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JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2018

FRANKELY SPEAKING



From the Director

By **Jeffrey Veidlinger**, Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies

The theme for the 2018–2019 year of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies is “Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern.” As a result, the Frankel Center will be hosting a series of events around this subject, and will be welcoming to campus eleven scholars from around the world, who will be in residence at the Frankel Institute along with two Michigan faculty.

Many of the scholars who will be with us this year focus on the myth of Sephardi exceptionalism: the idea that the medieval and early modern period in the Iberian peninsula represented a Golden Age, in which—thanks to the *convivencia* (coexistence) between Jews, Christians, and



Muslims—Jews were able to flourish intellectually, culturally, and economically, and were marked by distinction and excellence. Some scholars will point to moments of conflict and competition to question the factual basis of the

myth, others will look at how this myth was understood by non-Jewish communities, and still others will examine the myth’s impact on more modern Sephardic communities.

I am not an expert on this period in Jewish history myself and look forward to learning from those scholars who will be in residence. But I recognize the themes of conflict and coexistence from my own work and the world we live in today. The question, for instance, of what it means to be “native” that so animated Iberian thinkers resonates with some of the debates we are having in the United States today about citizenship. How do individuals reimagine and redefine their ancestry in order to derive real-life benefits? Should the extension of rights be contingent upon one’s ancestry? Or upon where an individual was born?

Other scholars will be looking at issues of knowledge. How did Andalusians understand the relationship between the oral law and the written law? To what extent were they willing to overturn Ashkenazi precedents and allow the laws to reflect the standards of their own communities? What role did non-Jewish legal opinions play in Sephardic adjudication? These are all issues we continue to struggle with today.

The question of what it means to be “native” that so animated Iberian thinkers resonates with some of the debates we are having in the United States today about citizenship.

Still other scholars will be focusing on the economics of the Sephardic community. How did Jewish oligarchs in Castile utilize their wealth, tax exemptions, and privilege to secure their positions? Did Jewish philanthropy help level social inequalities, or did it perpetuate status? How did expanding global trade contribute to the wealth of the Iberian peninsula, and what happened to the Spanish economy and cultural renaissance after the expulsion of Jews and Muslims? Why did new centers of trade and intellectual life flourish in the Netherlands and the Ottoman Empire, areas in which the Spanish refugees were welcomed? Once again, in today’s global world we too can look for precedents in the past and learn from the experiences of Jewish history.

There are not always definitive answers to these questions, but their relevance today is a testament to the enduring legacy of the Sephardic experience in the medieval and early modern period, and serves as an invitation for all of us to look at how some of the themes of Jewish history—migration, ethnic identity, religious faith, law and justice, social responsibility, entrepreneurship, and economic adventurism—continue to impact our world today.

On the Cover
Students studied abroad in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv with Professor Shachar Pinsker; Top: Nikki Shultz, Simone Jaroslaw, Will Hearn; Bottom: Ayo Okunade, Ainslie Woodward, Ariel Lowenstern, Haley Johnson

GI JEWS

Lisa Ades reflects on Jewish Americans in World War II

Documentary filmmaker Lisa Ades will be on campus this fall for a screening of her latest work, *GI JEWS: Jewish Americans in World War II*. The film, based on Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor Deborah Dash Moore's 2004 book, *GI Jews: How World War II Changed a Generation*, has appeared at several film festivals across the United States and premiered on PBS this past April to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day. The screening will be followed by a discussion with Ades and Dash Moore, who also served as a senior advisor for the film. The event will be held at the U-M Museum of Art Auditorium at 5:30 pm on November 6.

Ades first became interested in making a film about Jews in World War II in 2012 during her production of a documentary about the history of Jewish people in Syria. While speaking with Jews of Syrian descent in America, she learned about their experiences in World War II. "Their stories were fascinating and surprising—how after Pearl Harbor they had lied about their age in order to enlist; what it meant to serve as children of immigrants; the antisemitism they confronted in basic training on their way to fight the Nazis; the horror of the concentration camps they liberated; and how, on their return home, they found themselves changed forever," she said.

"I was surprised that even though several films had been made on aspects of Jewish Americans in World War II, no one had yet made a comprehensive docu-

mentary on the subject," Ades said. "Here, we would be able to tell the stories of Jews not only as victims of the war, but as Americans fighting for both their nation and their people." She turned to Dash Moore's book, which tells the stories of 15 Jewish men who enlisted during World War II and how they simultaneously managed the demands of military service and the prejudices of their fellow American soldiers.

Through interviews with historians and Jewish World War II veterans including Mel Brooks, Carl Reiner, and Henry Kissinger, viewers learn what it was like for Jewish Americans fighting bigotry at home and abroad. "The challenge was how to capture these stories while the men and women who served were still alive to tell them," said Ades. "In 2013, fewer than 6 percent of WWII veterans, mostly in their 90s, were still alive. This was our last chance to record these stories, so we appealed to the NEH [National Endowment for the Humanities], which had awarded us development and production grants, to release 'emergency funds' to begin interviewing. Remarkably, our first day of shooting, in December 2014, was at 92-year-old Carl Reiner's house in Beverly Hills. A gentleman and a mensch, he sat for an interview and then allowed us to interview his close friend and fellow GI Jew Mel Brooks there that same afternoon. It was an auspicious start to the project."

Ades recorded almost 40 interviews with Jewish veterans, many of which did not make it to the final cut. The line



she regrets having to cut the most? "Jews did their part. Don't ever forget it," which was said by Bea Abrams Cohen, a 104-year-old Lithuanian immigrant and the oldest living female veteran in California at the time of her interview in 2014.

Ades hopes viewers walk away with a better understanding of the many Jewish Americans who have served in U.S. wars, going at least as far back to the Civil War, and how important the fight for equality still is now. "Today, with the rise of white supremacists, xenophobia, and anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States and throughout the world, these stories of the children of Jewish immigrants fighting antisemitism at home in order to fight it abroad—and thereby becoming more American and Jewish in the process—resonate profoundly for me.

"Every American has a relationship to World War II," Ades continued, "but the role of Jewish American service people has not been fully explored on film. It's been gratifying to hear from Jewish Americans about how grateful they are that this story has been told for a national audience. Many Jews don't know the full history of this period, and it's important for non-Jewish audiences to learn about the Jewish experience of World War II, from the standpoint of the men and women who served."

Mark Your Calendar: *GI JEWS*, November 6, 5:30 pm, U-M Museum of Art Auditorium

Events

2019 David W. Belin Lecturer

James Loeffler

“Prisoners of Zion: American Jews, Human Rights, and the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict.”

On March 12, the Frankel Center will welcome Professor James Loeffler to the University of Michigan to deliver the 2019 David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs. Loeffler’s lecture, “Prisoners of Zion: American Jews, Human Rights, and the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict,” based on his recently published *Rooted Cosmopolitans: Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century*, will explore how American Jews have become polarized over human rights issues related to both Israel and antisemitism.



The David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs was established at the University of Michigan in 1991, through a gift from the late David W. Belin, to provide an academic forum for the discussion of contemporary Jewish life in the United States. Previous speakers have included Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel Freedman, Lila Corwin Berman, and Ruth Messinger. Each lecture is subsequently published in the Belin Lecture Series.

