

FRANKELY SPEAKING



Opening Up!

After 26 years as a member of this intellectual community of faculty, students, visitors, and public, it is a genuine honor for me to take on the role of interim director this year. Coming back to campus and cautiously opening up to in-person learning and selected



events reminds me of the ways in which, over the years, Judaic Studies here has been “opening up”—connecting to so many exciting initiatives on campus, nationally, and internationally; expanding our understanding of Jewish traditions and identifications; welcoming visitors, expanding programs; and reaching out to Michigan communities.

Let me first express my personal gratitude to Jeffrey Veidlinger for six years of service as Director of the center. Jeff took leadership of the center after accepting a position on faculty in Modern Jewish History, and has remained in that position ever since. His accomplishments in this period are too many to detail. Even while on research leave he continued in this role, expanding the faculty and student bodies, enriching what we offer in so many ways.

We are thrilled to see that his pathbreaking book, *In the Midst of Civilized Europe*, is being published this month. Congratulations to Jeff for all of these accomplishments, and to ourselves for having had the wisdom to appoint him.

“Opening up” reminds me as well of the College and university’s ongoing efforts to reach out to the non-university communities as well as to achieve our goals of expanded diversity, equity, and inclusion. The executive committee of the Frankel Center and those of us in leadership positions this year are always open to your ideas, suggestions, and comments about ways to continue to improve in these areas. Shachar Pinsker is working hard as our associate director to bring the innovative research of our faculty to an ever broader student public, assisted by our curriculum committee and our student services coordinator, Sarah Kuljian.

We are pleased to welcome a new faculty member in the unit this year. Aileen Das, Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Middle East Studies, works as an intellectual historian interested in how Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinkers working in the Middle East and North Africa from the 9th to the 13th centuries engaged with Greco-Roman ideas about the human body, the cosmos, and the

Coming back to campus and cautiously opening up to in-person learning and selected events reminds me of the ways in which, over the years, Judaic Studies here has been “opening up”—connecting to so many exciting initiatives on campus, nationally, and internationally.

boundaries of disciplinary knowledge. Welcome, Aileen! Devi Mays returns to us with the newly minted rank of associate professor with tenure, and Julian Levinson has been promoted to professor. Congratulations to us for having these wonderful scholars and teachers! Our collegiate fellow Mostafa Hussein will begin on the tenure track as an assistant professor this coming January, as I will report in the next edition of *Frankely Speaking*. Jillian Luciw has begun as our new public engagement and events specialist and will look forward to getting to know members of the center. This issue has details on these appointments and I hope you will enjoy reading about them.

The Frankel Institute has launched its new theme year focusing on “Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity,” led by Gabriele Boccaccini, as you will also read about in this issue. Here is another example of what I see as an opening of our ways of thinking about Judaism and Jews. Visiting scholars bring new thinking that challenges the boundaries we might have had in our minds about the separateness of Jews and Christians, about the bounds of knowledge across communities and traditions, about gender roles, social hierarchies, and contested worldviews. In the Institute workshop and public events this year, we will explore the heterogeneity of Second Temple Jewish experiences, and we hope also to see the many ways that these reconsiderations of the period after the Babylonian exile through to the Bar Kochba revolt bear upon our way of looking at Judaism in all of its diversity today.

Finally, I would like to express to all readers of this issue that I genuinely welcome the input of our students, faculty, and the wider community who share this space of Judaic Studies at Michigan. The ideas and engagements that motivate you are the heart of our Frankel Center, and that is a door that will always remain open.

Scott Spector, *Interim Director*



On the Cover

Challah cover, “Shabbat Lights”, handmade by Ethiopian artisans. University of Michigan Library, Jewish Heritage Collection, JHC-R3279. Gift of Constance Harris.

Link: <https://quod.lib.umich.edu/s/sclharris/x-jhc-r3279/jhc-r3279>

Adi Saleem Bharat and the Jewish Muslim Research Network

Dr. Adi Saleem Bharat is an LSA Collegiate Fellow in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Michigan, where he will be an assistant professor of French and Francophone studies beginning in fall 2022. Bharat is also affiliated with U-M's Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, the Global Islamic Studies Center, and the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies. His research explores the intersection of race and religion in contemporary France, with a focus on Jews and Muslims. He is most interested in how the history and present of colonialism/coloniality have and continue to shape ideas about race and religion in relation to Jews and Muslims in France and how this, in turn, impacts relations and interactions between Jews and Muslims.

While completing his PhD at the University of Manchester, Bharat co-founded the Jewish Muslim

the Frankel Center's online event offerings in the last year. Right now, he is one of the four network coordinators whose role it is to facilitate exchanges between network members through reading group sessions, seminars, lectures, and, more recently, by commissioning short blogposts on JMRN's website, <https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/jmrn/review/>.

Bharat explains that when he and Halls were doing their graduate studies, "we were both working on similar topics around Jews and Muslims, but from different disciplinary angles (history and cultural studies) and in different regions (Egypt and France). Despite the similarities in our projects, our bibliographies looked different. The network really began through a series of conversations between Katharine and me about the similarities in our work and how we might benefit by broadening our individual scholarly horizons. We soon realized that we had a lot to learn from each other and

online and grew even larger during the pandemic) for interdisciplinary, international, and intergenerational collaboration."

Bharat has held an interest in Jewish and Muslim Studies for a long time, beginning with his own background as a descendent of Muslims from Kerala, a region on the Indian subcontinent's Malabar coast long known for its religious and cultural diversity. "Growing up as a racialized minority in Singapore instilled in me a lifelong suspicion and interest in the categories of race and religion and how they can be wielded by the state as tools of coercion, control, and repression," he explains. Since founding the JMRN, Bharat's research has been significantly shaped in many ways by the scholars he has met and learned from through the network—perhaps especially when they disagree. Bharat says that "one major objective of the network is to provide a space to explore the complexities and contingencies of Jewish and Muslim identities and Jewish-Muslim relations in all their richness and nuance beyond the reductive and polarized clichés that often proliferate in media and political discourse."

Last year, JMRN formed a relationship with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies that allowed the two networks of scholars to create and sponsor a host of academic events. The Frankel Center and JMRN plan on working together again in the coming academic year and will continue to facilitate important conversations around Jewish and Muslim studies.



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Research Network (JMRN) with his friend and colleague (and award-winning translator) Katharine Halls. The JMRN is an interdisciplinary and international network of scholars of Jewish and Muslim studies whose innovative programming has enriched

from others in a variety of disciplines with an interest in Jews and Muslims/Islam and Judaism. From this realization, we started a reading group in 2019. The response was overwhelming, and very quickly the reading group became a larger space (that eventually pivoted

Aileen Das

Associate Professor of Classical Studies

The Frankel Center is pleased to welcome Aileen Das as a new member of the Judaic Studies faculty. Das, Associate Professor of Classical Studies and Middle East Studies, works as an intellectual historian interested in how Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thinkers working in the Middle East and North Africa from the 9th to the 13th centuries engaged with Greco-Roman ideas about the human body, the cosmos, and the boundaries of disciplinary knowledge.



“As a researcher whose work cuts across several disciplines, I find the interdisciplinary venues—of which the Frankel Center itself is one—and research carried out on this campus exciting and inspiring.”

Trained in classical studies, Das is primarily interested in how Greco-Roman science provided medieval Islamicate historical actors with a language to articulate their understanding of the natural world. Over the past 10 years, her research agenda has shifted to prioritize studies of the often subversive uses to which Islamicate actors put classical “science” in cementing their intellectual and sociocultural authority and how modern institutions such as universities, learned societies, governments, and journals organize knowledge. She is particularly interested in who gets counted as a

credible “knower” or producer of what count as facts. Das explains that “this research has stimulated me to reflect on the formation of the disciplinary subfield in which I was trained — Greco-Arabic Studies — and to criticize the ways in which it justifies its value to predominately Eurocentric fields of study,” such as classics.

