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JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2019

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

Yiddish Matters. A Yiddish language production of *Fiddler on the Roof* has once again extended its Broadway run, an Israeli TV series that is partially in Yiddish has been a runaway success on Netflix, a Yiddish language musical album was nominated for a Grammy award, summer backpackers in Europe are flocking to several Yiddish cultural festivals around the continent, and, here at the University of Michigan, enrollments in Yiddish language courses are once again on the rise. I even saw an article just today about how a candidate for the presidency of the United States is campaigning in Yiddish!



This year, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies welcomes fifteen scholars from around the world, who, under the leadership of Head Fellow and Samuel Shetzer Associate Professor of English and Judaic Studies

Julian Levinson, will spend a semester or year in residency at the University of Michigan to explore Yiddish from a variety of perspectives. The Frankel Center will also be presenting a series of public programs on the theme over the course of the year.

The multiple ways in which Yiddish matters today is indicative of the changing contours of Judaic Studies, as it becomes increasingly diverse and international. Several fellows are working on the global reach of Yiddish—its impact not only in Poland and Lithuania but also in France, South Africa, Suriname, and Peru. Yiddish translation and bilingualism are also topics our fellows will be exploring, as they consider the ways in which Yiddish functions as a fusion language, absorbing aspects of neighboring tongues and contributing

its own richness to the many places in which its speakers have lived. Other fellows are working on Yiddish responses to trauma, an important and, tragically, salient topic in Yiddish culture. And, of course, what would Yiddish culture—or life itself—be without food and poetry, two other topics we will be considering this year.

For many of its enthusiasts today, Yiddish suggests a type of intercultural conversation and understanding, rooted in shared histories.

I don't think the revived interest in Yiddish is solely a function of nostalgia. Rather, Yiddish offers something that many young people today are seeking— a way of reinterpreting the past by imagining alternative histories and suggesting future possibilities. Many Lithuanians and Poles, for instance, are seeking answers to modern problems in the Jewish cultures that no longer exist in their home countries, and many Jews around the world are turning back to Yiddish either as a religious or a secular means of expression that doesn't carry the weight of the last half century. Yiddish can provide a means of being subversive while drawing on traditional archetypes. Yiddish and the culture it represents is no longer just *loshn ashkenaz*, the language of Ashkenaz, or even *mame-loshn*, the mother tongue, but rather has become *taytsh*, a term that originally referenced the language's Germanic roots, but has since come to denote translation. For many of its enthusiasts today, Yiddish suggests a type of intercultural conversation and understanding, rooted in shared histories.

Similar themes of Jewish diversity, hybridity, and adaptability permeate the Frankel Center's course offerings and public events, as we continue to find new ways of engaging and inspiring students. That's why Yiddish matters.

On the Cover
HistoryLab course participants visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (see pg. 13)

Events

2019 Frankel Speaker Series

Dennis Ross

As part of the Frankel Speaker Series, which features events geared toward a student audience, the Frankel Center is bringing American diplomat and author Dennis Ross to the University of Michigan campus to speak about his new book, *Be Strong and of Good Courage: How Israel's Most Important Leaders Shaped its Destiny*. The event will be held in **Rackham Amphitheatre on the evening of November 6.**

Ross, currently counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at the Washington Institute, was one of the architects of American policy in Israel for presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. He has also served as Director of Policy Planning under President George H. W. Bush and the special Middle East coordinator under President Bill Clinton. During the Reagan administration, Ross served as director of Near East and South Asian affairs on the National Security Council staff and deputy director of the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment. He was awarded the Presidential Medal for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service by President Clinton, and Secretaries of State James Baker and Madeleine Albright presented him with the State Department's highest award.

Throughout his career, Ross created a close connection with five Israeli prime ministers: Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak, Ariel Sharon, and Benjamin

Netanyahu. His most recent book, which he will be discussing, celebrates the early leaders of Israel and assesses how their leadership secured a future for the nation. It also argues that the current trajectory of the country is transforming it from a Jewish democratic state to a binational Arab–Jewish state. The book was coauthored by David Makovsky, the Ziegler Distinguished Fellow at the Washington Institute and director of the Project on Arab–Israel Relations. Ross and Makovsky describe how past prime ministers could be an example for future leadership and share new ideas on how to implement policies that could, over time, lead to peaceful separation.

Henry Kissinger calls the book “a powerful statement on the style and principles of leadership that are critical for shaping the Middle East peace process” and Hillary Rodham Clinton wrote “for those of us who care deeply about Israel and the US–Israel relationship, Ross and Makovsky have done a real service. As Israel's leaders face a fateful choice about the future of the state and preserving its character, they tell the story of Ben–Gurion, Begin, Rabin, and Sharon. It is a story that can provide guidance for today's leaders in Israel and for all of us on the meaning of leadership.”

Ross' other publications have explored different aspects of the peace process, the former Soviet Union, arms control, and the greater Middle East. His 2004



book, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*, was called “a major contribution to the diplomatic history of the 20th century” by *Foreign Affairs*, and his 2015 *Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.–Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama* was awarded the 2015 National Jewish Book Award for history.

Mark Your Calendar: Dennis Ross, November 6, 7 pm, U–M Rackham Amphitheatre

2019 Helen and Louis Padnos Lecturer

Rachel Rubinstein

This November, Rachel Rubinstein, professor of American literature and Jewish studies at Hampshire College, will give the Louis and Helen Padnos Lectures. Rubinstein will give a talk at Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids on Sunday, November 17 and at the Frankel Center on Monday, November 18.

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 Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids each year to give a lecture. Past scholars have included Yossi Turner, Sarra Lev, and Jack Jacobs.



The topic for her lecture at Temple Emanuel originated from her work co-editing a volume for the Modern Language Association for the *Options for Teaching* series about education and Jewish American literature. The finished work will be the first collection of essays on teaching Jewish American literature. “We aimed to emphasize the global, multinational, multilingual, and multidisciplinary nature of Jewish American literature,” said Rubinstein. “Ideally, I would want an audience to walk away from this discussion with a new framework for thinking about Jewish American literature, and a sense of a complex, vigorous, and dynamic field that is absolutely relevant in today’s university classroom.”

In Ann Arbor, she will lecture on the Mexican Yiddish writer Jacobo Glantz and his daughter, historian and writer Margo Glantz. Margo Glantz is a significant scholar of colonial Mexican literature. Her most famous work, *Las genealogías*, chronicles her parents’ experiences of migration and her own coming of age as a Jewish woman in Mexico. Rubinstein believes that *Kristobal Kolon*, Jacobo Glantz’s epic poem retelling Christopher Columbus’ voyage from the point of view of Luis de Torres, an interpreter and the only Jewish crew member, was the original inspiration for his daughter’s future work. Rubinstein explains: “Written in a rich, deliberately multilingual Yiddish with Spanish, Taino, Latin, and Hebrew borrowings, Jacobo Glantz’s epic functions as critical counter-history, a wild reimagining of a history he knew so well.”

Rubinstein’s current research is focused on questioning what is traditionally thought of as American Jewish literature. She hopes to extend the current notion of both of these terms beyond how they are typically thought of and take them further west than the Lower East Side. Specifically, she is interested in Yiddish literature about the American West and Native peoples and the intersecting stories of Sephardi and Ashkenazi histories in Latin America.

“Yiddish writers were not creating in a small bubble or echo chamber—they were deeply engaged with the literary and cultural conversations happening in multiple languages around them, and were connected globally through transnational Yiddish networks,” says Rubinstein. “In many cases, they attracted the interest and attention of non-Yiddish speaking writers and artists, and these exchanges are also a crucial part of the story I want to tell.”

2020 David W. Belin Lecturer

Pamela Nadell

“What is the difference between a bookkeeper in the garment district and a Supreme Court justice?” Ruth Bader Ginsburg once asked, “One generation.”

On March 31, 2020, at the 30th David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs, Pamela Nadell, professor and Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History at American University and author of *America’s Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today*, will discuss the stories of how a group of American Jewish women from humble origins transformed the nation.

America’s Jewish Women tells the individual stories of both prominent Jewish Americans as well as the lesser-known women who created social change within smaller communities. “I expect that many in the audience will hear echoes of their own family stories,” she explained. “I hope that they will leave the lecture with a sense of the extraordinary power of this history and gain a deeper appreciation for the

multifarious ways Jewish women have contributed to American life and culture.”