“Global antisemitism has returned to the world in ways few ever anticipated after World War II,” Loeffler explained. “For some in the Jewish world, the only solution is a renewed commitment to protecting human rights at home and abroad. For others in the Jewish world, the very phrase ‘human rights’ has become a *symbol* of today’s antisemitism, especially in the context of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.”

Loeffler is Jay Berkowitz Endowed Chair in Jewish History at the University of Virginia, where he teaches courses on Jewish and European history, legal history, and the history of human rights. *Rooted Cosmopolitans* explains the history of Jewish political activism in human rights through the stories of five Jewish activists, and shows how the idea of human rights has been intertwined with Jewish history in the last 70 years. It was named a “new and noteworthy” book by *The New York Times*.

The book began as a relatively narrow study of American Jewish political advocacy and legal diplomacy on behalf of Eastern European Jewry between the two world wars, and morphed over time into a global history of Jewish involvement in both the Zionist movement and the modern human rights movements of the 20th century. Loeffler’s work weaves together stories across five continents, seven languages, and eight decades.

Loeffler reasons that the people in his book would be shocked and disappointed by today’s politically polarized climate and the amount of historical ignorance. Not because they too argued over the meaning of human rights, but because they understood there was a need to work together to try to reach pragmatic global solutions.

Loeffler’s lecture will help audiences understand that human rights are in crisis and will investigate how we got to today’s political climate. “That means viewing the intertwined pasts of human rights and Zionism not as political fables but as complex, real chapters in history,” he said. Human rights “grew out of the world of politics, and, particularly the world of post–World War I Zionism. Human rights were not the antidote to too much nationalism; they were an attempt to balance the nation–state with the new international order—for Jews and everyone else.”

Mark Your Calendar: Belin Lecture, March 12, 2019, 7:00 pm, Forum Hall, Palmer Commons

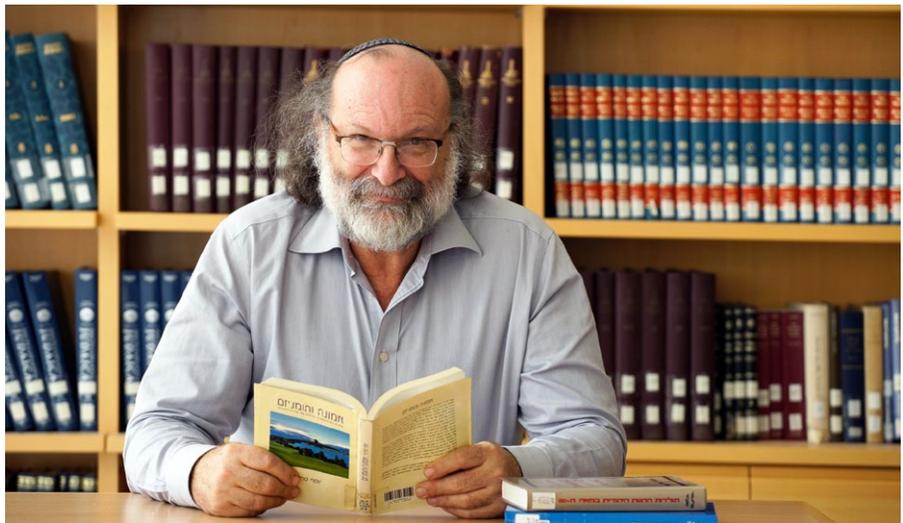
Visiting Faculty

Yossi (Joseph) Turner

Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professor in Judaic Studies

This fall semester Yossi (Joseph) Turner will be the Frankel Center's 30th Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professor in Judaic Studies. Turner is an associate professor at the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where he has been teaching since 1995. The Padnos Visiting Professorship is made possible by a generous donation from Stuart Padnos, who in 1988 established the Professorship in commemoration of his parents, Helen and Louis Padnos. The Padnos endowment enables the Frankel Center to bring a distinguished scholar to campus every year to teach at the University of Michigan.

Turner is a distinguished scholar of modern Jewish thought with particular expertise on the philosophy of the German Jewish theologian Franz Rosenzweig. He received his Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1994, and has since taught as a visiting professor at Haifa University, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Queens College of the City University of New York, and Indiana University, in addition to his position at the renowned Schechter Institute. He has published two Hebrew-language books: the first on Rosenzweig's religious philosophy (*Faith and Humanism: A Study of Franz Rosenzweig's Religious Philosophy*, 2001) and the second on 20th-century Jewish thinking on Zion (*The Relation to Zion and the Diaspora in 20th Century Jewish Thought*, 2014). He has also edited several works on aspects of Jewish philosophy, most recently *The Actuality of Sacrifice*, in 2014. He has also published 30 articles



on various aspects of the thought of Rosenzweig, Chaim Hirschensohn, Martin Buber, Hermann Cohn, and other leading intellectuals of 20th-century Judaism.

"It is interesting, and often surprising, that Jewish thought and philosophy deal with universally human questions," Turner said, "but contemplates them from a uniquely Jewish perspective, which in many ways forms the basis of a critique concerning the West, while weighing conflicting concerns in ways not possible in other areas of Western discourse."

As Padnos Visiting Professor, Turner will be teaching two courses in the fall semester: Judaic 318: "Modern Jewish Thought" and Judaic 417: "Trajectories of Zionist Thought." Turner most enjoys teaching classes about specific thinkers and philosophers, "because in such a course one can get at the depths and breadth of the subject matter, and reconstruct the manner in which a particular body of thought reflects the thinkers' life experience even as it enables me to trace the correspondence

between problems and issues to which the thinker responds; his or her manner of expression and logic of argumentation, presuppositions; fundamental value orientation, and overall direction concerning various religious, social, and cultural issues."

Turner will also be giving two public lectures. The first will be in Ann Arbor on October 9 and is titled "The Concept of a Universal Humanity, Social Justice, and National Individuality in Modern Jewish Thought." The second, "The Crises Facing Jewish Existence in the Contemporary Period and their Educational Implications," will take place November 4 at Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids.

While at U-M, he is looking forward to the class discussions with students. "The University of Michigan has a very high-quality student body," said Turner, "and I am always fascinated by the way the subject matter I deal with takes on new forms of discussion in differing social and cultural contexts."

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg

Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies

The Frankel Center is pleased to welcome Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg into a tenure-track position as assistant professor of Judaic Studies starting in Fall 2018. Wollenberg, who has been a Michigan Society Fellow through Rackham Graduate School since 2015, works in the field of Jewish biblical interpretation.

Wollenberg received her B.A. in medieval studies at the University of Chicago in 2002 before moving to Israel, where she became fluent in Hebrew, studied in traditional Jewish learning centers, and received her M. A. at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Religions of Late Antiquity, with a specialty in Second Temple Judaism. She then returned to Chicago, where she received her Ph.D. in 2015 in the History

of Religion. Her dissertation, *The People of the Book without the Book: Jewish Ambivalence towards Biblical Text after the Rise of Christianity*, argues that, in contrast to popular images of Jews as “the people of the book,” rabbis of the Talmudic period held ambivalent and even antagonistic attitudes toward the biblical text.