As a new appointment in the Frankel Center, Professor Das is looking forward to discussing her new

research on the role of 19th and early 20th-century Jewish scholars in shaping the way Islamic Studies (*Islamwissenschaft* in German) is currently discussed, researched, and taught in the academy, and is also excited to learn from colleagues at the Frankel Center working in ancient studies.

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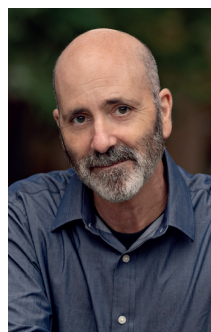
Das teaches a large course on ancient medicine (CLCIV 392/HIST 292) where she aims to get students to open up what they perceive as objective science (particularly the biomedical sciences) by looking at pre-modern ideas about the body and what counts as medical knowledge. In this way, they can assess how sociocultural biases have shaped and continue to shape medical theory and praxis.

Das is also currently working on a new monograph project that examines the role of brevity in scientific communication across time — specifically, in the Greco-Roman world, medieval Middle East and North Africa, and in the modern world. This research was inspired by conversations she had with STEM students in her courses, who associate the brevity of scientific communication with objectivity and truth as opposed to the subjective, verbose humanities. By looking at short forms of literature such as aphorisms, notes, and epitomes, she will interrogate how their authors claim to be conveying the “essential facts” of their areas of knowledge.

Das is also working on what is planned to be a series of articles on how various ideologies (in particular, orientalism and antisemitism) informed the way in which early 20th-century Jewish scholars of Greco-Arabic studies described and justified their area of expertise.

Professor Scott Spector Begins Term as Interim Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Scott Spector began his yearlong term as Interim Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies on July 1, 2021. Spector is Rudolf Mrázek Collegiate Professor of History and



German Studies. He has been a member of the Frankel Center faculty since 1995 and served as head fellow of the 2015–2016 Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies theme year, “Secularization/

Sacralization.” He will be working with the 2021–22 head fellow professor Gabriele Boccaccini on the upcoming theme year, “Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity,” to cultivate a rich intellectual climate for the incoming cohort of fellows who will comprise both scholars in residence in Ann Arbor and those partaking remotely

this fall. “It has been exciting to see us grow over the past 26 years into the leading Jewish Studies program we are today,” Spector said.

The new interim director expressed enthusiasm about stepping into his new role as the university community undergoes a transition to in-person classes this coming fall. While acknowledging the complexities, new practices, and continued uncertainties among faculty members and students around learning and researching, Spector is excited for the opportunities that a hybrid environment presents. “We will be able to take the best of both worlds, continuing online events with international stars in their fields, while we go back to teaching face to face and having most Institute fellows in residence. Our students are thrilled to be coming back to in-person learning and events.”

Scott Spector specializes in the cultural history of modern Central Europe,

especially the rich intellectual life of German and Austrian Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries. Focusing on the city life of Prague, Berlin, and Vienna, his books and articles have explored nationalism and empire, the sciences surrounding sexuality and crime, the politics of history-writing, and the dialogue between film and historical representation. His recent publications include *Violent Sensations* (Chicago 2016), which studies the creation of marginal figures in the scientific and sensational culture of fin-de-siècle Vienna and Berlin, and *Modernism without Jews? German-Jewish Subjects and Histories* (Indiana UP 2017), a study of German-Jewish culture between the Enlightenment and the Holocaust.

The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is excited to welcome Scott Spector as Interim Director. “This is going to be a great year for the Frankel Center and I’m happy to be a part of it,” Spector said.

Jillian Luciow joins as Public Engagement and Events Specialist

Jillian Luciow recently joined the Frankel Center Staff as the new Public Engagement and Events Specialist. In this role, she will shape the public perception of the Judaic Studies program



by managing publicity and outreach activities for the center and coordinating a variety of events, both in-person and virtual, alongside designing promotional materials and managing the

production of print publications. Luciow looks forward to using her position to support the Frankel Center and the Frankel Institute’s scholarship and research.

Luciow is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, where she completed her undergraduate degree in history with minors in French and Francophone studies and museum studies. During her time at the university, Luciow served on the executive board of the History Club, coordinating their events in a virtual atmosphere as president her senior year, and conducted marketing research and event logistical support for the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. “I love being able to create opportunities for academic engagement outside the classroom and cannot wait to use my past experiences to facilitate events and share the scholarship of the Frankel Center and Institute,” she says.

For the last four years, Luciow has worked in the museum field in multiple capacities

as a historical presenter at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation and Greenfield Village, a docent and education intern at U-M’s Museum of Natural History, and a Digital Curation Intern at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. She hopes to utilize these varied experiences in museum work, educational event programming, public communications, and student outreach to support the Judaic Studies Program.

Luciow is excited to continue working for her alma mater, living in the Ann Arbor area, and experiencing the wonderful parks, shops, and community that the city has to offer. She hopes to build new connections within the university and is looking forward to joining the Frankel Center community.

31st Belin Lecture

Rebecca Erbelding

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Rebecca Erbelding, a historian, archivist, and curator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, delivered the 31st David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs virtually on March 16, 2021. Her lecture explored Raoul Wallenberg's heroic work as revealed by United States government records. Wallenberg, one of the most famous Holocaust-era rescuers, was only 32 years old when he was arrested and disappeared in January 1945, 10 years after graduating from the University of Michigan at the top of his class in architecture.

Now honored internationally for his work rescuing Hungarian Jews, Raoul Wallenberg was a Swedish businessman when he arrived into the chaos of wartime Budapest, to carry out a humanitarian mission on behalf of the War Refugee Board, a newly established United States government agency tasked with trying to save the surviving Jews of Europe. It's estimated that his efforts ended up saving 100,000 Hungarian Jews.

Erbelding's book, *Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America's Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe*, won the 2018 National Jewish Book Award in the category of Writing Based on Archival Material. She stresses that the most important message from the book is the impact public and private pressure can have on the United



States government. "Without this pressure, Roosevelt likely would not have established the War Refugee Board, which ultimately saved tens of thousands of lives. It's an important reminder and an inspiration for humanitarian activists today," Erbelding said.

The Belin lecture series was established in 1991 through a generous gift from the late David W. Belin, of Des Moines

and New York, to provide an academic forum for the discussion of contemporary Jewish life in the United States. Previous scholars to hold this honor include Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel Freedman, Ruth Messinger, Jim Loeffler, Beth Wenger, and Lila Corwin Berman, among others. Each year, the lecture is also published in written form in collaboration with Michigan Publishing.

Events

Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event

“The Historical Jesus in His Jewish Context”

The inaugural Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event took place virtually on March 10, 2021. The Stuart and Barbara Padnos Foundation has provided a gift to the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies to establish the Padnos Engagement on Jewish Learning fund. Members of the Padnos family have been business and community leaders in Michigan for over a century. In 1988, the late Stuart Padnos created the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation Visiting Professorship in Judaic Studies in commemoration of his parents, Helen and Louis Padnos, beginning a longstanding and productive relationship between the Padnos family and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

The scholars examined the common history shared between Jews and Christians, and how this historical knowledge is necessary for a faithful biblical interpretation.