Nadell is the author of *Women Who Would be Rabbis: A History of*

Women’s Ordination, 1889–1985, which was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award, and editor of *American Jewish Women’s History: A Reader* and *Women*

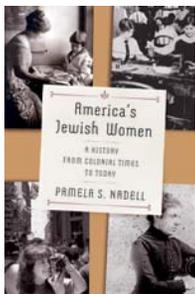


and American Judaism: Historical Perspectives. She is also a past president of the Association for Jewish Studies and a recipient of the American Jewish Historical Society’s Lee Max Friedman Award for distinguished service to the profession.

Writing a book with the scope of *America’s Jewish Women* presented exciting challenges, Nadell said. So many women “left legacies reverberating till this day.” The most significant challenge was to represent the diversity and breadth of Jewish women’s experiences: “I write about women who cheered as the new state of Israel was born and about those who criticized its politics, about those who secretly had illegal abortions and those who demanded abortion rights, about those who cherished Orthodox

Judaism’s gender differences and those who advanced women’s equality within the other branches of American Judaism.” The *New York Times* agreed that Nadell “creates an extremely readable portrait of Jewish women collectively realizing the potential to change their destiny.”

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, Ruth Messinger, and James Loeffler. Each lecture is subsequently published in the Belin Lecture Series.



Yiddish

As part of its theme year on “Yiddish Matters,” the Frankel Institute is presenting a wide variety of events in the coming academic year that will explore different facets of the history and culture of Yiddish. The Head Fellow in the fall semester will be Samuel Shetzer Associate Professor of American Jewish Studies Julian Levinson; he will be joined in this role in the winter by Justin Cammy from Smith College.

The year will kick off with a concert by **Daniel Kahn**, **Yeva Lapsker**, and **Jake Shulman-Ment**. In collaboration with the School of Music, the Frankel Institute will host the free concert September 26, 7:30 pm at Britton Recital Hall in the Earle V. Moore Building. Detroit-born, Berlin-based singer, songwriter, translator, and U-M alumnus Daniel Kahn will return to Ann Arbor for an intimate

polyglot program in Yiddish, English, Russian, German, and French. Featuring images and surtitles designed and projected by co-translator and partner Yeva Lapsker and acclaimed violinist Jamie Shulman-Ment, Kahn’s songscape traverses the borders of language, culture, history, and politics and draws on Kahn’s own original songs and translations of Yiddish folk songs.

Drawing by Eric Drooker



The Institute has also planned a series of lectures and panels that will showcase the fellows’ research and cover diverse aspects of contemporary Yiddish studies. U-M professors Geneviève Zubrzycki and Benjamin Paloff will join fellow Karolina Szymaniak November 19 to discuss the revival of Yiddish culture and language in contemporary Poland in a panel titled “**Yiddish in Poland: Past, Present, and Future.**” Head fellow Julian Levinson will be a part of a panel discussion on **Yiddish and Trauma**, together with Harriet Murav and Hannah Pollin-Galay, on February 25.

On December 5, 4:00 pm in Room 2022 of the Thayer Building, there will be a panel entitled “**Translating from Yiddish: New Approaches in Theory and Practice.**” The panel will address the unique challenges of translating Yiddish into other languages and how translations are affected by phenomena such as the rise of Zionism, the Holocaust, and changing relations between American Jews and the immigrant experience. It will feature Frankel Institute fellows Anita Norich,

Stay tuned to the Frankel Center’s website, Facebook, and Twitter for more information on upcoming events.

Matters



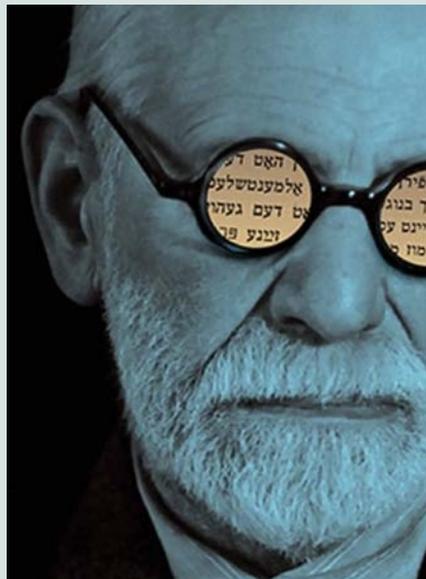
Yaakov Herskovits, and Julian Levinson. Norich and Herskovitz will both be returning to Ann Arbor to participate in the Institute Theme Year after retiring and graduating from U–M, respectively.

The theme year will also include two larger symposia. On October 29, in addition to guest scholar Sunny Yudkoff of University of Wisconsin–Madison, fellows Justin Cammy, Eve Jochnowitz, Saul Zaritt, and U–M professor Mikhail Krutikov will discuss the place of contemporary Yiddish in current Jewish culture in an event titled, “Yiddish In and Out of Context.” On March 16, Jack Kugelmass, Dov–Ber Kerler, Amy Kerner, Eli Rosenblatt, and Nick Underwood will discuss the **Global Role of Yiddish**.

In addition, there will be individual lectures featuring guest scholars. Zohar Weiman–Kelman will be speaking on October 16 in Rackham Graduate School’s East Conference Room at 4 pm. Weiman–Kelman’s lecture, “**Queer Expectations: a Genealogy of Jewish Women’s Poetry**,” brings together Jewish women’s poetry in English, Yiddish, and Hebrew from the late 19th century through the 1970s to explore how Jewish women writers turned to poetry to write new histories.

On December 3, Naomi Seidman, Chancellor Jackman Professor of the Arts in the Department of Religion and the Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies at the University of Toronto, will deliver a talk entitled “**The Navel of the Dream: Freud and/in Yiddish**,” which will explore the role of Yiddish in Freud’s writings and their translational afterlife.

On January 14, David Roskies, who teaches Yiddish and modern Jewish literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, will speak about how first-generation tellers of tales in Eastern Yiddish learned to message their competing truth claims through dialogical means. Roskies has published extensively on modern Yiddish storytelling, Jewish responses to catastrophe, Holocaust literature and memory.



Nancy Rosenblum, Frisco Graphics

Upcoming Events

Queer Expectations: a Genealogy of Jewish Women’s Poetry

Wednesday, October 16, 4 pm
Rackham Graduate School,
East Conf. Room

Yiddish In and Out of Context

Tuesday, October 29, 1 pm
Rackham Graduate School,
West Conf. Room

Yiddish in Poland: Past, Present, and Future

Tuesday, November 19, 4 pm
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.,
Ann Arbor

The Navel of the Dream: Freud and/in Yiddish

Tuesday, December 3, 4 pm
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.,
Ann Arbor

Translating from Yiddish: New Approaches in Theory and Practice

Thursday, December 5, 1 pm
Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.,
Ann Arbor

Maya Barzilai

Associate Director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies; Associate Professor

Maya Barzilai is an associate professor of Hebrew literature and Jewish cultures at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and the Department of Middle East Studies—and in January 2019, she also became the new Associate Director of the Frankel Center.

Barzilai joined the Frankel Center in 2009 and was a Frankel Institute Fellow during the 2012–2013 academic theme year, “Borders of Jewishness.” In 2016, she published *Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters*, which received the 2017 Jordan Schnitzer Book Prize and an honorable mention for the Salo Baron First Book Prize. The book explores the mass appeal of the golem, an artificial clay monster,

in the German-speaking world around World War I, as well as the ongoing metaphoric association of golems with war and its technologies in 20th-century American and Israeli cultures.

Her current research concerns German-Hebrew translation practices in the early to mid-20th century. She has uncovered debates about the necessity of translation and its national functions within Hebrew culture. Barzilai also continues to research Weimar film, and is currently completing a short book devoted to the 1920 film, *The Golem, How He Came into the World*.

As the Judaic Studies Associate Director, she is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the undergraduate curriculum and of the Judaic Studies Graduate

Certificate. “I am honored to serve the Frankel Center as its Associate Director for curriculum matters, collaborating with Michael Goldberg, our student services coordinator,” said Barzilai. “In my first term, I set up a new curriculum committee in order to oversee our course offerings for 2019, and embarked on changes to the structure of the Judaic Studies major.”

“Professor Barzilai is an outstanding scholar who brings fresh ideas into the Judaic Studies program. Her interest in expanding the limits of what we think of as Judaic Studies is a

perfect complement to the ongoing diversification of our course offerings,” said Frankel Center Director Jeffrey Veidlinger.

