

# ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza      Los Angeles

December 20–22, 2009

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## Sunday, December 20, 2009

<b>GENERAL BREAKFAST</b> <i>(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)</i>	<b>8:30 AM – 9:30 AM</b>	<i>Los Angeles Ballroom</i>
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>8:30 AM – 6:00 PM</b>	<i>California Lounge</i>
<b>AJS BUSINESS MEETING</b>	<b>9:00 AM – 9:30 AM</b>	<i>Brentwood</i>
<b>AJS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING</b>	<b>10:30 AM – 2:00 PM</b>	<i>Directors IIII</i>
<b>BOOK EXHIBIT</b> <i>(List of Exhibitors, p.79)</i>	<b>1:00 PM – 6:30 PM</b>	<i>California Showroom</i>
<b>FILM SCREENINGS</b> <i>(List of Films, p.77)</i>	<b>9:30 AM – 6:30 PM</b>	<i>Westside Room</i>

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### Session 1, Sunday, December 20, 2009

**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

1.1

*Beverly Hills*

#### **INVERSIONS: RHETORICS IN THE RADICAL CRITIQUE OF ISRAEL**

*Chair:* Kenneth Waltzer (Michigan State University)

##### **Reconstructions of “Jewish Morality” in Radical Critiques of Israel**

David Seymour (Lancaster University)

##### **Europe and Antisemitism: The Grammar of Denial in Radical Critiques of Israel**

Robert Fine (University of Warwick)

##### **Conceptualizations of “The Holocaust” in Radical Critiques of Israel**

David Hirsh (Goldsmiths, University of London)

1.2

*Olympic I*

#### **JEWISH–MUSLIM AND JEWISH–FRENCH RELATIONS IN FRANCE IN THE WAKE OF THE SECOND INTIFADA**

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

##### **Grapes of Wrath or Concord in French Sephardic and Arab Movies?**

Dinah Assouline Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

##### **Between the *Banlieues* and the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict**

Johann Sadock (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

##### **Contested Ground: The Arab–Israel Conflict, Antisemitism, “Communitarianism,” and Jewish Identities in Contemporary France**

Steven Uran (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)

1.3

*Olympic II***BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES: RELIGIOSITY AND SECULARISM IN ISRAEL  
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY***Chair:* Uri Cohen (Columbia University)**Transitioning from Religious vs. Secular to Multiple Identities in Israeli Jewish  
Consciousness**

Adina Newberg (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

**Messianic Mysticism and Political Pragmatism in the Teachings of Rabbi Yehuda Amital**

Motti Inbari (University of North Carolina)

**Coming to Terms with a Religious Upbringing in Religious Zionist Poetry**

David C. Jacobson (Brown University)

1.4

*Constellation I***OUT OF THE ARCHIVE AND INTO VIEW: ALTERING OUR VIEW OF LATIN  
AMERICAN JEWISH AND SEPHARDIC LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES***Sponsored by the Latin American Jewish Studies Association**Chair:* Naomi Eva Lindstrom (University of Texas)**Iulius Popper: The Making of a Patagonian King**

Nora Glickman (Queens College/The Graduate Center, CUNY)

**Accented Anthropomorphism: The Work of Frans Krajcberg**

Laura Felleman Fattal (Temple University)

**Jews in (Cyber)Space: Sephardic Virtual Communities and Their Survival**

Kenya Dworkin y Mendez (Carnegie Mellon University)

1.5

*Constellation II***JEWS AND THEIR NEIGHBORS IN EASTERN EUROPE***Chair and Respondent:* Eugene Michael Avrutin (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)**Confronting the State Together: Absolutism and the Triangulation of Polish–Jewish  
Relations**

Glenn Dynner (Sarah Lawrence College)

**Russian Neighbors: Zionists in Russia Reflect**

Brian J. Horowitz (Tulane University)

**Jewish Neighborly Relations in Post-World War II Ukraine**

Elana Jakel (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

1.6

*Westwood***ART AND IDENTITY IN AMERICA***Chair:* Judith F. Rosen (The Graduate Center, CUNY)**George Segal and the Book of Genesis**

Samantha Baskind (Cleveland State University)

**Post-World War II American Judaism at the Movies**

Rachel Gordan (Harvard University)

**Lionel Trilling, the Jewish Cosmopolite: *The Journey Abandoned***

Harvey Teres (Syracuse University)

1.7

*Pacific***HOMEWARD(S) BOUND: JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN POSTWAR GERMANY, 1945–1957***Chair:* Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union)**“The same but different”: Jewish War Brides and Jewish Female DPs in Postwar Germany, 1945–1950**

Robin Judd (Ohio State University)

**Unity through the Formative Force of German Jews? The Central Council of Jews as Connective Encounter**

Andrea Sinn (Ludwig Maximilians University Munich)

**Separation through Daily Interaction? Economic Competition as a Barrier to Jewish DP Integration**

Kierra Cargo-Schneider (University of California, Los Angeles)

1.8

*Brentwood***PRIMO LEVI, THE HOLOCAUST, AND THE PURPOSE OF WITNESS: REFLECTIONS AND REAPPRAISALS***Chair:* Sharon Portnoff (Connecticut College)**Primo Levi and the Narrative of Self**

Nancy Harrowitz (Boston University)

**Primo Levi’s Island of Humanity: Conscience, Subjectivity, Testimony**

Marie Baird (Duquesne University)

**On Primo Levi and the Periodicity of Genocide**

Johan Ahr (Hofstra University)

*Respondent:* Marla Stone (Occidental College)

1.9

*Encino***STRANJEWS IN FRENCH PHILOSOPHY***Chair:* Galili Shahar (University of Florida)**Being Jewish in French Philosophy after Auschwitz: Vladimir Jankélévitch and the Question of Forgiveness**

Jonathan Judaken (University of Memphis)

**Stran Jews: From Levinas to Derrida**

Dragan Kujundzic (University of Florida)

**The Geo-political Turn of Levinas**

Santiago Slabodsky (St. Thomas More College, University of Saskatchewan)

*Respondent:* Annette Aronowicz (Franklin & Marshall College)

1.10

*Palisades*

**CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MYSTICISM AND SPIRITUALITY IN TEXT AND PRACTICE**

*Chair and Respondent:* Elliot K. Ginsburg (University of Michigan)

**From ELoheinu to SpirEL Dynamics: An Evolution of God-consciousness in Contemporary Jewish Mysticism**

Aubrey L. Glazer (Independent Scholar)

**Ana b'Koach Hits the Israeli Pop Charts: New Trends in Israeli "Secular" Spirituality**

Galeet Dardashti (University of Texas at Austin)

**The Ambivalence of *Bittul*: Ethnographic Reflections on a Mystical Tension in Contemporary Habad**

Don Seeman (Emory University)

1.11

*Sherman Oaks*

**BETWEEN ARRIVAL AND RETURN: THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON CZECH JEWISH IDENTITY**

*Chair and Respondent:* Michlean Amir (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

**The Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile and the Shaping of Jewish Identity during and after World War II**

Jan Lanicek (University of Southampton)

**To Terezín and Back: Czech Jews and Their Sense of Place between Theresienstadt and Postwar Czechoslovakia**

Anna Hajkova (University of Toronto)

**Weil's Return**

Jindrich Toman (University of Michigan)

1.12

*Governors I*

**MEDIEVAL JEWISH CULTURE**

*Chair:* Maud Kozodoy (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**The Evolution of Story and Its Impact on Scriptural Exegesis in the Middle Ages**

Rachel Mikva (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Jewish Astrological Myths**

Piergabriele Mancuso (Boston University)

1.13

*Governors II*

**NOT SO FUNNY: SATIRE AND REPRESENTATIONS OF JEWISHNESS IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA**

*Chair:* Marsha Dubrow (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

**To Be a Jew: Nathanael West and Modern Jewish Identification**

Omar Augustin Moran (Claremont Graduate University)

**Satire in Jewish American (Post-) Holocaust Fiction**

Steven Fink (Ohio State University)

1.14

*Park***VOICE AND LYRIC IN ISRAELI WOMEN'S POETRY***Chair:* Michael Weingrad (Portland State University)**Facing Your Backing-Away: The Mother–Daughter Relationship in Tzvia Litevsky's Poetry**

Ilana Szobel (Brandeis University)

**From Orpheus to Kafka: Hava Pinhas-Cohen's Poetry of Loss**

Sharon Green (University of Toronto)

**Traversing Cultural Boundaries in Contemporary Hebrew Poetry: "Egla 'arufa" by Dahlia Ravikovitch**

Laura Wiseman (York University)

**Session 2, Sunday, December 20, 2009****11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**

2.1

*Santa Monica***TEACHING JUDAIC STUDIES IN A NON-JEWISH SETTING***Chair:* Jodi Eichler-Levine (University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh)*Discussants:*

Alan J. Avery-Peck (College of the Holy Cross)

Leonard J. Greenspoon (Creighton University)

Ellen M. Umansky (Fairfield University)

Katja Vehlow (University of South Carolina, Columbia)

2.2

*Beverly Hills***NEW YORK JEWISH HISTORY REVISITED***Chair:* Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)*Discussants:*

Jeffrey S. Gurock (Yeshiva University)

Diana Linden (Pitzer College)

Anne Polland (Eugene Lang College, New School for Social Research)

Howard Rock (Florida International University)

2.3

*Olympic I***RABBINIC LITERATURE: ANCIENT PREDECESSORS AND LATE REPERCUSSIONS***Chair:* Arkady Kovelman (Lomonosov Moscow State University)**Apocalypticism in Pesiqta Rabbati and Its Christian Intertexts**

Rivka Ulmer (Bucknell University)

**Maimonides and the Talmud: A Paradoxical Relationship**

Ari Bergmann (Columbia University)

2.4

*Olympic II***ISSUES IN HEBREW LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS***Chair:* Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal (Yale University)**Shifting Grammar in the Bible's Representation of Human and Divine Anger**

Deena Elana Grant (Barry University)

**Number Symbolism in Phraseological Contexts in Hebrew**

Daria Semchenkova (Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences)

2.5

*Constellation I***CAPRICIOUS COUSINS AND UNRELIABLE UNCLES: JEWS AND NON-JEWS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION WITHIN EARLY MODERN JEWISH COMMUNITIES***Chair and Respondent:* Adam Teller (University of Haifa)**The Economic Impact of the *Kehillah* Considered in Different Local Legal Contexts and Cultures**

Evelyne Oliel-Grausz (Sorbonne)

**Going to Court: Conflict Resolution among Jewish Merchants in Eighteenth-Century Central Europe**

Cornelia Aust (University of Pennsylvania)

**The Role of the "State" in Mediating Intracommunal Conflict: A Case Study of Sephardim in Mid-Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam**

Jessica Vance Roitman (Birkbeck College, University of London)

2.6

*Constellation II***DEMOGRAPHY: SMALL TOWNS, BIG CITIES, NATIONAL COMPARISONS***Chair:* Shawn Landres (Jumpstart)**Boundaries, Institutions, and Contents: A New Look at Jewish Identification in the United States and Elsewhere**

Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Jewish Identity on the Suburban, Urban, and Rural Frontiers: The Effects of Community Size**

Matthew Boxer (Brandeis University)

2.7

*Westwood***POLISH-JEWISH RELATIONS AS THEY EMERGE IN AUTHENTIC VOICES FROM THE HOLOCAUST***Chair:* Natalia Aleksion (Touro College)**Polish-Jewish Relations as Described in David Boder's Interviews**

Rosemary Horowitz (Appalachian State University)

**The Polish Underground Press and the Jewish Question, 1940-1944**

Joshua Zimmerman (Yeshiva University)

**Writing the Self and the Limits of Ideology: Maria Dąbrowska's Jewish Problem**

Rachel Feldhay Brenner (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

2.8

*Pacific***JEWISH IRANIAN WOMEN'S WRITING***Chair:* Hooman Sarshar (Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History)**The Things They Left Behind**

Judith L. Goldstein (Vassar College)

**Diversity in Jewish Iranian-American Women's Writing**

Nasrin Rahimieh (University of California, Irvine)

**Tales Untold: Memoirs and Novels by Jewish Iranian Women**

Jaleh Pirnazar (University of California, Berkeley)

**Gina Nahai: Reclaiming Jewish Iranian Identity in the American Diaspora**

Mojgan Behmand (Dominican University of California)

2.9

*Brentwood***SPEAKING IN TONGUES: VARIETIES OF EXPRESSION AND AUTHENTICITY IN THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY JEWS AND THEIR JEWISHNESS***Chair:* Emily Budick (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**Narrative, Voice, and Authenticity: A Feminist Approach to the Study of Jewish Identities**

Debra Renee Kaufman (Northeastern University)

**Voices from the Edge: Authenticity as an Element in the Boundary Formation among Young American Jews**

Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)

*Respondent:* Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University)

2.10

*Encino***TRANSFORMATIONS OF MODERN JEWISH POLITICS***Chair:* Daniel B. Schwartz (George Washington University)**German-Jewish Negotiations: Religious Registration, Denominationalism, and Secularization in Late Nineteenth-Century Germany**

Deborah Anna Brown (University of California, Los Angeles)

**The First World War, German Nationalism, and the Transformation of German Zionism**

Stefan Vogt (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

**The Jewish Labor Bund after 1945: A Reappraisal**

David Slucki (Monash University)

**1968 and the Central European Jewish Intelligentsia: Historical Turning Point?**

Malachi Hacohen (Duke University)