Broadcast on Zoom, Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University and Gabriele Boccaccini of the University of Michigan discussed “The Historical Jesus in His Jewish Context,” with a response by Jeremiah Cataldo of Grand Valley State University. The focus of the event was the latest research on the historical Jesus and its implications for contemporary Judaic Studies. The scholars examined the common history shared between Jews and Christians, and how this historical knowledge is necessary for a faithful biblical interpretation. As Boccaccini explains, “the real problem was not simply reclaiming the Jewishness of Jesus but understanding what kind a Jew Jesus was, as there were many different ways of being a Jew in the first century, as well as today. And that’s when I realized that the New Testament was not a collection of texts that tells us something about Judaism, but a collection of Jewish texts that testifies to a distinctive variety of ancient Judaism.”



Frankel Center 2021–22

Upcoming Events

Ethiopian Jews: The Politics of Difference in Israeli Historiography

Efrat Yerday and Adane Zawdu Gebyanesh

October 19, 4 pm

Register at: <https://myumi.ch/xmYNE>

Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period

Conference Chair: Gabriele Boccaccini;

Lisa Bowens; Emma Wasserman;

Loren Stuckenbruck

October 25–27

Register at*: <https://tinyurl.com/p6kr29j5>

**Participation is limited to members of academia.*

As this meeting is closed to the general public, the registration process is not automatic; please be patient if there is a delay in the receipt of your registration.

Padnos Public Engagement in Jewish Learning Lecture

Dr. Shayna Sheffield

Date and Time TBA

I Know Who Caused COVID–19>>: Pandemics and Xenophobia

Sander Gilman, Emory University

Zhou Xun, University of Essex

with the Jewish Muslim Research Network

November 8, 9:00am

Zoom Webinar, <https://myumi.ch/Axw1y>

Magic and its Malcontents: Historiography as Heresiology

Dr. Shaily Patel

November 11, 4:00–6:00pm

Zoom Webinar, <https://myumi.ch/4pxv3>

Religion and Materiality: Re-thinking a Complex Relation from the Angle of Food

Dr. Birgit Meyer

November 12, 3:00–5:00p

Zoom webinar, <https://umich.zoom.us/j/96568104186>.

Queer Jews and Muslims: A Roundtable on Race, Religion, Gender and Sexuality

Prof. Katrina Daly Thompson

Prof. Robert Phillips

Prof. Edwige Crucifix

Dr. Shanon Shah

December, Date and Time TBA

Zoom Webinar

WCEE Book Series

In The Midst Of Civilized Europe: The Pogroms Of 1918–1921 And The Onset Of The Holocaust

Jeffrey Veidlinger, Joseph Brodsky Collegiate

Professor of History and Judaic Studies,

University of Michigan

December 8, 12:00–1:20p

Zoom Webinar, <https://myumi.ch/zxQPX>

Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise

Chairs: Kelley Coblenz Bautch, Rodney

Caruthers, Shayna Sheinfeld, with Gabriele

Boccaccini, Amy–Jill Levine, John Collins

January 10–13, 2022

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/n88bjyjj>

Jewish Blues in 20th–Century Classical Music

An ICAMus–The International Center for

American Music event in collaboration

with MCECS–Michigan Center for Early

Christian Studies

Luca Bragalini

In honor of Martin Luther King Day 2022

February 1, 2022 3:00–5:00pm

Online video presentation

Visit lsa.umich.edu/judaic/news-events for more information and our complete event schedule.



Mika Ahuvia, Alumna, ***On My Right Michael, On My Left Gabriel: Angels in Ancient Jewish Culture***, University of California Press, 2021

Maya Barzilai, ***Golem, How He Came into the World***, Camden House: German Film Classics

Gabriele Boccaccini, ***Paul's Three Paths to Salvation***, Eerdmans, 2020

Lila Berman, Past Fellow, ***The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: The History of a Multibillion-Dollar Institution***, Princeton University Press, 2020

Ross Brann, Past Fellow, ***Iberian Moorings: Al-Andalus, Sefarad, and the Tropes of Exceptionalism***, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021

Pavel Brunssen, ***Antisemitismus in Fussball-Fankulturen Der Fall RB Leipzig***, Beltz Juventa; ***Antigypsyism and Film/ Antiziganismus und Film***, Heidelberg University Press

Marc Caplan, Past Fellow, ***Yiddish Writers in Weimar Berlin: A Fugitive Modernism***, Indiana University Press 2021

Jonathan Freedman, Professor of English Languages and Literature and American Culture, ***The Jewish Decadence: Jews and the Aesthetics of Modernity***, University of Chicago Press

Harvey Goldberg, Past Institute Fellow, ***The Jews of Libya and Their Environment: The Ethno-Historical Studies of Harvey Goldberg*** (in Hebrew), Ben-Zvi Institute, co-editors Orit Abuhav, Yoram Bilu, and Hagar Salamon

Caroline Helton, ***Songs from a Lost World of Italian Jewish Composers, Vol. III: Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco***, Blue Griffin Records

Adriana X. Jacobs, ***The Truffle Eye by Vaan Nguyen***, Zephyr Press

Dov-Ber Kerler, ***Hert a mayseh : antologye : Yidishe moderne dertseylung in Medines-Yisroel = Hert a mayse : anthology of Yiddish prose and fiction***, Stanford University Press



Ariel Mayse, Past Fellow, ***Hasidism: Writings on Devotion, Community, and Life in the Modern World***, edited together with Sam Berrin Shonkoff, Brandeis University Press 2020

Anita Norich, ***A Jewish Refugee in New York: Rivke Zilberg's Journal***, Indiana University Press

Benjamin Paloff, ***Honey, I Killed the Cats***, by Dorota Maslowska, Deep Vellum; ***Culture and Communication: Signs in Flux. An Anthology of Major and Lesser-Known Works***, by Yuri Lotman, Academic Studies Press

Brian Schmidt, ***The Middle Maccabees: Archaeology, History, and the Rise of the Hasmonean Kingdom***, Society of Biblical Literature; ***The Archaeology and History of Ancient Phoenicia*** by Hélène Sader. ***Archaeology and Biblical Studies 25***. Atlanta, Society of Biblical Literature; ***Care for the Dead in Ancient Israel*** by Kerry M. Sonia. ***Archaeology and Biblical Studies***, Society of Biblical Literature

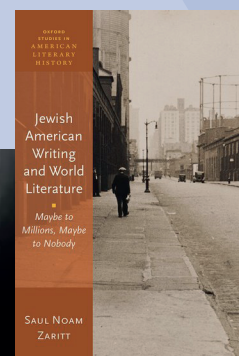
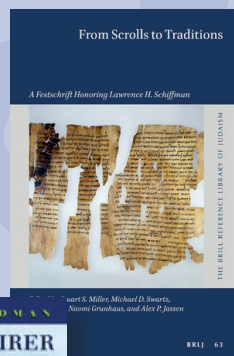
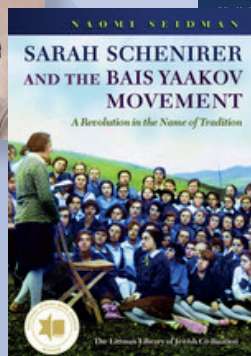
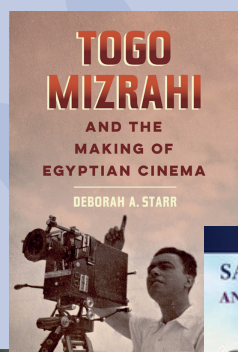
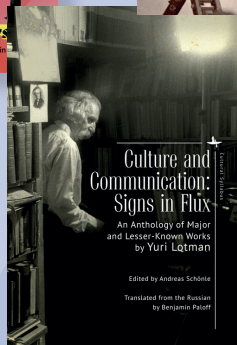
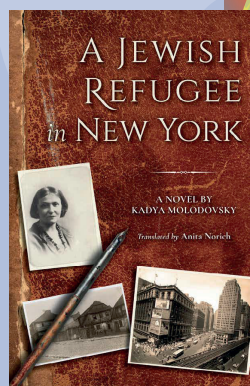
Naomi Seidman, ***Sarah Schenirer and the Bais Yaakov Movement: A Revolution in the Name of Tradition***, Littman Library of Jewish Civilization

Deborah Starr, Alumna, ***Togo Mizrahi and the Making of Egyptian Cinema***, University of California Press

Michael Swartz, Past Fellow, ***From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift Honoring Lawrence H. Schiffman*** (co-editor) co-authors and editors Stuart S. Miller, Steven Fine, Naomi Grunhaus, and Alex P. Jassen, Brill 2021

Kalman Weiser, Past Fellow, ***Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism***, co-authors Sol Goldberg and Scott Ury, Palgrave 2021

Saul Zaritt, ***Jewish American Writing and World Literature***, Oxford University Press



Announcing the 2021–2022 Frankel Institute Fellows

Led by head fellow Gabriele Boccaccini, the fellows will explore the theme of “Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity.”