As Associate Director, one of Barzilai’s goals is to create a more open and inclusive environment for all students interested in Jewish history, religion, and culture. As she explains: “Many of the staples of the Jewish Studies curriculum—including, but not limited to, Holocaust studies, migration, law, civil rights, intercultural exchange, translation studies—are of fundamental importance to any U-M student, and we would like to foreground these topics in our course offerings. For instance, we are planning a new introductory history course focused on Jewish expulsions, migrations, and diasporic communities across the globe.” The Judaic Studies curriculum will also offer more graduate-level courses, and Barzilai has put emphasis, for graduate students pursuing the certificate, on professionalization opportunities, preparation for the job market, and events that bring together students and faculty to reflect upon the field of Jewish Studies.



Mostafa Hussein

LSA Collegiate Fellow

Starting this fall, Mostafa Hussein will join the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies as a Collegiate Fellow of LSA and the National Center for Institutional Diversity, an initiative aimed at recruiting exceptional early-career scholars in all liberal arts fields who are committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the academy. Hussein's work focuses on Jewish engagement with Islam in the late Ottoman Empire, Mandatory Palestine, and the early years of the State of Israel.

Hussein received his B.A. and M.A. from al-Azhar University in Cairo, with a major in Judaic Studies and minor in Arabic and Islamic Studies. His dissertation, "Hebrew Scholarship on Islam, 1894–1950," completed at Brandeis University's Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department, explored the ways that Hebrew scholars in late Ottoman Palestine and the British Mandate studied Islam and the cultures of the Middle East. He argues that the Jewish intellectuals in Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine who studied their Arab neighbors were profoundly invested in fostering a mixed culture and integrating Arabic culture "to produce a model of parity and cooperation." "In my graduate studies," he said, "I experienced firsthand the complexity of narratives surrounding contemporary Muslim–Jewish relations." Studying controversial issues in Israeli social, cultural, and political history, he continued, "constantly reminds me of the sensibilities of Arabs and Jews." His research and teaching reflects the richness, diversity, and complexity of Jewish–Arab interactions, and the points at which these societies share common understandings of the world.

This will not be Hussein's first time in Ann Arbor. He attended the 2016–2017 Frankel Institute on "Israeli Histories, Societies, and Cultures: Comparative Approaches," when he was on an Andrew Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship and working on a project titled "The Refraction of Arabo–Islamic Civilization in Hebrew and Israeli Cultures." Since then, he has been at the University of Southern California on a Society of Fellows' scholarship, where he has been developing his book, *Islam and the Construction of a Jewish Culture in Late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine*.

While at U–M, Hussein looks forward to teaching courses on Jews and Arabs. "Though the conflict going on in the region is an important aspect of that relationship," he said, "I am more interested in contextualizing the evolution of that relationship over the course of time, seeing the conflict as only one dimension in a rather multidimensional relationship between both peoples." He will also be teaching a course on Jerusalem as a city of three faiths, looking closely at the sacred spaces that link the Abrahamic religions to the land.

Hussein believes that by studying Judaism and Islam together, students will realize how the cultures are connected. "I really enjoy studying works where the intertwined world between Judaism and Islam becomes apparent."



Alumni Spotlight

Rachel Robinson

B.S. in Brain, Behavior, & Cognitive Science with Judaic Studies minor, 2009

Rachel Robinson graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and Judaic Studies minor from the University of Michigan in 2009. Her minor in Judaic Studies steered her into her first professional position at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. This eventually led to her current position as Director of Annual Giving at Cleveland State University. In an interview with *Frankely Speaking*, she talked about how her classes at the Frankel Center prepared her for her career in higher education development.

Describe your job responsibilities:

I am the Director of Annual Giving at Cleveland State University. I oversee fundraising and stewardship strategy across 10 colleges and schools. These donations support scholarships, engaged learning opportunities, student life, faculty research, and more.

Why is your work rewarding?

In my line of work, I have the opportunity to build relationships around the causes that people care about the most. My position allows me to share the positive impact that one can make as a philanthropist (through time, talent, and/or money) and see the results in real time as funds are put to work immediately.

Tell us about studying at the Frankel Center:

My classes through the Frankel Center fulfilled my hunger for education in an unexpected way. I quickly became immersed in the content and grew as a student and person of the world with the help of dedicated teachers and insightful classmates. The experience reignited my passion for the Jewish community and ultimately changed my professional trajectory.

How did your education prepare you for your current job?

In the midst of my experience with the Frankel Center, I never would have guessed how aligned my education and career path would come to be. I left school with a deeper understanding of the Jewish people's history and place in the world today and was inspired to accept my first job at the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Had it not been for my Judaic Studies minor I would not have even considered it.

While my Brain, Behavior, & Cognitive Science major taught me how to identify and navigate different personalities, my minor taught me an appreciation of the past and the role we must play in sustaining the future. I believe I am a better and more capable fundraiser today because of my educational experiences.

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

If you have the opportunity to take a course, do it! I thought I was going to supplement a science-heavy semester and ended up minoring in an area that sparked interest and taught me to think differently about my relationship to Judaism and my role in the world.



Judaic Studies Faculty Collaborate on Research Projects

Frankel Center faculty have received funding for collaborative research through MCubed, a program that supports research from interdisciplinary faculty-led teams at the University of Michigan.

Professor Rebecca Wollenberg led a team of faculty from Judaic Studies, Middle East Studies, Anthropology, History, Communications, and Women's Studies. The project, "Remapping Peoples of the Book: Theorizing Abrahamic Vernaculars," aims to bring scholars together to discuss the cultural intersections of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism.

The idea for the series started when a few of the Frankel Center faculty realized they had all been grappling with questions around how the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities they study weren't relating to each other in the way that existing models suggest they should behave. Wollenberg explains: "As the examples piled up, we realized that further conversation among ourselves and with scholars outside the University of Michigan might suggest new models of thinking about these phenomena that would account better for what we were seeing on the ground." Additional faculty participating include Ryan Szpiech, Ruth Tsoffar, Bryan Roby, and Hussein Fancy.

Another team of MCubed faculty and librarians, including Shachar Pinsker, Devi Mays, Bryan Roby, Middle East Studies Librarian Eryn Kropf, and visualization librarian Justin Joque, have focused on digital mapping to deal with the challenge of studying "Jewish space" and "Jewish geography." These scholars seek to use digital archives and mapping techniques (ArcGIS, Scalar) in order to better understand the Jewish diaspora, patterns of migration, and multilingual networks in literature, journalism, and art.

In addition to the MCubed teams, Judaic Studies professors Mays, Roby, and Deborah Dash Moore participated in a Humanities Collaboratory 5x5 Incubator Grant team. Their project, "Making Sense of Diasporas: Pedagogy and Public Engagement," is developing a "suitcase exercise" which asks students to select 10–15 items they would bring if they had to move to a new country quickly. The exercise is designed to help students understand and explore diasporic identities and issues of migration. Other participants in the team include Kropf and Assistant Professor of Germanic Languages and

Literatures/History Kira Thurman. Designed to spark compelling conversations, 5x5 Incubator Grants bring together small groups of faculty, lecturers, research scientists, librarians, curators, postdocs, and other university scholars from a range of fields for a short-term engagement in exploring common interests.

The Open Access Rabbinics Project (OARP) was initiated by Rachel Rafael Neis of the University of Michigan, Chaya Halberstam of King's University College, and Sarra Lev of Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, in collaboration with U–M colleagues at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, as well as James Tucker of University of Toronto. OARP's goal is to open Rabbinics texts and scholarly methods to a broad audience of undergraduate and graduate students, scholars within and outside of Jewish Studies, and the wider interested public. It aims to create a web-based application that will provide a comprehensive bibliographic list of critical editions of Rabbinic texts (and links to online resources where available), translations of primary sources into English, dissertations on selected topics, and links to digital humanities projects related to Rabbinics, Jewish studies, and ancient studies.

"As the examples piled up, we realized that further conversation among ourselves and with scholars outside the University of Michigan might suggest new models of thinking about these phenomena that would account better for what we were seeing on the ground."