2.11

*Palisades***TRAVEL AND ETHNOGRAPHY IN YIDDISH LITERATURE***Chair:* Ellen D. Kellman (Brandeis University)**Jews in Search of the Exotic: The Peculiar World of Twentieth-Century Yiddish Travelogues**

Yuri Vedenyapin (Columbia University)

**Yiddish on the Pampas**

Lee Williams (Touro College South)

**"What it means to be Benjamin": The Picaresque Hero and Jewish Social Pathology**

Miriam Udel (Emory University)

2.12

*Sherman Oaks***JEWISH CHILDREN AFTER THE HOLOCAUST***Chair:* Avinoam Patt (University of Hartford)**Predictable and Unpredictable Possibilities of a New Life: The Rescued Jewish Children in Postwar Poland**

Joanna B. Michlic (Brandeis University)

**Jewish Comedy after Auschwitz? The Case of *Unzere Kinder* (Our Children)**

Gabriel N. Finder (University of Virginia)

**Trauma, Childhood, and the Holocaust in Postwar Hungarian Cinema**

Catherine Portuges (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

*Respondent:* Diane Wolf (University of California, Davis)

2.13

*Governors I***GENDER, COMMUNITY, FAMILY: PERSPECTIVES ON JEWISH MASCULINITY AND FEMININITY IN THE AGE OF IMMIGRATION***Chair:* Maura Hametz (Old Dominion University)**“A hopeless and dejected lot”: Jewish Masculinity, Migration, and the Family in Britain, 1881–1914**

Hannah Ewence (University of Southampton)

**Women’s Work: Jewish Women’s Philanthropy and Gender Identity in Late Nineteenth-Century Chicago**

Hannah Farmer (University of Southampton)

**The Personal Is Political: The Autobiography of Rose Pastor Stokes**

Regina Morantz-Sanchez (University of Michigan)

*Respondent:* Susan L. Tananbaum (Bowdoin College)

2.14

*Governors II***THE FLESH MADE WORD: CONCEPTIONS OF THE BODY IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT***Chair:* Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)**Religion of Embodied Reason: Hermann Cohen and the Methodological Significance of the Body**

Daniel Weiss (University of Virginia)

**Encounter and Embodiment in Martin Buber’s Philosophical Anthropology**

William Plevan (Princeton University)

**The Politics of Carnal Israel: Jewish Bodies, Theology, and Genocide**

Elliot Ratzman (Temple University)

*Respondent:* Asher D. Biemann (University of Virginia)

2.15

*Park***ISSUES IN GENESIS AND ITS INTERPRETATION***Chair:* Steven P. Weitzman (Stanford University)**Between the Holy Text and Its Unholy Context: Polemical Overtones in Yefet ben 'Eli's Commentary on the Book of Genesis**

Marzena Bogna Zawadowska (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University/University of Warsaw)

**The Death of Isaac**

Tzemah Yoreh (American Jewish University)

**Abraham: A God-fearing Man or a Knight of Faith**

Charlotte Katzoff (Bar-Ilan University)

**GENERAL LUNCH****1:00 PM – 2:00 PM***Los Angeles Ballroom**(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)***Session 3, Sunday, December 20, 2009****2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

3.1

*Santa Monica***MYTHIC ZION: ENVISIONING BIROBIDZHAN ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC***Chair:* David Shneer (University of Colorado)**Mythic Zion: Envisioning Birobidzhan as a Jewish Utopia**

Matthew B. Hoffman (Franklin &amp; Marshall College)

**Between Two Zions: Semyon Gekht's *A Steamship Sails to Yaffo and Back* and the Soviet Wandering Jew**

Sasha Senderovich (Harvard University)

**Birobidzhan and the American Jewish Community: The Campaign to Settle Children Orphaned by the Holocaust in the Jewish Autonomous Region**

Henry Srebrnik (University of Prince Edward Island)

3.2

*Beverly Hills***JEWISH PAST, JEWISH PRESENT, JEWISH FUTURE: THE ROLE OF THE HISTORIAN***Chair:* Yehuda Kurtzer (Brandeis University)*Discussants:*

David Berger (Yeshiva University)

Robert Chazan (New York University)

Robin Judd (Ohio State University)

Aaron D. Panken (HUC-JIR)

Jack Wertheimer (Jewish Theological Seminary)

3.3

*Olympic I***MAJOR ISSUES IN THE HISTORY OF THE KIBBUTZ***Chair and Respondent:* Eliezer Ben-Rafael (Tel-Aviv University)**One Hundred Years of Kibbutz: Gender, Utopia, and Social Change**

Sylvie Bijaoui (The College of Management Academic Studies)

**Kibbutz and Aliyah: Symbiotic Relations**

Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)

**“To put a skullcap on the kibbutz head”: Attempts to Instill Jewish Tradition into Kibbutz Life**

Dina Porat (Tel-Aviv University)

3.4

*Olympic II***APPROACHES TO TEACHING “INTRODUCTION TO JEWISH STUDIES”***Sponsored by the AJS Working Group on Pedagogy**Chair:* Justin Cammy (University of California, Los Angeles/Smith College)*Discussants:*

Todd M. Endelman (University of Michigan)

Cecile E. Kuznitz (Bard College)

Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)

Bruce Rosenstock (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Miriam Udel (Emory University)

3.5

*Constellation I***(RE)ARTICULATING THE SEPHARDIC AMERICAS***Chair:* Joëlle Bahloul (Indiana University)**The Sephardic Presence in the Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Colombian Caribbean**

Paula Daccarett (Independent Scholar)

**Making Jews “Sephardic” in Early Twentieth-Century New York**

Devin Naar (Stanford University)

**Reconfiguring Identities: Zionism and *Sefaradismo* in Argentina, Post-1948**

Adriana Brodsky (St. Mary’s College of Maryland)

**Árabes vs. *Árabes Light*: Ethnonyms and the Sephardi–Mizrahi Distinction in Mexico City**

Evelyn Dean (Indiana University)

3.6

*Constellation II***TURNING OVER KIDDUSHIN***Chair:* Rachel R. Adler (University of Southern California)**By Any Other Name?: Kiddushin, Same-Sex Relationships, and Halakhic Discourse in the Liberal Movements**

Gail Labovitz (American Jewish University)

**Consenting to Sex in the Framework of Marriage as Acquisition and the “Softer Patriarchy”**

Melanie Malka Landau (Monash University)

**“Getting married” and “Saying ‘I do’”: Kiddushin and the Theory of Speech Acts**

Ariella Radwin (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Respondent:* Aryeh Cohen (American Jewish University)

3.7

*Westwood***CRYPTO-JUDAISM IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES: ASSESSING THE EVIDENCE***Chair:* Jane S. Gerber (The Graduate Center, CUNY)**Assessing the Evidence for the Existence of Crypto-Judaism in the Southwestern United States**

Seth D. Kunin (Durham University)

**Genetic-Ethnographic Research on Verifiable and Purported Crypto-Jews: Solving the Cultural Puzzle**

Judith Neulander (Case Western Reserve University)

**Genetic-Ethnographic Research on Verifiable and Purported Crypto-Jews: Solving the Genetic Puzzle**

Wesley Knight Sutton (New York University)

3.8

*Pacific***CATEGORIES, BOUNDARIES, AND BORDERS IN JEWISH CULTURAL STUDIES***Chair and Respondent:* Jonathan Freedman (University of Michigan)**The New “New Pluralism”**

Dean Franco (Wake Forest University)

**Disappearing Jews and the Challenges of Cultural Studies**

Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)

**J/je/jew/juif/Jude: The Translated Jew**

Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota)

3.9

*Brentwood***BRUNO SCHULZ: RECLAIMING DIASPORA***Chair:* Maya Balakirsky-Katz (Touro College)**Into the Now: Post-Theological Adaptations of the Messianic in Bruno Schulz and Walter Benjamin**

Karen Underhill (University of Chicago)

**Bruno Schulz’s *Booke of Idolatry*: Jewish Modernism and Jewish Desire**

Carol Zemel (York University)

**Judaism as Surrealism: Wojciech Has’s Cinematic Treatment of Bruno Schulz in *The Hourglass Sanatorium* (1973)**

Andrew Ingall (The Jewish Museum, New York)

3.10

*Encino***THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS IN CONTEXT***Chair:* Hindy Najman (University of Toronto)**Purity as Separation: Comparing the Dead Sea Scrolls, Rabbinic Literature, and the New Testament**

Lawrence H. Schiffman (New York University)

**Taming the Wild and Wilding the Tame: The Shifting Relationships between Humans, God, and Nature in the Qumran and Rabbinic Calendars**

Ron H. Feldman (Graduate Theological Union)

**Connecting the Dots in the History of Halakhah: The Restriction on Thinking about Labor on the Sabbath in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jubilees, and Rabbinic Literature**

Alex P. Jassen (University of Minnesota)

**The Current State of the Archaeological Debate at Qumran**

Robert R. Cargill (University of California, Los Angeles)

3.11

*Palisades***JEWISH COUNTERPOINTS: IMMIGRANT COMPOSERS IN THE EARLY- TO MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE***Chair:* Hasia R. Diner (New York University)**Composer Leo Zeitlin in New York**

Paula Eisenstein Baker (University of St. Thomas, Houston)

**From Immigrant to Insider: The American Journey of Jewish Cultural Catalyst and Composer Lazar Weiner**

Marsha Dubrow (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

**Between Reform Temples and MGM Studios: Jewish Emigrant Composers and American Modernism**

Assaf Shelleg (Washington University in St. Louis)

3.12

*Sherman Oaks***REAL AND IMAGINED WOMEN IN RABBINIC LITERATURE***Chair:* David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)**“The wise woman from Saida”: The Silent Dialogue between Aggadah and Halakhah Regarding Women and Marriage**

Arnon Atzmon (Bar-Ilan University)

**Becoming Human: Some Rabbinic Conceptions of Embryology and Fetal Development**

Tirzah Meacham (University of Toronto)

**Gentile Midwives and Wet-nurses and Dead Jewish Babies: B. Avodah Zarah 26a**

Michael Pitkowsky (Jewish Theological Seminary)

3.13

*Governors I***SELF/ANTI-SELF: JEWISH DOUBLE CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER THE HASKALAH***Chair:* Alice Nakhimovsky (Colgate University)**Playing House: Family Fictions and the Poetics of Personality in the Correspondence between Sholem Aleichem and Mendele the Bookpeddler**

Olga Litvak (Clark University)

**Portrait of the Artist as a Young Idiot: Sholem Aleichem's *Di freylakhe kompanye***

Marcus Moseley (Northwestern University)

**The Third Sex: Jewish Feminism and the Question of Public and Private in the Age of Collectivist Politics**

Kenneth B. Moss (The Johns Hopkins University)

*Respondent:* Alyssa P. Quint (Princeton University)

3.14

*Governors II***ROSENZWEIG AND ARENDT***Chair:* Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Arizona State University)**“The best path to Marcionism”: Franz Rosenzweig’s Conversions Reconsidered**

Benjamin Pollock (Michigan State University)

**“The light of the public obscures everything”: Arendt and the Public Threat of Political Theology**

Benjamin Aldes Wurgaft (University of California, Berkeley)

**“That a beginning be made . . .”: On Messianic Strains in the Work of Hannah Arendt**

Daniel Brandes (University of King’s College)

3.15

*Park***SURVIVAL, JUSTICE, AND REHABILITATION: THE “SURVIVING REMNANT” AND THE HOLOCAUST***Chair:* Gabriel N. Finder (University of Virginia)**“Justice, justice shalt thou pursue”: Jewish Displaced Persons and the Question of Retributive Justice in Allied-Occupied Germany**

Laura Jockusch (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

**Reimagining the Unimaginable: Memory, Theater, and Rehabilitation in the Displaced Persons’ Camps**

Margarete Feinstein (Claremont McKenna College)

**Soviet Central Asia and Iran: Sites of Refuge and Relief for European Jews during World War II**

Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union)

*Respondent:* Avinoam Patt (University of Hartford)

3.16

*Senators II***1958, ONE YEAR IN ISRAELI LITERATURE: REFLECTIONS ON HISTORIOGRAPHY***Chair and Respondent:* David C. Jacobson (Brown University)*Presenter:* Arnold J. Band (University of Los Angeles, California)*Respondent:* William Cutter (HUC-JIR)

Session 4, Sunday, December 20, 2009

4:15 PM – 6:15 PM

4.1

*Santa Monica*

**PAST PROGRESSIVE, FUTURE MORE PERFECT: PROSPECTS FOR THE STUDY OF JEWISH ANTIQUITY AT THE AJS AND BEYOND**

*Chair:* Ra'anana Boustan (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Discussants:* Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)  
 Paula Fredriksen (Boston University)  
 Hindy Najman (University of Toronto)  
 Michael D. Swartz (Ohio State University)  
 Steven P. Weitzman (Stanford University)

4.2

*Beverly Hills*

**HOLOCAUST HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST MEMORY FROM THE POSTWAR PERIOD TO THE PRESENT**

*Chair:* Gabriel Finder (University of Virginia)

**“Children don’t lie!” Children’s Testimonies as Historical Sources**

Boaz Cohen (Western Galilee College/Shaanan College)

**Embodied Memory: The Mediation of Archived Holocaust Testimony in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

Noah Shenker (McMaster University)

**Creating Collective Memory: The Postwar Lives of Hidden Children**

Diane Wolf (University of California, Davis)

