td>
<td>11.4 New Feminist Approaches to the Study of Judaism</td>
<td>Penn Quarter A</td>
<td>10.5 Jewish Art(s) &amp; the Aesthetics of Rupture/Repair</td>
<td>11.5 Jews &amp; the American Nation</td>
<td>Penn Quarter B</td>
<td>10.6 Ethnography of Jewish Ritual</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independence G</td>
<td>10.7 New Approaches to Jewish Culture in Latin America</td>
<td>11.7 Emergent Jewish Communities &amp; Their Participants</td>
<td>Independence I</td>
<td>10.8 Normalizing Emergency: The State of Israel</td>
<td>11.8 Jews as Co-Creators of Modern Western Theater</td>
<td>Renwick</td>
<td>10.9 Explorations in the Society &amp; Culture of Italian Jewry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burnham</td>
<td>10.10 Death &amp; Acculturation in Jewish Late Antiquity</td>
<td>11.10 Gender, Family, Children, &amp; the Holocaust</td>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>10.11 Contemporary Transnationalism</td>
<td>11.11 Drink, Sex, &amp; Humor among Eastern European Jews</td>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>10.12 Centralization, Identity, &amp; Redaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>McPherson/ Franklin Square</td>
<td>General Lunch</td>
<td>Farragut Square</td>
<td>AJS Board of Directors Meeting</td>
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<td>12.5 Medieval Rabbinic Leadership &amp; Thought</td>
<td>12.6 Jewish Philanthropy &amp; Social Welfare</td>
<td>12.7 Hebrew, English, &amp; Contemporary Jewish/Israeli Identity in America</td>
<td>12.8 From the Other Shore: Americanization</td>
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<td>12.9 Jewish Theology</td>
<td>12.10 European Jewish Political Thought</td>
<td>12.11 Works in Progress Group in Modern Jewish Studies</td>
<td>12.12 Holiness, Purity, and the Temple</td>
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</table>
Sunday, December 21, 2008

**GENERAL BREAKFAST**  8:30 AM – 9:30 AM  
*McPherson/Franklin Square*

(Nota: By pre-paid reservation only)

**REGISTRATION**  8:30 AM – 6:00 PM  
*Independence Foyer*

**AJS BUSINESS MEETING**  9:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
*Constitution A*

**AJS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  10:30 AM – 2:00 PM  
*Farragut Square*

**BOOK EXHIBIT**  1:00 PM – 6:30 PM  
*Independence Ballroom*

(List of Exhibitors, p. 65)

**FILM SCREENINGS**  9:30 AM – 6:30 PM  
*Conference Theatre*

(List of Films, pp. 63 - 64)

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**Session 1, Sunday, December 21, 2008**  9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

1.1 **AMERICAN RESPONSES TO NAZISM IN THE 1930s: NEW RESEARCH ON ANTESEMITISM, ISOLATIONISM, AND THE JEWISH REFUGEE PROBLEM**

*Sponsored by the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies*

*Chair:* Racelle Weiman (Temple University)

**American Elites and the German Jewish Refugee Crisis**

Laurel Leff (Northeastern University)

**Antisemitism in the America First Movement**

June Melby Benowitz (University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee)

**American Jewry and Illegal Immigration to Palestine, 1938–1940**

Rafael Medoff (The David Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies)

1.2 **NEH PLANNING GRANTS: TWO CURRENT JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECTS**

*Chair:* David Martz (National Endowment for the Humanities)

*Discussants:*

- Gabriel Goldstein (Yeshiva University Museum)
- Joanne Jacobson (Yeshiva College)
- Marsha Kinder (University of Southern California)

1.3 **THE JEWISH WRITINGS OF MICHAEL CHABON**

*Chair:* Helene Meyers (Southwestern University)

*Discussants:*

- Alan L. Berger (Florida Atlantic University)
- Alisa Braun (University of California, Davis)
- Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)
1.4 JEWISH RESPONSES TO MODERN BIBLE CRITICISM: REJECTION, RESISTANCE, ACCOMMODATION
Chair: Christian Wiese (University of Sussex)
Discussants: Frederick E. Greenspahn (Florida Atlantic University)
Jay Harris (Harvard University)
Alan T. Levenson (University of Oklahoma)

1.5 PATRONAGE, TRUST, AND AGENCY: NETWORKS OF EUROPEAN JEWRY
Chair and Respondent: Matthias B. Lehmann (Indiana University)
Livornese Hebrew Printing, Patronage, and Jewish Intellectual Networks in the Eighteenth Century
Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)
Jewish Commercial Networks in Central Europe: Trade, Trust, and Bankruptcy
Cornelia Aust (University of Pennsylvania)
Jewish Political Networks and the Pogroms of 1881–82: Identifying Agents, Objects, Motivations
François Guesnet (University College London)

1.6 RETHINKING THE “OTHER”: PROBLEMS IN POST-MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT, POLITICS, AND THE MEDIA
Chair: Janice Fernheimer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
Is the “Other” Absolute? Two Conflicting Postwar French-Jewish Thinkers: Levinas and R. Leon Ashkenazi (Manitou)
Susan A. Handelman (Bar-Ilan University)
From the “Other” to Politics: A New Reading of the Priority of the “Other” in Levinas
Jacob E. Meskin (Hebrew College)
The Media and the Construction of the “Other” in the Arab–Israeli Conflict
Richard Landes (Boston University)

1.7 EMBODYING AND WRITING THE STATE: WOMEN AND ZIONISM IN ARGENTINA, ISRAEL, AND THE UNITED STATES
Chair: Mark A. Raider (University of Cincinnati)
Hebrew Queen Esther: Nationalizing the Female Body
Hizky Shoham (Bar-Ilan University/Yale University)
American Housewives in the Promised Land: Two 1950s Memoirs of Life in Israel
Emily Alice Katz (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Adriana Brodsky (St. Mary’s College of Maryland)

1.8 GENDER, PRAYER, AND SPIRITUALITY
Chair: Melissa Klapper (Rowan University)
A Spirited Chavruta: Spirituality and Gender in a Beit Midrash in Jerusalem
Deidre Butler (Carleton University)
In the Key of Female: Music and Gender in the Modern and Contemporary American Cantorate and Jewish Worship Culture
Marsha Dubrow (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
The Religious Education of Women in Satmar Communities
Ilan Haim Fuchs (Bar-Ilan University)
NEW STUDIES IN THE REDACTION OF RABBINIC TEXTS

Chair and Respondent: Serguei Dolgopolskii (University of Kansas, Lawrence)

Forced Interpretations as Evidence for Redactional Ideology: The Portrayal of Rabban Gamaliel II in the Yerushalmi
Richard Hidary (Yeshiva University)

From Synagogue to Literature: What We Can Learn from the Redactions of Midrash Vayosha
Rachel Mikva (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Reciting the Shema: Redactional History and the Ascendancy of the House of Hillel
Binyamin Katzoff (Bar-Ilan University)

JEWISH WRITERS IN EASTERN EUROPE DURING AND AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Chair and Respondent: Joanna B. Michlic (Lehigh University)

Maxim D. D. Shrayver (Boston College)

“Shhhh! I am talking now”: The Function of Holocaust Narratives in Hanna Krall’s Literary Reportages
Dorota Glowacka (University of King’s College)

Imre Kertesz’s Fatelessness: Film and Novel
Catherine Portuges (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

REGIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF AMERICAN JEWRY

Chair: Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

A Preliminary Survey of Jewish Organizations in the United States
Paul Burstein (University of Washington)

Complicated Assimilations: Experiences of Difference among Mid-Twentieth-Century Southern Jews
Dina Pinsky (Arcadia University)

Western Jews, Ethnic Identity, and the Japanese American Other, 1900–1942
Ellen Eisenberg (Willamette University)

SOLOMON SCHECHTER AND THE CREATION OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Chair: Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

Creating Centrist Judaism in England: Schechter’s Influence on Morris Joseph
Matthew LaGrone (University of Delaware)

Solomon Schechter and America: Mutual Influences
David B. Starr (Hebrew College)

Solomon Schechter’s Disciples and the Creation of Conservative Judaism
Michael Cohen (Tulane University)

SELF AND OTHER IN THE FORMATION OF JEWISH IDENTITY

Chair and Respondent: Moshe Rosman (Bar-Ilan University)

Directionality and Mutability: The Place of the Hebrew Language in Medieval and Early Modern Jewish–Christian Discourse and Polemic
Daniel Stein Kokin (Yale University)

Kabbalah and Haskalah: A Dialectic Revisited
Sharon H. Flatto (Brooklyn College, CUNY)

The Egyptian Language in Rabbinic Literature
Rivka Kern Ulmer (Bucknell University)
1.14  
**ISRAEL IN THE FIRST DECADE OF INDEPENDENCE: DEFINING CITIZEN RIGHTS IN A NEW STATE**

*Chair:* Carsten Schapkow (University of Oklahoma)

**The 1948 Generation and Postwar Reconstruction**
Moshe Naor (Tulane University)

**The Right to Travel Abroad during Israel’s First Decade: Between State and Citizen**
Orit Rozin (Tel Aviv University)

1.15  
**LITURGY AND MUSIC**

*Chair:* Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)

**Creedal Expression in the Shabbat-Evening Amidah**
Debra Reed Blank (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**The Function of Music in Creating a Coherent Liturgical Experience: Kabbalat Shabbat and Friday Ma’ariv**
Boaz Tarsi (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**The Music of Friday Night Service in Sephardi/Mizrahi Traditions**
Mark Kligman (HUC-JIR)

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**Session 2, Sunday, December 21, 2008**

**11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**

2.1  
**SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON JEWISH CONTINUITY: INTERMARRIAGE AND IDENTITY FROM THE TALMUD TO MODERNITY**

*Chair:* Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)

**Acculturation and Intermarriage: The Case of Fourth-Century Mahoza**
Yaakov Elman (Yeshiva University)

**Disappearing Acts? Intermarried Men and the Jewish Community**
Keren R. McGinity (University of Michigan)

**Gendered Identity Differences among Young Adult Children of Intermarriage**
Rachel Rockenmacher (Independent Scholar)

2.2  
**BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION AND GENDER STUDIES**

*Chair:* Diana Lipton (King’s College London)

**Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible: Theory, History, Scholarship**
Esther Fuchs (University of Arizona)

**The Place of Women in Priestly Nationalism**
Rachel Sharon Havrellock (University of Illinois, Chicago)

**Genealogy, Gynecology, and Gender: The Priestly Writer’s Portrait of a Woman**
Elizabeth Goldstein (University of California, San Diego)

**Ruth and Inner-Biblical Allusion: The Case of I Samuel 25**
Yitzhak Berger (Hunter College, CUNY)

2.3  
**A JEW AND PHILOSOPHER: A HANS JONAS RETROSPECTIVE**

*Chair:* Zachary J. Braiterman (Syracuse University)

*Discussants:* Leora F. Batnitzky (Princeton University)
David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Arizona State University)
Christian Wiese (University of Sussex)
Michael E. J. Zank (Boston University)
2.4 Constitution E

HYBRID LANGUAGES: THEOLOGY, POETRY, AND LITURGY IN LIBERAL PRAYERBOOKS

Chair: Alan Mintz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Close Encounters of the Metaphoric Kind: Gender and Theology in Siddur Mishkan Tefilah
Rachel R. Adler (HUC-JIR)

Sneaking into the Prayerbook: The Boundaries between Poetry and Prayer
Maera Shreiber (University of Utah)

Judging Liberal Liturgy: The Last Taboo?
Catherine Madsen (National Yiddish Book Center)

2.5 Penn Quarter A

THE MELTING POT: RECONSIDERING ISRAEL ZANGWILL’S PLAY AT ITS CENTENNIAL

Chair: Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Melting Pot, The Cockpit, and The Principle of Nationalities: Zangwill’s Theater of War and Peace
Meri-Jane Rochelson (Florida International University)
The Arrival of the “Superman”? Reconsidering the Racial Content of Israel Zangwill’s Melting Pot One Hundred Years Later
Aviva Taubenfeld (Purchase College, SUNY)

“A Wild Creature”: Zangwill’s Revolutionary Daughter
Susan David Bernstein (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Respondent: Todd M. Endelman (University of Michigan)

2.6 Penn Quarter B

CREATING CULTURE/CREATIONS OF CULTURE: NORTH AMERICAN JEWRY IN MEDIA, MUSIC, ADVERTISING, AND ART

Chair: Judith F. Rosen (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

The Pesach Rubenstein Murder Trial: Jews and Mass Media in Nineteenth-Century America
Edward Portnoy (Rutgers University)
The Spaces and Places of American Jewish Advertising
Kerri P. Steinberg (Otis College of Art and Design)
The “Cult of Synthesis” Embellished: Jewish GIs and Their Art in World War II
Daniel M. Bronstein (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Cultural “Work”: Singing, Dancing, Acting, Reading “far a shenerer beserer velt”
Ester Reiter (York University)

2.7 Independence G

VISUAL CULTURE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST: JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE PERPETRATORS’ LENS

Chair: David A. Brenner (Rice University)

The (Photographically Illustrated) Book of the Dead: On German Friedhofs bücher
Daniel H. Magilow (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Cinema and the Traumatized Tourist: Jewish Experience and Memory in KZ and And Along Came Tourists
Brad Prager (University of Missouri, Columbia)

Baroque and Beyond: Rethinking the Aesthetics of Fascism in Luchino Visconti’s The Damned
Jennie Hirsh (Maryland Institute College of Art)

Respondent: Darcy Buerkle (Smith College)
Independence I

ISSUES IN JEWISH DEMOGRAPHY
Chair: Jonathon Ament (United Jewish Communities)
Sixty Years of World Jewish Demography: Change and Continuity
Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Jewish Identity among Young Adults in Europe and North America
Benjamin Phillips (Brandeis University)
Four Questions about American Jewish Demography
Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)
Interfaith Couples: Rabbinic Wedding Officiation and Subsequent Jewish Engagement
Bruce A. Phillips (HUC-JIR)