In the upcoming year, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies will focus on the theme of “Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity.” Multiplicity and differences of ethnicity, religion, social status, gender, age, and ability were features of the ancient Mediterranean world as much as they are in the present. Under the leadership of head fellow and U–M Professor of Second Temple Judaism and Early Rabbinic Literature, Gabriele Boccaccini, 13 scholars from four countries will explore various aspects of religious, cultural, and political life during the period dating from the age of the Persian King Cyrus in the 6th century BCE up to the Bar Kokhba Revolt in the second century of the Common Era.

The modern notion of Second Temple Judaism was originally shaped by Christian scholars who imagined it as the “intertestamental” period between the Old and the New Testaments, or as the “age of Jesus.” Jewish scholars were originally uncomfortable with this periodization, only gradually accepting the notion that a significant transition in Judaism also occurred between the “Biblical” and “Rabbinic” eras, or “from the Bible to the Mishnah.” Second Temple Judaism, however, is much more than just a combination of “proto–Rabbinic” and “proto–Christian” traditions. Rather, it was the seedbed for multiple, distinctive worldviews. The central texts of the period include the New Testament, the works of Josephus, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the rich literature of Hellenistic Judaism, all of which can be studied together with archaeological finds to reveal new perspectives on this landmark era in Abrahamic traditions.

The Frankel Institute fellows will share and discuss their scholarship at several events taking place throughout the year, organized in collaboration with the Enoch Seminar. On September 30 Gabriele Boccaccini will give an online presentation about his book on Paul as a Second Temple Jew, featuring Lisa Bowens (Princeton Theological Seminary), Isaac Oliver (Bradley University), Matthew Novenson (University of Edinburgh), Cecilia Wassen (Uppsala University), and Emma Wasserman (Rutgers University). On October 25–27, 2021 the Frankel Institute will host fellows and other international scholars for an online conference: “Was Paul an Apocalyptic Jew? A Case in Jewish Diversity in the Second Temple Period.” On January 10–13, 2022 a second online conference, “Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise,” will feature fellows and international scholars. There will also be an in–person workshop featuring Amy–Jill Levine (Vanderbilt University) and John Collins (Yale University) on April 11–13, 2022. All events are free and open to the public.

The Frankel Institute aims to develop fruitful conversation about ancient Jewish diversity. Through the study of literature, sacred texts, art, and material objects, the fellows will study an array of related topics including temple architecture, the meaning of sacrifice, the nature of ancient leadership, and circumcision. By bringing together a group of international scholars who approach the material from different perspectives in an interdisciplinary and inclusive fashion, the Frankel Institute seeks to contribute to our understanding of the vibrant diversity of Second Temple Judaism and redefine its place within Jewish Studies.



Oren Ableman

Israel Antiquities Authority
**“Resistance to Rome in
 Late Second Temple Jewish
 Literature”**

Oren Ableman recently completed a PhD in the Jewish History department

of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The title of his dissertation was, “Responses to the Roman Conquest of Judea (63 BCE) in the Dead Sea Scrolls: A Historical–Literary Discussion in the Roman Context of the Sectarian Texts from Qumran.” He has also worked for the past eight years as a curator–researcher in the Dead Sea Scrolls unit of the Israel Antiquities Authority. His research aims to situate the sectarian texts discovered at Qumran within the historical context of Jewish resistance to the Roman Empire. To achieve this he utilizes methodologies of both literary and historical research, as well as post–colonial theories.



Joseph Angel

Yeshiva University
**“The Architecture of
 Election: Temple Architec-
 ture and the Construction
 of Social Identities in
 Ancient Judaism”**

Joseph L. Angel is Associate Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University, where he has taught courses related to ancient Judaism and biblical studies since 2008. His research focuses on Jewish literature and history in the Greco–Roman world, with a special interest in the religious milieu and themes of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He is the author of *Otherworldly and Eschatological Priesthood in the Dead Sea Scrolls* (2010) and a number of publications exploring topics

related to ancient Jewish spirituality, including prayer, messianism, demonology and magic, the Second Temple of Jerusalem, and the Jewish context of nascent Christianity. His forthcoming book provides a material reconstruction, critical edition, and commentary on the ancient Hebrew prayer manuscripts known as the Songs of the Sage (4Q510–511).



Gabriele Boccaccini

University of Michigan
**“Christian and Rabbinic
 Origins: An Intellectual
 History, from Daniel to
 the Mishnah”**

Gabriele Boccaccini is professor of Second

Temple Judaism and Christian Origins at the University of Michigan. He is also the founding director of the Enoch Seminar, a forum of international specialists in early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam affiliated with the Society of Biblical Literature. He is the author and editor of numerous publications in the field of Second Temple Judaism, with particular emphasis on ancient Jewish apocalypticism and the Enoch literature. His books include *Middle Judaism: Jewish Thought, 300 BCE to 200 CE* (1991), *Beyond the Essene Hypothesis: The Partings of the Ways between Qumran and Enochic Judaism* (1998), *Roots of Rabbinic Judaism: An Intellectual history, from Ezekiel to Daniel* (2002), and *Paul’s Three Paths to Salvation* (2020). In 2019, he was awarded knighthood by the President of Italy, in recognition of his scholarly achievements and his contributions to Italian culture in the world.



Catherine Bonesho

*University of California,
 Los Angeles*
**“Kings, Queens, and
 Caesars: Gentile Rulers in
 Early Jewish Literature”**

Catherine E. Bonesho is an Assistant Professor of Early

Judaism in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at the University of California—Los Angeles. Her research focuses on the history, languages, literature, and culture of Judaism in the Second Temple and Rabbinic periods with the goal of locating these texts in their imperial contexts. Specifically, Bonesho is interested in the ways ancient Jews navigate living under imperial domination through the development of legislation and rhetoric about the Other. Bonesho also concentrates on the Roman Near East and Semitic languages, especially Aramaic, and their use in imperial contexts. Bonesho was a 2017–2018 Rome Prize Fellow in Ancient Studies at the American Academy in Rome. She earned her PhD in Classical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in 2018 and her MA in Hebrew and Semitic Studies in 2014 from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.



Rodney Caruthers

Gustavus Adolphus College
**“Judaism and its Practice
 Beyond Ethiopian Rivers”**

Rodney Caruthers’ expertise is in the historical, literary, and religious development of Second

Temple Judaism and the New Testament. His research focuses on education and writing techniques during the Greco–Roman era, intertextual relationships between Jewish and Christian literature (e.g., Philo, Josephus, Pseudepigrapha, and Apocrypha), comparative religion, and the use of “magic” in antiquity. His research especially

considers the intersection between ancient narrative content and how communities actualized their religious beliefs and customs. Caruthers has taught at Gustavus Adolphus College, the University of Michigan, Ashland Theological Seminary, and Spring Arbor University. His courses have included New Testament, Historical Jesus, and methods of Biblical Interpretation. He holds a BA in Psychology from Oakland University, a Master of Divinity from Ashland Theological Seminary, a Master of Theology from Emory University Candler School of Theology, and a PhD in Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins from the University of Michigan.