**Displaced Children: Life in America after the Holocaust**

Beth Cohen (California State University, Northridge)

4.3

*Olympic I*

**JEWISH MILITARY AND CIVIL EMPOWERMENT DURING THE GREAT WAR**

*Chair:* Robin Judd (Ohio State University)

**Jewish Empowerment during the Great War: The Halakhic Dimension**

Stuart Cohen (Bar-Ilan University)

**The Symbol of the “Promised Land” as a Source of Jewish Empowerment during the Great War**

Michael Keren (University of Calgary)

**Seizing the Day: Jewish Self-Government in Russia during the Great War**

Simon Rabinovitch (Boston University)

**The Experience of Jewish Soldiers in the German Army in the Great War**

David Fine (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

4.4

*Olympic II***CREATING A CANON IN AMERICAN JEWISH WOMEN'S WRITING***Chair:* Judith R. Baskin (University of Oregon)**Who's in and Who's out and How Do We Decide? Framing a Discussion of Teaching Jewish Women's Writing**

Judith M. Lewin (Union College)

**From Dr. Fried to Sarah, Tig, and Miri: Female Jewish Identities in Joanne Greenberg's Four Decades of Fiction**

Gail Sherman (Reed College)

**Canon Fodder? The Case of Linda Pastan**

Anne Lapidus Lerner (Jewish Theological Seminary)

4.5

*Constellation I***JEW AS MUSLIM/MUSLIM AS JEW***Chair and Respondent:* Susan Miller (University of California, Davis)**Fashioning Imperial Citizens in Turkish Style: Ottoman Jews and Auto-Orientalism**

Julia Cohen (Vanderbilt University)

**Common Culture, Survival Strategy, or Useful Foil? Jews and Muslimness in Twentieth-Century France**

Ethan Katz (University of Cincinnati)

**Performing Cosmopolitanism: Turkish Jews, Secularism, and Islam in Istanbul**

Marcy Brink-Danan (Brown University)

**Masquerade Politics: Berbers, Jews, and Racial Passing in Southern Morocco**

Paul Silverstein (Reed University)

4.6

*Constellation II***DID THE JEWS HAVE A RENAISSANCE?***Chair:* Naomi Grunhaus (Yeshiva University)**Language, Rhetoric, and the Question of a Jewish "Renaissance"**

Daniel Stein Kokin (University of Oregon)

**Did Ashkenazic Women in Northern Italy Have a Renaissance? New Evidence from an Early Yiddish Manuscript (1504)**

Harry Fox (University of Toronto)

**Was There a Canon of Bible Commentaries in Early Modern Italian Jewish Culture?**

Adam B. Shear (University of Pittsburgh)

4.7

Westwood

**MEMORY AND PLACE***Chair:* Shelley Hornstein (York University)**From Buczacz to Szibucz: Memory and Commemoration of Place in *A Guest for the Night* by Agnon**

Shirli Sela-Levavi (Rutgers University)

**Midrash, Memory, and Dream: Jacob's Ladder, the Temple Mount, and the Foundation Stone of the World**

Rachel Adelman (Miami University)

**"Jewish Town" Built in the Twentieth Century: The New Leopold Town in Budapest during the 1930s**

Rudolf Klein (Saint Stephen University)

*Respondent:* Berel Lang (Wesleyan University)

4.8

Pacific

**NARRATIVE VOICE IN THE REDACTION OF RABBINIC TEXTS***Chair:* Richard Hidary (Yeshiva University)**"This Mishnah was taught in the days of Rabbi": On the Development of the Terms *Mishnah* and *Talmud* in the Bavli and Yerushalmi**

Aaron Neale Amit (Bar-Ilan University)

**The Role of the "One Hasid" Stories in Halakhic Contexts in the Babylonian Talmud**

Yonatan Feintuch (Bar-Ilan University)

**A Story in Three Contexts: On the Relation of Halakhic and Non-Halakhic Material in the Redaction of Rabbinic Works**

Binyamin Katzoff (Bar-Ilan University)

**Humor, Violence, and Resignation: Elijah Tries to Bring the Messiah**

Kris Lindbeck (Florida Atlantic University)

4.9

Brentwood

**JEWS IN DISGUISE: PASSING, HIDING, CROSS-DRESSING***Chair:* Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)**Remarkable Self-Possession: Disguise and Personal Power in Biblical Narrative**

Lori H. Lefkowitz (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

**White Face, White Noise, White Christmas: Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn***

Elliot Shapiro (Cornell University)

**Self-Inflicted Wounds: The Fantasized Witness of Benjamin Wilkomirski**

Gordon Tapper (LaGuardia Community College, CUNY)

**Performing Jewish Memory in Tykocin: From *Purimspiel* to Polish Masquerade**

Brigitte Sion (New York University)

4.10

Encino

**MARSHALL SKLARE MEMORIAL LECTURE***Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ)**Chair:* Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)**Social Networks and Jews**

Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)

*Respondent:* Paul Burstein (University of Washington)

4.11

*Palisades***BUYING AND SELLING IN THE METROPOLIS: SITES OF JEWISH CONSUMER CULTURE IN MODERN GERMANY***Chair and Respondent:* Sharon I. Gillerman (HUC-JIR)**Down and Out in Berlin: Patterns of Consumption and Violence in the Scheunenviertel after World War I**

Molly Loberg (California Polytechnic State University)

**Between Zwickau and Jerusalem: Salman Schocken, Modern Consumption, and the Search for Jewish Culture**

Paul Lerner (University of Southern California)

**Jewish Women in Style: Promoting Consumer Goods in Weimar Jewish Periodicals**

Kerry Wallach (University of Pennsylvania)

4.12

*Sherman Oaks***SEMINAR: A NEW SOUND IN HEBREW POETRY AND PROSE***Chair:* Olga Litvak (Clark University)**The Poetics and Politics of a New Sound in Hebrew Poetry**

Miryam Segal (Queens College, CUNY)

**The Politics of Prose and the Politics of Poetry: Inside the Struggle over Ashkenazic Hebrew Pronunciation**

Rachel Albeck-Gidron (Bar-Ilan University)

*Respondents:* Shmuel Bolozky (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Vered Shemtov (Stanford University)

4.13

*Governors I***CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY AND THE DEMAND OF JEWISH LITERATURE***Chair:* Monica Osborne (University of California, Los Angeles)*Discussants:* Menachem Feuer (Ryerson University)

Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University)

Adam Zachary Newton (Yeshiva University)

4.14

*Governors II***SCHOOL, CAMP, STUDENT MOVEMENT: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CREATING JEWISH IDENTITY IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICA***Chair:* Jeffrey S. Gurock (Yeshiva University)**Recreation and Identity Creation: The Early History of Camp Cejwin**

Miriam Heller Stern (American Jewish University)

**Defining and Defending American Orthodox Girlhood: The Case of the Bais Yaakov Schools**

Leslie Ginsparg (New York University)

**The Soviet Jewry Movement and the Transformation of American Jewish Identity**

Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

4.15

Park

**THE ISRAELI–ARAB CONFLICT: CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONCILIATION***Chair:* Mark Raider (University of Cincinnati)**The Formation of National Consciousness among Israelis and Palestinians: Uses and Constraints of the Past**

Jacob Lassner (Northwestern University)

**Who Is Pharaoh, Who Are the Slaves? Introducing the Arab–Israeli Conflict into Passover**

Corinna R. Kaiser (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Interlocking Conflicts: The Impact of the Palestinian Issue on Jewish–Arab Relations inside Israel**

Yitzhak Reiter (Ashkelon Academic College)

**Sunday, December 20, 2009 Evening Program****MARSHALL SKLARE****6:15 PM – 7:00 PM***Westwood Foyer***AWARD RECEPTION***Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry; Brandeis University Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies; Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion; and Yale University Program in Judaic Studies. Open to all conference registrants.***WELCOME RECEPTION****6:15 PM – 6:45 PM***Plaza Foyer**Sponsored by UCLA Center for Jewish Studies. Open to all conference registrants.***GALA BANQUET****6:45 PM***Los Angeles Ballroom**(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)**Sponsored by:***California State University at Northridge, Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Program****Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion****Indiana University, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program****Jewish Theological Seminary, The Graduate School****Northwestern University, The Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies****San Francisco State University, Department of Jewish Studies****Stanford University, Taube Center for Jewish Studies****Tablet Magazine****Tulane University, Jewish Studies Program****University of Arizona, Arizona Center for Judaic Studies****UCLA, Center for Jewish Studies****UCLA, Maurice Amado Program in Sephardic Studies****University of Chicago, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies****University of Hartford, Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies****University of Michigan, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies****University of Wisconsin-Madison, Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies**

# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2009

## PLENARY SESSION

8:00 PM

Los Angeles Ballroom

*Introduction:* Marsha Rozenblit (University of Maryland)

### *THE TRIUMPH OF COMPLIANCE? JEWISH SURVIVAL IN BUDAPEST AT THE TIME OF THE HUNGARIAN HOLOCAUST, 1944-1945*

Professor István Deák (Seth Low Professor Emeritus, Columbia University)

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## FILM

9:30 PM

Westside Room

### *THE JESTER (DER PURIMSPILER)*

Yiddish, with English subtitles (1937)

Directed by Joseph Green and Jan Nowina-Przybylski (90 minutes)

*Film courtesy of the National Center for Jewish Film.*

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## JORDAN SCHNITZER

9:30 PM

Constellation Foyer

### BOOK AWARDS RECEPTION

*In honor of the 2009 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award recipients. Sponsored by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all conference registrants.*

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## THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF

9:30 PM

Olympic Foyer

### ISRAEL RECEPTION

*To introduce AJS members to The Open University's various courses and programs in Jewish Studies. Sponsored by The Open University of Israel. Open to all conference registrants.*

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## Monday, December 21, 2009

### GENERAL BREAKFAST

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Los Angeles Ballroom

*(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)*

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### WOMEN'S CAUCUS BREAKFAST

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Westside Room

*(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)*

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### AJS REVIEW

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Regents

### EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

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### REGISTRATION

8:30 AM – 6:00 PM

California Lounge

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### BOOK EXHIBIT

9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

California Showroom

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### FILM SCREENINGS

10:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Westside Room

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## Session 5, Monday, December 21, 2009

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

5.1

*Santa Monica***MYSTICISM IN CONTEXT***Chair:* Glenn Dynner (Sarah Lawrence College)**Heikhalot Literature and the Boundaries of Rabbinic Culture**

Ra'anana Boustani (University of California, Los Angeles)

**The Politics of Secrets: Thirteenth-Century Kabbalah in Context**

Hartley Lachter (Muhlenberg College)

***Cet obscur objet du désir:* Jakub Frank and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa**

Pawel Maciejko (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**A Redeeming Context: Hasidic Piety and East European Jewish Book Culture**

Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern (Northwestern University)

*Respondent:* Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)

5.2

*Beverly Hills***WAR IN THE ISRAELI LITERARY IMAGINATION***Chair:* Rachel S. Harris (University at Albany, SUNY)**All Quiet Flows the Jordan? Russian and Israeli War Novels, 1940–1960**

Shai Ginsburg (Duke University)

**Syndicating a View of War: Dina Rubina and the Case of Russian Immigrants**

Anna P. Ronell (Wellesley College)

**From IDF to .pdf: War Poetry in the Israeli Digital Age**

Adriana Jacobs (Princeton University)

*Respondent:* Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)

5.3

*Olympic I***NEXT GENERATION: IDENTITY, ENGAGEMENT, AND OUTREACH***Chair:* Fern Chertok (Brandeis University)**Taglit-Birthright Israel: Where Does the Journey Lead?**

Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University)

**J-How: Organizational Strategies for Reaching Los Angeles Jews in Their Twenties and Thirties**

Julie Childers (Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles)

***Hipster Frumkeit:* Cosmopolitan Jewish Young Adults Choosing Parochialism in San Francisco's Mission District**

Tobin Belzer (University of Southern California)

**Young Adult Jewish Identities**

Theodore Sasson (Middlebury College)

5.4

*Olympic II***SPACE AND PLACE IN JEWISH STUDIES***Chair:* Barbara Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)**The Limits of Space and Place: Spatial Categories and the Case of Rabbinic Urban Boundaries**

Gil P. Klein (Franklin &amp; Marshall College)

**Space for Reflection: Urban Environments, Synagogues, and Methodological Approaches to Jewish History**

Saskia Coenen Snyder (University of South Carolina)

**Rhythmanalysis and the Jewish City: Representations of Jewish Urban Rhythms**

Vered Shemtov (Stanford University)

**Spatial Practice and Diasporic Imaginings: The Structural Dynamics of Israel Experience Tourism**

Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University)

*Respondent:* Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)

5.5

*Constellation I***TEACHING THE SURVEY COURSE: THE PEDAGOGY OF INCLUDING MEANINGFUL JEWISH SUBJECT MATTER IN SURVEY COURSES OUTSIDE THE JEWISH STUDIES DEPARTMENT***Chair:* Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)

*Discussants:* Hasia R. Diner (New York University)  
 Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)  
 Kenneth R. Seeskin (Northwestern University)

5.6

*Constellation II***BIBLICAL LITERATURE IN ITS ANCIENT SETTING***Chair:* Benjamin D. Sommer (Jewish Theological Seminary)**What Is a Scribe?**

Robert Kawashima (University of Florida)

**Warrior Culture in Early Israel and the “Voice” of David in 2 Samuel 1**

Mark Smith (New York University)