REBECCA WOLLENBERG

In addition, there will be a guide to Rabbinic literature that aims to educate the user on the vast array of Rabbinic texts, including their contents and academic citation methods. This portal aims to open up and demystify the study of Rabbinics in an effort to create non-exclusionary models of knowledge sharing, thereby expanding the field beyond visions of expertise that often are indebted to particular configurations of gender, race, religion, and ability. The project is nearing its initial alpha testing and aims to have a public beta version available for use in December.

Judaic Studies Offers Jewish Foodways Course

Students enrolled in “Jewish Foodways,” a new course offered by Professor Deborah Dash Moore and Amanda Fisher of Amanda’s Kitchen, examined Jewish food consumption and preparation from biblical times until today. Students learned about the development of kosher laws and their meanings and explored how the laws of kashrut interacted with different food cultures around the world. There was also an emphasis on the relationships of food to Jewish religion and culture, paying attention to both Ashkenazi and Sephardi cooking traditions.

Amanda Fisher has also served as the Jewish Studies caterer for many years. “She is such a good kosher cook,” remarked Dash Moore, “one who is conscious of how foodways develop and change. I jumped at the chance to co-teach with her so that I would be able to learn from her.”

“I decided to embrace the challenge of teaching the hands-on part of the course and taking the students on a culinary journey from biblical times and holiday traditions to Israeli Street food and beyond,” Fisher said. “I hope they come away with a better understanding of the rich and complex history and traditions of Jewish foodways.”

The course is focused on regional food practices in several time periods from medieval to modern, concentrating on how practices were affected by migration patterns, capitalism, and industrial food production. “Food is so central and primal,” Fisher said. “You can learn so much about Jewish culture from it.”

Dash Moore and Fisher embraced a hands-on experiential dimension in developing the course, including food demonstrations, making a variety of different traditional—and not so traditional—kosher foods together, as well as taking field trips to both a kosher and “kosher-style” deli. Dash More hopes students will leave the class with an understanding of the importance of foodways in Jewish cultures, as well as their gendered character and their relation to migration, industrialization, and social and religious change. “The study of foodways is a relatively new field in academia, one that possesses practical dimensions. It is good for Judaic Studies to be innovative and experimental, engaging some of the most recent forms and topics of scholarship.”



HistoryLab Course

“Collaborative Research in the Holocaust”

In the winter term of 2019, Frankel Center director Jeffrey Veidlinger and Professor of History and Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Initiatives at the Rackham Graduate School, Rita Chin, co-led the first graduate-level HistoryLab program offered by the Department of History. “History 716: Collaborative Research in the Holocaust” was a partnership between the University of Michigan and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., where Veidlinger serves on the Academic Committee. Ten University of Michigan students connected with the museum’s curators via video conference throughout the semester as they worked on creating online modules that curate original sources for learning about the Holocaust.

The class was developed to train students in collaborative research methods and practices and to explore new ways of contributing to public understanding of the humanities. Two teams of five LSA graduate students created individual modules for *Experiencing History*, an online teaching tool used by the museum. One team focused on Nazi Ideals and American Society and the other on Everyday Fascism in Europe. The class identified primary-source materials from the research collections of the museum and wrote analytical essays on the material for public consumption and educational use.

“Since the Holocaust Museum is an independent establishment of the United States government operating as a public-private partnership, there are a whole bunch of stakeholders involved,” Veidlinger explains. “Typically, we encourage our graduate students to find something new, to be creative and original,” he continues. “But in this case, we are trying to reach a consensus viewpoint. It’s an altogether different skill and one that we need to be teaching.” The class is part of a wider initiative in graduate education to develop transferable skill sets and to encourage students to leverage their expertise for the public good.

“There are so few experiences like this in grad school,” said graduate student Michael Martin, “and seeing the practical applications of our research skills while also developing them further was really refreshing and rewarding.”

In February, the class traveled to Washington to meet with the museum staff in person and to present their work. They received critiques and collaborated with a number of stakeholders in the project, including museum curators and professors from other universities. The students also had a chance to explore the museum’s archives while visiting. Before they arrived, they were able to request primary-source documents relating to their projects, including photographs, films, testimonies, and artifacts.

Create a free account online at perspectives.ushmm.org to view the final versions of their projects.



Meet the 2019–20 Frankel Institute Fellows



Justin Cammy

Smith College

“The Yiddish Trace in Contemporary Jewish: Fiction and Popular Culture”

Justin Cammy is associate professor of comparative literature and director of the Program in Jewish Studies at Smith College, where he was the recipient of the Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching. He is also adjunct associate professor and graduate faculty in German studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and senior fellow at the Goldreich Institute for Yiddish at Tel Aviv University. Cammy’s publications range from essays on the origins of modern Yiddish literature (*The Judgment of Shomer*) to the Yiddish literary group Young Vilna. He recently published the introduction to *The Full Pomegranate*, a new English edition of selected poems by Abraham Sutzkever. He just completed the first-ever translation into English of Sutzkever’s memoir of the Vilna Ghetto.



Yaakov Herskovitz

Tel-Aviv University

“Bilingualism Reimagined: Yiddish–Hebrew Literature in an Age of Monolingualism”

Yaakov Herskovitz received his Ph.D. from the Department of Middle East Studies and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. He is currently a postdoctoral Fellow at the Kipp Center for Hebrew Literature and Culture at Tel Aviv University, where he continues his work on Hebrew–Yiddish bilingual writers, focusing on practices of self-translation. He has published on these matters as well as on contemporary Israeli literature, and is currently working on a book manuscript

titled *Bilingualism Reimagined: Hebrew and Yiddish Self-Translation in the Twentieth Century*.



Eve Jochnowitz

Workmen’s Circle and YIVO

“A kosherer top un a kosherer left: Yiddish Reactions to Modern Jewish Food Practices”

Eve Jochnowitz, Yiddish instructor at the YIVO institute and the Workmen’s Circle, has been teaching Yiddish language, culture, and literature, as well as Yiddish foodways and dance, for 25 years. She worked for several years as a cook and baker in New York and received her Ph.D. in Jewish culinary ethnography in the department of Performance Studies from New York University. She has lectured both in the United States and abroad on food in Jewish tradition, religion, and ritual, as well as on food in Yiddish performance and popular culture. *The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook (Fania Lewando’s Vegetarish–dietisher kokhbukh)* translated, annotated, and adapted for the modern kitchen, was published in 2015.



Dov-Ber Kerler

Indiana University

“By the Wayside: Contemporary Yiddish Poetry and the Post-postvernacular”

Dov-Ber Kerler holds the Cohn Chair in Yiddish Studies and is professor of Jewish Studies and Germanic Studies at Indiana University. His main fields of interest are the dialectology, sociology, and linguistic analysis of Yiddish. He is the author of *The Origins of Modern Literary Yiddish* and various papers and articles on Yiddish language, dialectology, and literary history. He has also edited, co-edited, and

published literary and scholarly works in Yiddish and two Yiddish studies collections in English. In 2002 he co-founded, together with Jeffrey Veidlinger, the Indiana University Archives of Historical & Ethnographic Yiddish Memories Project, which houses and curates close to 900 hours of oral history Yiddish interviews and ethnographic video that were collected in over 20 expeditions in over 100 different localities throughout southeastern Europe and parts of Central Europe in 2002–2017. He is also a prolific Yiddish poet under the pen name Boris Karloff and has published six collections of poetry in Britain and Israel.



Amy Kerner

Brown University

“Fragile Inheritance: Yiddish in Buenos Aires, 1930–1970”

Amy Kerner is a historian of modern Europe and Latin America whose work focuses on the interactions of political and linguistic identities among immigrant and minority populations in the 19th and 20th centuries. Her dissertation, “Fragile Inheritance: The Fate of Yiddish in Argentina (1930–1970)” shows how Yiddish–Jewish Argentines’ shared ethnic language interacted with and responded to Argentinian cultural nationalism. She is currently thinking about the repercussions of mass migration, Peronism, and revolutionary nationalism on the history of Yiddish in Argentina, as well as how the case of Jewish Argentina changes our understanding of the global fate of Yiddish.