Kelley Coblentz Bautch

St. Edward's University
"Recovering Diverse Voices in 1 Maccabees"
 Dr. Kelley Coblentz Bautch is Professor of Religious and Theological Studies at St.

Edward's University. Her research interests include the history and religions of Israel during the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman periods, pseudepigraphical and apocalyptic texts, textual criticism, and the interpretation of Scripture. The publications of Dr. Coblentz Bautch take up Enochic literature, representations of gender in antiquity, otherworldly beings in Jewish imagination, and 1 Maccabees. She is an active member of the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) and the Enoch Seminar. Her current leadership roles include serving on the Program Committee of the International SBL Meeting, on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Biblical Literature* and *Early Judaism and Its Literature Series*, and as Vice-Director of the Enoch Seminar. Peers have recognized her scholarship, teaching and advising by means of juried awards.



Liane Feldman

New York University
"Rewriting Sacrifice in Second Temple Judaism"

Liane Feldman is an Assistant Professor in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. Her research spans Hebrew Bible and Second Temple Judaism and is concerned with the relationship between literary production and historical religious practice, with an added interest in translation and translation theory (both ancient and modern). Her work addresses priestly literature, the literary representation of sacrifice, and the imagined construction of sacred space. She is the author of the award-winning book *The Story of Sacrifice: Ritual and Narrative in the Priestly Source* (2020). She is currently in the final stages of completing an edition and new translation of the pentateuchal priestly source (expected 2023), and beginning work on a book about the diverse literary representations of sacrifice in Persian and Hellenistic Jewish literature.



Gregg Gardner

University of British Columbia
"The Archaeology of Diversity in Rural Palestine During the Second Temple Era"

Gregg E. Gardner, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and the Diamond Chair in Jewish Law and Ethics in the Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies at the University of British Columbia. His research focuses on Judaism in late antiquity, including classical rabbinic literature, Second Temple Judaism, and the archaeology of ancient Israel. Gardner is the author of *The Origins of Organized Charity*

in *Rabbinic Judaism* (2015) and co-editor of *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World* (2008). His current research focuses on the material religion and materiality in ancient Judaism.



Michael Langlois

University of Strasbourg
"Pseudepigraphy Between Canonical and Non-Canonical Literature"

Prof. Dr. habil. Michael Langlois holds a PhD and Habilitation in Historical and Philological Sciences from the Sorbonne where he specialized in epigraphy and papyrology. Dr. Langlois worked as a researcher at the Collège de France until he was tenured Associate Professor at the University of Strasbourg. He was also a fellow of the University Institute of France and of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. He specializes in the study of ancient Hebrew and Aramaic documents, including the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls.



Mark Leuchter

Temple University
"Scribal Refractions of Imperial Myth in Jewish Texts of the Persian Period"

Mark Leuchter is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism in the Department of Religion at Temple University in Philadelphia. His research focuses on the origins of the priesthood in ancient Israel, the formation of prophetic texts, and the relationship between myth and foreign imperialism in Persian period Judaism. Dr. Leuchter earned his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2003.



Shaya Sheinfeld

Sheffield University

“Diversity in Jewish Leadership in the First and Second Centuries CE”

Shayna Sheinfeld is Honorary Research Scholar at the Sheffield Institute

of Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies (SIIBS), The University of Sheffield. Her research interests lie at the intersection of Judaism and Christianity in the first several centuries CE and the intellectual history of Second Temple Judaism. Her current project examines the diversity of Jewish leadership by challenging the masculine-centered ideas of authority in both the ancient sources and contemporary scholarship. She has a forthcoming textbook on Jewish and Christian women in the ancient Mediterranean (co-edited), and recently published the volume *Gender and Second Temple Judaism* (2020, co-edited), which developed out of her Enoch Seminar meeting of the same title (2018). She is chairing a follow-up Enoch Seminar on Constructions of Gender in Late Antiquity (2021). Sheinfeld also works at the intersection between biblical studies and popular culture. Dr. Sheinfeld earned her PhD from McGill University in 2015.



Alexei Sivertsev

DePaul University

“Semiotic Communities: Signs and the Construction of Jewish Group Identities in the Second Temple Period”

Alexei M. Sivertsev is

Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University. He received his BA from Russia State University for the Humanities. He graduated from the joint program of the Historical Archival Institute, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America,

and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in Jewish History, Culture, Languages and Archives. He holds a MA and PhD in Hebrew and Judaic studies from New York University. He is the author of several books including *Households, Sects, and the Origins of Rabbinic Judaism* (2005) and, most recently, *Judaism and Imperial Ideology in Late Antiquity* (2011). In 2020–21 Sivertsev was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship at Bar Ilan University and Seymour Gitin Distinguished Professorship at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research for his project “Urban Communities in Context: Reading Late Antique Synagogue Floors in Roman Palestine as Relational Models.”



M Adryael Tong

Interdenominational Theological Center

“Difference and Circumcision”

M Adryael Tong researches Jewish–Christian Difference and the Parting of the Ways

by deploying new methodologies stemming from continental philosophy and critical theory. She is especially interested in the ways in which different religious traditions utilize bodily discourses such as gender, sexuality, and the composition of the body in order to normalize differentiation as the result of nature, rather than as a deliberately constructed discourse. After receiving her Ph.D. from Fordham University in 2019, she has been an Assistant Professor of New Testament and Judaic Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center, an HBCU seminary in Atlanta Georgia.

Mazel Tov!

Undergraduate Students



Ariel Lowenstern received University Honors, Dean's List, and the Penny Stamps Scholarship, and was named an Angell Scholar.

Graduate Students



Nadav Linial received the Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship from Rackham Graduate School and the George F. and Celeste Hourani Memorial Scholarship for winter 2022 from the Department of Middle East Studies. Linial

has signed a publishing contract with Pardes Publishing House for his second volume of Hebrew poetry.

Faculty



Maya Barzilai published the article, "Humanizing Shylock: The Jewish 'Type' in Weimar Film" in *Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema*. Barzilai also served as co-head fellow of the Frankel Institute Theme Year, "Translating Jewish Cultures"

and joined the editorial board of *Ot: Journal of Literature and Theory*.



Adi Saleem Bharat published four articles: "Shalom Alikoum! Challenging the Conflictual Model of Jewish-Muslim Relations in France through Stand-Up Comedy" in *Jewish-Muslim Interactions: Performing Cultures Between North*

Africa and France, "The Politics of Nostalgia and Pessimism: Jewish-Muslim Relations in

Thierry Cohen's *Avant la Haine*" in *Franco-sphères*, "Jews and Muslims in Contemporary French Newspaper Discourse (2000–2017)" in *French Cultural Studies*, and "Paradoxes and Limitations in Enacting Jewish-Muslim Dialogue in Contemporary France: Case Studies of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue Initiatives" in *Modern & Contemporary France*. He was also invited to give two lectures: "Perspectives on Race: India and Singapore," with Priya Swamy at the University College Utrecht (Netherlands), and "Creating and Running a Jewish and Muslim Studies Research Network: Digital Networking and Social Media in the Service of Academic Research and Collaboration," at the Fifth Postgraduate Research Training Event and Research Meeting of the Northern UK Jewish Studies Partnership at the University of Manchester (UK).



Sara Blair spoke on "Analogues: Jews, Photography, America" at Princeton University's Kwartler Family Lecture.