READINGS IN MODERN GERMAN JEWISH LITERATURE
Chair: Jonathan M. Hess (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
(Re)Visions of Wilhelm Meister: Bildung in the Life and Work of Karl Emil Franzos
Leo W. Riegert Jr. (Kenyon College)
In My Flesh Shall I See God: Franz Kafka’s “In der Strafkolonie,” the Alphabet, the Covenant, and Isaac Luria’s Tikun Olam
Ruth Christa Anita Callahan (Glendale Community College)
Infants/Schlemiels: The Figure of Infancy in the Fiction of Franz Kafka and the Poetry of Paul Celan
Menachem Feuer (D’Youville College)

ART, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY IN ISRAEL
Chair: Alan Benjamin (Pennsylvania State University)
Israeli Choreography of Social Hierarchy: Ashkenazi Jews, Mizrahi Jews, and Arabs
Dina Roginsky (University of Toronto)
Russian-Language Israeli Literature: An Introduction
Anna P. Ronell (Wellesley College)
Sing Us a Mawal: The Politics of Culture-Brokering Palestinian–Israeli Musicians in Israel
Galeet Dardashti (University of Texas at Austin)
Were the Burecas Kosher? The Attitude to Religion and Religious People in Israeli Cinema in the 1970s
Avi Picard (New York University)

VARIETIES OF RABBINIC LITERATURE
Chair: Dvora E. Weisberg (HUC-JIR)
Remapping Midrash Halakhah
Azzan Yadin (Rutgers University)
“Flying in Air” and “Torah Bodies”: A New Interpretation of M. Hagigah 1:8
Nehemia Polen (Hebrew College)
Sowing Flax and Trapping Deer: Narratives of Literary Origin in the Babylonian Talmud
Henry Abramson (Touro College South)
Respondent: Richard L. Kalmin (Jewish Theological Seminary)
2.12  
HA-SHOMER HA-TZAIR IN EUROPE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST: SHAPING COLLECTIVE MEMORY, MOLDING A COMMON FUTURE
Chair and Respondent: David Engel (New York University)
The Struggle of Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair for Shaping the Memory of the Holocaust
Eli Alexander Tzur (Academic College Seminar Ha-Kibbutzim)
“Broken Youth” into Pioneers: Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair in Europe after the Holocaust
Avinoam Jacob Patt (University of Hartford)
Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair after the Holocaust: Comradeship vs. Ideology
Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)

2.13  
WAR IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE INSIDER/OUTSIDER PROBLEM
Chair: Jeffrey Haus (Kalamazoo College)
The Cultural Question among Russian Zionists on the Eve of the Balfour Declaration
Brian J. Horowitz (Tulane University)
Krieg in Shparyen: The Civil War Correspondence of S. L. Schneiderman
Jack Kugelmass (University of Florida)

2.14  
INTERRELIGIOUS HOSTILITY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES
Chair: Naomi Grunhaus (Yeshiva University)
“When ropes he pulls, with rubbish he’s full”: Anti-Christian Curses in the Medieval and Early Modern Period
Yaacov Deutsch (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
The New Polemical Arguments of an Inquisition Prisoner: The Case of Isaac de Castro Tartas
Miriam Bodian (Touro College)
The Jewish Badge in Renaissance Italy: The Iconic O, the Yellow Hat, and the Paradoxes of Distinctive Sign Legislation
Flora Cassen (University of Vermont)
Distinctions without Much Difference? Ritual Murder, Blood Libel, and the Need to Classify
Emily Rose (Johns Hopkins University)

2.15  
CARIBBEAN HAVENS: JEWISH REFUGEE EXPERIENCES IN JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Chair: Judith Laikin Elkin (University of Michigan)
Last-Ditch Haven: Jamaica’s Role in the Re-Rescuing of Jews from the Holocaust
Paul R. Bartrop (Bialik College)
The Jewish Refugee Settlement in the Dominican Republic: Sosúa, 1940–1945
Marion Kaplan (New York University)
Jews to Trinidad: An Unintended Haven
Alisa Siegel (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)
Respondent: Judah Cohen (Indiana University)

GENERAL LUNCH  1:00 PM – 2:00 PM  McPherson/Franklin Square
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)
Session 3, Sunday, December 21, 2008

3.1  
JEWISH WANDERINGS, WANDERING JEWS  
*Chair:* Judith Page (University of Florida)  
The Transformation of Elijah from Zealous Prophet to the Archetype of the Wandering Jew  
Rachel Adelman (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Shelley’s Esemplastic Wandering Jew  
Edan Dekel (Williams College)  
Hans Christian Andersen’s Ahasverus: In the Skin of a Jew  
David Gantt Gurley (Harvard University)  
The Eternal Odessit: Wanderings in and out of Old Odessa, The Jewish City of Sin  
Jarrod Tanny (Ohio University)  

3.2  
JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN LEARNING DURING THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES: PARALLELS AND POINTS OF CONTACT  
*Chair:* Martin I. Lockshin (York University)  
The Process of Reading in Twelfth-Century Jewish and Christian Biblical Exegesis  
Michael A. Signer (University of Notre Dame)  
Tosafists, Cathedral Masters, and Their Critics  
Ephraim Kanarfogel (Yeshiva University)  
Jewish Knowledge of Christianity in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries  
Daniel J. Lasker (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)  
Echoes of the Eve/Mary Dichotomy in the Zohar  
Sharon Koren (HUC-JIR)  

3.3  
RABBINIC REDACTORS AND THEIR READERS  
*Chair:* Judith R. Baskin (University of Oregon)  
Confusing the Heavenly and Human Fathers: Rabbinic Power and Powerlessness in *BT Massekhet Ta’anit*  
Julia Watts Belser (Missouri State University)  
In Front of the Text: Reading Self in Rabbinic Literature  
Serguei Dolgopolskii (University of Kansas, Lawrence)  
 Literary Structure and Thematic Coherence in a Chapter of Bavli  
Devora Steinmetz (Independent Scholar)  
 Jacob ibn Habib’s Critique of Medieval Intellectual Culture: A View of the *Ein Yaakov* through the Lens of the Talmud  
Marjorie S. Lehman (Jewish Theological Seminary)  

3.4  
INTERROGATING THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN JEWISH IDENTITY: AN EXPLORATION OF MODELS, METAPHORS, AND METHODS  
*Chair:* Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)  
An Existentialist Approach to Jewish Identity  
Stuart Charme (Rutgers University)  
Jungle Gyms and China Shops: Durability and Fragility in Jewish Identity Formation  
Tali Hyman (HUC-JIR)  
Between Me and the Deep Blue Sea: Identity Formation in a Time of Liquid (Post)Modernity  
Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)  
Gendering Jewish Studies in the Study of Identity  
Debra Renee Kaufman (Northeastern University)
3.5	Independence G

THE VISUAL CULTURE OF JEWISH WEDDINGS: A RING, A DOCUMENT, AND A FEW NICE PICTURES

Chair: Carol Zemel (York University)

“Italian” Jewish Marriage Rings from Central Europe
Vivian B. Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Transformations of the Ketubah or, the Gallery of Failed Marriages
Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)

Between Sacredness and Feminism: Male–Female Union in the Artwork of Nechama Golan
Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Respondent: Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

3.6	Independence I

SACRED SPACE, TEMPLE, AND PRIESTLY TRADITIONS

Chair: Judith H. Newman (Emmanuel College)

Reopening the Gates of Ezekiel’s Temple
Steven P. Weitzman (Indiana University)

Conflicting Models of Jewish Sacred Space: A Neo-Structuralist Analysis
Seth Kunin (Durham University)

“And they shall observe all of its form”: Text and Place in Ezekiel 40–48
Adriane Leveen (HUC-JIR)

The Blasphemer Episode in Leviticus 24: Echoes of an Anti-Solomon Polemic?
Mark Leuchter (Temple University)

3.7	Renwick

IDENTITY POLITICS AND JEWISH STUDIES

Chair: Sara R. Horowitz (York University)

Discussants: Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)
Jeffrey Peck (Baruch College, CUNY)
Moshe Rosman (Bar-Ilan University)

3.8	Burnham

ANNE FRANK, HER DIARY, AND THEIR MEDIATIONS

Chair: Daniel Belasco (The Jewish Museum)

“I still believe”: Anne Frank in American Passover Haggadot
Liora Gubkin (California State University, Bakersfield)

Sounding a Young Girl: Musical Representations of Anne Frank
Judah Cohen (Indiana University)

Educating (with) Anne Frank
Ilana Abramovitch (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY)

Remembering Anne Frank: Icon of Tolerance and Target of Anti-Semitism
Brigitte Sion (New York University)

3.9	Lafayette

SEPHARDI/MIZRAHI WOMEN AND FAMILY

Chair: Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)

Dreams of My Mother: Gender, Family, Love, and Mystical Self-Fashioning in Luis de Carvajal’s Spiritual Autobiography (Mexico, 1592–1596)
Ronnie Perelis (Brandeis University)

Mizrahi Jews as Women? What Gender Studies Can Teach Us about Jews of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia
Alanna E. Cooper (University of Michigan)

Moroccan Judeo-Spanish Women’s Songs: Mysticism, Identity, and the Dynamics of Power
Vanessa Paloma (Hadassah Brandeis Institute)

The Western Sephardic Family as Reflected in Thesovro Dos Dinim, by Menasseh ben Israel, Amsterdam, 1647
Julia R. Lieberman (St. Louis University)
3.10 WEST AND EAST: JEWISH HISTORIANS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE
Chair: David N. Myers (University of California, Los Angeles)
Setting the Record Straight: Polish Jewish Historians and Local History in Interwar Poland
Natalia Aleksiuń (Touro College)
“As brave with his pen as a Maccabee with his sword”: Graetz and the Embrace of Subjectivity in Jewish Historical Writing
Jeffrey C. Blutinger (California State University, Long Beach)
Locating German Jewish Cultures between the Province, the Nation, and the Diaspora
Nils Roemer (University of Texas at Dallas)
Respondent: Michael Brenner (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

3.11 ISSUES IN HEBREW LINGUISTICS
Chair: Benjamin H. Hary (Emory University)
Zelda K. Newman (Lehman College, CUNY)
The Potential of Informal Education in the Acquisition of Hebrew and Beyond: Hebrew-Speaking Summer Camps
Avital Feuer (University of Maryland)

3.12 WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP IN THE YISHUV
Chair: Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)
Women’s Leadership in the Struggle for Suffrage in the Yishuv
Margalit Shilo (Bar-Ilan University)
Breaking through Traditionalism: Religious-Zionist Female Leadership during the Mandate Period
Lilach Rosenberg-Friedman (Bar-Ilan University)
Daring, Devotion, Vision: Ada Fishman (Maymon) and Cohorts Defy Gender Boundaries
Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies/The Open University of Israel)

3.13 ASPECTS OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT
Chair: James Arthur Diamond (University of Waterloo)
Maimonides and the Medieval Islamic Understanding of Phronesis
Steven Harvey (Bar-Ilan University)
Maimonides’ Theory of Law in His Introduction to His Commentary on the Mishnah
Lawrence J. Kaplan (McGill University)
Was Judah Alfakhar Really an Anti-Maimonidean?
Jacob Adler (University of Arkansas)
“Since when does our soul exist?” The Jewish Philosopher Sa’d ibn Mansur ibn Kammūna (d. 1284) on the Pre-Eternity of the Human Soul
Lukas Muehlethaler (Yale University)
Session 4, Sunday, December 21, 2008

4.1 ISRAEL–DIASPORA RELATIONS: EVOLVING DEFINITIONS
Chair and Respondent: Allan M. Arkush (Binghamton University)
Diaspora Rebellions: U.S. Jews React to the “Who Is a Jew” Debate in Israel
Marianne R. Sanua (Florida Atlantic University)
Turning Points and Critical Decisions in Israel's Tortuous Pursuit of Expediting a Convergence of Mutual Interests with the Jewish Diaspora
Natan Aridan (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
On Defining the Special Relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry
Mervin F. Verbit (Touro College/Brooklyn College, CUNY)

4.2 MULTILINGUALISM AND JEWISH CULTURES: CASES IN NORTH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA
Chair and Respondent: Alan Astro (Trinity University)
Cultural and Linguistic Multiplicities in the Writing of Marcel Bénabou
Dinah Assouline Stillman (University of Oklahoma)
Writing in Ladino: Language Revival and National Identity in Contemporary Argentina
Monique R. Balbuena (University of Oregon)
Shame and Honor, or Yiddish in Argentina
Lois Barr (Lake Forest College)
The Mother Tongue of the Jews of Egypt: Insights from Paula Jacques and Jacques Hassoun
Aimée Israel-Pelletier (University of Texas at Arlington)

4.3 RESPONSES TO JEWISH COMMUNAL DISCONTINUITY
Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History Fellowships Program
Chair: Hasia R. Diner (New York University)
From Legal Autonomy to Municipal Integration in Hamburg, 1750–1780
David Horowitz (Columbia University)
Family Ties: Converts and Community in Imperial Russia
Ellie Schainker (University of Pennsylvania)
La Naçion: Community and Blood in the Atlantic World
Hilit Surowitz (University of Florida)
Respondent: Elisheva Carlebach (Columbia University)

4.4 MARSHALL SKLARE MEMORIAL LECTURE
Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry
Chair: Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)
Smart Jews
Paul Ritterband (Haifa University)
Respondents: Amitai Etzioni (George Washington University)
Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)

4.5 TEACHING AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES
Chair: Noam F. Pianko (University of Washington)
Discussants: Joyce Antler (Brandeis University)
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)
Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)
Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)
4.6

RETHINKING JEWISH ETHICS

Chair: Yudit K. Greenberg (Rollins College)

“These and those are the words of the living God”: A Critical Consideration for Contemporary Jewish Ethics
Nina Redl (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Rosenzweig: On the Question of Being and the Commandment of Love
Daniel Brandes (University of King’s College)

The Movement from Ethics to Social Life and Politics in Levinas’s Thought, and Why Decency Obscures Obligation
Marc A. Cohen (Seattle University)

Rhetoric of Modern Jewish Ethics: A Methodological Proposal
Jonathan Crane (University of Toronto)

The Logic of Science vs. the Theory of Creation: The “Judgment of Contradiction” in Hermann Cohen’s Logic of Origin
Hartwig Wiedebach (University of Zurich)

4.7

YIDDISH FOLK CULTURE AND EARLY MODERN ASHKENAZIC SOCIETY

Chair and Respondent: James Loeffler (University of Virginia)