Mikhail Krutikov
University of Michigan
“Urban Space in Jewish Literature(s)”

Mikhail Krutikov is professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic

Studies at the University of Michigan. He is the author of *Yiddish Fiction and the Crisis of Modernity, 1905–1914*, *From Kabbalah to Class Struggle: Expressionism, Marxism, and Yiddish Literature in the Life and Work of Meir Wiener*, and *Der Nister’s Soviet Years: Yiddish Writer as Witness to the People*. He co-edited nine collections on Yiddish literature and culture, most recently *Three Cities of Yiddish: St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Moscow*, co-edited with Gennady Estraikh. He has been a cultural columnist for the *Yiddish Forward* since 1999. A collection of his Yiddish essays came out in Israel in 2018 under the title *Tsvishn shures: notitsn vegn yidisher kultur* (Between Lines: Notes on Jewish Culture).



Jack Kugelmass
University of Florida
“Traveling in Yiddish”

Jack Kugelmass is professor of Anthropology and the Melton Legislative Professor at the University of Florida. He was previously professor

of Anthropology and director of the Folklore Program at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and professor in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program and the Director and Lowe Professor of Holocaust and Modern Jewish Studies at Arizona State University. He is editor of *Between Two Worlds: Ethnographic Essays on American Jewry*; *Going Home: How American Jews Invent the Old Country*; *Key Texts in American Jewish Culture*; and *Jews, Sports,*

and the Rites of Citizenship; co-author of *Let There Be Laughter* and *From A Ruined Garden*; and author of *Masked Culture: The Village Halloween Parade* and *The Miracle of Intervale Avenue*. He is also the author *Sifting the Ruins: Émigré Jewish Journalists’ Return Visits to the Old Country, 1946–1948*, which was published by the Frankel Center as volume 23 of the Belin Lecture Series in American Jewish Affairs.



Julian Levinson
University of Michigan
“A Translation of Isaiah Spiegel’s *Flamen fun der erd* (Flames from the Earth), an Autobiographical Novel of the Łódź Ghetto”

Julian Levinson is the

Samuel Shetzer Professor of American Jewish Studies and associate professor of English at the University of Michigan. His publications include *Exiles on Main Street: Jewish American Writers and American Literary Culture* (Indiana University Press; winner of the National Jewish Book Award for American Jewish Studies, 2008) and articles about topics such as Holocaust representation in American movies, American Jewish poetry, and Jewish storytelling. His work in Yiddish studies includes articles on Yiddish responses to Walt Whitman, the uses of English in Yiddish American literature, and the poetry of Moyshe–Leyb Halpern in relation to international literary modernism. His translations of poems by Halpern, Aron Glanz–Leyeles, Reuben Ludwig, and Chaim Grade have appeared in *Tikkun*, *Jewish Currents*, *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, and *In Geveb*.



Harriet Murav
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
“Archive of Violence: The Literature of Abandonment and the Russian Civil War (1917–1922)”

Harriet Murav is the

Catherine and Bruce Bastian Professor of Global and Transnational Studies, and a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and in the Program in Comparative and World Literatures at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign; she is also editor of *Slavic Review*. Murav is the author of *Holy Foolishness: Dostoevsky’s Novels & the Poetics of Cultural Critique*, *Russia’s Legal Fictions*, which was awarded the MLA 1999 Scaglione Prize for Studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures; *Identity Theft: The Jew in Imperial Russia and the Case of Avraam Uri Kovner*; *Music From a Speeding Train: Jewish Literature in Post–Revolution Russia*; David Bergelson’s *Strange New World*, and co-translator of David Bergelson’s novel, *Judgment*.



Antia Norich
University of Michigan
“Women’s Imaginative Prose in Yiddish”

Anita Norich is the Tikva Frymer–Kensky Collegiate Professor Emerita of English and Judaic Studies at the

University of Michigan. Her most recent book, *A Jewish Refugee in New York*, is a translation of a Yiddish novel by Kadya Molodovsky. She is also the author of *Writing in Tongues: Yiddish Translation in the 20th Century*; *Discovering Exile: Yiddish and Jewish American Literature in America During the Holocaust*; and *The Homeless*

Imagination in the Fiction of Israel Joshua Singer, and co-editor of *Languages of Modern Jewish Cultures: Comparative Perspectives*; *Jewish Literatures and Cultures: Context and Intertext*; and *Gender and Text in Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literatures*. She translates Yiddish literature, and teaches, lectures, and publishes on a range of topics concerning modern Jewish cultures, Yiddish language and literature, Jewish American literature, and Holocaust literature.



Hannah Pollin-Galay

Tel-Aviv University

“My Foreign Mother Tongue: Khurbn Yiddish and the Cultural Contours of Trauma”

Hannah Pollin-Galay is assistant professor (senior lecturer) in the Department of Literature at Tel Aviv University, where she is also the Yiddish Studies M.A. program adviser. She researches and teaches on Holocaust Studies, Yiddish literature, and all the ways that these two fields intersect. Her first book, *Ecologies of Witnessing: Language, Place and Holocaust Testimony*, was published by Yale University Press in 2018. Her scholarly articles have appeared in journals such as *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, *Jewish Social Studies*, and *Jewish Quarterly Review*. She has also published articles for the broader public in journals such as *The Nation* and *Boston Review*. Before entering academia, Pollin-Galay was Director of Education at Yiddishkayt LA, where she launched a Yiddish-language program for high school and elementary schoolchildren.



Eli Rosenblatt

Georgetown University

“Enlightening the Skin: Yiddish Culture in the Black Atlantic”

Eli Rosenblatt received his Ph.D. in Jewish Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. His dissertation examined the reception of racial and racist language in the Yiddish literature of Eastern

Europe and southern Africa. He is currently working on a book about the nexus of Jewish culture and racial politics in four urban complexes. He has taught at UC-Berkeley, George Washington University, and Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service.



Karolina Szymaniak

University of Wrocław

“Entangled Histories of Yiddish Polish Cultural Contacts in the First Half of the 20th Century (up to 1948)”

Karolina Szymaniak is assistant professor at the Jewish Studies Department at the University of Wrocław and Research Fellow at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Her research interests range across modern Yiddish literature, Polish-Jewish cultural relations, politics of memory, theories of modernism and of the avant-garde. In addition to having taught Yiddish language and culture throughout Poland and Europe, she has also served as a consultant for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Museum of Modern Art in Łódź. Her book on the Polish-Yiddish modernist writer Debora Vogel was published in 2006 in Poland. She co-edited: *Warszawska awangarda jidysz (Warsaw Yiddish Avant-garde)*, *Dialog poetów (Dialogue of Poets)*, *Montages. Debora Vogel and the New City Legend*, and *Moja dzika koza. Antologia poetek jidysz (My wild goat. Anthology of women Yiddish poets)*. She is the editor of Rachel Auerbach’s ghetto writings, which received the 2016 Polityka History Award for the best edition of sources.



Nick Underwood

University of California Berkeley

“Plural Jewish Communities: Yiddish Culture and Jewish Migration in Post-Holocaust France”

Nick Underwood has been a Visiting Fellow in the History of Migration at the German Historical Institute West and Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of

European Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and a Visiting Scholar at the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University. He has taught at Sonoma State University, Napa Valley College, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado-Boulder in modern European and Jewish history in 2016; his first book manuscript is titled *Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France*. He has begun work on a second book project, *Plural Jewish Communities: Yiddish Culture, Jewish Migration, and the Making of Post-Holocaust France*. His articles have appeared in *Jewish Social Studies*; *French Politics, Culture & Society*; *East European Jewish Affairs*; *Urban History*; and *Archives Juives*. He also serves as managing editor for the journals *American Jewish History* and *East European Jewish Affairs* and is project manager for the digital humanities consortium the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project.



Saul Zaritt

Harvard University

“Yiddish, Translation, and Jewish Language Afterlives: A Taytsh Manifesto”

Saul Noam Zaritt is an assistant professor of Yiddish literature in the departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. His research on modern Jewish writing focuses on the politics of translation, examining how writers contend with the malleability of Jewish vernaculars in transcultural contexts. He received his Ph.D. from the Jewish Theological Seminary and has held fellowships at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and Washington University in St. Louis. He is a founding editor of *In geveb*, an open-access digital journal of Yiddish studies. He has published essays and articles in *Prooftexts*, *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, and *American Literary History*, among others.