Gabriele Boccaccini released the article, "Enochic Traditions, A Guide to Early Jewish Texts and Traditions in Christian Transmission" and has offered numerous online lectures and organized and chaired several online international

conferences with hundreds of specialists in attendance, including "Concepts of Evil in Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins" (June 29–July 2, 2020), "Aramaic Manuscripts of 1 Enoch" (October 20–22, 2020), and "John the Baptist in History and Tradition" (January 11–14, 2021).



Joshua Cole received the J. Russell Major Book Prize from the American Historical Association.



Devi Mays received the National Jewish Book Award in Sephardic Culture from the Jewish Book Council.



Deborah Dash Moore completed a fellowship at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and published three articles: "Jewish Builders of New York City, 1890–1980," in *The Jewish Metropolis: New York City from the 17th to the 21st*

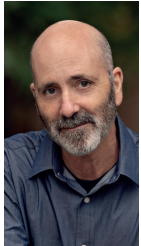
Century, ed. Daniel Soyer, "Judaism in America" in *Judaism I: History (Die Religionen Der Menschheit)*, ed. Michael Tilly and Burton L. Visotzky, and "Wonder of Wonders: Rethinking Religion in Manhattan" in *Church History*. She also participated in several of the American Jewish Historical Association's "From the Archives" Zoom lectures and in making podcasts about the Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization.



Rachel Rafael Neis was named a Public Engagement Faculty Fellow by the Center for Academic Innovation and published the article, "Disrupting Jewish Studies" in *Religion Dispatches*.



Shachar Pinsker became an elected member of the American Academy for Jewish Research and published two articles: “Coffeehouses, Journalism, and the Rise of Modern Jewish Literary Culture” in *Prooftexts* and “When Yiddish Was Young in Israel” in *Since 1948: Israeli Literature in the Making*, ed. Nancy Berg and Naomi B. Sokoloff.



Scott Spector received and deferred a Center for Urban History Residence Grant at the Center for Urban History of East-Central Europe, Lviv (Ukraine), and published “The Return of the Prodigal Galician Sons: An Austro-Jewish Dialectic,” in

Fragments of Empire: Austrian Modernisms and the Habsburg Imaginary. He also provided an introduction for a new online course assembled from the late professor George Mosse’s lectures, and contributed a piece on “The Novel Corona Virus as Pedagogical Opportunity: The History of the Present” for the *Corona Diary* blog of the IWM/Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna. Jewish Studies and Austrian Studies at the University of Minnesota jointly invited him to present research in a colloquium as well as a public lecture, “A Czernowitzer Challah: Jews and the Austro-Hungarian Empire around 1900.”



Ruth Tsoffar gave various lectures, including “A Crisis of Education: Israel and Palestine,” part of the lecture series to Leaders of Jewish Organizations at Hillel, “Land of Milk and Honey: Biblical Narratives in Modern Israel” at The

Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington, “Life in Citations:

Biblical Narratives and Contemporary Hebrew Culture,” at the Berkeley Center for Jewish Studies at the University of California–Berkeley, and “Panel of Books Celebration: Life in Citation: Biblical Narratives and Contemporary Hebrew Culture” at the 48th Meeting of the Israeli Anthropological Association.

Past Fellows

Lila Berman, 2007–2008 fellow, was awarded the Ellis W. Hawley Prize by the Organization of American Historians for best book-length historical study of the political economy, politics, or institutions of the United States, in its domestic or international affairs, from the Civil War to the present and published the article, “Continuity Crisis: The History and Sexual Politics of an American Jewish Communal Project” in *American Jewish History*, co-written with Kate Rosenblatt and Ronit Stahl.

Ross Brann, 2018–2019 fellow, published “An Aramaic Writ from Ramla (1056): A Translation and Genizah Study” in *Text, Tradition and the History of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism*, ed. Stuart Miller.



Marc Caplan, 2010–2011 fellow, received a senior fellowship at the Maimonides Centre, University of Hamburg.



Susan C. Dessel, 2013–2014 fellow, contributed the article “Martha Gruening: ‘Brick in a Soft Hat’” to the anthology *The Art of Being Dangerous: Exploring Women and Danger through Creative Expression*, eds. Jo Shaw and Ben Fletcher–Watson.



Lois Dubin, 2012–2013 fellow, published “Montreal and Canada through a Wider Lens: Confessions of a Canadian–American European Jewish Historian in *No Better Home? Jews, Canada, and the Sense of Belonging*, ed. David S. Koffman.



Kirsten Fermaglich, 2015–16 fellow, published “It’s the Community That We’ve Made: Jewish Migration to East Lansing, Michigan in the Postwar Era” in *Wandering Jews: Global Jewish Migration*.



Zvi Gitelman, 2011–2012 fellow and professor emeritus, taught two courses for Jewish Parents Academy in New York and was associate editor of *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*.



Harvey Goldberg, 2012–2013 fellow, published “An Anthropologist’s ‘Day in (Rabbinical) Court’ in late Ottoman Tripoli” in *Knowledge, Authority and Change in Islamic Societies: Studies in honor of Dale Eickelman*, eds. Allen James Fromherz and Nadav Samin.



Liora R. Halperin, 2016–2017 fellow, joined the Simpson Center for the Humanities Society of Scholars at the Simpson Center for the Humanities, University of Washington and published “Anniversaries of ‘first’ Settlement and the Politics of Zionist Commemoration” in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and her second book, *The*

Oldest Guard: Forging the Zionist Settler Past, based on her research as a Frankel Center Fellow in 2016–2017.



Marc Herman, 2018–2019 fellow, “What is the Subject of Principle 2 in Maimonides’ Book of the Commandments? Towards a New Understanding of Maimonides’ Approach to Extrascriptural Law” in *AJS Review*.



Shaul Kelner, 2015–2016 fellow, received the COVID-19 Innovative Teaching Award for Creating Safe, Productive, and Engaging In-Person Learning Environments award from Vanderbilt University College of Arts & Science.



Rachel Kranson, 2013–2014 fellow, co-edited a special issue of *American Jewish History* on “Sexuality and American Jewish History” (Vol. 104, Iss. 4) and published an article within the special issue.



Howard Lupovitch, 2008–2009 fellow, published “Neolog: Reforming Judaism in a Hungarian Milieu” in *Modern Judaism* and “The ‘Kitzur Shulchan Aruch’ and Its Impact in Hungary and Beyond” in *Studies in Judaism, Humanities, and the Social Sciences*.



Ariel Mayse, 2015–2016 fellow, published the articles “Moving Mezritsh”: The Legacy of the Maggid and the Hasidic Community in the Land of Israel” in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, “All the Knots of Jewish Thought’:

A Response to Mira Wasserman” in the *Journal of Textual Reasoning*, “The Calf Awakens: Language, Zionism and Heresy in Twentieth-Century American Hasidism” in *Kabbalah in America: Ancient Lore in the New World*, ed. Brian Ogren, “Beyond the Pale: Hasidism, Neo-Hasidism and Jewish-Christian Dialogue” in *A Sukkah in the Shadow of Saint Ignatius: Essays on the History of Jewish-Christian Relations*, ed. Jeremy P. Brown, and “‘His Spirit Speaks’: Contextualizing the Vitebsker’s Devotional Path Within the Maggid’s Circle” in *From Tiberias With Love: Lost Mystical Masters in Search of a Promised Land*, ed. Aubrey Glazer and Nehemia Polen. She was also a 2019–2021 Senior Fellow in Jewish Law at the Thought and Identity Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies at University of California–Berkeley.



Jessica Marglin, 2012–2013 fellow, published “Jews, Rights, and Belonging in Tunisia: Léon Elmilik, 1861–1881” in *L’Année du Maghreb*.