Yiddish Wedding Folk Songs of Ashkenazi Jews: Function, Ethnography, Sociology, Texts, and Music
Lyudmila Sholokhova (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

Yom-tov Spilman: A Nineteenth-Century Hasidic Klezmer between Tradition and Modernity
Joel E. Rubin (University of Virginia)

An Early Ashkenazic Folk Dance: Toward a History of the Sher
Walter Zev Feldman (Bar-Ilan University)

Jewish Folk Style in Wall Paintings of Eastern European Wooden Synagogues
Eugeny Kotlyar (Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts)

4.8

DEFINING THE “OTHER”: THE ARAB MINORITY IN A JEWISH STATE

Chair: Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)

Contested Outlooks of Israeli Jews and Arabs: Arab Responses to the “100 Terms in Zionism”
Yitzhak Nissan Reiter (University of Minnesota)

Discrimination vs. Permissible Preferential Treatment in University of Haifa’s Dormitories, or, When Cicero Met Adalah in the Cafeteria
Nahshon Perez (University of California, Los Angeles)

Peacemaker Identity in America, Israel, and the Arab World: Social Capital or Social Stigma?
Ned Lazarus (American University)

The Problematic Ethnic and Sexual Discourses of Eytan Fox’s The Bubble
Jonathan C. Friedman (West Chester University)
CROSS-CULTURING AND HISTORY IN HEBREW LITERATURE  
Chair: Zohar Shavit (Tel Aviv University)  
A Modern Man: Jesus in A. A. Kabak’s Bemishol Hatsar  
Melissa Weininger (University of Chicago)  
Hearts and Bodies East and West: American Hebraists’ Encounters with Eretz Israel  
Stephen Katz (Indiana University)  
“Two years before the Shoah it had no name”: Literary Responses to the Holocaust, 1942–1945  
Neta Stahl (Johns Hopkins University)  
Speaking of Allegory: A. B. Yehoshua’s The Lover and Walter Benjamin in Ursprung des deutschen Trauerspiels  
Roberta Sabbath (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)  
Amichai’s Venice  
Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)

READING THE MEDIEVALS: CASE STUDIES IN RECEPTION HISTORY  
Chair: Miriam Bodian (Touro College)  
Scripturalization of Rashi’s Torah Commentary in Late Medieval and Early Modern Times  
Eric Lawee (York University)  
Leon Modena as Reader and as Read  
Yaacob Dweck (Princeton University)  
A New Guide? The “Modern Maimonides” Motif in the Maskilic Reception of Spinoza  
Daniel B. Schwartz (George Washington University)  
Who Asks the Question? Rashi’s Constructed and Constructing Readers  
Devorah Schoenfeld (St. Mary’s College of Maryland)  
Respondent: Adam B. Shear (University of Pittsburgh)

STUDIES IN EARLY KABBALAH, ABRAHAM ABULAFIA, AND THE ZOHAR  
Abraham Abulafia and the Cruciform Covenant  
Robert Sagerman (New York University)  
“The superiority of man over the animal is nothing”: Wisdom, Mysticism, and Ethics in the Writings of Jacob ben Sheshet of Gerona  
Yechiel Shalom Goldberg (California State University, Long Beach)  
The House in the Center of All: Divinity as Dwelling Place in Sefer ha-Zohar  
Ellen Haskell (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)  
The Snake and the Ayalta: A Sabbatian Reworking of a Zoharic Myth  
David Joel Halperin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND ANCIENT JUDAISM  
Chair: Moshe J. Bernstein (Yeshiva University)  
Reading Polemic: The Temple Scroll and Rabbinic Accounts of the Display of the Temple Sancta to Festival Pilgrims  
Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)  
A New Suggestion for the Reconstruction of 4Q370 and Its Implications for the Blessing of the Divine Name in the Birkat ha-Mazon  
Alex Jassen (University of Minnesota)  
Laws of Kosher Food in the Dead Sea Scrolls  
Lawrence H. Schiffman (New York University)  
Apocalyptic Literature, Ideas, and Movements: The Book of Jubilees and the Variety of Judaism in Antiquity  
Todd Hanneken (St. Mary’s University)
Sunday, December 21, 2008  Evening Program

MARSHALL SKLARE  6:15 PM – 7:00 PM  Independence Hall

Awards Reception
Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry; the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University; the Center for Jewish Studies, The Graduate Center, CUNY; and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Haifa University. Open to all conference registrants.

WELCOME RECEPTION  6:15 PM – 6:45 PM  Independence Foyer

GALA BANQUET  6:45 PM  Constitution Ballroom
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)
Remarks: Sara Horowitz, AJS President (York University)

Sponsored by:
American University, Jewish Studies Program
Colgate University, Jewish Studies Program
Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies
The George Washington University, Judaic Studies Program
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Center for Jewish Studies
HUC-JIR
The Jewish Theological Seminary, The Graduate School
The Johns Hopkins University, Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program
Kean University, Jewish Studies Program
Lehigh University, Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies
New York University, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies
The Posen Foundation
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Stony Brook University, Program in Judaic Studies
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
University of Maryland, Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies
University of Pennsylvania, Jewish Studies Program
University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program
Yeshiva University

PLENARY SESSION  8:00 PM  Constitution Ballroom
Introduction: Marsha Rozenblit, Vice-President for Program (University of Maryland)

Reflections at Forty:
Past Presidents on the Founding of the AJS and the Field of Jewish Studies
Moderator: Judith Baskin (University of Oregon)
Discussants: David Berger (Yeshiva University), Robert Chazan (New York University), Jane Gerber (The Graduate Center, CUNY), Lawrence Schiffman (New York University), Robert Seltzer (Hunter College, CUNY), and Ruth Wisse (Harvard University)
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

FILM  
THE HEBREW LESSON  
Hebrew, 2006  
Directed by David Ofek, Elinor Kowarsky, and Ron Rotem  
Presented by the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies, University of Maryland, College Park.

RECEPTION FOR  
JORDAN SCHNITZER BOOK AWARDS  
In honor of the 2008 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award recipients. Sponsored by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all conference registrants.

Monday, December 22, 2008

GENERAL BREAKFAST  
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
Farragut Square  
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

WOMEN’S CAUCUS BREAKFAST  
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM  
McPherson/Franklin Square  
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

AJS REVIEW  
7:00 AM – 8:30 AM  
Cherry Blossom

EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

REGISTRATION  
8:30 AM – 6:00 PM  
Independence Foyer

BOOK EXHIBIT  
9:00 AM – 6:30 PM  
Independence Ballroom

FILM SCREENINGS  
8:30 AM – 6:30 PM  
Conference Theatre

Session 5, Monday, December 22, 2008  
8:30 AM – 10:30 AM  
Constitution A

5.1  
DIRECTORS OF JEWISH STUDIES: TEACHING ISRAEL STUDIES  
Chair: Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)  
Discussants: Pamela S. Nadell (American University)  
Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)  
Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)

5.2  
RABBINIC GENDER AND THE BODY  
Chair: Judith Hauptman (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
“Candle in the womb”: Discourse of the Body in Leviticus Rabbah  
Tammy J. Jacobowitz (University of Pennsylvania)  
Patriarchal Stewardship: Women and Gender Relations in Avot de Rabbi Natan A and B  
Natalie C. Polzer (University of Louisville)  
Rabbinic Masculinity and the Gender of the “Other”  
Cynthia M. Baker (Bates College)  
Respondent: Evyatar Marienberg (Jewish Theological Seminary)
5.3 Constitution C

A FEARFUL ASYMMETRY? INTERPRETING THE BIBLE IN JEWISH SOURCES
Chair: Hindy Najman (University of Toronto)
Appreciating the Intuitive and Counter-Intuitive in Midrashic Theology
Michael A. Fishbane (University of Chicago)
What’s in a Name? The Biblical Background of a Talmudic Martyrdom
Diana Lipton (King's College London)
The Medieval Discovery of Biblical Narrative
Meira R. Polliack (Tel Aviv University)
Resolving a Conundrum: Pinning Down Maimonides’ Elusive Construal of the Maxim that “Scripture does not leave the hands of its Peshat”
Mordechai Z. Cohen (Yeshiva University)

5.4 Constitution E

JEWS AND NEW MEDIA I: SOCIAL SOFTWARE
Sponsored by the Working Group on Jews, Religion, and Media, Center for Religion and Media, New York University
Chair: Ilana Abramovitch (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY)
Discussants: Marcy Brink-Danan (Brown University)
Nathaniel Deutsch (Swarthmore College)
Janice Fernheimer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
Edward Portnoy (Rutgers University)
Brigitte Sion (New York University)
Chava Weissler (Lehigh University)

5.5 Penn Quarter A

JEWS AND AMERICAN CAPITALISM: NEW THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES
Chair: Hasia R. Diner (New York University)
Name-Changing and the Paradoxes of American Jewish Economic Life
Kirsten L. Fermaglich (Michigan State University)
Worshipping the Golden Calf: Rabbinical Anxieties over Affluence in Postwar America
Rachel Kranson (New York University)
A Tale of Two “Irvings”: Irving Howe, Irving Kristol, and the Role of the Intellectual in American Jewish Discourse in the Postwar Years
Ronnie Grinberg (Northwestern University)
The Rise and Fall of the House of Jarmulovsky: Banking and Real Estate Speculation in Gilded-Age New York
Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia University)

5.6 Penn Quarter B

POLITICS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS IN ROMAN JUDAEA
Chair: Robert G. Goldenberg (Stony Brook University, SUNY)
Charity and Social Justice in Early Rabbinic Literature
Gregg Gardner (Princeton University)
Josephus’ Republic: How Josephus Reconceptualized Law as Politics
David Flatto (Harvard University)
Playing Roman: Jewish Identity and Roman Games in the Augustan Era
Loren R. Spielman (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Jews and the Roman Culture of Benefaction
Seth Schwartz (Jewish Theological Seminary)
5.7 **Independence G**

**OUTSIDE THE ASHKENAZIC/SEPHARDIC DIVIDE: ITALIAN JEWISH STUDIES IN ITALY AND BEYOND**

*Sponsored by the Centro Primo Levi*

*Chair:* Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)

*Discussants:*
- Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)
- Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)
- Gadi Luzzatto Voghera (University of Padua/Boston University)
- David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)
- Mauro Perani (University of Bologna/European Association for Jewish Studies)

5.8 **Independence I**

**UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN JEWRY**

*Chair:* Norman A. Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

*The Culture Heroes: The Role of Iranian Jews in the Preservation, Proliferation, and Development of Persian Music*
- Houman Sarshar (Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History)

*Dhimma Status Revisited*
- Judith L. Goldstein (Vassar College)

*Bridging Cultures: Being Iranian–Jewish, Becoming Iranian–Jewish–American*
- Leah R. Baer (Independent Scholar)

5.9 **Renwick**

**LATIN AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST**

*Chair:* Alejandro Meter (University of San Diego)

*“Didn’t all the Nazis go to Argentina?” Latin American Studies and the Holocaust*
- Edna Aizenberg (Marymount Manhattan College)

*Memories of Villa Clara (1902-1947): Silencing the Past*
- Judith Freidenberg (University of Maryland)

*The Holocaust and the Dirty War: Figures of Jewish Memory in Argentina*
- Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley)

*Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising at the Obelisco: Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer and the Reshaping of the Memory of the Shoah in Argentina*
- Daniel Fainstein (Universidad Hebraica, Mexico City)

5.10 **Burnham**

**THE NEW RUSSIAN JEWISH STUDIES**

*Chair and Respondent:* Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)

*Discussants:*
- Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)
- Pavel Lion (Russian State University of Humanities)
- Alexander Militarev (Santa Fe Institute)
- David Shneer (University of Colorado, Boulder)

5.11 **Lafayette**

**CONCEPTS OF ETHNICITY AND HOME IN MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE**

*Chair:* Ezra Cappell (University of Texas at El Paso)

*Claudia Roden’s The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York as a Work of Modern Jewish Literature*
- Jo-Anne Berelowitz (San Diego State University)

*Starring Judy S. Blume as Herself: American Jewish Children’s Author*
- Joellyn Zollman (San Diego State University) and Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

*What Means Switch? Jewishness in Gish Jen’s Mona in the Promised Land*
- Caroline Margaret Rody (University of Virginia)

*From Chabon and Landau to Krakow and Birobidzhan: Constructing Post-Postmodern, Global Homesites*
- S. I. Salamensky (University of California, Los Angeles)
STUDIES IN MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE AND IDENTITY  
Chair: Shaul Magid (Indiana University)  
Kabbalah and Meditation  
Pinchas Giller (American Jewish University)  
On a Purported Copy of the Cosmographic Diagrams of R. Hayim Vital  
Menachem Emanuel Kallus (Haifa University)  
Attitude of the Founders of Hasidism to Gentiles  
Igor Victor Turov (National University, Kievo Mogilyanska Akademiya)

STRUGGLE, SOLACE, SUPPLICATION, SALVATION: ISRAELI WRITERS IN DIALOGUE WITH RELIGION  
Chair: Barbara Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
Wrestling with Angels and Fathers in Haim Be‘er’s Confessional Prose  
Hannah Simone Pressman (New York University/University of Washington)  
“I am the holy virgin”: The Use of Christian Personae in the Works of Leah Goldberg, Yonah Wallach, and Anna Herman  
Adriana X. Jacobs (Princeton University)  
The Destruction of the Redemptive Narrative: The Ekphrastic Poetry of Tuvia Rübnner  
Shahar Bram (University of Haifa)  
“God changes, prayers are here to stay”: Poetry and Prayer in the Late Works of Yehuda Amichai  
Vered Shemtov (Stanford University)

THE NEED TO TELL: THE IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON TESTIMONY, EDUCATION, AND MEMOIR  
Chair: Rakhmiel Peltz (Drexel University)  
The Suicidal Message: Jean Améry’s Testimony as Translation  
Dan Leshem (Emory University)  
Writing the Holocaust for Children in American Yiddish Children’s Magazines (1939–1950)  
Naomi Kadar (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
Memoir as Testimony: Post-Holocaust Accounts of Jewish Life in Pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe  
Beatrice Lang Caplan (Johns Hopkins University)  
The Secret Life of Forgiveness: Re-Reading Holocaust Survivor Memoirs  
Dennis B. Klein (Kean University)