**The Gideon Story as an Expression of the Sovereign’s Day of Conquest**

Shawn Zelig Aster (Yeshiva College)

**Esther and Benjaminite Kingship: A Study in Allusion**

Yitzhak Berger (Hunter College, CUNY)

5.7

*Westwood***RETURN TO SOBIBÓR: UNCOVERING THE HISTORY OF A HIDDEN DEATH CAMP***Chair:* Michael G. Berenbaum (American Jewish University)**Erasing History: Sobibór, Jewish History, and the Holocaust**

Avinoam Patt (University of Hartford)

**Return to Sobibór: Using Archaeology and Geophysics to Aid Historical Research**

Richard A. Freund (University of Hartford)

**Narrating Sobibór: Reflections on the Representation of Jewish Heroism**

Stuart Liebman (Queens College/The Graduate Center, CUNY)

5.8

*Pacific*

**PHILOSOPHY AND PHILOSOPHIC CULTURE FROM MAIMONIDES TO THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY**

*Chair:* Aaron W. Hughes (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

**Philosophy as a Way of Life in the Writings of Moses Maimonides: A Study in the Philosophical Virtues**

Elisha Russ-Fishbane (Princeton University)

**The Apex of Philosophic Culture in Hebrew: East of the Rhône in the Fourteenth Century**

Gregg Stern (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**Faraj Ben Sālim and the Jewish Translators of the Thirteenth-Century Kingdom of Sicily: Jewish Philosophy, Islamic Science, and the Politics of Translation**

Lucia Finotto (Brandeis University)

**The Moral Epistemology of Moral Tradition: A Defense of a Maimonidean Thesis**

Jonathan Aaron Jacobs (Colgate University)

5.9

*Brentwood*

**AMERICAN JEWS AND THE STATE**

*Chair:* Joyce Antler (Brandeis University)

**Constitutionality in California: National Jewish Organizations and the Battle over State-Sponsored Legislation to End Discrimination in the Greek System**

Shira Kohn (New York University)

**“It makes no difference whether a man’s name be Kaz or Cohen or Montmorency”:  
Jews and Name-Changing in the United States in World War II**

Kirsten L. Fermaglich (Michigan State University)

**The Representative of American Jewry: The World War I Jewish Welfare Board and State Power**

Jessica S. Cooperman (Muhlenberg College)

*Respondent:* Eric L. Goldstein (Emory University)

5.10

*Encino*

**THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIANCE ISRAËLITE UNIVERSELLE (1860–2010): DEBATING EDUCATION WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS**

*Chair:* Joy A. Land (University of Connecticut, Stamford)

**Universalism in Conflict with National Interests: The Ideas of the Alliance Israélite Universelle in Galicia, 1860–1918**

Bjoern Siegel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Competing for Mendelssohn’s Legacy: German Jewish Pedagogy within the Alliance Israélite Universelle**

Carsten L. Wilke (University of Duisburg, Germany)

**Spanish Colonialism in Morocco and the Alliance Israélite Universelle (1898–1936)**

Isabelle Rohr (Rowan University)

**The American Friends of the Alliance: France, French Colonialism, and Sephardic Identity in the United States**

Nadia Malinovich (Sciences-Po, Paris)

*Respondent:* Jeffrey Haus (Kalamazoo College)

5.11

*Palisades***BORDERS AND TRANSACTIONS IN RABBINIC LITERATURE***Chair:* Judith Hauptman (Jewish Theological Seminary)**Light on the Mishnah from Roman Law: The Case of mKetubbot 13:7**

Leib Moscovitz (Bar-Ilan University)

**Rabbinic Fences and Halakhic Neighbors: Local Geography in Rabbinic Legislation**

Yehuda Kurtzer (Brandeis University)

**Rabbinic Trade Regulations: An Economic Perspective**

Yehudah Cohn (Oxford University)

5.12

*Sherman Oaks***SOUTHERN/NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TRANSNATIONALS: THE JEWISH CONNECTION***Sponsored by the Western Jewish Studies Association**Chair:* Lawrence Baron (San Diego State University)**Pacific Rim Transnationals: The Untold Story of How Jews from Down Under Influenced the Birth of San Francisco Jewry**

Ava F. Kahn (California Studies Association)

**Creating Transnational Connections: Australia and California**

Suzanne D. Rutland (University of Sydney)

**Prairie and Pampas: Jewish Settler Narratives from the North Dakota Plains and the Argentine Pampas**

Eleanor Kaufman (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Respondent:* Adam Mendelsohn (College of Charleston)

5.13

*Governors I***MONOTHEISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS***Chair:* Elliot Ratzman (Temple University)**Humane Intolerance: Kant, Cohen, and the Monotheism Debate**

Robert Erlewine (Illinois Wesleyan University)

**Monotheism as a Political Problem: A Case for Biblical Exceptionalism**

Bruce Rosenstock (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**Different Universalisms, Universal Differences: Moses and Paul**

Eliza F. Slavet (University of California, San Diego)

*Respondent:* Martin Kavka (Florida State University)

5.14

*Governors II***THE BAVLI IN ITS SASANIAN CONTEXT***Chair:* Robert Brody (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**Fifth- and Sixth-Century Redactions Compared: The Bavli, the Pahlavi Videvdad, and Herbedestan**

Yaakov Elman (Yeshiva University)

***Hirhurei 'aveirah ke-'aveirah damei* (Thoughts of Sin Are Akin to Sin): The Importance of Good Thoughts in Zoroastrianism and the Development of a Babylonian Rabbinic Motif**

David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

**King Herod in Ardashir's Court: The Bavli Story of Herod (Bava Batra 3b–4a) in Light of Sasanian Sources**

Jeffrey L. Rubenstein (New York University)

5.15

*Park***THE MODERN ENCYCLOPEDIA IN JEWISH STUDIES***Chair:* Zachary Baker (Stanford University)*Discussants:* Gershon Hundert (McGill University)  
Phillip Lieberman (Vanderbilt University)  
Norman Stillman (University of Oklahoma)**POSTER SESSION/BOOK EXHIBIT 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM**  
**COFFEE BREAK***California Showroom***Session 6.1, Monday, December 21, 2009****10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**

6.1

*California Showroom***POSTER SESSION****Creatures from before the Flood: Reconciling Science and Genesis in *Ha-Tsefirah***

Jeffrey C. Blutinger (California State University, Long Beach)

**What Letters Can Say: A Jewish–Christian Dialogue at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century**

Cristiana Facchini (University of Bologna)

**Becoming Persian: Illuminating Iranian American Jewish life in Los Angeles by Shelley Gazin***A Council on the Humanities Documentary Project*

Shelley Gazin (Independent Artist)

**The Forgotten: Soviet Holocaust Films**

Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**If Jeremiah Wrote It, It Must Be OK: On the Attribution of Lamentations to Jeremiah in Early Rabbinic Texts**

Jason Kalman (HUC-JIR)

**Jewish Homegrown History as Social Network**

Marsha Kinder (University of Southern California)

**Jewish Women and Family Law: Yemen and Palestine**

Bat-Zion Eraqi Klorman (The Open University of Israel)

**Spiritual but Not Religious: Gender Ramifications of Faith among Secular Israeli Jews**

Hagar Lahav (Sapir College)

**The Formation of a Levantine Community: The Jews of Beirut, 1860–1939**

Tomer Levi (Brandeis University)

**On-Line Resources for Latin American Jewish Studies**

Naomi Eva Lindstrom (University of Texas)

**Ashkenazi Minhagim Literature in the Century before the Black Plague**

Rachel Zohn Mincer (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Strategies of Assimilation and Dissimilation in Interwar Jewish-Romanian Literature**

Mihai Mindra (University of Bucharest)

**Marta Izsak or What It Means to Be a Jewish Poetess in Romania**

Michaela Mudure (Babes-Bolyai University)

**Close Encounters in Sephardic and Latin American Jewish Studies: Resources for Scholarship and Teaching**

Ronnie Perelis (Yeshiva University)

**Toward Polish Jewry's Social Death**

Meghann Theresa Pytko (Northwestern University)

**Animating the Collection: JAMS Preserve, ARKS Salvage***Technology sponsored by the Posen Foundation*

Melissa Shiff (University of Toronto)

**Translator of Empire: Semyon Fridlyand in the Soviet Union***Technology sponsored by the Posen Foundation*

David Shneer (University of Colorado)

**Session 7, Monday, December 21, 2009****11:00AM – 12:45 PM**

7.1

*Santa Monica***JEWISH HISTORY AND JEWISH THOUGHT: CONVERSATION PARTNERS OR TWO SOLITUDES?***Sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research**Chair:* Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)**Jewish Philosophers and Jewish Historians: Can We Learn from Each Other?**

David Novak (University of Toronto)

**Jewish Emancipation: Between Theory and Practice**

David J. Sorkin (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

**Jewish Political Theory between Philosophy and History**

David N. Myers (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Respondent:* David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)

7.2

*Beverly Hills***THE KIBBUTZ IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES***Chair and Respondent:* Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)**Connections between Kibbutzim and Communes**

Yaakov Oved (Tel Aviv University)

**Degania and Tel Aviv at 100: An Analysis of the Revision in Historiographic Primacy**

Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)

**Sejera and Degania: The Beginnings of Collective Settlement**

Shulamit Reinharz (Brandeis University)

**The First Kibbutz and the Borders of the Jewish State**

Rachel Havrelock (University of Illinois at Chicago)

7.3

*Olympic I***MEASURING IDENTITY AND RELIGIOSITY AMONG AMERICAN JEWS:  
DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS FROM NATIONAL  
AND LOCAL COMMUNITY STUDIES***Sponsored by the Berman Institute-North American Jewish Databank**Chair:* Tobin Belzer (University of Southern California)**Variations in Jewish Identity: Comparing American and Israeli Jews**

Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)

**The Population Profile of American Jews by Religion, 1990–2008**

Barry A. Kosmin (Trinity College)

**How Not to Do Jewish Population Studies**

Ron Miller (North American Jewish Data Bank)

**Temporal Changes in Basic Measures of Demography and Religiosity in the Results  
of Local Jewish Community Studies**

Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

**Antisemitism in the United States: Perception vs. Reality**

Jerome A. Chanes (Brandeis University)

7.4

*Olympic II***ISLAMIC INFLUENCE ON JEWISH ARTS***Chair:* Carol Zemel (York University)**Fatimid Manuscripts in Hebrew and Arabic**

Vivian B. Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Longing for God in Medieval Jewish Poetry**

Yudit K. Greenberg (Rollins College)

**A Temple of Art on Second Avenue**

Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)

7.5

*Constellation I***THE CENTERING OF THE BIBLE IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY AMSTERDAM:  
RELIGION, POLITICS, AND SCHOLARSHIP***Chair and Respondent:* Miriam Bodian (University of Texas at Austin)**Uriel da Costa, the Bible, and the Rabbis**

Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)

**Saul Levi Mortera: A Jewish Reader of the New Testament**

Benjamin Fisher (University of Pennsylvania)

**Seventeenth-Century Sephardim on the Bible as a Source of Political Law**

Anne Oravetz Albert (Brown University)

7.6

*Constellation II***THE FIVE ORIGINAL COLLEGES OF JEWISH STUDIES: YESTERDAY, TODAY,  
AND TOMORROW***Chair:* Rela Mintz Geffen (Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University)*Discussants:*

Brian D. Amkraut (Siegal College of Judaic Studies)

Dean Phillip Bell (Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies)

Daniel Lehmann (Hebrew College)

Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

Jonathan Rosenbaum (Gratz College)

Valerie Thaler (Baltimore Hebrew Institute at Towson University)

7.7

*Westwood***FACING THE TRAGEDY: HOLOCAUST CONSCIOUSNESS IN POSTWAR  
AMERICA***Chair:* Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)**Why Remember: The Multiple Contexts of Holocaust Commemoration, 1945–1962**

Hasia R. Diner (New York University)

**“Have we given up a single luxury for their sake?”: Grappling with Upward Mobility in  
a Post-Holocaust Era**

Rachel Kranson (New York University)

**Raising Awareness by Fundraising: The Holocaust in American Jewish DP Docudramas**

Lawrence Baron (San Diego State University)

7.8

*Pacific***NEW PERSPECTIVES ON HOLOCAUST ISSUES***Chair:* David Alan Patterson (University of Memphis)**“At the end of the day it is always the Jews who are to blame”: Jan Assmann on the  
Rise of Monotheism and Antisemitism**

Alon Segev (Universität zu Köln)

**Dostoevsky’s *The Jewish Question*: Some Russian Origins of the Equation between  
Judaism and Nazism**

Susan McReynolds (Northwestern University)

**Ties That Bound: Edna Ferber’s Sponsorship of Refugees from Nazi Germany**

Laurel Leff (Northeastern University)

7.9

*Brentwood***SHARPENED ARROWS: VIOLENCE IN RABBINIC DISCOURSE***Chair:* Jane Kanarek (Hebrew College)**Ritual Failure and Violence in the Mishnah's Accounts of Temple Ritual**

Naftali Cohn (Concordia University)

**Phinehas, Baal Peor, and Rabbinic Judicial Procedure**

David Bernat (Hebrew College)

***Ish milhamah*: Masculinity and Theomachy in the Bavli's Bet Midrash**

Aryeh Cohen (American Jewish University)

7.10

*Encino***ISRAEL IN/AND CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE IN AMERICA AND FRANCE***Chair and Respondent:* Sara R. Horowitz (York University)**Letters to America: Reuven Ben-Yosef and the Emergence of American Israeli Literature**