Megan Nutzman, 2017–2018 fellow, published the articles “Family and Community: Commemorative Choices among the Jewish Epitaphs from Rome” in *Jewish Studies Quarterly* and “Jewish Epitaphs from Rome” in *Biblical Archaeology Review*.



Michael Swartz, 2017–2018 fellow, published “Civil and Uncivil Magic: Individual, Community, and Identity in Ancient and Medieval Jewish Curse Texts” in *From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift for Lawrence H. Schiffman*, eds. Stuart S. Miller, Michael D. Swartz, Steven Fine, Naomi Grunhaus, and Alex P. Jassen and “Divination as Transaction: Rhetorical and Social Dimensions of Ancient Jewish Divination Texts” in *Unveiling the Hidden—Anticipating the Future: Divinatory Practices among Jews between Qumran and the Modern Period*, ed. Josefina Rodriguez Arribas and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum.



Juan Manuel Tebes, 2017–2018 fellow, published “Desert Funerary Architecture and Afterlife Beliefs in the Arid Southern Levant from a Longue Durée Perspective” in *ARAM* and “Revolution in the Desert: A Reassessment of the Late Bronze/Early Iron Ages in North-western Arabia and the Southern Levant” in *Revista del Instituto de Historia Antigua Oriental* and will be a guest research fellow at the Université Toulouse–Jean Jaurès.



Kenneth Wald, 2011–2012 fellow, published “Why the Personal Becomes Political: Jews in American Politics” in *Jewish Book Council* and delivered multiple national and international lectures related to his book, *Foundations of American Jewish Liberalism* (2019).



Kalman Weiser, 2010–2011 fellow, published “Vilna on the Saint Lawrence: Montreal as the Would-be Haven for Yiddish Culture” in *No Better Home?: Canada, Its Jews, and the Question of Home*, “‘Kopl not Filaret, Sore not Salomea’: Debates about Jewish naming practices in pre-WW II Poland” in *Eastern European Jewish Affairs*, and held the 2019–20 Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting Professorship in Eastern European Jewish Studies, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.



Moshe Yagur, 2018–2019 fellow, received the Yuval Heiman Award for a Hebrew dissertation on Jewish history from the Zalman Shazar Center and published four articles: “Ezra in Ashkelon: a medieval local tradition in its geo-political context” in *Zion*, “Religiously-mixed families in the Mediterranean society of the Cairo Geniza” in *Mediterranean Historical Review*, “Communal Boundaries and Religious Conversion” in *The Jews of Medieval Egypt*, ed. Miriam Frenkel, and “Several documents from the Cairo Geniza concerning conversion to Islam” in *Conversion to Islam in the Premodern Age: A Sourcebook*, eds. Nimrod Hurvitz, Christian Sahner, Uriel Simonsohn, and Luke Yarbrough.

Alumni



Mika Ahuvia (MA, 2008), [was approved for tenure and appointed the Marsha and Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies of the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington.

Robin Echt Axelrod (BA, 1983, Cert., 1997), co-founded and became Chief Clinical Officer of Boon Health.

Pamela Bebry (BA, 2009), started her own law firm, Bebry Law, PLLC, which handles contracts in the fashion, marketing, social media, and entertainment industries.

Rodney Caruthers II (PhD, 2019), was Visiting Assistant Professor and Bruce Gray Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Religion at Gustavus Adolphus College, gave lectures on “Acts of the Apostles,” and “Jewish History in Tacitus, Josephus, and Beyond,” and was Adjunct Instructor of New Testament and Engaging Texts and Contexts at Ashland Theological Seminary.



Beth Dwoskin's (MA, 2015) translation of “Fartsoygn mit shpinvebs” (“Covered by Cobwebs”) by Shire Gershman has been selected for publication in the Yiddish Book Center's 2021 Pakn Treger digital translation issue. She also wrote the article “My Samovar: A Connection to Soviet Jewry” for the Jewish Women's Archive Blog.



Vanessa Freedman (BS, 2021), was accepted to medical school at Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sara Halpern (MA, 2010), received a PhD in history from The Ohio State University and became a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at St. Olaf College in August 2021.

Erica Lehrer (MA, 2005), was awarded a \$2.5 million Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant as the principal investigator of the project, “Thinking Through the Museum: A Partnership Approach to Curating Difficult Knowledge in Public” (2021–2028).

Michail Kitsos (PhD, 2020), received the Michael S. Bernstein Dissertation Prize in Judaic Studies, Frankel Center and began as an Igor Kaplan Postdoctoral Fellow in Christian-Jewish Relations in the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto on August 1, 2021.



Kate Rosenblatt (MA, 2009), became The Jay and Leslie Cohen Assistant Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies at Emory University on August 1, 2021.



Miriam Saperstein (BA, 2021) received the Robbie Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Creative Arts from the University of Michigan Residential College and published “Erev Tu B'Av” (2020) and also published in 2020 the zine feature “A Strike Against Despair” in *New Voices*, “Decomposition Hat” in *Jewish Currents*, “My Body is a Prophet,” and “Besamim for Heartbreak” in *PROTOCOLS*.

Saskia Coenen Snyder (PhD, 2008), published the article “Introduction: Jews and the Diamond Trade” in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, signed a book contract with Oxford University Press to publish their new book on Jews and the 19th-century diamond trade entitled *A Brilliant Commodity: How Jews Cut and Polished a Path For Themselves in the Modern World* (forthcoming, 2022), and guest-edited a special edition of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, Vol. 38: 3 (Winter 2020) the theme of which is Jews and the diamond trade.

Student Spotlight

Noah Fisher

Noah Fisher is a senior history major and Judaic Studies minor currently writing a history honors thesis titled *The Lasting Legacy of Henry Ford's Antisemitism*. Growing up in Metro Detroit, Fisher cites the strong presence of Henry Ford and the automobile industry in his primary education, which included frequent field trips to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. However, he noticed that the automobile tycoon's flagrant antisemitism and its impact on the Jewish community was not addressed



in this history and that he wouldn't have known about it had not his own family been affected by Ford's antisemitism in their daily lives. After reading Ford's antisemitic, four-volume pamphlet, *The International Jew*, in a class with U-M Professor Heather

Ann Thompson, Fisher became even more inspired to share this piece of Henry Ford's history. He is currently writing his thesis with Professor Thompson as his advisor. Fisher's goal is to highlight the lasting effects of Henry Ford's antisemitism and how it still affects the Metro Detroit Jewish community today.

Marina Mayorski

Marina Mayorski is a graduate student in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Certificate Program.

Mayorski works in translation of Russian, Yiddish, and Ladino with an interest in modern Jewish literature, specifically popular literature such as romance novels and murder mysteries. She was introduced to Ladino at the University of Michigan and is grateful for the unique opportunity to work with Dr. Devi Mays, a faculty member who focuses on Ladino and Sephardic culture. Mayorski enjoys the breadth of perspectives present in Judaic Studies and the way it allows students to develop critical perspectives about the world and their own identities.

This past summer, Mayorski participated in the YIVO Summer Yiddish Program. Through the program, she was able to



develop her Yiddish skills, converse with a diverse group of people in the program, and further her interest in Yiddish. She now plans on continuing her study of the language in Paris this winter and looks forward to incorporating Yiddish into her own

research. Mayorski says that her research keeps evolving with new experiences throughout her education, and that "it's important to stay really open and explore in terms of research agenda and goals."