THE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY ACCORDING TO HERMANN COHEN  
Chair: Michael E. J. Zank (Boston University)  
Pre-Maimonidean Jewish Philosophy according to Hermann Cohen  
Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary)  
The Nearness of Divine Distance: Cohen’s Approximation of Maimonides’ Proximity  
James Arthur Diamond (University of Waterloo)  
Maimonides among the Prophets: Hermann Cohen and Making the Old New Again  
Robert Erlewine (Illinois Wesleyan University)  
Beyond the Law into the Law?  
Dana Hollander (McMaster University)
Monday, December 22, 2008

Book Exhibit Coffee Reception
10:30 AM – 11:15 AM
Independence Ballroom
Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History

Session 6.1, Monday, December 22, 2008
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Independence Ballroom

6.1

POSTER SESSION

Mechanisms for Producing Jewish Identity in Community Contexts
Matthew Boxer (University of Wisconsin/Brandeis University)

Friedrich Bergammer: Poet in Exile
Gudrun Brokoph (St. Lawrence University)

Reading Rabbinical Calendar Texts against the Grain of Qumran: Revising the History of Calendar Practice in the Second Temple Period
Ron H. Feldman (Sonoma State University)

Attitudes and Dilemmas in the Research of Jewish Forced Labor during the Holocaust: The Case of the “Radom Transport”
Idit Gil (The Open University of Israel)

Birds of Passage/Harbinger of Change: Jewish Peddlers in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Rural America
Michael Hoberman (Massachusetts Historical Society)

The Rothschilds: Gendered Stereotypes in the Frankfurt am Main Memorbuch
Tzvia Koren-Loeb (Duisburg-Essen University)

Sefer Yetzirah—Birth and Transformation of a Text: Sa’adiah Gaon, Dunash, and Donnolo
Piergabriele Mancuso (Boston University)

Sa’adiah Ga’on and Maimonides on the Logic and Limits of Legal Inference
Aviram Ravitsky (Harvard University)

Hungarians Are the Jews: New Perspectives on Jewish Assimilation in Europe
Maria Rethelyi (University of Chicago)

Freemason and Jew: Fresh Light on the Lessing–Mendelssohn Friendship
Bruce Rosenstock (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

From Hell to Hope: A Comparison of Jewish Survivor Reception in the United States and Australia
Suzanne Dorothy Rutland (University of Sydney)

The Convert Community of the Granada Kingdom after the 1492 Expulsion
Raquel Sanz-Barrio (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

Ahron Marcus: Portrait of a Zionist Hasid
Joshua Shanes (College of Charleston)

Is Religion “What You Are” or “What’s in Your Heart”? Competing Definitions of Religion in Intermarried Couples
Jennifer Thompson (Emory University)
Session 7, Monday, December 22, 2008

7.1 JUDAISM OR JUDAISMS? THE POST-MODERN CHALLENGE
   Sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research
   Chair: Todd M. Endelman (University of Michigan)
   Is Jewish History Really Jewish? The Boundaries of Minority History
   David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)
   Texts as Cultural Anchors: Talmud, Piyut, Hekhalot
   Ephraim Kanarfogel (Yeshiva University)
   Judaisms, American Style: Diversity, Institutions, and Legitimacy Transformed
   Calvin Goldscheider (Brown University)
   Respondent: Paula E. Hyman (Yale University)

7.2 THE JEWISH SOLDIER: VISIONS OF HOME AND HOMELAND
   Chair: Pamela S. Nadell (American University)
   The German Jewish Soldier: From Participant to Victim
   Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)
   “I will be your home”: Refugee GIs and Their European Brides
   Robin E. Judd (Ohio State University)
   A Home Away from Home: Soldiers’ Welfare Huts and Jewish “Homes” in the World War I
   American Military
   Jessica Cooperman (Muhlenberg College)
   Respondent: Marsha L. Rozenblit (University of Maryland)

7.3 MAIMONIDES IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT
   Chair: Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary)
   Did the Gaon of Vilna Denounce Maimonides? A Reconsideration of Philosophy and
   Hermeneutics in Jewish History
   Eliyahu Stern (University of California, Berkeley)
   A Copernican Turn to Scripture: Hermann Cohen between Maimonides and Spinoza
   Daniel H. Weiss (University of Virginia)
   Yeshayahu Leibowitz and Maimonides: A Critical Examination
   Naftali Rothenberg (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

7.4 JEWS AND NEW MEDIA II: ARCHIVES AND THE CULTURAL MARKETPLACE
   Sponsored by the Working Group on Jews, Religion, and Media, Center for Religion and Media,
   New York University
   Chair: Andrea Lieber (Dickinson College)
   Discussants:
   Ari Davidow (Jewish Women’s Archive)
   Ayala Fader (Fordham University)
   Samuel Heilman (Queens College, CUNY)
   Emily Alice Karz (Jewish Theological Seminary)
   Elkanah Shmotkin (Jewish Educational Media)
   Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)
7.5 Penn Quarter A

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF JEWISH DIASPORA TRAVEL TO ISRAEL
Chair: Theodore Sasson (Brandeis University/Middlebury College)

Taglit-Birthright Israel: A New Form of Educational Tourism
Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University)

The Emergence of Jewish Alternative Tourism
Caryn Aviv (University of Denver)

Encounter with the Inner Other: Themes of Transition in “Traditional” Group Israel Travel
Shirah Hecht (Independent Scholar)

Respondent: Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)

7.6 Penn Quarter B

FREUD, GENDER, JEWISHNESS
Chair and Respondent: Matti Bunzl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Freud’s “Jewish” Narrative
Anne Golomb Hoffman (Fordham University)

Transgressing Identity: Jews and Queers in Freudian Perspective
David Ross Fryer (Temple University)

Of Snips and Puppy Dog Tails: Freud’s Sublimation of Judentum
Jay Geller (Vanderbilt University)

7.7 Independence G

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM AND THE HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE
Sponsored by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative
Chair: Alti Berthe Rodal (Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative)

Contemporary Reinterpretation of the OUN’s Antisemitic Discourse
Marco Carynnyk (Independent Scholar)

Recent Debates in Ukraine over Nationalist Involvement in the Holocaust
John-Paul Himka (University of Alberta)

Memorialization of the Jewish Tragedy at Babi Yar: Historical and Current Perspectives
Aleksandr Burakovskiy (Independent Scholar)

Ukrainian Imagination and the Holocaust as Expressed in Ukrainian Literature under Soviet Censorship
Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern (Northwestern University)

Respondent: Henry Abramson (Touro College South)

7.8 Independence I

LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES: EXPLORING ASHKENAZIC AND SEPHARDIC JEWISH IDENTITIES THROUGH LATIN AMERICAN NARRATIVE, THEATER, AND FILM
Sponsored by the Latin American Jewish Studies Association
Chair: Edna Aizenberg (Marymount Manhattan College)

“The New Wave”: Moving Away from Jewish Stereotypes in Argentine Films
Nora Glickman (Queens College/The Graduate Center, CUNY)

Yiddishes Mammes in Argentine Theater
Sandra Messinger Cypess (University of Maryland)

Gazing into the Broken Mirror: Mexican Jewish Women Negotiate Identity and Politics in Print and Film Versions of Rosa Nissan’s Work
Kenya Carmen Dworkin y Mendez (Carnegie Mellon University)

Respondent: Monique R. Balbuena (University of Oregon)
7.9 Hellenistic Jewish Interpretations and Narratives

Chair: Jed Wyrick (California State University, Chico)

“Joseph and Aseneth”: A Very Early Jewish-Hellenistic Romance
René Bloch (University of Bern)

At the Beginning: The Septuagint as a Jewish Bible Translation
Leonard J. Greenspoon (Creighton University)

The Death of Moses according to Josephus
Louis H. Feldman (Yeshiva University)

The Election of Israel in the Wisdom of Ben Sira
Greg Schmidt Goering (University of Virginia)

7.10 Linguistic Distinctiveness in Modern Jewish Communities

Chair: Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)

Discussants:
Marion J. Aptroot (Heinrich Heine Universität)
Paul D. Glasser (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)
Benjamin H. Hary (Emory University)
George Jochnowitz (College of Staten Island)
Norman A. Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

7.11 Polish–Jewish Encounters with the Holocaust: Diaries, Documentation, Reflections, and Recollections

Chair: Berel Lang (Wesleyan University)

Yizkor Books as Sources of Information about Polish–Jewish Relations
Michlean L. Amir (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) and
Rosemary Horowitz (Appalachian State University)

The Jewish Presence in the Warsaw Uprising
Anna Borejsza-Wysocka (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

Warsaw Polish Writers Encountering the Holocaust
Rachel Feldhay Brenner (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Biography of a Holocaust Image
Dan Porat (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

7.12 Rabbinics and the Christian World: Dialogue and Debate

Chair and Respondent: Kris H. Lindbeck (Florida Atlantic University)

A Note on Jewish and Christian Mediators
Boris Ostrer (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Rabbi Stories: Monastic Traditions and Their Jewish Analogies
Michal Bar-Asher Siegal (Yale University)

The Wayward Disciple: On Gehazi, Jesus, and the Birth of Christianity
Amram Tropper (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

7.13 Reading Gender in Hebrew Literature

Chair: Neta Stahl (Johns Hopkins University)

Toward a New History of Women’s Poetry in Hebrew
Miryam Segal (Harvard Divinity School/Indiana University)

“Ahot” and the Role of Masculinity in Agnon’s Early Writing
Philip A. Hollander (Tulane University)

“Lights in the dark”: Prostitution in Hebrew Literature
Ilana Szobel (Brandeis University)
NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ORTHODOXY
Chair: Shuly Rubin Schwartz (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Gedolim on Public-Affairs Issues: The Netziv, Rav Hutner, and Rabbi Soloveitchik on Antisemitism, the Holocaust, the Jewish Community—and Da-As Torah
Jerome A. Chanes (Brandeis University)
Being Heard: Yiddish Performances at Hasidic Girls’ Schools, Integration and Insularity
Ester-Basya Vaisman (Harvard University)
“When Orthodoxy was not as chic as it is today”: The Jewish Forum and American Modern Orthodoxy
Ira Robinson (Concordia University) and Maxine Jacobson (Independent Scholar)
A Good Bais Yaakov Girl: Judaism, Feminism, and the Creation of Orthodox Girl Culture
Leslie Ginsparg (Touro College/New York University)

EARLY MODERN MESSIANISM(S): CONTEXT, CONFLUENCE, AND DISCOURSE
Chair and Respondent: Elisheva Carlebach (Columbia University)
Topsy-Turvy World’s End: The Lost Tribes in Apocalyptic Scenarios from Sixteenth-Century Germany
Rebekka Voss (Harvard University)
The Religio-Political Jew: Post-Sabbatian Political Thought in Daniel Levi de Barrios and Abraham Pereyra
Anne Oravetz Albert (University of Pennsylvania)
Messianism and Exile in the Works of Rabbi Jonathan Eibeschütz
Pawel Maciejko (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Session 8, Monday, December 22, 2008

8.1
\textbf{Constitution A}

JEWSH STUDIES, JEWSH MONEY, AND THE FUTURE OF AN ACADEMIC FIELD: REFLECTIONS BY SCHOLARS AND DONORS

Sponsored by Sh'ma: A Journal of Social Responsibility

Chair: Steven J. Zipperstein (Stanford University)

Discussants:
- Lisa D. Grant (HUC-JIR)
- Paul Zakrzewski (Foundation for Jewish Culture)
- Julian A. Levinson (University of Michigan)
- Yael H. Zerubavel (Rutgers University)

8.2
\textbf{Constitution B}

MAIMONIDES AND SPINOZA ON THE PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHICALITY OF SCRIPTURE

Chair: Alan Lawrence Udoff (Saint Frances College)

- Maimonides and Spinoza on Secondary Causes in the Bible
  Joshua Parens (University of Dallas)
- Torah as Political Philosophy: Maimonides and Spinoza on Huqqim
  Edward Halper (University of Georgia)
- Spinoza’s Critique of Maimonides: The Meaning of Political Freedom
  Steven Frankel (Xavier University)

Respondent: Hillel Fradkin (Hudson Institute)

8.3
\textbf{Constitution C}

MARX AND THE JEWSH QUESTION: NEW PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Daniel H. Magilow (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

- Marx on the Jewish Questions: Reflections on Its Place in Jewish Intellectual History
  Eugene Sheppard (Brandeis University)
- Reading Marx through Spinoza
  Julie Klein (Villanova University)
- Getting Real with “Real Jews”: Performative Strategies in Marx’s “On the Jewish Question”
  Sven-Erik Rose (Miami University)
- Herzl’s Old New Land: Between Utopia and Socialism
  Eran Kaplan (Princeton University)

8.4
\textbf{Constitution E}

YIDDISH PROSE

Chair and Respondent: Michael Wenthe (American University)

- Hope and Fear: Y. L. Peretz in 1905–1906
  Michael C. Steinlauf (Gratz College)
- Intertextual Relationships in Hasidic and Maskilic Narratives of Sea Travel, 1815–1825
  Ken Frieden (Syracuse University)
- Some Texts on Shabbetai Tsvi in Old Yiddish Literature (Seventeenth–Eighteenth Century)
  Jean Baumgarten (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)

8.5
\textbf{Penn Quarter A}

POPULAR PURITY PRACTICES IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Chair: Samuel Secunda (Yale University)

- Water, Women, and Worship: “Jewish-Christian” Perspectives on Ablution
  Annette Yoshiko Reed (University of Pennsylvania)
- Ballei Kerian and Popular Religion of Jewish Palestine in Late Antiquity
  Reuven Kiperwasser (Bar-Ilan University)
- Stepped Pools, Ritual Bathing, and Domestic Life among the Jews of Roman Galilee
  Stuart S. Miller (University of Connecticut at Storrs)

Respondent: Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)
8.6  
THE BAVLI AND ITS HISTORY  
Chair: David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)  
Meta-Systemic Concerns as Indicators of Late-Stage Stamaitic Compositions: The Case of bEruvin 95–96  
Jay Rovner (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
The Bavli as Classical Literature: The Argument from Rhetorical Forms  
Barry S. Wimpfheimer (Northwestern University)  
The Bavli’s Redaction of Traditions about the Destruction of the Temple  
Kris H. Lindbeck (Florida Atlantic University)  
The Proto-Talmud and the Stam: The Two Voices of the Talmud  
Ari Bergmann (Columbia University)