Michael Weingrad (Portland State University)

**Spying out the Land: Daniel Silva's Gabriel Allon Series**

Laurence D. Roth (Susquehanna University)

***Canticles between A. B. Yehoshua's Friendly Fire and Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon***

Tehilla Altshuler (Harvard University)

7.11

*Palisades***AUDIENCE AND LANGUAGE IN YIDDISH LITERATURE***Chair:* Itay B. Zutra (Jewish Theological Seminary)**“A’ is for the Almighty”: Transmitting Values through Hasidic Children’s Yiddish Literature**

Ester-Basya Vaisman (University of Washington)

**Sholem Aleichem and the Future of Yiddish**

Jan Schwarz (University of Chicago)

**“The Yiddish People of Poland”: Language and Identity in a Parisian Post-Bundist Memoir**

Alan Astro (Trinity University)

7.12

*Sherman Oaks***JEWS IN THE HIGH AND LATER ROMAN EMPIRE***Chair:* Ranon Katzoff (Bar-Ilan University)**Sitting with Scorners: Early Jewish and Christian Critiques of Roman Leisure**

Loren R. Spielman (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Christian Destruction of Synagogues in Late Antiquity: New Evidence from Asia Minor and Its Historiographic Significance**

Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)

**Nasi as Chief Justice: The Etymology of a Rabbinic Title**

David C. Flatto (Pennsylvania State University)

7.13

*Governors I***LIBERALS AND ANTISEMITISM IN MODERN GERMANY***Chair:* Lisa D. Silverman (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)**Liberalism, Antisemitism, and Anti-Catholicism in Nineteenth-Century Germany**

Alexander Joskowicz (Vanderbilt University)

**Liberals, Jews, and Antisemites at German Universities: The Free Students and the Union of German Students**

Lisa Zwicker (Indiana University, South Bend)

**Between “Assimilation” and “Elimination”: Liberal “Anti-Antisemitism” in the Third Reich**

Eric Kurlander (Stetson University)

*Respondent:* Till van Rahden (Université de Montréal)

7.14

*Governors II***MESSIANISM AND MESSIANIC IDEAS IN THE MIDDLE AGES***Chair:* Robert Chazan (New York University)**The Point of No Return: On the Marginal Role of the Garden of Eden in Medieval Jewish Eschatology**

David Berger (Yeshiva University)

**Messianic Readings of the Song of Songs**

Maud Kozodoy (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Messianic Figures and Messianic Anticipation in Near Eastern Jewish Society**

Arnold E. Franklin (Hunter College, CUNY)

7.15

*Park***NORTH AND SOUTH: SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH HISTORY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE***Chair:* Paul Lerner (University of Southern California)**Going South, Retiring North: The Impact of Colonial Return Migrants on Anglo-Jewry in the Mid-Nineteenth Century**

Adam Mendelsohn (College of Charleston)

**Jewish Soldiering in the South African War (1899–1902) and the American Civil War (1861–1865)**

Richard Mendelsohn (University of Cape Town)

**From Local to International: Cape Town’s Jewish Orphanage**

Susan L. Tananbaum (Bowdoin College)

*Respondent:* Ava F. Kahn (California Studies Association)

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**GENERAL LUNCH** **12:45 PM – 2:00 PM** *Los Angeles Ballroom*  
*(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)*

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**AAJR LUNCH** **12:45 PM – 2:00 PM** *Directors I/II*  
*For the Fellows of the American Academy for Jewish Research*

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**SEPHARDI/MIZRAHI** **12:45 PM – 2:00 PM** *Senators II*  
**CAUCUS LUNCH**  
*(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)*

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**LUNCHTIME MEETINGS** **12:45 PM – 2:00 PM**  
*(Note: These meetings do not include lunch.)*

**TEACHING, INQUIRY, AND TEXTS: NEW APPROACHES** *Westwood*  
**TO JEWISH EDUCATION**

*Sponsored by the Posen Foundation. Light Refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Center for Cultural Judaism.*

*Chair:* Mark Raider (University of Cincinnati)

*Discussants:* Mark Raider (University of Cincinnati)  
 Miriam Raider-Roth (University of Cincinnati)  
 Haim Otto Rechnitzer (HUC-JIR)

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**PEDAGOGY WORKING GROUP** *Encino*

*Chair:* Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)

*An informal discussion of how the AJS can support its members' work as teachers.*

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**THE PRACTICE OF ACADEMIC MENTORING** *Sherman Oaks*

*Sponsored by the AJS Women's Caucus*

*Chair:* Jane Kanarek (Hebrew College)

*Discussants:* Richard L. Kalmin (Jewish Theological Seminary)  
 Rachel S. Harris (University at Albany, SUNY)  
 Dvora E. Weisberg (HUC-JIR)

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**Session 8, Monday, December 21, 2009** **2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

8.1 *Santa Monica*

**GETTING THE PH.D. PUBLISHED**

*Sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies and the Center for Jewish History*

*Chair:* Dean Phillip Bell (Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies)

*Discussants:* Jennifer Hammer (New York University Press)  
 Avinoam Patt (University of Hartford)  
 Janet Rabinowitz (Indiana University Press)  
 Kathryn Wildfong (Wayne State University Press)

8.2

*Beverly Hills***HOW CAN WE SING IN A STRANGE COUNTRY? ISRAEL IN THE EYES OF DIASPORA JEWS***Chair:* Theodore Sasson (Middlebury College)**The Connected Other: Perceptions and Meanings of Israel for Diaspora Jews**

Shirah Hecht (Independent Scholar)

**Subversives and Survivalists: Campus Zionism in Early Postwar America**

Emily Katz (University of California, Irvine)

**“Without alienation there can be no politics”: American LGBT Jews and Their Perceptions of Israel**

Caryn Aviv (University of Denver)

**Israeli Diplomats and Diaspora Jewry: Divergences and Convergences in Reaching a Modus Vivendi in the Early Years of the State**

Natan Aridan (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

*Respondent:* Sara Abosch (University of Memphis)

8.3

*Olympic I***JACOB TAUBES’S POLITICAL THEOLOGY IN LIGHT OF HIS RELATIONSHIP TO CARL SCHMITT***Chair:* Randi Rashkover (George Mason University)**Jacob Taubes–Carl Schmitt: Thinking in Correspondence**

Martin Tremel (Zentrum für Literaturforschung)

**Time for Taubes: Between Destruction and the Law**

Nitzan Lebovic (University of California, Los Angeles)

**Malediction and *Verheißung*: Jacob Taubes’s Pauline Curses**

Arnd Wedemeyer (Princeton University)

8.4

*Olympic II***FROM THE CHUPPAH TO PARENTHOOD: MULTIDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON INTERMARRIAGE AND JEWISH TRAJECTORIES***Chair:* Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)**Mutually Beneficial**

Bruce A. Phillips (HUC-JIR)

**Guarding the Gates on Shifting Sands: Rabbis, Intermarriage, and Officiation**

Fern Chertok (Brandeis University) and Benjamin Phillips (Brandeis University)

**The Jewish Masculine Mystique: Interfaith Romance and Fatherhood in American Life**

Keren R. McGinity (University of Michigan)

**Non-Jewish Women as Heads of Jewish Families**

Jennifer Thompson (Emory University)

*Respondent:* Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)

8.5

*Constellation I***DIRECTORS OF JEWISH STUDIES***Chair:* Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)*Discussants:* Carol Bakhos (University of California, Los Angeles)

David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)

Jody Myers (California State University, Northridge)

*Respondent:* Pamela S. Nadell (American University)

8.6

*Constellation II***JEWISH INTELLECTUAL HISTORY IN MEDIEVAL IBERIA***Chair:* Ross Brann (Cornell University)**Thirteenth-Century Exegesis and Linguistics: Castilian and Arabic Glosses in a Hebrew Commentary on Proverbs**

Esperanza Alfonso (CSIC–Spanish National Research Council)

**Abraham ibn Ezra's Commentary on the Minor Prophets**

Francisco Javier del Barco (CSIC–Spanish National Research Council)

**In Praise of God, in Praise of Man: Hebrew Panegyric in Medieval Iberia**

Jonathan Decter (Brandeis University)

**The Andalusi Mirror: Hebrew Classical Literature in Fifteenth-Century Spain**

Arturo Prats Olivan (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

8.7

*Westwood***WHAT IF? IMAGINING THE HOLOCAUST AS FUTURE AND PAST HISTORY***Chair:* Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)**A British Writer and the Jewish Question: An Early Response to the Holocaust**

Alexis Pogorelskin (University of Minnesota-Duluth)

**Just Folks Homesteading: Philip Roth's *The Plot against America***

Brett A. Kaplan (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

**After the Fact: Retrospective Film and Fiction of the Holocaust**

Phyllis Lassner (Northwestern University)

8.8

*Pacific***PHILOSOPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON BIBLICAL TEXTS***Chair:* Martin Kavka (Florida State University)**Sacred Possessions: Distributional Justice in Leviticus and Deuteronomy**

Chaya Halberstam (Indiana University)

**Spinoza and the Problem of Tanakh Epistemology**

Douglas Yoder (Azusa Pacific University)

**The Interrelation of the Individual and the Collective in Samson Raphael Hirsch's Biblical Commentary**

Shlomo Chertok (Independent Scholar)

**Ricouer and Translating the Bible**

Mark I. Dunaevsky (Independent Scholar)

8.9

*Brentwood***RADICAL (JEWISH) ENLIGHTENMENT: ORIGINS AND TRANSFORMATIONS IN THE AGE OF HASKALAH, 1650–1900***Chair:* Adam B. Shear (University of Pittsburgh)**Radical Thought and (Other) Jewish Enlightenments in the Dutch Republic, 1650–1830**

Irene Zwiep (University of Amsterdam)

**Tradition, Argument, and Critique in the Early Haskalah**

Andrea Schatz (King's College London)

**The First Radical Maskil? Spinoza's Shadow and Jewish Enlightenment**

Daniel B. Schwartz (George Washington University)

*Respondent:* Abraham Socher (Oberlin College)

8.10

*Encino***RABBINIC PEDAGOGY AND TEXTUALITY***Chair:* Martin S. Jaffee (University of Washington)**“Go teach verse to your son”: Rabbis and Schoolteachers in Rabbinic Babylonia**

Barry Wimpfheimer (Northwestern University)

**Imparting Intellectual Skills vs. Replicating Cultural and Social Identity**

Elizabeth Alexander (University of Virginia)

**Pedagogy and Legal Language: A Case Study**

Tzvi Novick (University of Notre Dame)

**Pedagogy, Hyperbole, and Rabbinic Ethical Instruction**

Jonathan Schofer (Harvard Divinity School)

*Respondent:* Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)

8.11

*Palisades***JEWS ON SOVIETS, SOVIETS ON JEWS, 1930s–1950s***Chair:* Victoria Khiterer (Millersville University)**Our Man in Moscow: Hayyim Shoshkes’s 1936 Travelogue to the Soviet Union**

Jack Kugelmass (University of Florida)

**Between Class War and Antisemitism: Roshal’s Film *Sem’ia Oppengeim* (1939) in Context**

Jonathan S. Skolnik (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

**A Day of Feasting and Gladness? Jews in the Eyes of Soviet Leadership and Society Immediately after Stalin’s Death**

Samuel Barnai (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

*Respondent:* David Shneer (University of Colorado)

8.12

*Sherman Oaks***RACE, RELIGION, AND REPRESENTATION: JEWS IN THE POSTBELLUM SOUTH***Chair:* George Sanchez (University of Southern California)**A Tale of Two Cities: Race, Riots, and Religion in New Bern and Wilmington, North Carolina, 1898**

Leonard Rogoff (Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina)

**Representing Religion: Judaism within Postbellum Southern Culture**

Rachel Bergstein (Yale University)

**Representations of the Jewish Merchant in the Postbellum South**

Michael Cohen (Tulane University)

**Mayor Herman Myers and the Politics of Jewish Identity in Savannah, Georgia**

Lauren B. Acker (University of California, Los Angeles)

*Respondent:* Marni Davis (Georgia State University)

8.13

*Governors I*

**NAVIGATING JEWISHNESS IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN WRITING**

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

**Walter Benjamin and Hannah Arendt’s Schlemiels**

Menachem Feuer (Ryerson University)

**Woolf’s Jews: Outside the Society of Outsiders**

Mia Spiro (York University)

**Other: Semitic American Mother of Black Daughters**

Megan Williams (University of Kansas)

8.14

*Governors II*

**ISSUES OF IDENTITY AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH SCHOLARS**

*Chair:* Samuel D. Kassow (Trinity College)

**Creating a Nationalist Scholarship in Yiddish: The Cultural Work of Zelig Hirsh Kalmanovitch, 1908–1915**

Joshua M. Karlip (Yeshiva University)

**The Place of History: Historical Writing on Vilna in the Interwar Period**

Cecile E. Kuznitz (Bard College)

**Touring Jewish Antiquities in Interwar Poland: Jewish Historians and the Writing of Guide Books**

Natalia Aleksion (Touro College)

**Jewish Scholars and the Fascist Accusation: The Recurring Rupture of International Yiddish Scholarship under Soviet Domination**

Mark L. Smith (University of California, Los Angeles)

8.15

*Park*

**HEBREW LITERATURE IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE**

*Chair:* Ari Ofengenden (Monash University)