Frankel Ink



Leora Auslander, Past Institute Fellow (2009–2010), **Objects of War: The Material Culture of Conflict and Displacement**, Cornell University Press

Sara Blair, Professor, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, **How the Other Half Looks: The Lower East Side and the Afterlives of Images**, Princeton University Press, **Remaking Reality: U.S. Documentary Culture after 1945** (with Joseph Entin and Franny Nudelman), University of North Carolina

Rick Bonnie, Past Institute Fellow (2017–2018), **Being Jewish in Galilee, 100–200 CE: An Archaeological Study**, Brepols

Gabriele Boccaccini, Professor, Department of Middle East Studies, **Reading the Gospel of John's Christology as Jewish Messianism** (edited by Benjamin E. Reynolds and Gabriele Boccaccini), Brill; **Wisdom Poured out like Water: Studies on Jewish and Christian Antiquity in Honor of Gabriele Boccaccini**, edited by Ellens, J. Harold, Oliver, Isaac W., von Ehrenkrook, Jason, Waddell, James, Zurawski, Jason M., De Gruyter

Monica Colominas Aparicio, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2018–2019), **The Religious Polemics of the Muslims of Late Medieval Iberia: Identity and Religious Authority in Mudejar Islam**, Brill

Harvey Goldberg, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2012–2013), **Anthropology and Hebrew Bible Studies: Modes of Interchange and Interpretation**, Brill

Kirsten Fermaglich, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2015–2016), **A Rosenberg By Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America**, NYU Press

Mikhail Krutikov, Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, **Tsvishn shures: Notitsn vegn yidisher kultur**, National Agency for Yiddish Culture, Israel; **Der Nister's Soviet Years: Yiddish Writer as Witness to the People**, Indiana University Press

Ellen Muehlberger, Associate Professor, Department of Middle East Studies, **Moment of Reckoning: Imagined Death and its Consequences in Late Ancient Christianity**, Oxford University Press

Anita Norich, Tikva Frymer-Kensky Collegiate Professor Emerita of English Language and Literature, Professor

Emerita of English Language and Literature, Professor Emerita of Judaic Studies, **A Jewish Refugee in New York: A Novel by Kadya Molodovsky**, translated by Anita Norich, Indiana University Press

Shelley Perlove, Professor Emerita, Department of the History of Art, **Visual Typology in Early Modern Europe: Continuity and Expansion**, Brepols Publishing

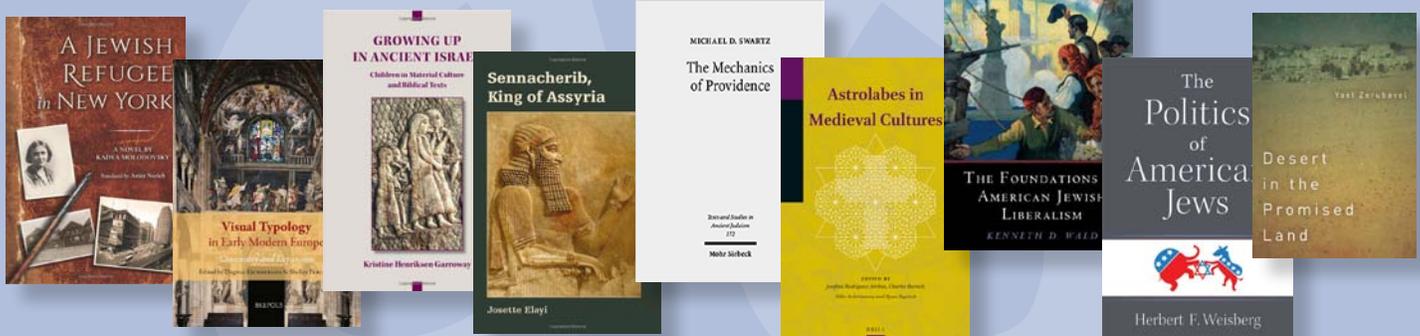
Michael Swartz, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2017–2018), **The Mechanics of Providence: The Workings of Ancient Jewish Magic and Mysticism**, Mohr Siebeck

Ryan Szpiech, Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, **Astrolabes in Medieval Cultures**, Brill

Herbert Weisberg, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2010–2011), **The Politics of American Jews**, University of Michigan Press

Kenneth Wald, Past Visiting Faculty, **Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism**, Cambridge University Press

Yael Zerubavel, Past Frankel Institute Fellow (2016–2017), **Desert in the Promised Land**, Stanford University Press



2019 Student Funding

Twenty-one students—thirteen graduates and eight undergraduates—were awarded funding in the 2018–2019 academic year from Judaic Studies to do research, participate in summer seminars, and study abroad.

Bell Family Fund



Judaic studies minor **Dalia Gatoff** and Judaic studies major **Alex Harris** were able to attend the iEngage Fellowship in Israel over winter break. Gatoff commented, “I was privileged to spend a week of my winter break learning at the Shalom Hartman

Institute through their program iEngage. It was a unique opportunity to contextualize what I had been learning in my Judaic studies classes. iEngage provided the students on the program a chance to meet different inhabitants of Israel who had varying stories about their experience with the state of Israel. This really connected to my classes on the ‘Arab Israeli Conflict’ and ‘What is Judaism.’”

Brandt Challenge Fellowship

Nora Greenstein attended the JPRO Network conference in Detroit as a part of her involvement with the Jewish Communal Leadership Program.



Sam Shuman, a graduate student in anthropology and Judaic studies, spent April in New York to do research among Jewish diamond traders and brokers in New York City. “I was there to conduct the last phase of my dissertation research, which focuses

on the cutting out, or ‘disintermediation,’ of brokers from the global diamond supply-chain. The fellowship enabled me to live in New York and conduct research within the insular and secretive world of the diamond industry and among the Hasidim who work within it.”

Delta Phi Epsilon Scholarships

Dory Fox, a graduate student in English language and literature and Judaic studies, received funding to support continued work on her thesis, “The Biological Imagination in Twentieth-Century Jewish American Culture.” Her dissertation examines works of fiction, poetry, photography, and autobiography through the biological theories of inheritance that these works put forward.

Frankel Center Director’s Fund

Graduate Students **Yael Kenan** (comparative literature and Judaic studies), **Hannah Roussel** (history and Judaic studies), and **Shira Schwartz** (comparative literature and Judaic studies) attended the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Boston last December.

Frankel Family Fund

Graduate student in Middle East studies and Judaic studies **Michail Kitsos** received funding to continue research on his thesis over the summer, which examines rabbinic multi-vocal narratives and Christian anti-Jewish dialogues, also known as *Adversus Iudaeos* dialogues.

Stanley Frankel Summer Travel Fellowship



Josh Scott, a graduate student in Middle East studies and Judaic studies, presented at the Broadening Horizons 6 conference in Berlin.

“My presentation considered how Herod’s remodeling of the Jerusalem Temple in the mid-Second Temple

period complicated the use of the space as sacred and political,” explained Scott.



Judaic studies major **Alex Harris** traveled to Israel to conduct research at the Shalom Hartman Institute and Jerusalem University. “I was privileged to be able to work with Yossi Klein Halevi at the Shalom Hartman Institute. I helped him launch his Arabic copy of

Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor into the Arab world and learn about Israeli–Arab and Jewish–Arab relations,” said Harris. “I am excited to return to U–M in the fall, with new perspectives on Arab–Israeli relations and Israel education.”

Kaufman Friendship Foundation



Judaic studies minors **Taila Gothelf** and **Ali Rosenblatt**, and Judaic studies major **Macciocchi**

Adriano attended the iEngage Fellowship at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem during winter break. “I heard thought-provoking lectures from renowned scholars and engaged in enriching chaveruta on topics relating to Jewish exceptionalism, Jewish attachment to Eretz Yisrael, Jewish peoplehood, and more,” said Rosenblatt.

Keywell Graduate Fund

Lauren Benjamin, graduate student in comparative literature, English language and literature, and Judaic studies, received funding to help continue her work on writing her dissertation, *Feral Modernisms*.

Malkin Graduate Fellowship

Marina Mayorski, graduate student in comparative literature and Judaic studies, received funding to continue work on her doctorate degree and attend a month-long Yiddish-language course.

Al and Florence Schwartzberg Scholarship Fund



Judaic studies minor **Will Hearn** attended an intensive language program offered through the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University. “I’ve explored the Old City, visited museums, interacted and bargained with locals in Machane Yehuda, and found local cafes to study in. All of

these activities gave me an unprecedented perspective of Israel.

Jerold & Kathleen Solovy Fund

Graduate student in history and Judaic studies **Shai Zamir** attended a Spanish intensive course at Middlebury College.