8.7  
MODERNITY AND MODERNISM IN JEWISH ART  
Chair: Maya Balakirsky-Katz (Touro College)  
A Winter’s Day in the Jewish Neighborhood: Artistic Representations of Jewish Life in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam  
Saskia Coenen Snyder (University of South Carolina)  
Creating a “Moorish Cathedral”: The Construction of the Great Synagogue in Budapest, 1854–1859  
Rudolf Klein (Szent István University, Budapest)  
The “Death” of Expressionism and Its “Rebirth” as a Jewish Form: Notions of Jewish Art in Weimar Germany  
Cella Straughn (Harvard University)

8.8  
BLACK–JEWISH RELATIONS: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES AND THE STATE OF THE FIELD  
Chair: Eric L. Goldstein (Emory University)  
Discusants: Cheryl Greenberg (Trinity College)  
Daniel Itzkovitz (Stonehill College)  
Jonathan Karp (Binghamton University, SUNY)  
Jonathan S. Skolnik (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

8.9  
SIXTEENTH-CENTURY KABBALAH AND ITS AFTERMATH  
Chair: Joel Hecker (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)  
Tikkun Leil Shavuot of R. Joseph Karo and the Epistle of Solomon ha-Levi Elkabetz  
Mor Altshuler (Independent Scholar)  
Rabbi Moses Cordovero’s Sefer Gerushin: Contemplation, Devotion, and the Negotiation of Landscapes  
Zohar Raviv (University of Michigan)  
Identity, Reincarnation, and Rebirth in the Writings of R. Hayyim Vital  
Eitan P. Fishbane (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
Spiritual Friendship in Jewish Mystical Tradition: The Bet El Contracts  
Lawrence B. Fine (Mount Holyoke College)
8.10 GERMAN JEWISH CULTURE: BEYOND THE CANON  
Chair: Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota)  
Germans, Jews, and the Novel: Reading Romance in Nineteenth-Century Germany  
Jonathan M. Hess (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)  
Hugo Bettauer’s Erotic Revolution  
June Hwang (University of Rochester)  
Self-Hatred and Self-Help: Theodor Lessing as a Popular Psychologist  
Paul Reitter (Ohio State University)  
German Jewish “Cultural Studies”? Reflections on Kafka’s Kitsch and Middlebrow  
“Yeckische” Culture  
David A. Brenner (Rice University)

8.11 THE ISRAEL ATTACHMENTS OF AMERICAN JEWS: ENGAGING THE DEBATE  
Chair: Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (United Jewish Communities)  
Assessing the Assessment: Critical Weaknesses in “American Jewish Attachment to Israel: An Assessment of the ‘Distancing’ Hypothesis”  
Jonathon Ament (United Jewish Communities)  
The Distancing Hypothesis Reassessed: Israel Attachments in Local Community Studies  
Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)  
Distancing from Israel: The Impact of Intermarriage among Non-Orthodox Jews  
Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)  
Respondents: Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)  
Theodore Sasson (Brandeis University/Middlebury College)

8.12 CENTRAL EUROPEAN ZIONISM AND THE DIALECTICS OF NATIONALISM  
Chair: Michael Berkowitz (University College, London)  
The Voyage of a Metaphor: “Jewish Normalization” and the Dialectics of Zionism  
Arie Dubnow (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
From “West” to “East” and Back Again: The Reverse Course of Hans Kohn’s Nationalism  
Adi Gordon (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
From Prague to Berlin: Robert Weltsch and the Dialectics of Nationalism  
Stefan Vogt (New York University)  
Jacob and Esau in the Emancipation Era: The Central European Jewish Intelligentsia and the Dilemmas of the European Nation State  
Malachi Hacohen (Duke University)  
Respondent: Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)

8.13 VARIETIES OF CRYPTO-JEWISH EXPERIENCE  
Chair and Respondent: L. Scott Lerner (Franklin & Marshall College)  
Lexicography, New Christians, and Jewishness in Seventeenth-Century Spain: The Case of Sebastián de Covarrubias Horozco  
Jacques Lezra (New York University)  
Comparing Crypto-Jewish Narratives  
Dalia Kandiyoti (College of Staten Island, CUNY)  
Crypto-Jew, “Real American”: George Allen, the Lumbroso Clan, and the Remaking of U.S. Identities  
Jonathan Freedman (University of Michigan)
Monday, December 22, 2008  2:00 PM – 6:30 PM

8.14  Cabin John

JEWISH IMMIGRANT AUTHORSHIP
Chair: Yael Feldman (New York University)
Concealing the Immigrant Past: The Construction of Amichai’s Israeli Self
Nili R.S. Gold (University of Pennsylvania)
The Unconscious Yiddish Theater of the Immigrant Author
Shirli Sela-Levavi (Rutgers University)
Somnambulist Song: The Feminine Language of Diaspora and the Exile of the Shkhina in Agnon’s Ido and Enam
Nitsa Kann (Dickinson College)
Entangled Roots: Helena Janeczek’s Lessons in Darkness
Federica K. Clementi (University of South Carolina)

8.15  Arlington

INTERTEXTS: PRIMO LEVI AND DANTE
Chair: Marty Plax (Cleveland State University)
Dante and Primo Levi: The Black Hole at the Core of If This Is a Man
Sharon Portnoff (Connecticut College)
Submerged and the Saved: Primo Levi, Dante, and the Jewish Presence in the Italian Canon
Gabrielle Elissa Popoff (University of Kentucky)
Asymmetry and Life: A Levian Reading of Paradiso III–V
Jessica Otey (University of Virginia)
Respondent: Risa Sodi (Yale University)

BOOK EXHIBIT  4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Independence Ballroom

COFFEE RECEPTION
Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History

DIVISION MEETINGS  4:00 PM – 4:30 PM
See p. 62 for locations.
An opportunity to meet with Division Chairs to discuss themes for the 2009 annual meeting.

Session 9, Monday, December 22, 2008  4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

9.1  Constitution A

POLITICIZED ACADEME: THE REACTIONS TO ARIEL TOAFF’S LE PASQUE DI SANGUE AND OTHER TREATMENTS OF THE BLOOD LIBEL
Chair: Bernard D. Cooperman (University of Maryland)
Discussants:
Marina Caffiero (University of Rome)
Gadi Luzzatto Voghera (University of Padua/Boston University)
Piergabriele Mancuso (Boston University)
Micaela Procaccia (Direzione generale per i beni archivistico)
Magda Teter (Wesleyan University)

9.2  Constitution B

THE (IM)POSSIBILITIES OF JEWISH SECULARISM
Sponsored by the Posen Foundation
Chair and Respondent: Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University)
The Jewish Enlightenment Bible as a Secularizing Project
David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)
Lost in Migration: Leibush Lehrer’s Ambivalent Secularism
Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University)
Jewish Secularism, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Israel: The Traditionalist Critique
Yaakov Yadgar (Bar-Ilan University)
Constitution C

BIBLICAL NARRATIVE, LAW, AND HISTORY: INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND METHODS
Sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Jewish Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania

Chair: David Glatt-Gilad (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
Neot-Babylonian Perspectives on the Prophetic Summons to Trial
Shalom Holtz (Yeshiva University)
Ritualizations in Narrative Endings in Genesis
Susan Zeelander (University of Pennsylvania)
Legal Fiction: Torah Law in the Book of Ruth
Adele Berlin (University of Maryland)
History Writing in Israel and Judah during the Monarchic Period and
Some Mesopotamian Analogues
Mordechai Cogan (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Constitution E

MANY FACES OF JEWISH NOSTALGIA: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE
Chair: Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)
Notebook of an Absent Native Land: Moyshe Kulbak’s Rayzn, Meshiekh ben Efrayim, and the Poetics of Nostalgia
Marc Caplan (Johns Hopkins University)
The Ethnography of Nostalgia: On Comparing Eva Hoffman and Saidiya Hartman
Ato Quayson (University of Toronto)
Between Shtetl and the Red Hammer: Nostalgia in Contemporary Russian Yiddish Music
Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)
The Yearning for Nostalgia
Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Penn Quarter A

NEW SOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES ON EARLY JEWISH MYSTICISM
Chair: Rebecca M. Lesses (Ithaca College)
New Hekhalot Fragments from the Cairo Genizah
Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University)
Hekhalot Literature as a “Byzantine” Literature
Ra’anan Shaul Boustan (University of California, Los Angeles)
Piyyut and Hekhalot: New Sources and Their Implication for the History of Early Jewish Mysticism
Michael D. Swartz (Ohio State University)

Penn Quarter B

ANTISEMITISM ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES
Chair: Eunice G. Pollack (University of North Texas)
Discussants: Peter J. Haas (Case Western Reserve University)
Kenneth L. Marcus (Baruch College of Public Affairs, CUNY)
Stephen H. Norwood (University of Oklahoma)
Tammi Rossman-Benjamin (University of California, Santa Cruz)
9.7

(MODERN AMERICAN) VISUAL JUDAISM AND VERNACULAR CULTURE

Chair: Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

Visual Judaism: A Methodological Investigation
Kenneth Kolton-Fromm (Haverford College)

Through My Father's Eyes or Seeing Jewish
Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)

Jewish Theology in the Society of Spectacle
Zachary J. Braiterman (Syracuse University)

9.9

THE GENDER OF JEWISH MODERNITY

Chair: Maeera Shreiber (University of Utah)

Lads in Distress: Engendering Modern Masculinity in Hebrew Autobiography
Tamar S. Hess (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Muscular Anxiety: Reforming Jewish Masculinity after the Great War
Robert J. Adler Peckerar (University of California, Berkeley)

A Woman's Place in Modernity: Masculine and Feminine Space in Hebrew and Yiddish Short Fiction
Allison Schachter (Vanderbilt University)

9.10

NEW CONFIGURATIONS OF JEWISH CULTURAL NATIONALISM

Chair and Respondent: Samuel D. Kassow (Trinity College)

Mediterranean Zionists avant la Lettre
Steven Bowman (University of Cincinnati)

Rereading Altneuland: Theodor Herzl and Cultural Zionism
Jess Olson (Yeshiva University)

Between Politics and Culture: Diaspora Nationalism in Revolutionary Russia
Joshua M. Karlip (Yeshiva University)

German Jewry between Assimilation and the “Conscious Pariah”: Moses Hess, Moritz Goldstein, and Hannah Arendt
Y. Michal Bodemann (University of Toronto)

9.11

RABBIS AND THEIR CULTURAL CONTEXT(S)

Chair: Herbert Basser (Queen's University)

An Iranian Hell in the Babylonian Talmud
Samuel Secunda (Yale University)

Reishit ha-Bekhorah: Firstborn Inheritance from Mesopotamia to the Mishnah
Jonathan S. Milgram (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Torah in Triclinia: the Architecture and Iconography of Banquet Halls in Rabbinic Practice and Imagination
Gil Klein (Franklin & Marshall College)

“For the Lord your God moves in the midst of your camp”: Concentration and Diffusion of the Divine in Qumran and Rabbinic Ritual
Yehuda Septimus (New York University)
9.12

JEWS AND THE MODERN CITY: VIEWS FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES

Chair: Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)

Jewish Space in the City and the Civil War of Italian Unification
L. Scott Lerner (Franklin & Marshall College)

From the Shtetl to the City: Orthodox Jewish Life in Antwerp
Veerle Vanden Daelen (University of Antwerp)

Between the Scheunenviertel and the Romanisches Café: Berlin as an Enclave of Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism
Shachar M. Pinsker (University of Michigan)

The Politics of Moving: Jews and the American City
Lila Berman (Pennsylvania State University)

9.13

INSULTS THROUGH THE AGES

Chair: Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)

The Little Foxes That Ruin the Vineyards: Shem Tov ibn Shem Tov on the Pernicious Influence of Jewish Philosophy
Hartley Lachter (Muhlenberg College)

Rabbinic Insults in the Early Modern Period
Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)

Jewish Insults in the Modern Period: On Neo-Orthodox Popes and Jewish Jesuits
Alexander Joskowicz (University of Mississippi)

Respondent: Allan L. Nadler (Drew University)

9.14

THE USE OF BIBLICAL SOURCES IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

Chair: Leah Hochman (HUC-JIR)

Martin Buber and the Biblical Prophets of Zionism
Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)

Spirit and Power in Buber’s Reading of Isaiah
William Plevan (Princeton University)

Partnering with God: Buber’s Biblical Hermeneutics and the Abraham Narratives: A Comparison with Erich Fromm and Leo Strauss
Jonathan A. Cohen (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The Allegory of Love and the Revelation of Ethical Alterity
Randy L. Friedman (Binghamton University, SUNY)

9.15

JEWS AND THE MODERN CITY: VIEWS FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mapping the Jewish Elite in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul: A Network Approach
Yehoshua (Shuki) Ecker (Tel Aviv University)

Natural Disasters and Jewish Life in Ottoman Syria
Yaron Ayalon (Princeton University)

Moses Hagiz and the Shelihut from Palestine in the Eighteenth Century
Matthias B. Lehmann (Indiana University)

At-Talmud and As-Sahyuniyya: A Sephardic Jew’s Presentation of Judaism in Arabic, and Its Reception in Late Ottoman Palestine
Jonathan Gribetz (Columbia University)
### Monday, December 22, 2008 Evening Program

**AJS Perspectives Editorial Board Meeting**  
**Time:** 6:30 PM  
**Location:** Cherry Blossom

**Association for Israel Studies Reception**  
**Time:** 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence H  
*Sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies. Open to all conference registrants.

**American Jewish Archives and American Jewish Historical Society Reception**  
**Time:** 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Farragut Square  
*Sponsored by the American Jewish Archives and the American Jewish Historical Society. Open to all conference registrants.

**Emerging Writers Awards Reception**  
**Time:** 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence I  
*Honoring recipients of the 2008 Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers and the 2008 Harry and Tamara Handelsman Prize for Jewish Nonfiction. Sponsored by the Foundation for Jewish Culture and *Moment* Magazine. Open to all conference registrants.