Her work focuses on the ways that late antique and medieval Jewish scholars wrote about the biblical text, joining a new subfield within biblical interpretation that has drawn attention to the mechanics of reading and the ways that reading habits impact interpretation. The rabbis of the Talmudic era, she argues, often displayed an aversion toward the written text—instead valuing memorization as the primary means by which knowledge should be disseminated. Many of these early authorities believed that revelation could not adequately be conveyed in writing, and regarded any written record of sacred knowledge as potentially dangerous and promiscuous. “It is interesting to me how intensely critical some of the founders of rabbinic Judaism were toward their central canonical text,” she said. “A few of the foundational thinkers I study would be thrown out of a synagogue today for the kinds of things they said about the Bible.... And yet, they always found a way to rehabilitate this book about which they had so many doubts.”

For her next project, Wollenberg is developing her interest in the role played by the transition from orality to writing in rabbinic biblical reception by moving in time to a later medieval period. In this new direction of research, she seeks to see how new technologies contributed to the reification of the biblical text that became paradigmatic of Judaism in the late medieval period.

Wollenberg will be teaching two courses this fall: Judaic 217, “Lost Books That Rewrote The Bible” and Judaic 318, “Men Of The Bible.” “I often use my Bible classes to explore what it means to be human in our own times. If the biblical defense of slavery and indentured servitude makes us uncomfortable, for instance, we can use that as an opportunity to think about the ways in which structures of human hierarchy and ownership permeate our own lives in all sorts of ways we don’t even think about. Or if we find the story of David and Jonathan moving, we can think about what that text suggests about how to cultivate richer male relationships in contemporary communities.”

Wollenberg and her children have easily adjusted to university life in Ann Arbor. “It’s been interesting to see how my kids have immersed themselves in the university community. I couldn’t help but laugh when my three-year-old announced that he was going to be a field paleontologist with lots of grants when he grew up.”

The Frankel Center is thrilled to welcome Wollenberg as an assistant professor and looks forward to more exciting research to come.



Michael Yashinsky

Yiddish Lecturer

The Frankel Center is welcoming a new lecturer in Yiddish language instructions this fall, Michael Yashinsky. He encourages everyone to call him by his Yiddish name, “Mikhl.” Yashinsky studied history and literature at Harvard College and graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 2011. For the past three years, he has worked as a Yiddish Education Specialist at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, where he was previously an Applebaum Fellow. In the summer of 2018, he played the role of Mordcha in the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene’s production of *Fiddler on the Roof* in New York City.



Michael Yashinsky (far left) with his co-stars in *Fiddler on the Roof*

Photo Credit: Victor Nechay / Properpix

Yashinsky grew up in the Detroit suburbs and comes from a family of U-M alums. In addition to Yiddish, he is fluent in German, Hebrew, and Spanish, and previously taught Spanish at the Frankel Jewish Academy in West Bloomfield.

Yashinsky was first drawn to Yiddish by his grandmother. “She lent me treasures from her vast library of Yiddish books and films, and I listened to her sing and declaim in the language. I was as much inspired by the robust and musical sounds of Yiddish as I was by seeing the

wonders it could work on a person such as she, and she wonders a talented person like Gramma Liz could work with it.” His favorite thing about studying Yiddish is the connection it gives him to the legacy of the thousands of people who communicated in Yiddish, like his grandmother, as well as to the world of Yiddish speakers today.

“Each student who comes to Yiddish will find their own connections to the language, will endow it with personal meanings and significances. What is important for me is less or more important for another, and my own delight in the language is every day finding new land to alight on,” Yashinsky said.

“But this I know: Yiddish was the daily language of a vast proportion of world Jewry for nearly a thousand years. And to know these people, on any basis of investigation—historical, political, religious, artistic, literary—one must know their language. As Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik said of Yiddish, ‘*af poshetn mame-loshn*’: in their simple mother tongue, ‘the Jewish masses expressed their simple love, their faith, and their devotion.’ Reason enough!”

In addition to his passion for Yiddish, Yashinsky is a lover of theater. He assisted in directing children’s plays at both the Michigan Opera Theatre in Detroit and the Frankel Academy. In New York City this past summer, he acted in a Yiddish-language production of *Fiddler on the Roof* with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene. “Three months of rehearsing and performing in that—then off to help build up a burrow of Yiddish-speaking Wolverines,” Yashinsky said.



Yashinsky with a bust of classic Yiddish writer I. L. Peretz Credit: Ben Barnhart, courtesy of the Yiddish Book Center

Yashinsky is most looking forward to teaching and learning from his students while in Ann Arbor. “As the rabbis instruct, ‘*Eyzehu khokhem? Haloymed mikol odem*’ — ‘Who are wise? They who learn from everyone.’ A worthy principle for both students and teachers. My hope is that students will bring their own experiences and passions into the classroom, and that Yiddish will in turn enrich the existences they lead outside it. *Eybik lebn, eybik lern*, a proverb goes: for as long as you’re living, you’re learning. The rules of grammar and lists of vocabulary we learn will be a key to discovering more of life, Jewish life, of the past, present, and future, in its infinite colors.”

Alumni Spotlight

Melissa Sherman

BA, Psychology and Judaic Studies, 2009

Melissa Sherman is Director of Human Resources for Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) in Detroit, Michigan. JVS provides counseling, training, and support services to help people overcome life challenges in order to be self-sufficient. With a B. A. in Psychology and a minor in Judaic Studies, she manages the department and serves as a liaison between leadership and employees. Sherman joined the agency 10 years ago as an intern through the Jeanette & Oscar Cool Jewish Occupational Jewish Intern program (JOIN), and returned two years later to work in the human resources department. In an interview with *Frankely Speaking*, she spoke about how her classes at the Frankel Center prepared her for her career in human resources.

What are some of the most rewarding parts of your work?

JVS is an incredibly inspiring place to work. Our mission drives everything we do in helping people realize their life's potential. I do my part by helping our employees be the best at their jobs, so they can in turn help as many clients as possible.

How did you decide to study at the Frankel Center?

I finished my Psychology requirements so quickly that I was able to take courses for my minor in Judaic Studies for the pure pleasure of learning. The program was flexible inspired me to be a lifelong learner in Judaism.

How did your education at the Frankel Center prepare you for your current position?

I couldn't have picked a better minor to prepare me for a career in the Jewish nonprofit field. The blend of my degrees in Psychology and Judaic Studies gives me a unique perspective.

Who are some of the U-M professors who inspired you?

I vividly remember sitting through my first lecture with Professor Deborah Dash Moore, and at the end of the class that day I hadn't written down a single note because of how captivating she was. I knew from that semester on I had to take every class she taught. I was lucky enough to do an independent study with Professor Dash Moore my senior year and it was a great personal capstone to the program— and especially relevant considering my career. Besides Judaic Studies, I was heavily involved in the Program on Intergroup Relations, and Charles Behling and Adrienne Dessel were fantastic professors and were incredibly supportive of my academic pursuits. My freshman year I was in MCSP and David Schoem provided a great introduction to community service and the idea of nonprofit work. I also took two years of courses with Richard Mann, studying spiritual psychology. Those classes helped reinforce the idea that getting a minor in Judaic Studies was a perfect complement to my Psychology major.