Marshall M. Weinberg Endowed Fund for Graduate Students



Pavel Brunssen, graduate student in Germanic languages and literatures and Judaic studies, presented a paper on antisemitism in German soccer fan culture at the World Congress of Sociology of Sport in New Zealand and at the International Football History Conference in Manchester, UK. He also continued to conduct research on soccer fan culture in Germany and attended the Yiddish Summer School at Tel Aviv University.

Graduate student **Sam Shuman** received funding to support the process of transcribing hours of interviews he conducted with diamond brokers, traders, and industry representatives from New York City, Antwerp, Tel Aviv, and Mumbai.



Jewish Communal Leadership program student **Ashley Schnaar** attended the JPRO conference in Detroit to help develop connections with Jewish human service agencies from around the country. Schnaar explained, “Attending JPRO was an incredible experience for me and instrumental in jump-starting my career.”

Weingast Family Fund

Social work graduate student **Mary Kay Hazel**, completed a 14-week field practicum in Israel this summer as part of her Master of Social Work degree, a placement coordinated through the University of Haifa. She worked with the Community Social Work Department at the Haifa Municipality to design and evaluate programs serving refugees and asylum seekers.

Wolens Global Experience Fund



Judaic studies minor **Jessica Matz** spent a semester studying abroad in Tel Aviv. While there, Matz volunteered at Save A Child’s Heart, an organization that offers treatment to children suffering from congenital and rheumatic heart disease.

Undergraduate Students



Alexa Smith will be an administrative assistant at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) office in New York City for the summer.



Ilana Young will be a summer intern in the Asset Management department of the United Bank of Switzerland in New York City.



William Hearn received the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies Undergraduate Student Award from the Middle East Studies Department.

Graduate Students



Nadav Linial received a Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship from Rackham Graduate School.



Jana Mazurkiewicz Meisarosh founded Yiddish Arts and Academics of North America, a group that works to promote and preserve Yiddish language and culture.



Shira Schwartz received a graduate fellowship from the Institute for the Humanities for the 2019–2020 academic year. She was also a participant in the Sweetland Dissertation Writing Institute for spring 2019 and a Graduate Student Diversity

Ally for the Department of Comparative Literature for the summer of 2019.



Sam Shuman will be a summer fellow at The New School's Institute for Critical Social Inquiry in a seminar with Professor Nancy Fraser. He has also been invited to present his research at the Graduate Institute of Geneva for a Swiss National Science

Foundation project entitled "Transparency: Qualities and Technologies of Global Gemstone Trading."

Faculty



Walter Cohen published two book reviews: "Treating the Public: Charitable Theater and Civic Health in the Early Modern Atlantic World," by Rachael Ball and "Shakespeare and the Politics of Commoners: Digesting the New Social History," by

Chris Fitter. He also presented his paper, "Toward an Ecological History of World Literature" at Washington University in St. Louis and Stockholm University.



Deborah Dash Moore spoke on "Visualizing the Jewish Immigrant Ghetto" at Spertus College of Jewish Studies and at several screenings of the documentary film, *GI Jews: Jewish Americans in World War II*, for which she served as a senior historical advisor.

She also released "Sidewalk Histories, or Uncovering the Vernacular Jewishness of New York," in *Conversations with Colleagues*.



Karla Goldman organized and chaired "Jewish Feminisms/ American Visions: Questions from Fifty Years of Activism" in cooperation with the Frankel Center and the Jewish Women's Archive. The conference brought together 36 veteran and contemporary feminist pioneers, thinkers, and activists to consider how Jewish identity contributed to modern American feminism.



Caroline Helton received a grant from the University of Michigan Office of Research to record a CD of solo vocal repertoire by Italian Jewish composers whose lives were affected by World War II.



Rachael Rafael Neis published several articles, including: "Generating Bodies of Knowledge: Food, Family, and Fetus in Early Rabbinic Science," "All That Is in the Settlement: Humans, Likeness, and Species in the Rabbinic Bestiary," "The Seduction of

Law: Rethinking Legal Studies in Jewish Studies," and "Interspecies and Cross-Species Generation: Limits and Potentialities in Tannaitic Reproductive Science." She also gave a lecture at Columbia University titled "Species: Rabbis, Humans, And Other Creatures In Late Antiquity."



Shelley Perlove spoke on her research about the artist Rembrandt van Rijn at the University of Melbourne (Melbourne, Australia) and the Telfair Museum in Savannah, GA. She also wrote a review for the *Historians of Netherlandish Art on Rembrandt and his Circle* by Stephanie S. Dickey.



Scott Spector received a re-invitation grant from the German Academic Exchange Service to do research in Berlin, and will be a visiting fellow in Vienna through the Institute for Human Sciences (Institute für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen).

He also published an article, “No Fixed Abode: Homeland and Legacy in Max Brod and Franz Kafka,” in *Franz Kafka in an intercultural context*.



Jeffrey Veidlinger published “Everyday Life and the Shtetl: A Historiography” in *Polin* Volume 30 and gave presentations on pogroms in the Russian Civil War at the Center for Jewish History in New York, George Washington University, and the College

of Charleston. He remains a vice president of the Association for Jewish Studies, associate chair of the Academic Committee of the Center for Jewish History, a member of the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and director of the Frankel Center.



Rebecca Wollenberg published “The Bad Wife Who Was Good: Woman as a Way of Life in Genesis Rabbah 17:3” in *Prooftexts* and “The Book that Changed: Tales of Ezran Authorship as a Form of Late Antique Biblical Criticism” in the

Journal of Biblical Literature.

Past Fellows



Leora Auslander contributed to “When a Great Photographer Takes Bad Photographs: Robert Haas’ Images of Exile,” for a catalogue for an exhibition at the Jewish Museum in Munich. She also gave guest lectures at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew

and Jewish Studies, the University of Chicago Center in Paris, the Institut national des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, the Maison de la Recherche de la Sorbonne, the Simon Dubnow Institute, the London Area French History Workshop, and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.



Rick Bonnie received University of Helsinki three year Research Project funding for his project titled “Religious Responses to Climate Change in the Southern Levant: Understanding the Rise and Fall of Jewish Ritual Purification

Baths in the Hasmonean–Roman Period.” He also published an article, “Researching Cultural Objects and Manuscripts in a Small Country: The Finnish Experience of Raising Awareness of Art Crime.”



Kirsten Fermaglich lectured at the 92nd Street Young Men’s and Young Women’s Hebrew Association on her book, *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name*.



Harvey Goldberg wrote two articles for *Jewish Libya: Memory and Identity in Text and Image*, released by Syracuse University Press: “Tradition with Modernity: From Ottoman Times to Italian Encounters” and “Violence and Liturgical/

Literary Traditions: Joining the Chorus While Retaining Your Voice.”



Juan Manuel Tebes published three articles: “The Mesha Inscription and Relations with Moab and Edom,” “The Southern Home of Yahweh and Pre–Priestly Patriarchal/Exodus Traditions from a Southern Perspective,” and “Memories of Humiliation, Cultures of Resentment Towards Edom and the Formation of Ancient Jewish National Identity.”

Miriamne Krummel published “‘Enge unpaths uncuð gelad’: The Long Walk to Freedom” in *Monsters and Monstrosity in Jewish History: From the Middle Ages to Modernity*.



Alona Nitzan–Shifan co-authored several articles, including: “Introduction: The Meaning of ‘Europe’ for Architectural History,” “Memorandum on the Plan for Jerusalem,” “The Role of Conservation in the Production of Urban Space,”

and “‘De–camping’ Through Development: The Palestinian Refugee Camps in the Gaza Strip under the Israeli Occupation.” Her recent book, *Seizing Jerusalem: The Architectures of Unilateral Unification*, received the 2019 Spiro Kostof Award from the Society of Architectural Historians.



Veerle Vanden Daelen released multiple articles, including: “In the Port City We Meet? Jewish Migration and Jewish Life in Antwerp During the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries,”

“Antwerp, 1930–2008,” and “Foreword: The International

Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, the Holy See and the International Conference on Refugee Policies.”



Yael Zerubavel published her article, “Negotiating Difference and Empathy: Cinematic Representations of Passing and Exchanged Identities in the Israeli–Palestinian Conflict” in *Rethinking Peace: Discourse, Memory, Translation and*

Dialogue. She has also recently given lectures on her new book, *Desert in the Promised Land*, at Yale University, Princeton, University College London, Oxford University, and Cambridge University.