**Harvard University, Center for Jewish Studies Reception**  
**Time:** 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence F  
*Honoring Professor Ruth Wisse. Open to all conference registrants.

**General Dinner**  
**Time:** 7:30 PM  
**Location:** McPherson/Franklin Square  
*(By pre-paid reservation only.)*

**The Jewish Theological Seminary of America Reception**  
**Time:** 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence I  
*Sponsored by the Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs of JTS. Open to all conference registrants.

**Cambridge University Press Reception**  
**Time:** 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence F  
*Honoring Hillel J. Kieval and Martin S. Jaffee for their editorial work on AJS Review, and welcoming Elisheva Carlebach and Robert Goldenberg as the journal’s new editors. Open to all conference registrants.

**Graduate Student Reception**  
**Time:** 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM  
**Location:** Farnagut Square  
*Sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all graduate students.

**Brandeis University Reception**  
**Time:** 9:30 PM – 10:30 PM  
**Location:** Independence H  
Tuesday, December 23, 2008

**GENERAL BREAKFAST** 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM  
McPherson/Franklin Square  
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

**AJS PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND DIVISION CHAIRS BREAKFAST MEETING** 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM  
Farragut Square

**REGISTRATION** 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Independence Foyer

**BOOK EXHIBIT** 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
Independence Ballroom

**FILM SCREENINGS** 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM  
Conference Theatre

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**Session 10, Tuesday, December 23, 2008** 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**10.1 JEWISH AND ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT**  
Chair: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Arizona State University)  
Discussants: Ron H. Feldman (Sonoma State University)  
Roger S. Gottlieb (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)  
Lawrence Troster (Bard College)  
Martin D. Yaffe (University of North Texas)

**10.2 GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY JEWISH AMERICAN LITERATURE**  
Chair: Wendy Ilene Zierler (HUC-JIR)  
Constructing Gender on the Planet of the Jews  
Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)  
Fluid Identities and Orientations: Sexuality and Jewishness in Jewish Women’s Recent Fiction  
Judith M. Lewin (Union College)  
Pastan’s Eves: An Exploration of the Ways in which the Biblical Eve Appears in the Poetry of Linda Pastan  
Anne Lapidus Lerner (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
Men of the World: Jewish Masculinities in Transition in Maxim D. Shrayber’s Waiting for America: A Story of Emigration  
Helena Gurfinkel (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)
10.3

CASE STUDIES IN THE MODERNIZATION OF RUSSIAN JEWS, 1881–1914

Chair: Elissa Bemporad (New School University)
From Haskalah to Science in the Youthful Odyssey of Waldemar Haffkine
Evelyn Ackerman (Lehman College, CUNY)
From Haskalah to “Historism” in the Secular Judaism of Simon Dubnow
Robert M. Seltzer (Hunter College, CUNY)
Distinctive Models: Letters as a Key to Russian-Jewish Aspirations in the Early 1900s
Alice Nakhimovsky (Colgate University)
Yiddish Letters, Emigration, and Modernization at the Turn of the Century
Roberta Newman (YIVO Institute of Jewish Research)

10.4

MEDIATING JEWISH STUDIES TO NONACADEMIC AUDIENCES

Chair: James S. Diamond (Princeton University)
Discussants: Hasia R. Diner (New York University)
Robert J. Eisen (George Washington University)
Carol Hupping (The Jewish Publication Society)
Allan L. Nadler (Drew University)
Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University)

10.5

JEWISH ART(S) AND THE AESTHETICS OF RUPTURE AND REPAIR: PAINTING,
ARCHITECTURE, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Chair and Respondent: Matthew Baigell (Rutgers University)
Terribilità in Jewish: Fragmentary Renaissances in Modern Jewish Art and Thought
Asher D. Biemann (University of Virginia)
Jewish Architects after Auschwitz: Louis I. Kahn and Peter Eisenman Confront the Holocaust
Gavriel Rosenfeld (Fairfield University)
Jewish Space and Historic Preservation in Postwar Central Europe
Michael Meng (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

10.6

ETHNOGRAPHY OF JEWISH RITUAL

Chair and Respondent: Simon Josef Bronner (Pennsylvania State University)
The Rise of Tu B’Shevat as a “Jewish Arbor and Ecology Day”: Balancing Themes of Land of
Israel, Modern Israeli State, Ecology, and Mysticism
Seth Ward (University of Wyoming)
The Traditional Commitment Ceremony
Vanessa L. Ochs (University of Virginia)
Rethinking Ritual Theory in Anthropology and Jewish Studies: Levinas, Geertz, and the
Problem of Meaning
Don Seeman (Emory University)
The Discourse about the Wedding Ritual: Hierarchies of Gender, Knowledge, and Authority
Irit Koren (Rutgers University)
NEW APPROACHES TO JEWISH CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA
Chair: Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley)
Was the “Lost” Embrace Really Ever Lost? Israeli–Argentinean Relations in Four Contemporary Novels
Amalia Ran (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)
Nation, Religion, and Soccer: Jewish Perspectives from Latin America
Alejandro Meter (University of San Diego)
Keeping the Mystery Alive: Jewish Mysticism and Difference in Alejandro Jodorowsky’s Works
Ariana Huberman (Alfred University)
I Hear, Therefore I Know: Post-Shoah Motifs in Dorfman’s Death and the Maiden
Paul B. Miller (Vanderbilt University)

NORMALIZING EMERGENCY: THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE STATE OF EXCEPTION
Chair: Dana Hollander (McMaster University)
Friedmann’s War: Political Theology and the Israeli Supreme Court
Nitzan Lebovic (Tel Aviv University)
Normalizing Emergency: Israeli Literature in 1956
Uri Cohen (Columbia University)
Beaufort: Lebanon, Closure, and the Unending State of Emergency
Todd S. Hasak-Lowy (University of Florida)
Respondent: Anson Rabinbach (Princeton University)

EXPLORATIONS IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF ITALIAN JEWRY IN THE EARLY MODERN ERA
Chair: Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)
Gendered Paradigms and Gendered Prospects: Italian Jewish Converts in the Early Modern Context
Stefanie Siegmund (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Hearing Jewish, Writing Italian: Reconsidering the Written Sources of Italian Jewish Music
Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)
Law and Architecture: The Tent Pollution Crisis in Eighteenth-Century Italy
David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)
One Woman, Two Husbands, Two States, Three Laws: Making Marriage and Divorce Civil in Revolutionary Italy
Lois Dubin (Smith College)

DEATH AND ACCULTURATION IN JEWISH LATE ANTIQUITY
Chair: Jonathan S. Milgram (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Resurrection: Theodicy or Anthropology?
Reuven Kimelman (Brandeis University)
The Jewish Community of Byzantine Zoora: Inculturation and Jewish Identity in Late Antique Palestine
Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)
10.11 CONTEMPORARY TRANSNATIONALISM: THE JEWISH DIASPORA AS A PARADIGMATIC CASE
Chair: Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Israel and Diaspora in an Era of Globalization
Eliezer Ben Rafael (Tel Aviv University)
Being Transnational: Shifting Centers and Reshaping Identities
Judit Bokser Liwerant (Unam Mexico)
Transnationalism Today: A Challenge to Social Thought
Michel Wieviorka (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

10.12 CENTRALIZATION, IDENTITY, AND REDACTION IN BIBLICAL COMPOSITION
Chair: Benjamin D. Sommer (Jewish Theological Seminary)
What Is Past Is Prologue: Composing Israelite Identity in Judges 5
Mark Smith (New York University)
The Flood, the Day of Atonement, and the Priestly Redaction of Genesis 1–11
Robert Kawashima (University of Florida)
Centralization or Separation of Powers? Religion and Politics in Deuteronomy
Baruch Alster (Bar-Ilan University)
Responses to Neo-Assyrian Universalism and the Centralization of Worship in the Time of Hezekiah
Shawn Zelig Aster (Yeshiva University)

10.13 TWO PUBLISHING CONTROVERSIES AND OBSTACLES ON THE ROAD TO A POSTWAR JEWISH POLITICAL REVIVAL
Chair and Respondent: Michael C. Steinlauf (Gratz College)
Jewish History Confronts Communist Politics: A Publishing Controversy in Poland in 1968
Karen Auerbach (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)
The Polish Fear of Fear Itself? A Critical Assessment of the Reception of Jan T. Gross’s Work
Jessie Labov (Ohio State University)

10.14 VIOLENT HALAKHAH
Chair: Devora Steinmetz (Independent Scholar)
Shechem the Hivvite or Shechem the Snake? How Are Shechem’s Actions Judged in Post-Biblical Sources?
Tzemah Yoreh (American Jewish University)
Killing the Gentile Woman: Violent Rabbinic Traditions on Sexual Relations between Jewish Men and Gentile Women
Laliv Clenman (University of Toronto)
Judaism and Genocide: Destroying Amalek
Harry Fox (University of Toronto)

10.15 A SEMINAR: MAIMONIDES ON CREATION
Chair: Daniel H. Frank (Purdue University)
Why Maimonides Meant What He Said about Creation
Kenneth R. Seeskin (Northwestern University)
Maimonides on Creation and the Eternity of the World
Haim (Howard) Kreisel (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
Respondent: Roslyn Weiss (Lehigh University)
Session 11, Tuesday, December 23, 2008

11.1 POLITICAL THEOLOGY IN RECENT JEWISH THOUGHT

Chair: Claire Katz (Texas A&M University)
On the Origins of “Political Theology”: Judaism and Heresy between the Wars
Benjamin Lazier (Reed College)
Prophetic Politics and the Phenomenology of Hope: Martin Buber, Leo Strauss, and the
Theologico-Political Problem
Akiba J. Lerner (Stanford University)
“Thus Paul’s teaching coincides with ours”: Race and Ethnicity in Recent Jewish Political
Theology
Gregory Kaplan (Rice University)

11.2 YIDDISH POETRY AND PROSE

Chair: Kathryn A. Hellerstein (University of Pennsylvania)
Possessed by the Other: A Gendered View on (Spirit) Possession in Modern Yiddish Literature
Agnieszka Legutko Olownia (Columbia University)
Poetry of the Incomprehensible: N. B. Minkov’s At The Edge
Jordan D. Finkin (University of Oxford)
“Maskes fun toyt”: The Literary Persona in the Poetry of Glatstein, Leyeles, Minkoff, and
Likht in the 1930s
Itay B. Zutra (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Revisiting Wiesel’s Night in French and Yiddish
Alan Astro (Trinity University)

11.3 NEW DIRECTIONS IN DEAD SEA SCROLLS SCHOLARSHIP

Chair: Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)
The Image of Otherworldly Priesthood at Qumran
Joseph Angel (Yeshiva University)
The Ritual Performance of the Shirot at Qumran and the Production of Scripture
Judith H. Newman (Emmanuel College)
The Reworking of the Exodus Story in 4Q422
Ariel Feldman (Haifa University)
Qumran Hebrew: A Survey of Opinions, with a Trial Cut (1QS)
Gary A. Rendsburg (Rutgers University)

11.4 NEW FEMINIST APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF JUDAISM

Chair: Sara R. Horowitz (York University)
Discussants: Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg (Colgate University)
Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin (Temple University)
Liora Gubkin (California State University, Bakersfield)
Leah Hochman (HUC-JIR, Los Angeles)
Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)
Andrea Lieber (Dickinson College)
Randi Rashkover (George Mason University)
11.5  
JEWS AND THE AMERICAN NATION  
Chair and Respondent: Beth S. Wenger (University of Pennsylvania)  
“A great man has fallen in Israel”: The Judaization of Abraham Lincoln  
Gary P. Zola (HUC-JIR)  
American Rabbis and the First Years of World War II: The View from the Pulpit  
Marc Eli Saperstein (Leo Baeck College)  
Explaining Judaism to the Nation  
Rachel Gordan (Harvard University)  

11.6  
CONVERSION, ANXIETY, AND THE RHETORIC OF MARGINALITY BETWEEN MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES  
Chair: David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)  
Ambiguous Belonging, Shared Sanctity, and Imagined Conversion in Late Antique and Medieval Jewish Relations with Non-Jews  
Alexandra Cuffel (Macalester College)  
Gedaliyah of Oxford and Yom-Tov of London: Conversion, Madness, and Adolescent Suicide in the Late Twelfth Century  
Ephraim Shoham (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)  
Apostasy Imagined: The Rhetoric and Realities of Conversion in Medieval Ashkenaz  
Chaviva Levin (Yeshiva College)  

11.7  
EMERGENT JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PARTICIPANTS: A RESEARCH SEMINAR  
Sponsored by S3K Synagogue Studies Institute  
Chair: Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)  
Discussants: Caryn Aviv (University of Denver)  
Shirah Hecht (Independent Scholar)  
Chava Weissler (Lehigh University)  
Respondents: Elie Kaunfer (Mechon Hadar)  
J. Shawn Landres (Jumpstart/Project on Emergent Religious and Social Entrepreneurship)  

11.8  
JEWS AS CO-CREATORS OF MODERN WESTERN THEATER  
Chair: Jeanette R. Malkin (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Berlin/Vienna: Jewish Actresses in Pre-1933/1938 Theater  
Brigitte Dalinger (University of Vienna)  
Crossing Second Avenue: Molly Picon’s Mainstreaming of Yiddish Culture  
A. Botein-Furrevig (Ocean County College)  
In the Eye of the Yiddish Tempest: New Perspectives on a Polish-Jewish Production of Shakespeare’s Tempest in Interwar Poland  
Aviv Livnat (Tel Aviv University)  
Respondent: Seth L. Wolitz (University of Texas at Austin)
11.9  

SOCIAL ETHICS AND MATERIAL PERFORMANCES  
Chair: Susan Shapiro (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)  
Tikkun Olam: Re-Enchanting the Public Sphere While Changing the Subject?  
Yehudah Mirsky (Jewish People Policy Planning Institute)  
Towards an Integrated Jewish Social Activism: Perspectives from Arthur Waskow, Michael Lerner, Irving “Yitz” Greenberg, and Jonathan Sacks  
Eric Caplan (McGill University)  
Materializing New Jewish Ritual: Jews with Jewish Tattoos  
Erika Meitner (Virginia Tech)  
Judaic Responsibility for the Living and Kosher Certification Today  
Aaron Gross (University of California, Santa Barbara)  