What advice would you give to students who are considering studying Judaic Studies?

Just do it! The classes are challenging both academically and personally. It will help shape you into a well-rounded professional, no matter your eventual career choice. You won't regret it!

Students

Class of 2018

Earlier this year, 16 Judaic Studies minors, two majors, four graduate–certificate students, and one master’s student represented the Frankel Center at the University of Michigan’s spring commencement.

In addition to their focus on Judaic Studies, the students explored a wide range of subjects including movement science, linguistics, and psychology. Judaic Studies minor and political science major Alison Schalop will be starting a new position as a teaching apprentice in New York at Blue Engine, a nonprofit organization that works to bring teachers to underserved schools. “I loved getting to know my Judaic Studies professors and the other Judaic Studies students,” Schalop said. “The department provided me with unique internship and research opportunities, for which I will be forever grateful.”

Each year, the Frankel Center honors a graduate with the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award. The student who receives this award must be graduating with at least a 3.8 GPA and be recommended by Judaic Studies faculty members. This April, the award was presented to Julia Berg, a double major in Judaic Studies and the Environment. Maya Barzilai, associate professor of Judaic Studies and Near Eastern Studies said, “Julia is a very thoughtful and serious student who is committed to the study of Hebrew language and Jewish culture. Her writing in Hebrew is sophisticated and probing, and she devotes her essays to careful analysis and insightful observations. Julia is also an open–minded thinker who will listen to others and engage with their viewpoints, which makes her a joy to have in the classroom.”

“Although studying Judaism has been a lifelong journey, I think that it was really important that I studied it here at the University of Michigan from an academic/historical standpoint, not just a religious standpoint,” Berg said. “I think this has deepened and challenged my appreciation for my

“Because learning leads to action” Talmud Kiddushin 40b



“[Judaic Studies] has deepened and challenged my appreciation for my own culture and will definitely help me in my future professional endeavors.”

own culture and will definitely help in my future professional endeavors. I only wish that I had time to take more of the classes that I never got around to taking and learn from some of the professors I never met.” Berg started rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem this summer.

Nathan Moretto graduated with a master’s in Judaic Studies and was awarded the Simeon Brinberg Outstanding Student Award. “The Frankel Center has provided exceptional opportunities for me to advance my academic career in Biblical studies,” said Moretto, “including interdisciplinary research with world–renowned faculty and a trip to Israel to participate in an archaeological excavation at Kiriath–Jearim.”

The 2018 graduates joined a distinguished group of Frankel Center alumni.

Digital Mapping

Frankel Center professors **Shachar Pinsker**, **Bryan Roby**, **Devi Mays**, and **Deborah Dash Moore**, along with Digital Scholarship Librarian **Alix Keener**, are developing a digital tool, “Mapping Modern Jewish Diasporic Cultures,” to map the multiple diasporas of the Jewish people during the 20th century.

The project is being funded through MCubed, a program at the University of Michigan that seed-funds research from multi-unit faculty-led teams. As Dash Moore explains, “the idea of digitally mapping Jewish cultural expressions reveals how diasporic connections can produce literature, art, and photography in the absence of a nation-state.”

The project is being launched with modules mirroring the research of the faculty members, but is being designed so that it can expand to include other elements of the Jewish diaspora experience. Working with a team from the Michigan Library, the School of Information, and graduate and undergraduate students, Pinsker is developing one module based on his recently published book, *A Rich Brew: How Cafés Created Modern Jewish Culture*, which analyzes, maps, and reconstructs the network of Jewish cafes in Vienna, Odessa, Warsaw, Berlin, Tel Aviv, and New York City. Users can browse by city, people, or story. Dash Moore’s module will trace the journeys of individual Jewish photographers and analyze how their

work evolved as they moved across the globe. Mays and Roby are both working on “Jewish Literature in the Global South,” which will provide a platform for engaging with and collaboratively translating Judeo-Arabic and Ladino literature via their sites.

“While part of my research and analysis is presented in my book,” Pinsker explained, “crucial aspects of this project cannot be communicated in a traditional, linear humanities monograph. For example, visually following the trajectories of the writer Sholem Aleichem and his fictional character Menakhem-Mendel traveling between cafés in Odessa, Warsaw, Berlin, New York, and Tel Aviv, enables the readers to deeply apprehend the diasporic, transnational nature of Jewish culture and café culture.” The project demonstrates “how urban cafés acted as a ‘silk road’ in the creation of modern Jewish culture.”

“This project will allow students to become familiar with and understand the extent of the centuries-long literary tradition of secular works produced in Judeo-Arabic and Ladino,” said Roby. “Oftentimes, students are unaware of the existence of the Jewish connection to these languages.”

Pinsker and Roby have both been integrating mapping into their classes, allowing students to visually combine history, culture, and literature with Jewish migration. As Pinsker explains, “ArcGIS Story Maps, which combine geographic data and multimedia content in an online presentation, allow students to create layers of maps comparing different time periods, while also including text, links, and images of places and the people who frequented them. In this way, students understand concepts of geography and history on a new, deep level.”





"It has helped students connect what they study to social justice work that they do on campus and in their private lives," Roby said. One of his students, Jake Ehrlich, agrees: "Making this story map was a highly rewarding practice in independent research and digital humanities, and the act of sharing them with our classmates manifested the kind of collective critical inquiry that Professor Roby set as an intention for us since day one." Dash Moore also plans on assigning a project in her future courses on the transformations of urban and suburban spaces. Pinsker hopes the website will provide a template for other Judaic Studies scholars at U-M and around the world: "I am

creating a resource that is robust and sustainable over time, integrating platforms with effective visual communication, and capacities for narrative and data. It displays and analyzes a wealth of materials in visually rich and interactive ways, thus engaging both a scholarly and a general audience." Roby agrees: "I would like for the collections available to grow in size and increase public engagement with it. With a completely open source model, both in content and backend programming, I hope that this project can serve as a model for historically marginalized communities to share their wealth of culture and knowledge."

Meet the 2018–19 Frankel Institute Fellows



Ilil Baum

Bar-Ilan University

“Knowledge of Arabic among the Jews of the Crown of Aragon: Late Medieval Jewish Multilingualism as a Marker of an Elitist Culture”

Baum recently received her Ph.D. in Romance Philology from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and completed a year as a teaching fellow at the Salti Institute for Ladino Studies at Bar-Ilan University in Israel. Her research focuses on the interplay between language and identity among the Jews of Spain. She is particularly interested in the linguistic and cultural contacts between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Crown of Aragon. Baum’s current project examines the use of Arabic among the Jewish elite of the Crown of Aragon on the eve of their expulsion, and the linguistic contacts between Arabic, Hebrew, and the vernacular languages (mainly Catalan and Aragonese) in their writings.