**From Rhymester to Poet? The Paradoxical Rejection of Folk Performance in Haskalah Literature**

Zehavit Stern (University of California, Berkeley/Graduate Theological Union)

**Improving Literature, or the Jewish Writer and His Gentile Inspiration**

Andrey Bredstein (University of Texas at Austin)

**The Shylock Palimpsest: A Twentieth-Century Hebrew Reframing of Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice***

Yael Chaver (University of California, Berkeley)

**Without God’s Help: The Life of Lazarillo de Tormes and the Life of Elyakum**

Irit Aharoni (Harvard University)

**BOOK EXHIBIT**

**4:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

*Los Angeles Showroom*

**COFFEE BREAK**

**DIVISION MEETINGS**

**4:00 PM – 4:30 PM**

*See p. 76 for locations.*

*An opportunity to meet with division chairs to discuss themes for the 2010 annual meeting.*

Session 9, Monday, December 21, 2009

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

9.1

*Santa Monica*

**VISION, COVENANT, SELF: THE VARIETIES OF HESCHEL'S RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE**

*Chair:* Shaul Magid (Indiana University)

**The Political Philosophy of Prophetic Politics: Heschel, Strauss, and Religious Identity in Liberal Society**

Akiba J. Lerner (Santa Clara University)

**Seeing the Sabbath: Heschel and Visual Judaism**

Kenneth Koltun-Fromm (Haverford College)

**Self-Transcendence without Mystical Union: On Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Covenanted Self**

Shai Held (Harvard University)

**The Holy of Holies: Heschel and the Spirituality of the Shtetl**

Nathaniel Deutsch (University of California, Santa Cruz)

9.2

*Beverly Hills*

**TEACHING ABOUT WOMEN AND JEWISH HISTORY**

*Chair:* Melissa Klapper (Rowan University)

*Discussants:* Judith R. Baskin (University of Oregon)

Alyssa Goldstein Sepinwall (California State University, San Marcos)

Shulamit S. Magnus (Oberlin College)

Pamela S. Nadell (American University)

9.3

*Olympic I*

**YOUNG ADULTS, LEADERSHIP, AND TWENTY-FIRST-CENTURY AMERICAN JEWISH CULTURAL CHANGE**

*Chair:* Jack Wertheimer (Jewish Theological Seminary)

*Discussants:* Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)

Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)

Ari Y. Kelman (University of California, Davis)

Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt University)

Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)

9.4

*Olympic II*

**IN/OF/FROM/MADE IN . . . CALIFORNIA, PART I**

*Chair:* Reesa Greenberg (York University)

**Nostalgia and Fantasy in Eleanor Antin's *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Roman Allegories*, and *Helen's Odyssey***

Lisa Bloom (University of California, San Diego)

**Yiddish Theater and Eleanor Antin's Photographs of the Ancients**

Betti-Sue Hertz (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts)

**On Looking for a Rabbi**

Shelley Gazin (Independent Artist)

**Painting the Jewish Question: R. B. Kitaj on Passion and Memory**

Tal Gozani (Skirball Cultural Center)

9.5

*Constellation I***ERICH AUERBACH'S WORLDS***Chair and Respondent:* Allison Schachter (Vanderbilt University)**Figura: The Jewish, the Christian, and the Question of Literature in Erich Auerbach**  
Galili Shahar (University of Florida)**Trajectories of Weimar: Panofsky and Auerbach in Exile**

Emily Levine (Yale University)

**The Courage for Realism: Erich Auerbach and Leah Goldberg**

Naama Rokem (University of Chicago)

**Erich Auerbach, Primo Levi, and Dante's Love**

Uri Cohen (Columbia University)

9.6

*Constellation II***STUDIES IN TANNAITIC LITERATURE***Chair:* Evyatar Marienberg (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)**Looking for the Motive: Motive as a Key to Understanding the Biblical Exegesis of the Sages**

Yonatan Sagiv (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Rabbi Akiva and the Emergence of Rabbinic Polysemy**

Azzan Yadin (Rutgers University)

**Textual Traditions of Mishna Shekalim: Palestine, Babylonia, Ashkenaz**

Robert Brody (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**The Hebrew Slave's Pierced Ear: The Mechilta de-Rabbi Ishmael's Secondary Use of Earlier Midrashic Materials**

Michal Bar-Asher Siegal (Yale University)

9.7

*Westwood***OF OTHER CINEMATIC SPACES: TEL AVIV IN HEBREW/ISRAELI CINEMA***Chair:* Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)**"Vayehi Bimey": Tel Aviv's Carnavalesque Space, between Utopia and Reality**

Hizky Shoham (Yale University)

**Tel Aviv in Contemporary Israeli Cinema: Narrative Networks, Major Spaces and Minor Strollers**

Nava Dushi (Lynn University)

**Mothers and Sisters: Tel Aviv as a Transitional Cultural Space**

Miri Talmon-Bohm (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Respondent:* Barbara Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

9.8

*Pacific***PRIESTS, PROPHETS, AND POETICS IN THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS***Chair:* Lawrence H. Schiffman (New York University)**Between Exegesis and Story: The Narrative of the Genesis Apocryphon**

Moshe J. Bernstein (Yeshiva University)

**Divine Governance in the Barkhi Nafshi Poems (4Q434–438)**

Aryeh Amihay (Princeton University)

**The Addressee of 4QInstruction<sup>d</sup> (4Q418) Frg. 81 as Exalted Priestly Mediator**

Joseph Angel (Yeshiva University)

**4Q521 and the Messiah**

Erik Larson (Florida International University)

9.9

*Brentwood***JEWIS/VIOLENCE***Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History Fellowship Program**Chair:* John M. Efron (University of California, Berkeley)**Hermeneutics of Despair: Jewish Interpretations of Violence in the First World War**

Amos Bitzan (University of California, Berkeley)

**“Are you Symon Petliura?”: The Defense of Sholom Schwartzbard**

Kelly Johnson (Harvard University)

**Fight and Fright: Violence, Fear, and the Jewish Winning of the West**

David S. Koffman (New York University)

**Sex after Auschwitz**

Joshua Lambert (University of Michigan)

**French Jews Protest Torture**

Jessica Hammerman (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

9.10

*Encino***RETHINKING BOUNDARIES IN JEWISH MYSTICISM***Chair:* Ephraim Kanarfogel (Yeshiva University)**Jesus as the Teli: Jewish–Christian Antecedents for Abraham Abulafia’s Conception of the Astrological Serpent**

Robert Sagerman (New York University)

**Sod ha-‘Ibbur: Judah Hayyat on the 72-Letter Name, Divine Mercy, and Divine Wrath**

Brian Ogren (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**The Hole in the Sheet, and Other Topics in Sabbatian Kabbalah**

David J. Halperin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

**Narrative Voice in the Zohar**

Eitan P. Fishbane (The Jewish Theological Seminary)

9.11

*Palisades***NEGOTIATING MULTIPLE HERITAGES: JEWS AND BLENDED IDENTITIES***Chair:* Debra Renee Kaufman (Northeastern University)**Can the Kitchen God Live Next to the Kiddush Cup?: Adoption and Jewish Identity**

Jennifer Sartori (Northeastern University)

**“It’s not just about the food”: Jewish American and Asian American Marriages**

Helen Kim (Whitman College) and Noah Leavitt (Whitman College)

**Reconciling Multiple Heritages: Young Adult Children of Inter marriage Differentiate between Religious and Ethnic Aspects of Their Identities**

Rachel Rockenmacher (Brandeis University)

*Respondent:* Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)

9.12

*Sherman Oaks***EXPLORATIONS OF JEWISH SOCIABILITY IN ITALY BEFORE AND AFTER EMANCIPATION***Chair:* Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)**Sociability and National Separation in Eighteenth-Century Livorno: A View from the Coffeehouse**

Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)

**Jews and Jesuits in a Joint Business: Jewish Paths of *Sociabilité* and Integration in Eighteenth-Century Modena**

Federica Francesconi (University of California, Los Angeles)

**From the *Bimah* to the Stage, and Back: Jews, Christians, Synagogues, and Opera in Modern Italy**

Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)

9.13

*Governors I***WRITING DESTRUCTION***Chair:* Justin Cammy (University of California, Los Angeles/Smith College)**“Our blood cries out from the ground”: Archival Holocaust Poetry and the Biblical Encounter**

Leah Wolfson (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

**Art of Healing: Imre Kertész’s *Fatelessness***

Susan Derwin (University of California, Santa Barbara)

**Homescapes of Memory, Landscapes of Absence: Recollection and Projection in the Writings of Aharon Appelfeld and W. G. Sebald**

Emily Budick (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Testimony and Taboo: The Perverse Writings of Ka-Tzetnik 135633**

Jeffrey Wallen (Hampshire College)

9.14

*Governors II***SPATIAL AND CULTURAL DISLOCATION IN EARLY MODERN POLAND–LITHUANIA***Chair:* Kenneth B. Moss (Johns Hopkins University)**Contested Sacred Spaces: The Aftermath of the Expulsion of Jews from Bochnia, 1606**

Magda Teter (Wesleyan University)

**Flight Risks: Jewish Refugees in Lithuania, 1648–1670**

Adam Teller (University of Haifa)

**A Neglected (and Unpublished) Book by Ber of Bolechow: Report on a First Reading of *Divre Binah***

Gershon David Hundert (McGill University)

9.15

*Park***TRANSLATION IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN JEWISH PHILOSOPHY***Chair:* Nancy Levene (Indiana University)**Translator as Prophet: Saadya Gaon's Theory of Translation**

Aaron W. Hughes (University at Buffalo, SUNY)

**Renaissance Texts in the Third Millennium: Translating Leone Ebreo's Dialoghi D'Amore into English**

Rosella Pescatori (El Camino College)

**Do Two Lives Weigh the Same? Translation and Construction of the Talmud from the Brisker Rav to Mishneh Torah**

Sergey Dolgopolski (University of Kansas, Lawrence)

**Translating "Spirit" or the "Spirit" of Translation: The Ruach of Maimonides, Spinoza, and Buber**

James A. Diamond (University of Waterloo)

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Monday, December 21, 2009 Evening Program

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**AJS PERSPECTIVES EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING**      **6:30 PM**      *Regents*

**ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES RECEPTION**      **6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**      *Olympic Foyer*  
*In honor of the annual meeting of the Association for Israel Studies to be hosted at the University of Toronto in May 2010. Sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies. Open to all conference registrants.*

**POSEN FOUNDATION/ CENTER FOR CULTURAL JUDAISM RECEPTION**      **6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**      *Constellation Foyer*  
*In honor of the forthcoming publication of the Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization series and to launch the Foundation's website Secular Culture & Ideas. Sponsored by the Posen Foundation and the Center for Cultural Judaism. Open to all conference registrants.*

**SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE**      **6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**      *Senators II*  
*In honor of the inaugural group of fellows selected for the Hartman North American Scholars Circle. Sponsored by the Shalom Hartman Institute. Open to all conference registrants.*

**TABLET MAGAZINE RECEPTION**      **6:30 PM – 7:30 PM**      *Green Circle Lawn (poolside)*  
*Sponsored by Tablet Magazine, a daily online magazine of Jewish ideas and culture, which launched this year at [www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com). Open to all conference registrants.*

**GENERAL DINNER**      **7:30 PM**      *Los Angeles Ballroom*  
*(By pre-paid reservation only.)*

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**      **9:30 PM**      *Directors I/II/III*  
*A MUSICAL EVENING BY JEWISH-OTTOMAN COMPOSERS*  
 Münir Beken and Serpil Borazan  
*Sponsored by the UCLA Maurice Amado Program in Sephardic Studies. Open to all conference registrants.*

**JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RECEPTION**      **9:30 PM – 10:30 PM**      *Park*  
*In honor of JTS faculty, students, and alumni presenting at the AJS Conference, and welcoming all JTS alumni in the area to reconnect with one another. Sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary. Open to all conference registrants.*

**GRADUATE STUDENT RECEPTION**      **9:30 PM – 10:30 PM**      *Governors II*  
*In honor of AJS graduate student members and AJS Graduate Student Travel Grant recipients. Sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all graduate students.*

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**Tuesday, December 22, 2009**

<b>GENERAL BREAKFAST</b>	<b>7:30 AM – 8:30 AM</b>	<i>Los Angeles Ballroom</i>
<i>(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)</i>		
<b>AJS PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND DIVISION CHAIRS BREAKFAST MEETING</b>	<b>7:00 AM – 8:30 AM</b>	<i>Directors I/II</i>
<b>REGISTRATION</b>	<b>8:30 AM – 1:00 PM</b>	<i>California Lounge</i>
<b>BOOK EXHIBIT</b>	<b>8:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<i>California Showroom</i>
<b>FILM SCREENINGS</b>	<b>8:30 AM – 4:00 PM</b>	<i>Westside Room</i>

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**Session 10, Tuesday, December 22, 2009****8:30 AM – 10:30 AM**

10.1

*Santa Monica***THE KIBBUTZ: PRESENT AND FUTURE***Chair:* Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)**A Hidden Source of the Kibbutz Crisis: The Widening Gap between the Leadership and the Rank and File**

Alon Pauker (Beit-Berl Educational Academic College)

**The Kibbutz and the Disenchanted: Representations in Contemporary Israeli Narratives**

Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)

**Crisis, Reform, and Transformation on the Israeli Kibbutzim, 1990–2009**

Raymond Russell (University of California, Riverside)

**Redefining the Kibbutz: From Non-failure to Non-success**

Eliezer Ben-Rafael (Tel Aviv University)