11.10  

GENDER, FAMILY, CHILDREN, AND THE HOLOCAUST  
Chair: Robert Moses Shapiro (Brooklyn College, CUNY)  
Helping Hands: American Jewish Women and Child Survivors in the Aftermath of the Holocaust  
Beth B. Cohen (California State University, Northridge)  
“A generation in search of stories”: Children of Survivors and the Work of Memory  
Arlene J. Stein (Rutgers University)  
The Rescue of Children and Youths at Buchenwald  
Kenneth Waltzer (Michigan State University)  
Surviving Survival: Abba Kovner’s “The Black Angel” and the Poetics of Trauma  
Leah Wolfson (College of Charleston) and Ofra Yeglin (Emory University)  

11.11  

DRINK, SEX, AND HUMOR AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS  
Chair: Joshua Zimmerman (Yeshiva University)  
The Demise of the Jewish Tavern Keeper in the Kingdom of Poland  
Glenn Dynner (Sarah Lawrence College)  
Sex Guidance for a Nineteenth-Century Traditional Jewish Male: The Case of the Kitzur Shulkhan Arukh  
Evyatar Marienberg (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
The Jewish Origins of Soviet Underground Humor  
Emil Draitser (Hunter College, CUNY)  

11.12  

POLITICS, CULTURE, AND IDEOLOGY IN ISRAEL  
Chair: Yael H. Zerubavel (Rutgers University)  
Between Civic and Ethnic: Israel in Light of the Zionist Utopias  
Yitzhak Conforti (Bar-Ilan University)  
Knowing Jerusalem through Disciplinary and Cross-Disciplinary Engagement  
Miriam F. Elman (Arizona State University)  
Zionism and Post-Zionism in the Teaching of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook and the Origins of Gush Emunim  
Motti Inbari (Brandeis University)  
“The Despicable Romanticism of ‘Holy War’”: Palestine, 1918  
Yael Feldman (New York University)
11.13 WOMEN’S DEATH IN ISRAELI LITERATURE
Chair and Respondent: Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)
Death, Femininity and Gesamtkunstwerk: A. B. Yehoshua's Molcho
Michal Ben-Horin (University of Florida)
Productive Catastrophes, Creative Displacements: Past and Present Israeli Narratives in Gabriella Avigur-Rotem’s Ancient Red
Shiri Goren (New York University/Yale University)
Nothing Left to Live For: Women’s Suicide in Israeli Literature
Rachel S. Harris (University at Albany, SUNY)

11.14 JEWS AND SHIFTING IDENTITIES IN FRANCE AND ALGERIA
Chair: Paula E. Hyman (Yale University)
Jewish, Algerian, French, and Republican: Changing Conceptions of Jewish Identity and Politics during the Algerian War
Ethan Katz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
A Drama of Faith and Family: Custody Disputes, Familialism, and Nationalism in Postwar France
Daniella Doron (New York University)
Jewish Immigrants Are Not Immigrants: Autochthony and Jewish Belonging in France
Kimberly Arkin (University of Chicago)
Emancipatory Inclusion and Exclusion in Colonial Algeria: Perceptions and Experience in the Construction of Algerian Jewish Identity
Steven Uran (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)
Respondent: David Weinberg (Wayne State University)

11.15 RABBINIC TERMS AND THEIR HISTORY
Chair: Reuven Kimelman (Brandeis University)
‘Af-Al Pi Še’en R’aiah La-Davar: The Hermeneutic, Its Characteristics, and Their Implications
Michael L. Chernick (HUC-JIR)
Legal Implications in the Mechanics of “Kulah Rabbi . . . ”
Herbert Basser (Queen’s University)
The “Treyf” Pot: How Utensils Came to Require Kashering
David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

General Lunch 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM McPherson/Franklin Square
(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

AJS Board of Directors Meeting 1:00 PM Farragut Square
Session 12, Tuesday, December 23, 2008

12.1

MINORITIES IN ISRAEL: IS JEWISH LAW STILL RELEVANT?
Chair: Naftali Rothenberg (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
Discussants: Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)
Aviad Hacohen (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)
Suzanne Last Stone (Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law)

12.2

TOPICS IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND THEOLOGY
Chair: Zvi Jonathan Kaplan (Touro College)
Czech–Jewish Relations during World War II: The Role of the Czechoslovak Underground
Movements in Shaping the Czechoslovak Exiles’ Policy towards the Jews
Jan Lanicek (University of Southampton)
Emmanuel Levinas and Modern Philosophy’s Complicity with the Holocaust
William Henry McDonald (University of Oklahoma)
The Religious Response to Kristallnacht: Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Conceptions
Gershon Greenberg (American University)
Triumph on the Periphery: Political Antisemitism in Rural Northern Germany
George Vascik (Miami University)

12.3

FAMILY AND LIFE CYCLE IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES
Chair: Robert Chazan (New York University)
Family in Seventeenth-Century Yiddish Letters: Structure and Sentiment
Joseph M. Davis (Gratz College)
Children, the Body, and the Synagogue
Tali Berner (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Naked Bodies, Shrouds, and the Care for the Dead in Medieval Ashkenaz
Yechiel Y. Schur (University of Pennsylvania)

12.4

STUDIES IN HASIDISM AND MODERN/CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MYSTICISM
Chair: Don Seeman (Emory University)
Old Pictures, New Meanings: Visual Kabbalah on the Web and Western Esotericism
Marla Segol (Skidmore College)
Reconsidering Boundaries: Kabbalah for Non-Jews
Jody Myers (California State University, Northridge)
Touching God: Degrees of Devekut in Contemporary Israeli Kabbalah
Aubrey L. Glazer (Jewish Community Center of Harrison)

12.5

MEDIEVAL RABBINIC LEADERSHIP AND THOUGHT
Chair: Herbert Basser (Queen’s University)
Contrasting Leadership Styles: Moses and Abraham Maimonides
Elisha Russ-Fishbane (Harvard University)
Sex for Clarification: Rabbinic Approaches to Anomalous Legal Situations in
Medieval Codes and Commentaries
Tirzah Meacham (University of Toronto)
The Holy Writ and Its Authorship in Medieval Karaite Commentaries on the Pentateuch
Marzena Bogna Zawanowska (Maria Curie-Sklodowska University/University of Warsaw)
**12.6 JEWISH PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL WELFARE**  
*Chair*: Lee Shai Weissbach (University of Louisville)  
The Mentally Ill in Jewish Eastern Europe: Roles, Attitudes, and Care in the Modern Period  
Natan Meir (Portland State University)  
Philanthropy, Charity, and the Turn-of-the-Century Immigrant Poor  
Erica Simmons (University of Toronto)  

**12.7 HEBREW, ENGLISH, AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH/ISRAELI IDENTITY IN AMERICA**  
*Chair*: Ayala Fader (Fordham University)  
Ideologies in Action: Hebrew in the Classroom  
Sharon Avni (New York University)  
Nativizing the Jew: *Ivrit* Phonology and the Construction of the Authentic Israeli in the Diaspora  
Shlomy Kattan (University of California, Berkeley)  
Hebrew in Dialogue: Contemporary Jewish American Writing  
Hana Wirth-Nesher (Tel Aviv University)  
*Respondent*: Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)  

**12.8 FROM THE OTHER SHORE: AMERICANIZATION IN A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE**  
*Chair*: Katja Vehlow (University of South Carolina, Columbia)  
“Murdered in a fight for the Jewish flag”: The Death of 13-year-old Sadie Dellon and the Images of Irish Americans among Jewish Immigrants in New York City  
Gil Ribak (Efal Seminary)  
Differences and Secrets: Two Novels by an American Jewish Surgeon  
Sonja Mekel (University of Wisconsin-Madison)  
Between Old and Promised Lands: Voices of Russian Jewish Immigrant Authors in America  
Victoria Khiterer (Macon State College)  

**12.9 JEWISH THEOLOGY**  
*Chair*: Gregory Kaplan (Rice University)  
“Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord?” Divine Silence and Theological Protest in the Writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel  
Shai Held (Harvard University)  
Transcending Time: Elements of Romanticism in the Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik  
Moshe Z. Sokol (Touro College)  
The Return of the Messianic: Walter Benjamin Again at the Center  
Eric Jacobson (Roehampton University, London)  
The Hermeneutics of Divine Love in Jewish Thought: Possibilities and Challenges  
Yudit K. Greenberg (Rollins College)
12.10
EUROPEAN JEWISH POLITICAL THOUGHT AND THE PROMISE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
Chair: Eugene Sheppard (Brandeis University)
Jewish Autonomy in America: The View from Russia
Simon Rabinovitch (University of Florida)
The Other Old-New Land: Eastern Europe in the Interwar American Jewish Political Imagination
James Loeffler (University of Virginia)
Jewish Nationalism and Collective Identity in a Global Era
Noam F. Pianko (University of Washington)

12.11
WORKS IN PROGRESS GROUP IN MODERN JEWISH STUDIES
Chair: Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)

12.12
HOLINESS, PURITY, AND THE TEMPLE
Chair: Carl S. Ehrlich (York University)
Miqra’ Qodeš and the Structure of Leviticus 23
Baruch J. Schwartz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Between Sacred and Secular: The Significance of Sanctuary Pilgrimage in Biblical Israel
Eric Grossman (Frankel Jewish Academy)
Politics and Purity: The High Priest Caiaphas in Historical Context
Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa)
Is Holiness Contagious?
Martin I. Lockshin (York University)
About Sugar Cane and Homecoming (The Netherlands and Brazil 2008) Directed by Shaul Kesslassi. 54 minutes. (Portuguese with English subtitles.)

The Affair (Israel 2006) Directed by Assaf Harel. 78 minutes. (Hebrew and English with English subtitles.)

Almost Peaceful (France 2002) Directed by Michel Deville. 94 minutes. (French with English subtitles.)

Baghdad Twist (Canada [based on Iraqi archival images] 2007) Directed by Joe Balass. 30 minutes.

Being Jewish in France (France 2007) Directed by Yves Jeuland. Part I: 73 minutes. (French with English subtitles.)


Bloodlines (Australia 2008) Directed by Cynthia Connop. 52 minutes.

Children of the Sun (Israel 2007) Directed by Ran Tal. 70 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

Cobwebs (Israel 2008) Directed by Micha Livne. 63 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

Eyes Wide Open (Israel and USA 2008) Directed by Paula Weiman-Kelman. 60 minutes. (English and Hebrew with English subtitles.)


The Hebrew Lesson (Israel 2006) Directed by David Ofek, Elinor Kowarsky, and Ron Rotem. 123 minutes. (Hebrew, English, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish with English subtitles.)
His Wife's Lover (USA 1931) Directed by Sidney M. Goldin. 80 minutes. (Yiddish with English subtitles.)


The House on August St. (Israel 2007) Directed by Ayelet Bargur. 63 minutes. (Hebrew and German with English subtitles.)

Jewboy (Australia and France 2007) Directed by Tony Krawitz. 52 minutes.

The Monster Among Us (USA 2008) Directed by Allen Mondell and Cynthia Salzman Mondell. 71 minutes.

My Brother's Wedding (USA 2003) Directed by Daniel Akiba. 36 minutes.

Praying with Lior (USA 2007) Directed by Ilana Trachtman. 87 minutes.

To See If I'm Smiling (Israel 2007) Directed by Tamar Yarom. 59 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

A Touch Away (Israel 2007) Directed by Ron Ninio. Eight 38-minute episodes. (Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles.)

Tree of Life (USA 2008). Directed by Hava Volterra. 76 minutes. (English, Hebrew, and Italian with English subtitles.)

2 or 3 Things I Know about Him (Germany 2005) Directed by Malte Ludin. 85 minutes. (English and German with English subtitles.)

Wasted (Israel 2007) Directed by Nurit Kedar. 70 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

The AJS thanks the following distributors for providing films for the Second Annual AJS Conference Film Festival:

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The Samuel Rosenthal Center was established in 1996 to broaden the scope of the University’s Jewish Studies curriculum and to strengthen interest in Judaic Studies on campus and throughout the local, national, and international communities.

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The Center for Jewish History welcomes attendees to the 40th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies

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The Center for Jewish History is home to the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Sephardi Federation, the Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. The Center is a venue for research, academic conferences, exhibitions and other cultural and educational events as well as a nexus for scholarly activity and public dialogue. The collections of the five partner organizations constitute one of the most important resources for documentation and exploration of the Jewish experience including scholarship, history, and art.

- The Lillian Goldman Reading Room is staffed by librarians from each partner organization, thus enabling researchers to access all the collections with relative ease.
- The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute serves as a clearing-house for researchers seeking information on people and property throughout the Diaspora. Computer terminals and in-house expertise facilitate the searches for all levels of users.
- The web sites of the partners and of the Center, linked to one another, offer digitized images of a growing number of collections to a world wide audience.
- Most of all, the proximity of the partner organizations to each other is unique in Jewish history and the most exciting aspect of the Center. Eastern European Jewry, Sephardic, German-speaking Jewry, and American experience coexist to provide a synergy that was almost unimaginable until now.
- The Lillian Goldman Reading Room, the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, and all exhibitions are now open on Mondays until 7:30 p.m. The Yeshiva University Museum galleries are now free to the public on Mondays from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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To meet with an Emory representative during the AJS conference, please contact Marina Rustow, Director of Graduate Studies, at mrustow@emory.edu.

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Leo Baeck Institute Career Development Fellowship

The Leo Baeck Institute is offering a Career Development Award as a personal grant to a scholar or professional in an early career stage, e.g. before gaining tenure in an academic institution or its equivalent, whose proposed work would deal with topics within the Leo Baeck Institute’s mission, namely historical or cultural issues of the Jewish experience in German-speaking lands.

The award of up to $20,000 will cover the period July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010 and, at the discretion of the reviewing board, may be renewed for a second year.

The grant is intended to provide for the cost of obtaining scholarly material (e.g. publications), temporary help in research and production needs, membership in scholarly organizations, travel, computer, copying and communication charges and summer stipend for non-tenured academics.