Ross Brann

Cornell University

“Andalusi and Sefardi Exceptionalism”

Ross Brann is the Milton R. Konvitz Professor of Judeo-Islamic Studies & Stephen H. Weiss

Presidential Fellow. He has studied at the University of California, Berkeley, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, New York University, and the American University in Cairo. He has taught at Cornell since 1986 and served 20 years as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Brann is the author of *The Compunctious Poet: Cultural Ambiguity and Hebrew Poetry in Muslim Spain* (Johns Hopkins University

Press, 1991), recipient of the National Jewish Book Award for Sephardic Studies, and *Power in the Portrayal: Representations of Muslims and Jews in Islamic Spain* (Princeton University Press, 2002). He has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and was elected as a fellow by the American Academy for Jewish Research. Brann is also the editor of four volumes and author of many essays on the intersection of Jewish and Islamic culture. He is currently completing *Andalusi Moorings: Al-Andalus and Sefarad as Cultural Tropes* (University of Pennsylvania Press).



Mònica Colominas Aparicio

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

“Sephardic Exceptionalism in the Anti-Jewish Polemics of Medieval Iberian Muslims”

Mònica Colominas Aparicio obtained her B.A. and M.A. (cum laude) in Arabic Language and Culture at the University of Amsterdam and her diploma in Classical Guitar at the Conservatorium of Amsterdam. She earned a doctorate from the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Amsterdam in 2016. Aparicio’s work focuses on identity discourses of the Muslim minority communities living under Christian rule, the Mudejars, in their works of religious controversy with Christians and Jews written in Arabic and in Aljamiado (Spanish written in Arabic characters). She received the 2015–2016 Dissertation Award of the Amsterdam School of Historical Studies (ASH). Since April 2016, she has been a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin,

and a core member of the Max-Planck interdisciplinary project, *Convivencia: Iberia to Global Dynamics, 500–1750*. Her book *The Religious Polemics of the Muslims of Late Medieval Iberia. Identity and Religious Authority in Mudejar Islam* has appeared in the Brill Series, *The Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World*.



Brian Hamm

University of Central Florida

“Being ‘Portuguese’ at the Diasporic Margins”

Brian Hamm earned his Ph.D. in Latin American history from the University of Florida in 2017. He has

recently published an article in *Anais de História de Além-Mar*, and has a book chapter forthcoming in an edited volume on the colonial Spanish Caribbean. Hamm is currently working on a book manuscript entitled “At the Crossroads of Belonging: The Portuguese in the Spanish Circum-Caribbean, 1500–1750.” During the 2017–18 academic year, he taught history at the University of Central Florida.



Marc Herman

Columbia University and Fordham University

“Andalusian Independence from Geonic Authority in its Mālikī and Almohad Contexts”

Marc Herman is the

Rabin-Shvidler Joint Post-Doctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at Columbia University and Fordham University and holds an Ephraim E. Urbach postdoctoral fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. Herman received his Ph.D. from the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in 2016. He researches Jewish law in the medieval

This year's Frankel Institute theme is **"Sephardic Identities: Medieval and Modern."** Thirteen fellows will spend the semester or year researching aspects of Sephardic history, culture, and society. The fellows will present lectures and symposia, and participate in a range of public events. We are delighted to welcome them all to Ann Arbor.

Islamic world, with a particular emphasis on legal theory. He has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Fordham University. His dissertation was named a finalist for the Association for Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship; he has also been awarded fellowships from the Knapp Family Foundation, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Cardozo Center for Jewish Law, and the Wexner Foundation. Herman is currently writing his first monograph, *Imaging Revelation: Tradition and Creativity in Medieval Rabbanite Legal Thought*.



Maya Soifer Irish

Rice University

"Sephardic Exceptionalism and the Castilian Jewish Elites"

Maya Soifer Irish is an associate professor of history at Rice University.

She works on the history of interfaith relations in medieval Spain and the Mediterranean. Her first book, *Jews and Christians in Medieval Castile: Tradition, Coexistence, and Change*, was published in 2016 and explores the changes in Jewish-Christian relations in the Iberian kingdom of Castile between the 11th and 14th centuries. Her other publications include "Beyond Convivencia: Critical Reflections on the Historiography of Interfaith Relations in Christian Spain" in the *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* (2009). Irish is currently working on a monograph about power and society in Seville during the century before the anti-Jewish riot of 1391. She was recently elected President of the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain (AARHMS).



Martin Jacobs

Washington University (St. Louis)

"Constantinople vs. Tenochtitlán: Imperial Expansion through a Post-Expulsion Sephardic Lens"

Martin Jacobs is professor of Rabbinic Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, where he teaches in the Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. After earning his Ph.D. at the Free University of Berlin, Jacobs served as visiting lecturer at the University of Jordan in Amman. He later held fellowships at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, and the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. A cultural and intellectual historian of Mediterranean Jews, Jacobs is the author of three monographs, most recently *Reorienting the East: Jewish Travelers to the Medieval Muslim World* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014).



Ehud Krinis

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

"'Duties of the Heart' and the 'Kuzari' as Two Alternative Systematic Responses to the Hardships of the

Jewish Communal life in al-Andalus"

Ehud Krinis earned his Ph.D. at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in 2008. His studies include *God's Chosen People: Judah Halevi's Kuzari and the Shi'i Imām Doctrine* (Turnhout, Brepols, 2014); "The Arabic Background of the Kuzari" (*The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 2013), "Galut and Ghayba: The Exile of Israel and

the Occultation of the Shi'i Imām — A Comparative Study of Judah Halevi and Early Imami-Shi'i Writers" (*Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam* 2013) and "Cyclical Time in the Ismā'īlī Circle of Ikhwān al-ṣafā' (tenth century) and in Early Jewish Kabbalists Circles (thirteenth and fourteenth centuries)" (*Studia Islamica* 111, 2016).



Devi Mays

University of Michigan

"The Sephardi Connection: Ottoman Jews, the Opium Trade, and the Aftereffects of Empire"

Devi Mays is assistant professor of Judaic Studies

and History at the University of Michigan. Her research interests lie in the modern Sephardic, Mediterranean, and transnational Jewish networks. She was the inaugural postdoctoral fellow in Modern Jewish Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and received her Ph.D. in History from Indiana University in June 2013. She is currently revising a book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora*. Mays has begun work on a second substantive project, which focuses on Ottoman and post-Ottoman Jews' centrality in global opiate trades, and aims to cast light on how class and commerce, masculinity and honor, migration and citizenship, legality and illegality, and imperial and national belonging intersected in the transition from empire to nationalizing states. Her work has appeared in *AJS Perspectives*, *Mashriq & Mahjar: Journal of Middle East Migration Studies*, and the *Latin American Jewish Studies Association Bulletin*.

“... the exiles of Jerusalem, who are in Sepharad” Obadiah 1:20

S.J. Pearce

New York University

“In the Taifa Kingdoms: The Medieval Poetics of Modern Nationalism”

S.J. Pearce earned her Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University in 2011, and is now an associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures at New York University. Her first book, *The Andalusí Literary and Intellectual Tradition*, was published by Indiana University Press in 2017. Formerly a research fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Pearce’s academic work has received a number of awards. Her writing for a general audience has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books* and *minor literature[s]*.