Alumni

Rabbi Aura Ahuvia was elected chair of the board of ALEPH: Alliance of Jewish Renewal.

Robin Echt Axelrod was a presenter at the 2019 Wexner Alumni Institute.

Nick Block published his article “The Ex Libris of the German–Jewish Artist Emma Dessau Goitein” in *Emma Dessau Goitein: Un’artista europea a Perugia* and presented “Dialogue and Intersection in German Holocaust Memory Culture: Stumbling Blocks and the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe” at the Notre Dame German Jewish Studies Workshop. He will also be starting as an assistant professor of the Practice at Boston College this fall.

Saskia Coenen Snyder received a 2018–2020 Humanities Grant from the University of South Carolina’s Office of the Provost. She also published “An Urban Semiotics of War: Signs and Sounds in Nazi–Occupied Amsterdam” in *Place in Modern Jewish Culture and Society: Studies in Contemporary Jewry* and gave lectures at the John Adams Institute and the

Anne Frank House, and the Center for European Studies of Harvard University. She was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture at the College of Charleston in the summer of 2019.

Greg Epstein began writing a weekly series investigating the ethics of technology and business for leading Silicon Valley publication *TechCrunch*.

Michele Freed became a facilitator with *Resetting the Table*, a program that works to build dialogue between parties on divisive issues.

Zachary Goldsmith earned a Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University, Bloomington.

Sara Halpern received a Dissertation Completion Fellowship from the Association for Jewish Studies and a Central European History Research Grant. She also gave talks at the Jewish Museum of Maryland and the University of Minnesota–Duluth.

Yaakov Herskovitz gave a lecture at the opening of Sholem Asch House Museum in Bat Yam, Israel.

P'ninah Kanai started a new position as the Director of Creative Services at the Jewish Community Center of Metro Detroit.

Ali Rosenblatt will be an incoming Eisendrath Legislative Assistant at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. She also wrote “Don’t Falsely Label U–M” for *New York Jewish Week* and “Keeping the Mishpachah Together,” for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism online blog.

Emeritus Faculty



Todd Endelman wrote “Fighting Antisemitism with Numbers in Early Twentieth-Century Britain,” for *Patterns of Prejudice*.



Anita Norich received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities—Center for Jewish History in New York.

Students

Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Celebrates Spring Graduates

The Frankel Center celebrated fifteen Judaic Studies minors, five majors, two PhDs, and one master’s student at this year’s graduation reception on May 3 in the Thayer Building.

Several students will be continuing their education at graduate school.

Max Topel, who was awarded the Outstanding Undergraduate Award, will be starting in the doctoral program in molecular engineering at the University of Chicago. **Erica Schuman** will be attending the University of Michigan Law School, and **Madeline Jacobson** will be studying maritime civilizations at the University of Haifa.

Shira Brandhandler, who is moving to Chicago to work as the Director of Youth Engagement at Temple Jeremiah, praised her Judaic Studies classes for allowing her to “get to know each subject deeply and participate in meaningful ways.” Judaic Studies minor **Ali Rosenblatt** will also be engaging in Jewish communal leadership as an Eisendrath Legislative Assistant Fellow at the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Sarah Prendergast studied acting, creative writing, and Judaic Studies while at U–M and is pursuing a career in the arts. “Judaic Studies offers a wide range of engaging and diverse classes,” she said, “that both encourages one to look back and examine the long, rich, religious and ethnic history of the Jewish people, as well as challenges one to question what it means to be a ‘Jew’ in today’s political and cultural climate. I have learned so much about myself, the world, and humanity as a whole. I am a more informed, creative, and empathetic person because of the classes I took at the Frankel Center.”

Judaic Studies minor **Henry Zou** majored in psychology and is taking a gap year. “Judaic Studies provided me with the valuable opportunity to improve my understanding of a global culture different from my own,” he said. “It also helped me to better understand social justice from the Jewish perspective and improve my awareness of the challenges and successes of Jewish communities.” Judaic Studies major **Amanda Smith** will also be taking a gap year, at Friendship Circle in West Bloomfield.

Rachel Ohayon majored in both Judaic Studies and sociology. She recalled that “as an alum of Yeshiva Day School K–12 I was unsure what Judaic Studies would have to offer me...but...now that I have completed the program, I have learned so much new information, history, and viewpoints that I had not been exposed to previously and I am so grateful for that....Judaic Studies has shaped my future, my interests, and my opinions.”

Yaakov Herskovitz, a graduating Judaic Studies certificate student, defended his PhD, “Linguistic Limbo: Writing and Rewriting in Hebrew and Yiddish,” in Middle East Studies under the direction of Frankel faculty Shachar Pinsker, Maya Barzilai, Mikhail Krutikov, and Anita Norich. His dissertation analyzed little-known literary works by three important writers, who published in both Hebrew and Yiddish. Herskovitz will be joining the Frankel Institute as a fellow for the 2019–2020 academic year under head fellow Julian Levinson.



Back Row Left to Right: Amanda Smith, Sarah Conwisar, Lindsey Davis, Delesiya Davis, Alexa Smith, Max Topel

Front Row Left to Right: Madeline Jacobson, Erica Schuman, Alana Barofsky, Jacqueline Dressler, Emily Slavkin

William Runyan, whose 2018 dissertation “Global Form and Fantasy in Yiddish Literary Culture: Visions from Mexico City and Buenos Aires” was also supervised by Norich and Krutikov, taught first- and second-year Yiddish in 2019. He received a translation fellowship through the Yiddish Book Center and will be translating selections from the 1935 poetry collection *Shtot in profil* (City in Profile) by Yankev Shternberg, a leading Yiddish cultural figure in interwar Bucharest.

Logan Wall received the Michael Bernstein Dissertation Prize, which is awarded to a recent University of Michigan graduate based on excellence of scholarship, originality of research, quality of writing, and significance of contribution to Jewish Studies. Wall successfully defended his dissertation, “Covenantal Poetics: Jewish, Irish, and African American Modernisms Beyond the Lyric,” in January. Professor Deborah Dash Moore, who worked with Wall, wrote that his dissertation “exemplifies the best in interdisciplinary scholarship that draws not only on his knowledge of 20th-century American literature but also on his mastery of Judaic Studies.”

Yosef Gross received the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award, which is given to a student whose classwork and commitment to Yiddish stands out. Yiddish language instructor Michael Yashinsky noted that “he is taking the language not because it is integral to his academic study or career path, but rather because he has a love for Yiddish, for its words and sounds and history.”

This year’s **Marshall Weinberg Prize**, given annually to an outstanding graduate student who is engaged in writing a dissertation, was awarded to **Yael Kenan**, a doctoral student in the Department of Comparative Literature. Her dissertation, “Communities of Loss: National Mourning in Israeli and Palestinian Literature after 1948,” looks at the relationship between mourning and national formation. Professor Emerita Anita Norich and associate professor Maya Barzilai wrote, “Having read Kenan’s work over the years and witnessed her participation in the field of Jewish studies, both on campus and internationally, we can attest that she is an exceptional writer and thinker, as well as a promising future colleague.”

The 2019 graduates and student award winners join a distinguished group of Frankel Center alumni.

PhD Graduates

Yaakov Herskovitz
Will Runyan

Master of Arts

Jacqueline Dressler

Majors

Shira Brandhandler
Evan Heugel
Rachel Ohayon
Amanda Smith
Max Topel (Judaic Studies Honors)

Minors

Alana Barofsky
Sarah Conwisar
Delesiya Davis
Lindsey Davis
Emily Duchene
Dalia Gatoff
Madeline Jacobson
Michael McGrath
Sarah Prendergast
Ali Rosenblatt
Erica Schuman
Emily Slavkin
Alexa Smith
Hannah Student
Henry Zou



JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

University of Michigan (734) 763-9047
 Frankel Center for Judaic Studies JudaicStudies@umich.edu
 202 S. Thayer St., Ste. 2111
 Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1608

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Save the Date!

DANIEL KAHN, MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Thursday, September 26, 8 pm — Earl V. Moore Building, Ann Arbor

DENNIS ROSS, DIPLOMAT AND AUTHOR

Wednesday, November 6, 7 pm — Rackham Amphitheater, Ann Arbor

AYELET TSABARI, AUTHOR

Monday, October 28, 7 pm — Literati Bookstore, Ann Arbor

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