10.2

*Beverly Hills***ORTHODOXY REVISITED***Chair:* Mark I. Dunaevsky (Independent Scholar)**Toward a Genealogy of the “Traditional” in Modern Intellectual Jewish History**

Eliyahu Stern (University of Oxford)

**Reappraising the German-Jewish Bible: The Hirsch *Chumash***

Alan T. Levenson (University of Oklahoma)

**Dueling Prayerbooks: ArtScroll, Koren, and Contemporary Orthodox Values**

Martin I. Lockshin (York University)

**“Blessed is he who says and does”: Jewish Law, Gender, and Communal Identity**

Jessica Rosenberg (Stanford University)

10.3

*Olympic I***RITUALS AND RELATIONSHIPS OVER THE LIFECOURSE***Chair:* Theodore Sasson (Middlebury College)**Creating Ritual Space in a Toronto Jewish Retirement Home**

Jillian Gould (Memorial University)

**Fathers and Sons: Rethinking the Meaning of the Bar Mitzvah**

Simon Josef Bronner (Pennsylvania State University)

**Remaining Single in a Family-Oriented Society: Prolonged Singlehood among Israeli****National Religious Jews**

Ari Engelberg (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

10.4

*Olympic II***APPROACHES TO THE JEWISH LINGUISTIC SPECTRUM***Chair and Respondent:* Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)**Religious Minorities and Co-Territorial Languages**

George Jochnowitz (College of Staten Island)

**Germanisms as a Reflection of the Spoken Language in Modern Yiddish Prose**

Paul D. Glasser (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

**Medical Terminology in the Hebrew Tradition: Shem Tov Ben Isaac, *Sefer ha-Shimmush*, Book 30**

Gerrit Bos (Universität zu Köln)

10.5

*Constellation I***THE PLACE OF THE HOLOCAUST IN (AND OUTSIDE) JEWISH STUDIES***Chair:* Berel Lang (Wesleyan University)*Discussants:*

David Engel (New York University)

Paula E. Hyman (Yale University)

Samuel D. Kassow (Trinity College)

David G. Roskies (Jewish Theological Seminary)

10.6

*Constellation II***IN/OF/FROM/MADE IN . . . CALIFORNIA, PART II***Chair:* Monica Osborne (University of California, Los Angeles)**David and Bathsheba Play the Hollywood Bowl**

Helen Leneman (University of Amsterdam)

**Modernism and Hybridity: Arnold Schoenberg and the Los Angeles Émigrés**

Kenneth Hearne Marcus (University of La Verne)

**Radio Kabbalah: Wallace Berman and the Question of Reception**

Louis Kaplan (University of Toronto)

10.7

*Westwood***THEMES IN RUSSIAN AND SOVIET JEWISH VISUAL ART***Chair:* Karen Auerbach (University of Southampton)**The Other Tongue: Assimilation vs. *Yiddishkayt* in Russian Songs on Jewish Topics**

Pavel Lion (University of Michigan)

**The Music Theme in Eastern European Synagogue Wall Paintings**

Eugeny Kotlyar (Kharkiv State Academy of Design &amp; Arts)

**“Collecting the exile”: Forming Collections of Russian Jewish Immigration**

Maya Balakirsky-Katz (Touro College)

10.8

*Pacific***STAGING THE BODY, PERFORMING LANGUAGE: ENCOUNTERS IN GERMAN AND HEBREW***Chair:* Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota)**Primo Levi: “Thinking in German”**

Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)

**Switching the Language, Changing the Subject? Hebrew in Contemporary German Literature**

Sebastian Wogenstein (University of Connecticut)

**Kafka’s Fatal Performatives**

Karyn Ball (University of Alberta)

10.9

*Brentwood***POLITICAL THEOLOGY AND JUDAISM IN SPINOZA, MENDELSSOHN, AND FACKENHEIM***Chair:* Alan Lawrence Udoff (Saint Frances College)**Why Mendelssohn Couldn’t Fathom Lessing’s Political Theology**

Martin D. Yaffe (University of North Texas)

**Spinoza’s Political Theology in *The Ethics***

Joshua Parens (University of Dallas)

**Fackenheim and the Political Theology of Diabolical Evil**

Kenneth Green (University of Toronto)

**Emil L. Fackenheim and the Problem of Historicism**

Sharon Portnoff (Connecticut College)

10.10

*Encino***ROME AND THE JEWS: THE FIRST SEVENTY YEARS***Chair:* Michael D. Swartz (Ohio State University)**Biblical Influence on Virgil**

Louis H. Feldman (Yeshiva University)

**Jews and Greeks in First-Century Alexandria**

Gaia Lembi (University College London/Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa)

**Sejanus’ Anti-Jewish Policies in 30 C.E. (Philo, *Legatio ad Gaium*, 159–161)**

Sandra Gambetti (College of Staten Island, CUNY)

10.11

*Palisades***THE RISING OF THE WOMEN: JEWISH WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTIVISM DURING THE AMERICAN CENTURY***Sponsored by the Jewish Women's Archive**Chair and Respondent:* Marc Dollinger (San Francisco State University)**Respectable Radicals: The National Council of Jewish Women and Activist Philanthropy before World War II**

Melissa Klapper (Rowan University)

**Red Roots, Radical Fruit: Women Red Diaper Babies in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left**

Elise Wagner McCurties (Michigan State University)

**A Moment in Time: Radical Feminism and Jewish Women**

Joyce Antler (Brandeis University)

10.12

*Sherman Oaks***TOMBSTONES***Chair:* David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)

*Discussants:* Michela Andreatta (Ca' Foscari University)  
 Michael Brocke (University Duisberg-Essen)  
 Rachel Greenblatt (Harvard University)  
 Judith Neulander (Case Western Reserve University)  
 Daniel J. Schroeter (University of Minnesota)

10.13

*Governors I***IRANIAN JEWS AND THEIR MIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES: THEIR RELIGIOUS, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL IDENTITY***Chair and Respondent:* Mark Kligman (HUC-JIR)**JAPS: First-Generation Jewish–American Persians and Their Hybrid Identity in America**

Saba Tova Soomekh (Loyola Marymount University)

**The Religious Identity of Iranian Jews in the Post-Revolution Era in the United States**

Nahid Pirnazar (University of California, Los Angeles)

**Psychosocial Acculturation Process of Iranian Jewry in the Last Thirty Years**

Morgan Hakimi (Touro University)

10.14

*Governors II***EAST EUROPEAN JEWRY AT THE FIN DE SIÈCLE***Chair:* Gilya Gerda Schmidt (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)**Agunot, Modernization, and Immigration, 1857–1896**

Haim Sperber (Western Galilee College)

***Der Emes'r Yid*: Orthodox Politics and Journalism in Fin-de-Siècle Galicia**

Joshua Shanes (College of Charleston)

**Jews and the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–1905: From the Perspective of Jewish POWs in Japan**

Mina Muraoka (Brandeis University)

**The "Town Fool": A Study in Attitudes toward the Mentally Ill in East European Jewish Society and Culture**

Natan M. Meir (Portland State University)

10.15

*Park***PEDAGOGY AND RABBINICS***Chair:* Sergey Dolgopolski (University of Kansas, Lawrence)**Hunting for the Voice: Teaching Midrash in an English Literature Class**

Gerda Elata-Alster (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

**Rabbinics in Unexpected Contexts: Teaching Talmud to Non-Jewish Students**

Julia Watts Belser (Missouri State University)

10.16

*Senators II***POLITICS AND IDEOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTING ISRAELI HEROIC AND TRAGIC MYTHS***Chair:* Arnold Band (University of California, Los Angeles)**The Media Image of the Israeli Soldier : From Warrior to “Mama’s Boy”?**

Elisheva Rosman (Ashkelon Academic College/Bar-Ilan University) and Zipi Israeli (Ariel University Center)

**Culpability, Passivity, and the Poetics of Vision in *Waltz with Bashir***

Todd Hasak-Lowy (University of Florida)

**In Other Times: Henrietta and Manya Think the Same in a Way**

Zilla Jane Goodman (University of Colorado, Boulder)

**Session 11, Tuesday, December 22, 2009****10:45 AM – 12:45 PM**

11.1

*Santa Monica***WORKING WITH SURVIVOR TESTIMONY AND MEMOIR IN WRITING HOLOCAUST HISTORY***Chair:* Zev Garber (Los Angeles Valley College)**Naming Names: Nazi Occupation and Atrocity in the Soviet Union as Everyday Life through Survivor Eyes**

Stephen A. Connor (Nipissing University)

**Jewish Slave Labor: A Study of a Transport from the Skolna Factory Camp in Radom to KL Vaihingen via Auschwitz-Birkenau**

Idit Gil (Open University of Israel)

**Life Was Not Beautiful: Writing the Lived History of a Neglected Concentration Camp—KL Natzweiler-Struthof**

Diana Mara Henry (Independent Scholar)

**No Angel at the Fence: Writing the Lived History of a Forgotten Camp—Schlieben, a Buchenwald *Aussenlager***

Kenneth Waltzer (Michigan State University)

11.2

*Beverly Hills***RABBINIC CONCEPTS OF THE BODY***Chair:* David C. Kraemer (Jewish Theological Seminary)**A “mansion in the place of excrement”: *Divrei Torah* and the Indeterminate Impurity of Bodily Waste in BAVLI 22b–26a**

Natalie C. Polzer (University of Louisville)

**Changing Meanings of Immersion**

Michael Rosenberg (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Controlling Bodies, Policing Borders: Leviticus, Rabbah, and Leprosy**

Tammy Jacobowitz (University of Pennsylvania)

11.3

*Olympic I***RETHINKING JEWISH THEOLOGY***Chair:* Abe Socher (Oberlin College)**Discourse, Practice, and Belief Formation: Rethinking Jewish Theology and Its Epistemological Foundations**

Cass Fisher (University of South Florida)

**A New Language-Game for Jewish Theology? The Methodology and Theological Lexicon of Eugene B. Borowitz**

Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi (Jewish Theological Seminary/HUC-JIR/Hartman Institute)

**Poets as Theologians: A. Halfi, A. Gilboa, T. Carmi, and the Act of Creating Poetry**

Haim Otto Rechnitzer (HUC-JIR)

11.4

*Olympic II***SOCIAL ATTITUDES AND CULTURAL CONSTRUCTIONS IN BIBLICAL ISRAEL***Chair:* Chaya Halberstam (Indiana University)**Another Look at Animals in the Hebrew Bible**

Elaine Goodfriend (California State University, Northridge/American Jewish University)

**The Assembly of Yahweh's People: Judahite Pilgrimage and Israelite Muster**

Stephen Russell (University of California, Berkeley)

**Intermarriage in the Hebrew Bible: Gender, Exogamy, and Nation**

Esther Fuchs (University of Arizona)

**Impurities and Gender in Ezra-Nehemiah**

Elizabeth Goldstein (University of California, San Diego)

11.5

*Constellation I***JEWS AND THE STATE IN COMMUNIST EAST CENTRAL EUROPE: POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, AND YUGOSLAVIA***Chair and Respondent:* Antony Polonsky (Brandeis University)**Clandestine Relief and the Cold War: The Development of a Jewish Relief Program in Post-Stalinist Hungary**

Zachary Paul Levine (New York University)

**Poland's Last Blood Libel? The Investigation of a Jewish Taxi Driver and Poland's Jewish Leadership in a Sensational Murder in Poland in 1957**

Karen Auerbach (University of Southampton)

**Along Came a Spider: “Of Jewish Descent” and Jewish Policy in Czechoslovakia, 1952-1972**

Jacob Labendz (Washington University in St. Louis)

11.6

*Constellation II***RECOVERING JEWISH WOMEN'S TEXTS***Chair:* Anita Norich (University of Michigan)**Fanny Neuda's *Hours of Devotion*: The Reemergence of a Forgotten Book of Jewish Women's Prayers**

Dinah Berland (Independent Scholar)

**Words Worthy of Being Shown and Heard: The Diary of Hava Shapiro**

Wendy Ilene Zierler (HUC-JIR)

**Truce Is Never for a Woman: Liana Millu and the Literature of (No) Return**

Stefania Lucamante (The Catholic University of America)

11.7

*Westwood***JEWISH FAMILIES UNDER GROWING PRESSURE: AUSTRIA, 1918–1938***Chair:* Marsha Rozenblit (University of Maryland)**Jewish Family Enterprises in Interwar Austria: The Examples of Linz, Innsbruck, and Salzburg**

Michael John (University of Linz)

**Perceptions of Jewish/Non-Jewish Interfaith Families in Autobiographies of Viennese Jews (1918–1938)**

Eleonore Lappin (Institute for Jewish History in Austria)

**The Impact of Migration on Jewish Family Life in Vienna, 1918–1938**

Albert Lichtblau (University of Salzburg)

11.8

*Pacific***HEBREW CULTURE AND ITS FORMATIVE OTHERS***Chair and Respondent:* Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)**The Christian Holy Land and the Shaping of a Zionist Sacred Landscape**

Arieh Bruce Saposnik (Arizona State University)

**Babel in Zion: Foreign Languages and the Making of Hebrew Culture**

Liora Halperin (University of California, Los Angeles)

**Race, Religion, and the "Israelites" in Fin-de-Siècle Arab Constructions of the Jews**

Jonathan Gribetz (Columbia University)

11.9

*Brentwood***RELIGION, POLITICS, ETHICS***Chair:* Alan T. Levenson (University of Oklahoma)**Between Religion and Politics: Rethinking Spinoza's Idea of the Law**