Applications outlining the nature and scope of the proposed project including a budget should be submitted, in no more than two pages, by March 1, 2009 to Dr. Frank Mecklenburg, Leo Baeck Institute, 15 W. 16th St. New York 10011, NY. A *curriculum vitae*, names of three references, and supporting material (outline of proposed work, draft of chapters, previous publications) should be appended.

e-mail submission to fmecklenburg@lbi.cjh.org is encouraged.
Michigan State University’s Jewish Studies Program focuses on the two centers of contemporary Jewish life—the United States and Israel. It explores the transformation in Jewish life from Europe to North America and Israel during the past century.

The program works with faculty and departments in four colleges to provide an undergraduate specialization, more than 20 courses in eight departments, and allied academic activities in Jewish civilization. Core and affiliated faculty members explore the history, religion, literature, language, politics, and culture(s) of the Jews. Additional course offerings include freshman and special seminars, short courses, and summer courses taught by visiting scholars.

The program hosts public events which enrich the cultural life of Michigan State University and highlight Jewish life, with emphasis on American and Israeli Jewish life and culture; Yiddishkeit; the Holocaust; Jewish contributions to film, the arts, music, and literature; the Israeli-Arab-Palestinian conflict; Jewish public affairs, and more. Events include Holocaust Memorial lectures, an Israeli Film Festival, prominent speakers, colloquia, panel presentations, teachers workshops, exhibits, and more.

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B.A. in Judaic Studies
The B.A. Program in Judaic Studies, earned through the individualized major program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, introduces students to the culture and civilization of the Jewish people. Courses cover various aspects of the history and literature of the Jews, from biblical times to the present.

Academic Resources and Opportunities at UConn
- Archaeological Dig at Sepphoris, Israel
- Berman Institute – North American Jewish Data Bank and Roper Center for Public Opinion Research for Social Science Research
- Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies
- Holocaust and Human Rights Studies
- Study in Israel – Study in Prague

Other Resources and Opportunities at UConn
- Jewish Student Campus Life – Hillel at UConn
- Morris N. Trachten Kosher Dining Facility

Tuition Assistance and Fellowships are available.

For more information, contact:
Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life
University of Connecticut
405 Babbidge Road Unit 1205
Storrs, CT  06269-1205
Telephone:  (860) 486-2271  Fax:  (860) 486-6332
E-mail:  judaicstudies@uconn.edu
Website:  www.judaicstudies.uconn.edu
Fellowship Opportunity
Theme for 2010-2011

Jewish Languages

Practices of reading and writing in several languages, inhabiting interlinguistic communities, and translating into and out of various idioms and vernaculars have characterized Jews across centuries. The Frankel Institute’s 2010-2011 theme, Jewish Languages, interrogates this history and reputation in order to reconsider myths, fantasies, and anxieties of linguistic multiplicity in Jewish history, culture, and politics. The Frankel Institute invites scholars and artists to consider how the questions and implications of Jewish tongues motivate interdisciplinary approaches to narrative and literary form, biblical and Talmudic studies, gender and sexuality studies, historical and political studies, performance and orality, and visual culture.

Established in 2005, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan provides annual fellowships for scholars and artists from around the world to conduct research within an annual research theme. The Frankel Institute offers an intellectually stimulating environment, promotes an atmosphere of openness and encourages constructive criticism. The Institute Fellows engage in interdisciplinary, multilingual work spanning ancient times through the contemporary era. Each year, the Institute develops a research theme that is broad enough to include scholars from various disciplines, working with varying methodologies, expansive in space and time.

The application deadline is October 16, 2009.
For more information and application materials contact Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies (734) 763-9047 or JudaicStudies@umich.edu
http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic
The Program in Judaic Studies at Yale University is offering a two-year Jacob & Hilda Blaustein postdoctoral fellowship that will begin on July 1, 2009. Candidates for the fellowship must have a Ph.D. in hand by July 1, 2009 and must have received the degree no earlier that 2006. The Program seeks specialist in Medieval Jewish History/Judaism who will work closely with appropriate members of Yale’s faculty.

The Judaic Studies Blaustein Fellow will be expected to be in residence, to conduct research in Yale’s library and archival collections, to participate actively in the intellectual life of the university, and to teach three semester courses over two years. The annual stipend will be $50,000 plus health benefits. Candidates should send a cover letter, CV, project proposal, three letters of recommendation, and a list of proposed courses to:

JACOB AND HILDA BLAUSTEIN POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP  
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P.O. BOX 208282  
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New York University, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies
Posen Foundation
Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
Stony Brook University, Program in Judaic Studies
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
University of Maryland, Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies
University of Pennsylvania, Jewish Studies Program
University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program
Yeshiva University

Learn more about these institutions and organizations on the following pages.
American University’s Jewish Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences recognizes that Jews and Judaism constitute a distinct yet integral component of the heritage of Western civilization. Courses span the spectrum of the arts, humanities, and social sciences. A dozen faculty are affiliated with the program. Students may pursue a major or minor in Jewish studies and a minor in Israel studies.

Because Washington, D.C. encompasses one of the largest Jewish communities in the United States and is a center for national Jewish affairs, students in American University’s Jewish Studies Program utilize a wide range of Judaic resources outside the campus. In recent years, students have attended conferences at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Library of Congress, viewed the exhibit Personal Landscapes: Contemporary Art from Israel at the American University Museum in the Katzen Arts Center, and met with leading scholars and artists in Jewish studies. The Jewish Studies Program is further enhanced by American University’s Center for Israel Studies.

Washington, D.C. is also a center of Jewish organizational life. Jewish studies students have the opportunity to intern in over 60 Jewish organizations and to gain practical experience in Jewish communal work. In recent years, students have held internships at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Anti-Defamation League, Hadassah: Washington Action Office, Embassy of Israel, Israel Project, Moment Magazine, and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

For more information, contact:

Jewish Studies Program
Pamela S. Nadell, Director
202-885-2423

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Faculty

Amy Feinstein, Assistant Professor of English, Jewish literary modernism.

Anat Guez, Instructor in Hebrew, Modern Hebrew

Rabbi David Levy, Midrash

Jonathan Jacobs, the Richard and Jean Head Professor of Philosophy, Jewish medieval philosophy.

Steven Kepnes, the Murray W. and Mildred K. Finard Professor of Jewish Studies, Jewish philosophy.

Alice Nakhimovsky, Professor of Russian and Jewish Studies, Russian-Jewish literature and everyday life.

Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religion, Hebrew Bible; literary afterlife of the Hebrew Bible.

and colleagues in International Relations.
The Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies
Columbia University

The Institute, established in 1950, provides a vibrant and stimulating environment for discussion on campus among students, faculty, alumni, and others. It serves as both a national and an international forum on pressing issues. While engaging with the world beyond Columbia’s gates, it ensures that a multiplicity of viewpoints and topics are brought to our students, our graduates, and interested individuals. In addition, the institute improves public awareness of activities related to Israel and Jewish studies, highlighting Columbia’s distinguished past, flourishing present, and even more promising future in the field.

Ph.D. and MA Programs

The various disciplines comprising Jewish studies at Columbia University are based in four departments: Jewish history in the Department of History; Hebrew language and literature in the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures; Yiddish studies in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures; and the study of Judaism in the Department of Religion.

PhD candidates must meet the requirements for acceptance to and completion of the graduate degree programs in any one of the four fields in Jewish studies. The Liberal Studies M.A. Program in Jewish Studies is designed for those who are interested in serious study of Judaica for their own personal or professional enrichment.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Open to scholars in all fields not currently taught by our permanent or visiting faculty. For more information, requirements and to submit applications review our website www.ijjs.columbia.edu.
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http://web.gc.cuny.edu/dept/cjstu/center.htm

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With courses offered in conjunction with Religion, Hebrew, English, Anthropology, Political Science, Classics, History, and Yiddish, the program strives to provide opportunities for interaction between faculty and students in different Departments. In addition, the Judaic Studies Program endeavors to attract visiting scholars and guest speakers to campus, and serves as a resource of scholarship on aspects of Judaica for the greater Washington community.

For more information please visit www.gwu.edu/~judaic

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- Jewish Day Schools for the 21st Century
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The Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies provides Jewish Studies scholars with a unique opportunity to study unexplored aspects of the Holocaust, its precursors, and its legacy. Through the Jewish Source Study Initiative, the Museum identifies and collects archival and other Holocaust-related research resources created by Jewish organizations, communities, and individuals during the mid-20th century, and ensures scholarly focus on this vital source of information. More than 6.5 million pages of Jewish-source documentation are currently available in the Museum’s archives—with millions more expected, including an extensive collection on Sephardic and Judeo-Spanish history and culture—for scholars with Jewish Studies training and background to explore.

The Museum’s Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies promotes Holocaust research and facilitates the training of future generations of scholars of the Holocaust. Under guidance of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, the Center encourages scholarly discourse and debate through

- Fellowships
- Graduate student research assistantships
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- Research and publication projects

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- For more information contact the Gildenhorn Institute at 301-405-9413, or israelstudies-contact@umd.edu, with “Morningstar Query” in the subject line.

The Gildenhorn Institute is pleased to acknowledge the generous support of the Morningstar Foundation of Bethesda, MD.
Jewish Studies @PENN

The University of Pennsylvania's Jewish Studies program offers students the opportunity to explore the full spectrum of Jewish historical, cultural and religious experience from ancient times through the contemporary period.

Jewish Studies at Penn offers a variety of courses, a distinguished faculty, rich library resources, regular lectures and conferences, along with competitive graduate scholarships, stipends and teaching opportunities.

Penn’s Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (CAJS), the nation's premier institution for postdoctoral research in Jewish Studies, is closely affiliated with the Jewish Studies program. The Center brings leading scholars throughout the world to Penn for in-depth study of a particular theme each year. Graduate students are invited to participate in the weekly seminars and study with Center fellows. (For more information about CAJS, please see: www.cajs.upenn.edu).

AREAS OF STRENGTH INCLUDE:

- Ancient and Medieval Judaism
- American Jewish Culture
- Bible and History of Biblical Interpretation
- Gender and Jewish Cultural Studies
- Early Modern/Modern Jewish History & Culture
- Israel Studies

For more information about Penn’s Jewish Studies Program, please see: http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/jwst
Or e-mail us at: jsp-info@ccat.sas.upenn.edu
The Jewish Studies Program at UVa draws on the expertise of thirty affiliated scholars from religious studies, history, anthropology, sociology, literature, music and other fields to offer courses in the history, languages, and literature of the Jewish people in the Diaspora and Israel, the beliefs, thought, and practices of Judaism, the interaction between Jews and other peoples, and Israeli history and memory.

The Program offers masters and doctoral degrees in Jewish textuality, practice and modern thought through the Department of Religious Studies. Among the faculty are Elizabeth Shanks Alexander (rabbinic literature, gender), Asher Biemann (modern Jewish thought), Greg Goering (Hebrew Bible/Old Testament), Martien Halvorson-Taylor (Hebrew Bible), James Loeffler (modern Jewish history), Peter Ochs (Jewish philosophy and theology), and Vanessa Ochs (ritual and material culture).

Across the university graduate students exploring Jewish and Israeli topics work under the direction of faculty affiliated with the Program. They include Alon Confino (German history, Israeli memory), Gabriel Finder (Holocaust), Jennifer Geddes (Holocaust literature and thought), Jeffrey Grossman (German and Yiddish literature), Phyllis Leffler (public history, Southern Jewish history), Dan Lefkowitz (Israeli culture and anthropology), Jeffrey Olick (memory), Caroline Rody (American Jewish literature), and Joel Rubin (klezmer and American Jewish music).

Jewish Studies offers a vibrant and stimulating environment for excellent students at all levels, including a thriving undergraduate program that offers both a major and minor, as well as a study abroad program, graduate fellowships that include full tuition, a living stipend, and teaching opportunities.

For more information contact Professor Asher Biemann, the Program Director, and the Jewish Studies web site:

www.virginia.edu/jewishstudies/
Yeshiva University is a multi-campus institution consisting of two liberal arts colleges, a business school and numerous graduate and professional schools. Our goal is to bring wisdom to life through all that we teach, by all that we do and for all those we serve. YU’s dual emphasis on academic excellence and personal ethics affords our students a unique education by providing knowledge enlightened by values.

Jewish Studies Programs

Yeshiva College offers a Jewish Studies major with concentrations in various areas within the field going beyond the substantial number of academic Jewish Studies courses required of all students. The morning programs for Yeshiva College undergraduates and the semicha program and kollelim for graduates offer the study of Torah in a traditional mode at the highest level.

Stern College for Women and its graduate program in Talmud and halacha provide traditional study, while many of its Jewish Studies courses are taught in a fully academic mode.

The Bernard Revel Graduate School for Jewish Studies provides masters and Ph.D. programs, as well as a B.A./M.A. option with concentrations in Bible, Jewish History, Jewish Philosophy and Talmud.

Yeshiva College, Stern College and the Bernard Revel Graduate School have significantly enriched their offerings and faculty in Academic Jewish Studies in the last several years, solidifying our position as a premier institution in the field.

For further information on undergraduate programs, go to www.yu.edu and click on the relevant department. For the Bernard Revel Graduate School, go to www.yu.edu/revel
Participants

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Abramovitch, Ilana ..................... 3.8, 5.4 (Chair)
Abramson, Henry ...................... 2.11, 7.7
Ackerman, Evelyn .................... 10.3
Adelman, Rachel ...................... 3.1
Adler, Jacob ......................... 3.13
Adler, Rachel R. ...................... 2.4
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Aizenberg, Edna ...................... 5.9, 7.8 (Chair)
Albert, Anne Oravetz ............... 7.15
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Aptroot, Marion J .................... 7.10
Aridan, Natan ......................... 4.1
Arkis, Kimberly ..................... 11.14
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Assouline Stillman, Dinah ......... 4.2
Aster, Shawn Zelig ................... 10.12
Astro, Alan ......................... 4.2 (Chair), 11.2
Auerbach, Karen ..................... 10.13
Aust, Cornelia ....................... 1.5
Aviv, Caryn ......................... 7.5, 11.7
Avni, Sharon ......................... 12.7
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B
Baer, Leah R ......................... 5.8
Baigell, Matthew .................... 10.5 (Chair)
Baker, Cynthia M .................... 5.2
Balakirsky-Katz, Maya ............. 8.7 (Chair)
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