Vasileios Syros

University of Jyväskylä (Finland)

“Visions of History and Sephardic Identities: Medieval and Early Modern Perspectives”

Vasileios Syros is currently a Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) Visiting Professor at Radboud University Nijmegen and the project leader for the research program “Political Power in the European and Islamic Worlds” at the Academy of Finland. His academic interests lie in the study of medieval and early modern Christian/Latin, Jewish, and Islamic political thought. Syros has published *Marsilius of Padua at the Intersection of Ancient and Medieval Cultures and Traditions of Learning* (University of Toronto Press, 2012); *Die Rezeption der aristotelischen politischen*

Philosophie bei Marsilius von Padua (Brill, 2007); and *Well Begun is Only Half Done: Tracing Aristotle’s Political Ideas in Medieval Arabic, Syriac, Byzantine, and Jewish Sources* (ACMRS, 2011). He taught previously at Stanford University, McGill University, the University of Chicago, and the École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris), and has held research fellowships at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, and the Royal Society of Edinburgh.



Ryan Szpiech

University of Michigan

“He is Still Israel? Conversion and Sephardic Identity before and after 1391”

Ryan Szpiech is associate professor of Spanish and Judaic Studies and an affiliate of the Program in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan, and is this year’s Head Fellow. His first book, *Conversion and Narrative: Reading and Religious Authority in Medieval Polemic* (Pennsylvania, 2013), won the La Corónica Book Award (2015). He has also edited *Medieval Exegesis and Religious Difference: Commentary, Conflict, and Community in the Premodern Mediterranean* (Fordham, 2015) and numerous special journal issues on medieval Iberian literatures. Szpiech has published numerous articles dealing with translation, conversion, and religious polemics in medieval Iberia, and is currently working on a book project about translation and genealogy in medieval Castile between 1250 and 1350. Since 2013, he has been editor-in-chief of the journal *Medieval Encounters*.



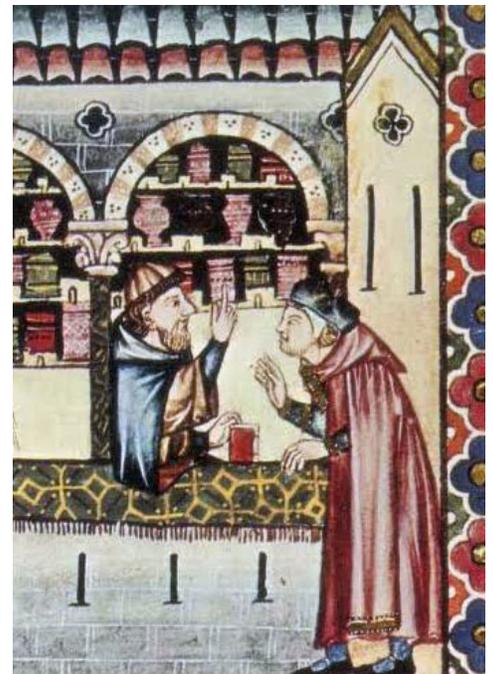
Moshe Yagur

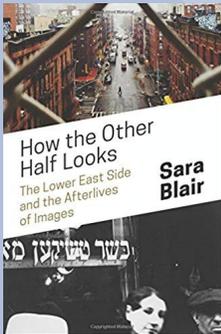
University of Haifa

“Who was a ‘Sepharadi’? A view from the Cairo Geniza”

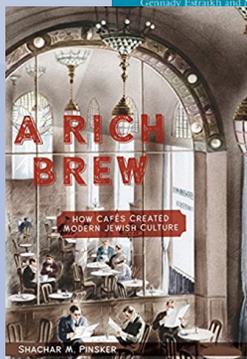
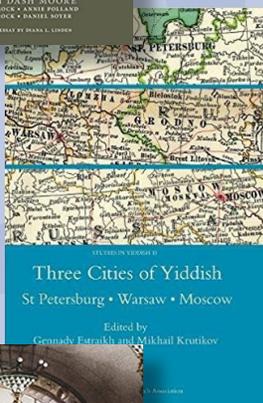
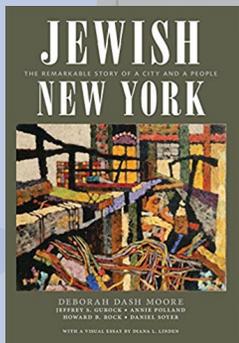
Moshe Yagur acquired his academic degrees from the Hebrew University of

Jerusalem. Yagur’s Ph.D. research examined cases of conversion to and from Judaism in the Jewish communities of medieval Egypt and the Levant. Systematic analysis of these cases enriches our understanding of the way Jewish identity was perceived by members of the community. During his research he was a fellow at the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters (CSOC). Upon completion of his dissertation, Yagur joined a research project led by Dr. Uri Simonsohn at the University of Haifa, studying the cultural significance of converts in medieval Islamic civilization.





Jason M. Zurawski, Gabriele Boccaccini (Eds.)
SECOND TEMPLE JEWISH PAIDEIA IN CONTEXT



Sara Blair, Professor, Department of English, **How the Other Half Looks: The Lower East Side and the Afterlives of Images**, Princeton University Press

Gabriele Boccaccini, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, **Second Temple Jewish Paideia in Context**, De Gruyter

Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History, Department of History, **Jewish New York: The Remarkable Story of a People and a City**, New York University Press

Mikhail Krutikov, Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, **Three Cities of Yiddish: St Petersburg, Warsaw and Moscow**, Legenda

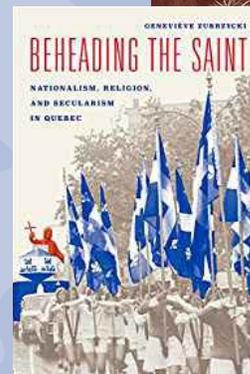
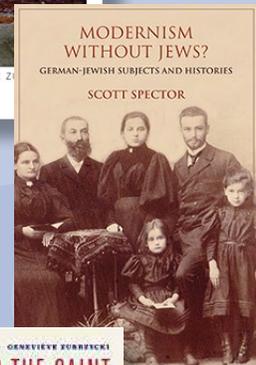
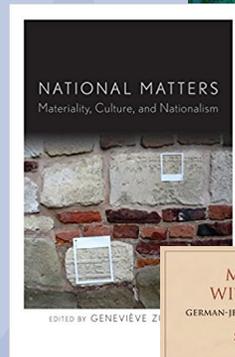
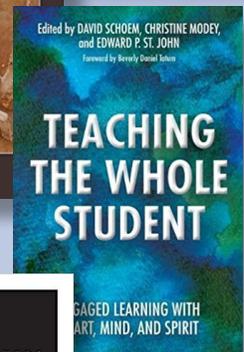
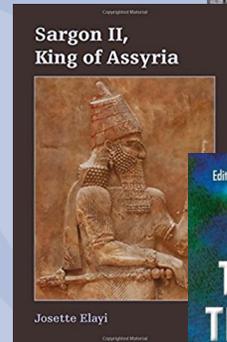
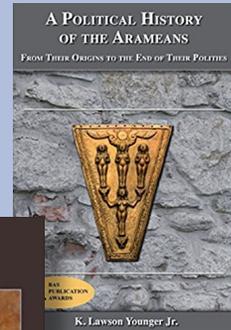
Shachar Pinsker, Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, **A Rich Brew: How Cafés Created Modern Jewish Culture**, New York University Press