Benjamin Stahlberg (Colgate University)

**Messianicity without Messianism: Levinas, Eschatology, and Ethics**

Michael Gottsegen (Brown University)

**The Centrality of Social Justice to the Thought of Mordecai M. Kaplan**

Eric Caplan (McGill University)

**Determined to Be Free: Spinoza's Political Theology of Freedom**

Steven H. Frankel (Xavier University)

11.10

*Encino***THE POLITICS OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: A ROUNDTABLE***Chair:* Marjorie Feld (Babson College)

*Discussants:* Michael S. Alexander (University of California, Riverside)  
 Lila Berman (Temple University)  
 Shira Kohn (New York University)  
 Noam F. Pianko (University of Washington)  
 Marjorie Feld (Babson College)

11.11

*Palisades***THE YIDDISH PRESS***Chair:* Matthew B. Hoffman (Franklin & Marshall College)**Discourse Analysis and the Yiddish Press: Some Theoretical Reflections**

Gerben Zaagsma (University College London)

**The Jewish Daily Forward and Its Female Reading Audience, 1900–1940**

Ellen D. Kellman (Brandeis University)

**“Darfn arbeter froyen nutz’n kinstleche shaynkayt-mitlen?” [Do working women need to use artificial beauty products?]: Women in the 1920s Pro-Soviet Yiddish Press in Canada**

Ester Reiter (York University)

11.12

*Sherman Oaks***JEWS AND OTHERS IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES***Chair:* Jeffrey Haus (Kalamazoo College)**Medieval Commerce and Commercialization: The Jewish Evidence from Marseilles**

Julie L. Mell (North Carolina State University, Raleigh)

**Orientalism in the Making? The Case of Early Modern Hebrew Travel Writing**

Martin Jacobs (Washington University in St. Louis)

**The Frankfurt Jewish Community and the Imperial Aulic Council under Joseph II (1765–1790)**

Verena Kasper (Karl Franzens University)

**The Question of Jewish Diplomacy: Kalonymos ben Meir and Frederic Barbarossa**

Eva Haverkamp (Ludwig Maximilians University Munich)

11.13

*Governors I***SPACE, PLACE, AND GENDER IN CONTEMPORARY HEBREW FICTION***Chair:* Nehama Aschkenasy (University of Connecticut at Stamford)**Israeli Women Writers and the End of the Zionist Dream**

Rose Levinson (Union Institute and University)

**Site and Sight: The Role of Vision in Israeli Literary Representations of Place**

Karen Grumberg (University of Texas at Austin)

**“From the wildness we feared, from the paleness we are dreaded”: Motherhood in Ronit Matalon’s *The Sound of Our Steps***

Riki Traum Avidan (Fairleigh Dickinson University)

**Escaping the Women’s Section: Gendered Space in Hebrew and Yiddish Literature**

Naomi Brenner (Ohio State University)

11.14

*Governors II***JEWISH MYSTICISM IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD***Chair:* Brian Ogren (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**Abraham Heschel vs. Gershom Scholem and Ephraim Urbach on Doing Jewish Intellectual History**

Reuven R. Kimelman (Brandeis University)

**Sexuality, Jewish Spirituality, and Nature: The New Age Movement and the Jewish Spiritual Renewal Movement in Israel**

Rachel Werczberger (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Kabbalistic and Mystical Influences on Contemporary Israeli Poetry and Literature**

Tzahi Weiss (University of Chicago/Shalem Center)

11.15

*Park***AMSTERDAM TO GREECE: RELIGIOUS LIFE OF THE SEPHARDIM***Chair:* Ronnie Perelis (Yeshiva University)**Networks of Support for Eretz Israel and the Building of Trust in the Eighteenth Century**

Matthias B. Lehmann (Indiana University)

**Jews of Iran and Rabbinical/Talmudic Literature: Preliminary Notes**

Daniel Tsadik (Yeshiva University)

**The Sea Activities of the Jews of Thessaloniki and Greece**

Yitzchak Kerem (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Entering “The Observant’s Guild”: The Bar Mitzvah Celebration in Western Sephardi Communities in the Early Modern Period**

Julia R. Lieberman (St. Louis University)

**GENERAL LUNCH****12:45 PM – 1:45 PM***Los Angeles Ballroom**(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)***AJS BOARD OF****12:45 PM – 3:00 PM***Directors I/II***DIRECTORS MEETING****Session 12, Tuesday, December 22, 2009****1:45 PM – 3:45 PM**

12.1

*Olympic II***NEW APPROACHES TO HASIDIC SPIRITUALITY***Chair:* Joshua Shanes (College of Charleston)**Dream and Torah-Text in Hasidic Thought**

Aryeh J. Wineman (Independent Scholar)

**Eschatology and Jewish Law in Lubavitch-Hasidic Thought**

Ilan Fuchs (Tulane University)

**Shifting Ideologies of Orality and Literacy in Their Historical Context: Rebbe Nahman of Breslav’s Embrace of the Book in 1804–1805**

David Siff (Independent Scholar)

**Shneur Zalman’s Radical Reversal of Or Hozer in *Igeret ha-Kodesh***

David Seidenberg (Independent Scholar)

12.2

*Constellation I***RABBINIC WORLDVIEW***Chair:* Natalie C. Polzer (University of Louisville)**Indeterminacy and Codification in the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds in Light of Roman and Sasanian Legal Cultures**

Richard Hidary (Yeshiva University)

**Socratic Torah: Rabbinic Dialogues with Non-Jews in Late Antiquity**

Jenny Labendz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

**Constructing Repugnance: Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Rabbinic Shame (*Bushah*)**

Jonathan Crane (University of Toronto)

12.3

*Constellation II***ISRAELI AND JEWISH IDENTITIES: THE SECULAR, THE SEPHARADI, AND THE SATISFIED***Chair:* Rachel Havrelock (University of Illinois at Chicago)**Identifying Indicators for Secularism in Israel and among Diaspora Jews**

Ariela Keysar-Coy (Trinity College)

**What Is a Sepharadi? A Debate between Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef and Rabbi Eliyahu Zinni**

Joseph Ringel (Brandeis University)

**“The Mediterranean Option”: Nostalgia, Pragmatism, or Political Escapism**

Gil Hochberg (University of California, Los Angeles)

12.4

*Westwood***JEWISH DEMOGRAPHY AT THE ANTIPODES***Chair:* Matthew Boxer (Brandeis University)**Estimating the Number of Jews in the United States with Cross-Survey Analysis**

Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)

**Jewish Values in the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century: Comparing Australian and American Survey Findings**

Andrew Barry Markus (Monash University) and Nicky Jacobs (Monash University)

**Evaluating the Use of Opt-in Consumer Internet Panels for Surveys of American Jews**

Benjamin Phillips (Brandeis University)

12.5

*Pacific***MUSIC AND LITERATURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN***Chair:* Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)**Hiding or Harmonizing: Turkish Synagogue Music in Political Perspective Today**

Maureen Jackson (University of Washington)

**“En Estambul avia--c’est la danse nouvelle”: A Song as Microcosm of Early Twentieth-Century Sephardic Life**

Judith R. Cohen (York University)

**Silent Exodus and Forgotten Voices: Sephardic Women Writers in Postcolonial Discourse**

Nina Lichtenstein (Independent Scholar)

**Language and Hospitality in Albert Memmi**

Aimee Israel-Pelletier (University of Texas at Arlington)

12.6

*Brentwood***MIDRASH AND MEMORY: NEW RESPONSES TO THE HOLOCAUST IN THE WORK OF DARA HORN, EHUD HAVAZELET, AND ANNE MICHAELS***Chair:* Eric J. Sundquist (University of California, Los Angeles)**Scattered Remnants of Time: The Transmission of Holocaust Memory in Ehud Havazelet's *Bearing the Body***

Victoria Aarons (Trinity University)

**Midrashic Reading and *The World to Come***

Sandor Goodhart (Purdue University)

**Revealing the Wound about Which We Cannot Speak: *Fugitive Pieces* and the Midrashic Impulse**

Monica Osborne (University of California, Los Angeles)

12.7

*Encino***INDIFFERENCES: ANTISEMITISM AND RESPONSES SINCE THE 1960S IN POLAND AND GERMANY***Chair:* Linda Maizels (Portland State University)**Anti-Zionist Discourse in Communist Poland**

Anat Plocker (Yale University)

**Anti-Capitalist Rhetoric and Antisemitism in Contemporary Germany**

Doerte Letzmann (Royal Holloway, University of London)

**Exclusionary Paradigms in Public Debates on Antisemitism and Racisms in Reunited Germany**

Annette Seidel-Arpaci (Yale University)

12.8

*Palisades***CONTESTED VICTIMHOOD: STALINISM, THE SHOAH, AND THEIR AFTERMATH***Chair:* Helene Sinnreich (Youngstown State University)**The "Other" Victims: In a German Village, Perpetrators and Survivors Battle over Their Victimhood**

Gilya Gerda Schmidt (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

**Doctors-Poisoners as *Idée Fixe* of Stalinism: From the Great Terror (1937–1938) to the Doctors' Plot (1953)**

Mikhail Mitsel (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee)

**Museums and Sites of Memory in Vilnius: National Narrative and the Shoah**

Edna Kantorovitz Carter Southard (Earlham College)

12.9

*Sherman Oaks***NEGOTIATING JEWISH IDENTITY THROUGH MEDIA IN THE AMERICAS***Chair:* Bruce Phillips (HUC-JIR)**Cultured Technology in New Jewish Institutions: Three Case Studies**

Peter Margolis (Temple University)

**The Vanguard of a New Argentine Jewish Identity: The Magazine *Raices*, 1968–1973**

Beatrice Gurwitz (University of California, Berkeley)

12.10

*Governors I***WORKS-IN-PROGRESS IN MODERN JEWISH STUDIES***Chairs:* Todd Hasak-Lowy (University of Florida)

Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)

*Discussant:* Marcy Brink-Danan (Brown University)

**DIVISION MEETINGS ROOM LOCATIONS**  
 MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

**Bible and the History of Biblical Interpretation**

*Constellation II***Rabbinic Literature and Culture***Palisades***Yiddish Studies***Park***Modern Jewish Literature***Beverly Hills***Modern Hebrew Literature***Santa Monica***Medieval Jewish Philosophy***Pacific***Jewish Mysticism***Santa Monica***Modern Jewish Thought and Theology***Governors I***Jewish History and Culture in Antiquity***Governors II***Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Literature, and Culture***Constellation I***Sephardi/Mizrahi Studies***Sherman Oaks***Modern Jewish History in Europe, Asia, Israel, and Other Communities***Encino***Modern Jewish History in the Americas***Brentwood***Israel Studies***Beverly Hills***Holocaust Studies***Westwood***Jews and the Arts***Olympic II***Social Sciences, Anthropology, and Folklore***Olympic I***Gender Studies***Constellation I***Linguistics, Semiotics, and Philology***Constellation II*

# AJS 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE FILM FESTIVAL

Organized by Professor Bernard D. Cooperman (University of Maryland)

All films will be screened in the Westside Room.

*Refer to the Film Festival Program Booklet, available at the Conference Registration Desk and Westside Room, for film descriptions and screening schedule.*

**Across the River** (Israel 2009) Written and directed by Duki Dror. 56 minutes. (Amharic and Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**As Seen Through These Eyes** (USA 2008) Written and directed by Hilary Helstein. Narrated by Maya Angelou. 70 minutes.

**La Cámara Oscura** (Argentina 2008) Directed by María Victoria Menis. 86 minutes. (Spanish and Yiddish with English subtitles.)

**Chronicle of a Kidnap** (Israel 2008) Written and directed by Nurit Kedar. 55 minutes. (Hebrew and English with English subtitles.)

**Dubak - A Palestinian Jew** (Israel 2008) Written and directed by Ella Alterman. 60 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**Eli and Ben** (Israel 2009) Directed by Ori Ravid. 89 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**Gut Shabbes Vietnam** (Israel 2009) Written and directed by Ido and Yael Zand. 52 minutes. (Hebrew and English with English subtitles.)

**Herskovits at the Heart of Blackness** (USA 2009) Directed by Llewellyn M. Smith. 54 minutes.

**The Jester [Der Purimspiler]** (Poland 1937) Directed by Joseph Green and Jan Nowina-Przybylski. 90 minutes. (Yiddish with new English subtitles.)

**Paying for Justice** (Israel 2007) Directed by Guy Meroz and Orli Vilnai-Federbush. 58 minutes. (Hebrew and English with English subtitles.)

**Rachel de la Comédie-Française** (France 2003) Directed by Judith Wechsler. 52 minutes. (French with English subtitles.)

**Rashevski's Tango** (Belgium/France/Luxembourg 2003) Directed by Sam Garbarski. 100 minutes. (French and Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**Refusenik** (USA 2007) Written and directed by Laura Bialis. 117 minutes. (English, Russian, and Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**Tel Aviv-Jaffa** (Israel 2009) Directed by Gabriel Bibliowicz. 125 minutes. (Hebrew with English subtitles.)

**A Woman's Pale Blue Handwriting** (Austria 1984) Directed by Alex Corti. 103 minutes. (German with English subtitles.)

*Thanks to the following distributors for providing AJS with films for the Conference Film Festival: Go2Films, Menemsha Films, Ruth Diskin Films, California Newsreel, National Center for Jewish Film, and The Foundation for Documentary Projects.*