Brian B. Schmidt, Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, **A Political History of the Arameans: From their Origins to the End of Their Polities**, Society of Biblical Literature; **Sargon II, King of Assyria**, Society of Biblical Literature

David Schoem, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, **Teaching the Whole Student: Engaged Learning with Heart, Mind and Spirit**, Stylus Publishing

Scott Spector, Professor, Department of German, **Modernism Without Jews? German-Jewish Subjects and Histories**, Indiana University Press

Genevieve Zubrycki, Professor, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, **National Matters: Materiality, Culture, and Nationalism**, Stanford University Press; **Beheading the Saint: Nationalism, Religion, and Secularism in Quebec**, University of Chicago Press



Students 2018 Summer Funding

Ten students—seven graduates and three undergraduates—were awarded summer funding from Judaic Studies to do research, participate in summer seminars, and study abroad.

Ancient Judaism & Rabbinics

Nathan Moretto attended a conference in Poland and worked on the Tel Megiddo excavation project in the Jezreel Valley in Israel. At the 11th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Moretto presented his paper, “The Status of the Northern Kingdom of Israel and its Influence on the Deuteronomistic History.”

“The goals of this summer’s excavation,” Moretto said, “are to continue to expose Middle Bronze settlement layers, undertake work at the fortifications and gates of Megiddo (the famed ‘Solomon’s Gate’), and uncover a 7th-century layer that could be related to the reign of King Josiah. This will also help researchers better understand Megiddo during the pivotal time of the late Iron Age period.”

Delta Phi Epsilon Scholarships



Hannah Katz interned this summer in J Street’s Political Department in Washington DC. “I’m helping J Street endorse and support candidates that align with their mission. I’m really enjoying getting to live and work in Washington, DC and experience the political process firsthand!”

Stanley Frankel Summer Travel Fellowship



Shai Zamir traveled to Israel to take an Arabic course. “My Arabic studies in Israel will allow me to further explore the cultural interactions between Muslims, Jews and Christians in pre-modern Spain, and to study the significant role Jews played in translating and mediating Arabic texts for a Christian audience.”

Jerold & Kathleen Solovy Fund



Emilie Duranceau attended the Naomi Prawer Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University. “It has been amazing to learn Hebrew in Israel, as it has given me the opportunity to put into practice what I learned in the classroom. This is just the beginning of a long journey, at the end of which I hope to be able to read primary and secondary sources in Hebrew. This will greatly enrich my doctoral studies in history.”

Weingast Family Fund



Hanna Demarcus traveled to Haifa for a social work internship with the Haifa Municipality Department of Community Social Work. “I’m responsible for coordinating several projects and developing groups for asylum seekers and foreign workers in Haifa. One project I’m particularly excited about is a mother-child group I will be facilitating for the Eritrean population. This field placement has given me the opportunity to learn more about social work practice in Israel and gain experience working directly with international populations. After graduating with my MSW, I hope to work with refugee and immigrant populations in the United States.”

Isabella Isaacs-Thomas and Jamie Thompson participated in U-M’s Global and Intercultural Study Course, “Intergroup Conflict, Co-Resistance, and Social Change.” They spent three weeks traveling in Jerusalem and Sakhnin while learning about the sociocultural history of the area.



Marshall M. Weinberg Endowed Fund for Graduate Students



Cady Vishniac enrolled in the U-M Hebrew Summer Language Institute in connection with her Ph.D. research in Jewish social networking and online interaction. “I’ve had a wonderful experience with the class. Our lecturers were gifted and energetic, and the coursework was designed to keep us

from getting overwhelmed even as we worked long hours,” Vishniac said. “I’m now much more able to understand Israeli social media and online popular culture.”



Morgan Carlton attended the Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University. “As a historian, the language training will allow me to use primary sources written in English and in Yiddish. My desire to focus on work-

ing-class Jewish American women who resisted assimilatory practices requires Yiddish, a language used to retain one’s identity in newspapers, theater, and film in America. Learning Yiddish will make me a stronger historian.”



Josh Scott presented a paper at the Gender and Second Temple Judaism conference in Finland. His paper relates to his dissertation, which argues that ancient authors used messianism to shape the development of Jewish communities.

“I feel so lucky to have been a part of the Judaic Studies community throughout my time here at Michigan.”

Marshall M. Weinberg Prize



Dory Fox won the Marshall M. Weinberg Prize, awarded annually to an outstanding graduate student engaged in dissertation writing, for her promising dissertation, titled “A Mystic Biology?: Jewish American Culture and Biological

Imagination from the 20th–21st Centuries.” “I feel very honored to receive the Weinberg Prize this year,” Fox said. “I am delighted and appreciative of the generous support, which will assist me as I enter the second year of dissertation writing. My thesis investigates the role that biological thinking has played in American Jewish literature and culture from the early 1900s up to the present moment.”

Simeon Brinberg Award for Outstanding Judaic Studies M.A. students



Nathan Moretto received the Simeon Brinberg Award in fall of 2017. In his nomination of Moretto, Professor Brian Schmidt cited, among other things, Moretto’s skills in classical Hebrew and excellent seminar paper. Moretto’s research

focuses on ancient Israel in the late Bronze and Iron Ages exploring an ancient northern Israel influence in a predominantly Judean text known as the Deuteronomistic History.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award



Julia Berg was this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, which is given annually to a graduating student recommended by a faculty member with at least a 3.8 GPA. At the Frankel Center’s graduation reception, Berg said:

“I feel so lucky to have been a part of the Judaic Studies community throughout my time here at Michigan.... I believe that this learning experience has challenged and deepened my appreciation for the Jewish tradition.”

Undergraduate Students

Madeline Jacobson, Judaic Studies minor, was one of the winners in this year's Jackier Prize Competition at the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology with an essay titled "Funerary Culture Re-Examined."

Graduate Students

Jacqueline Dressler presented at the 2018 Equity Within the Classroom Conference.

Dory Fox received the Frankel Center's Weinberg prize, which is awarded to a student whose work has been outstanding and has the potential to make a significant contribution to his or her field. She also published an article in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, titled "'We Are in the First Temple': Fact and Affect in American Jews' Emergent Genetic Narrative."

Daniel Kaplan was accepted to the Helix Fellowship, a yearlong learning fellowship for Yiddishkayt history and culture, organized by Yiddishkayt.

Sam Shuman was selected as a Fulbright representative to the EU-US Young Leaders Seminar on "The Future of Work."

Faculty

Maya Barzilai received the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award from the Association of Jewish Studies for her book *Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters*. She presented on her book at the University of Michigan Institute for the Humanities Author's Forum. She also published an article, "The Flowers of Shame: Avraham Ben Yitzhak's Hebrew-German 'Revival'" in *The German-Hebrew Dialogue: Studies of Encounter and Exchange*.



Walter Cohen participated in a panel on his recent book, *A History of European Literature: The West and the World from antiquity to the Present*, at the Renaissance Society of America annual conference

in New Orleans. Ritchie Robertson, professor of German at Oxford, selected it as book of the year in the *Times Literary Supplement*. Cohen also presented a paper on Shakespeare and ecological catastrophe at the annual Shakespeare Association of America conference in New Orleans.

Deborah Dash Moore released her newest book, *Jewish New York: The Remarkable Story of a City and a People*, as well as an article, "Sidewalk Histories, or Uncovering the Vernacular Jewishness of New York." She was also a senior advisor on and appeared in the documentary *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*.



Caroline Helton presented a series of concerts co-sponsored by the Frankel Center, featuring chamber music and songs of the Jewish experience performed by School of Music, Theatre & Dance

faculty and students, along with guest scholar and pianist Neal Brostoff.

R. R. Neis published "The Reproduction of Species: Humans, Animals and Species Nonconformity in Early Rabbinic Science" in *Jewish Studies Quarterly* and was Head Fellow of the Frankel Institute for the 2017-18 academic year.



Shelley Perlove delivered the keynote speech for the exhibition "Lines of Inquiry: Learning from Rembrandt" at Oberlin College. She also published her article, "Narrative, Ornament, and Politics in Maerten

van Heemskerck's Story of Esther (1564)" in *The Primacy of the Image in Northern European Art*.

Brian Schmidt was series editor for the Society of Biblical Literature series *Archaeology and Biblical Studies* and published three articles: "May Yahweh Bless You and Keep You... : More Musings on 'Cult' and Favissae at Kuntillet Ajrud," "Was There An Ancient Israelite Pandemonium?" and "Kuntillet Ajrud." He was also promoted to full professor in Near Eastern Studies and was a Visiting Research Scholar at the Pacific School of Religion, 2017-2018.

Rebecca Wollenberg received the David Noel Freedman Award for Excellence and Creativity in Hebrew Bible Scholarship from the Society of Biblical Literature and a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Past Fellows



Benjamin Baader published an article in the *Journal of Jewish Identities* titled "The Fabric of Jewish Coherence: From Glikl of Hameln to Franz Rosenzweig's Grandmother." He was also guest editor on the January

2018 special issue, *Gender Theory and Theorizing Jewishness*, for the same journal.

Mira Balberg had her book, *Blood for Thought: The Reinvention of Sacrifice in Early Rabbinic Literature*, published by the University of California Press.

Lila Berman wrote “How Americans Give: The Financialization of American Jewish Philanthropy” for *American Historical Review*.

Marc Caplan received a Senior Fellowship from the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna, Austria.

Susan C. Dessel was invited to exhibit in “Resistance” at City Lore Gallery, “Leave Your Swords at The Door” at Riverfront Gallery, and “Far From the Front Line” at the Evanston Art Center.



Kirsten Fermaglich published a piece entitled “Jews Changed Their Names, But Not at Ellis Island,” in *The Conversation*, which was picked up by the *Chicago Tribune*, Associated Press, *Los Angeles Times*, and *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Chaya Halberstam published an article in the *Journal of Ancient Judaism* titled “Legal Justice or Social Justice? Debating the Rule of Law in Tannaitic Literature.”

Alexandre Kedar coauthored *Emptied Lands: A Legal Geography of Bedouin Rights in the Negev* with Ahmad Amara and Oren Yiftachel.

Gil Klein released an article, “Forget The Landscape: Between Roman and Rabbinic Spatial Mnemonics” in *Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture*.

Rachel Kranson published *Ambivalent Embrace: Jewish Upward Mobility in Postwar America*, which received honorable mention in the First Book Award from the Immigration and Ethnic History Society. She also published an article, “From Women’s Rights to Religious Freedom: The Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the Politics of Abortion, 1970–1982” in *Devotions and Desires: Histories of Sexuality and Religion in the Twentieth Century United States*.

Michal Kravel-Tov’s book, *When The State Winks: The Performance of Jewish Conversion in Israel*, was released by Columbia University Press.



Miriamne Krummel published a book, *Jews in Medieval England: Teaching Representations of the Other* as a part of the New Middle Ages Series by Plgrave Macmillan and an article, “The Ritual Murder

Accusation As Medieval Invention: Linking Thomas of Monmouth’s William of Norwich, Matthew Paris’ Hugh of Lincoln, and Chaucer’s Litel Clergeon” released in *Jew-hatred from the Middle Ages to the Present Day*.

Alona Nitzan-Shifan was an Israel Institute Fellow at the University of Chicago and received both the Shapiro Award for Best Book in Israel Studies and the John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize for her new book, *Seizing Jerusalem: The Architecture of Unilateral Unification*. She also published three articles: “Jerusalemite Modernism: David Anatol Brutzkus and the Making of a Local Modern Language,” “On the Relentless Modernization of the Past: The Plan to Construct the ‘Kedem Center’ in the Givati Parking Lot in Jerusalem,” and “A Historical Opportunity: Landscape, Mamlachtiyut and the competition over the Israelites in the Construction of the National Park Surrounding Jerusalem’s Walls.”

Barry Trachtenberg’s book, *The Nazi Holocaust: Race, Refuge, and Remembrance*, was published by Bloomsbury Academic.

Veerle Vanden Daelen released two articles: “Making sure the data fit the researchers — Data identification and investigation in European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)” and “‘Art in a museum about the Holocaust and human rights’, in The Art of War. Defined by Conflict.” He also launched a website on Belgian journalist Maurice De Wilde.

Alumni

Robin Echt Axelrod (BA, 1983) was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to Michigan’s Genocide and Holocaust Education Council.

Jessica Evans (BA, 2008) joined the Anti-Defamation League as the Director of National Institutional Giving in September 2018.

Sara Feldman (PhD, 2006) accepted a position as Preceptor of Yiddish in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard.

Michele Freed (BA, 2015) was hired by the Anti-Defamation League as Associate Director of National Young Leadership.



Deborah Gurt (BA, 1994) received a Southern Jewish Historical Society project completion grant through the University of South Alabama Seed Grant in support of arts and humanities. She also published a review

of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in the journal *Reference Reviews*.

Saul Hankin (BA, 2013) was hired as a Quality Assurance Archivist by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Avery Robinson (MA, 2014) joined the Posen Library as a Senior Editorial Assistant.

Ronit Stahl (PhD, 2014) had her book, *Enlisting Faith: How the Military Chaplaincy Shaped Religion and State in Modern America*, published by the Harvard University Press.

Past Visiting Faculty

Hana Wirth-Nesher published an article, “Everyman and Nemesis in Newark: Philip Roth, Hebrew, and American Writing,” in *English Without Boundaries: Reading English from China to Canada*.



JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
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Save the Date!

YOSSI TURNER

Tuesday, October 9, 4:00 pm – Room 2022

GI JEWS: JEWISH AMERICANS IN WORLD WAR II, LISA ADES

Tuesday, November 6, 5:30 pm – UMMA Auditorium

THE YELLOW TICKET

Monday, November 12, 7:00 pm – Michigan Theater

EDDY PORTNOY

Tuesday, November 13, 4:00 pm – Room 2022

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