Film Screening

The Band's Visit

Thursday, November 4, 7–9pm
North Quad, Space 2435

Join the Judaic Studies department for a film screening of "The Bands Visit," a 2007 comedy-drama that won eight Ophir Prizes awarded by the Israeli Film Academy. The film is about a band of the Egyptian police force heading to Israel to play at the inaugural ceremony of an Arab arts center, only to find themselves lost in the wrong town. It has been described as both a clever, subtle, slice-of-life comedy, and poignant cross-cultural exploration. Following the film there will be a short faculty-led discussion. This event is free and open to the public. There will also be popcorn! If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation to attend this event, please contact judaicstudies@umich.edu or 734-763-9047 in advance of this event.

Pavel Brunssen

Pavel Brunssen is a PhD student in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and is also pursuing a graduate certificate in the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Growing up in Bremen, Germany, Brunssen was a fan of the local soccer club, SV Werder Bremen. While he always loved the sport and became immersed in the fan experience, Brunssen also encountered antisemitism and

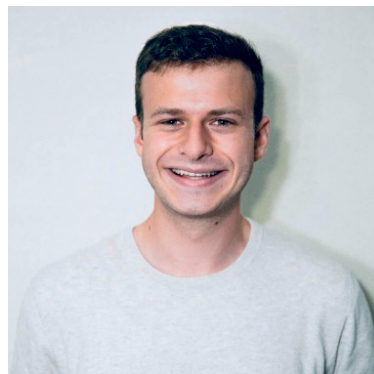


racism in the stadium, eventually leading to his current research on anti-semitism and antigypsyism in European soccer fan cultures. His research allows him to combine his three passions of soccer, scholarly interest to better understand

societal phenomena such as antisemitism, and drive for social change. Brunssen is committed to exploring these phenomena in the context of soccer because it “is THE hegemonic sport in Europe. In the ‘Tagesschau’, Germany’s most important daily news show, the news about soccer is broadcast toward the end, immediately before the weather forecast. Soccer in a way is ‘neutral’ and concerns everyone, just like the weather. Soccer is everywhere in Europe, yet it is not neutral, but always political. The European soccer stadium is a very important space for political performances and thus also offers potential for political change.” Brunssen enjoys the opportunity that Judaic studies and humanities provide to teach philosophical, ethical, and critical thinking: “What matters most to me is the empathy and solidarity that is so characteristic for Judaic studies and the humanities.” Brunssen is widely published for a student still researching his dissertation: after co-editing *Antigypsyism and Film* in 2020, publishing his first book with the German publisher Beltz Juventa titled *Antisemitismus in Fußball-Fankulturen: Der Fall RB Leipzig* in April 2021, and co-editing *Football and Discrimination: Antisemitism and Beyond* with Stefanie Schüler-Springorum in May 2021, Brunssen now plans to focus solely on his dissertation, which explores the relationship between history, memory cultures, and identities in European soccer.

David Zwick

David Zwick is a senior double majoring in Political Science and Judaic Studies with a Hebrew subplan. Zwick is writing an honors thesis with Dr. Rebecca Wollenberg and will be serving as a Student Ambassador during the 2021–2022 academic year. His project with Wollenberg is a historiography of biblical criticism analyzing the relationship between the modern academic presuppositions surrounding the Pentateuch’s formation and the literary methodologies of this historical criticism’s early founders, who were primarily 19th-century German Protestants. Zwick became interested in the field of Judaic Studies from both his personal experience as an observant Jew and through his formal education. Zwick is excited for an opportunity to conduct independent research. “Until now, I have only been able to see Biblical Studies as an ‘outsider’, passively analyzing various arguments,” he says. “It is a really amazing opportunity to see Biblical Studies in



a new light and to hopefully be able to contribute to the discourse in a positive way.” Zwick cites the importance of this research by recognizing the significant roles the Bible has played in western liberal thought and history. He believes that “a culture that

has been so intertwined with the word of any compendium of instructions ought to better understand how and what it is trying to teach us.” Zwick looks forward to serving as a student ambassador and a resource for student who are looking to explore the department and the opportunities of Judaic Studies.

Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Celebrates Class of 2021

The Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is celebrating the Class of 2021, a vibrant group comprising 19 minors, seven majors, and four graduate certificate students. These students graduated with a wide range of scholarly focuses in addition to Judaic studies, including political science, microbiology, neuroscience, economics, linguistics, and history of art. Several graduates will be continuing their education in law, medicine, and business, while others have already secured employment.

Miriam Saperstein won the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award, the distinction reserved for a graduating student who has excelled in Judaic studies courses and has been nominated by a faculty member for having made stand-out academic achievements. Saperstein also graduated with a minor in creative writing, commenting, “Through Judaic studies I got to learn more

about Jewish history, which has been incredibly influential on my art. I would take history classes and incorporate that into my ritual and writing.” Several faculty offered accolades about Saperstein’s contributions in classes and written work, including this praise from Prof. Devi Mays: “In Miriam’s writings, they exhibited deep intellectual curiosity as they delved deeply into an array of scholarship to craft nuanced, provocative, and well-supported analyses. Not only did they excel in all required areas of the course, but they regularly brought materials that were unknown to me that connected to class themes but were not related to Jewish history, whether bringing Yiddish poetry and music

to my attention, or graphic novels recounting the experiences of immigrants to the United States.”

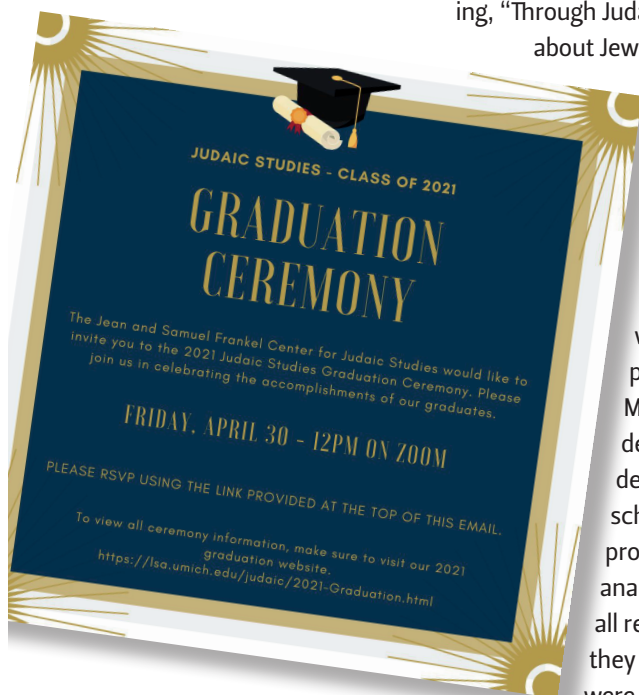
Rachel Levy received the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award, which is awarded to a student whose classwork and commitment to Yiddish has been impressive. Levy graduated from U-M in 2020 with a bachelor of arts in sociology of health and medicine and a minor in Judaic studies. She is currently in the Jewish Communal Leadership Program Class of 2022.

This year’s Marshall Weinberg prize, given annually to an outstanding graduate student who is engaged in writing a dissertation, was awarded to **Pragya Kaul**. Kaul’s dissertation project, *Refugees in Empire: Jewish Refugees in British India (1921–1951)*, promises to make an original and significant contribution to Jewish studies and Holocaust studies. The Frankel Center committee was particularly impressed with the methodological and theoretical breadth of her research, as well as the transnational components of her scholarship.

Graduates with degrees in Judaic studies are moving on to an array of diverse career paths, benefiting from the education they received at the Frankel Center:

Vanessa Freedman graduated with a bachelor of science in neuroscience and a minor in Judaic studies, and plans on attending medical school after graduation. “I loved the variety of options for classes to take in Judaic studies,” Freedman said. “There is something for everyone, and I was able to focus on learning specific topics and classes that interested me the most.”

Allison Bloomberg graduated with a bachelor of arts in Judaic studies and psychology, as well as a minor in community action and social change. “The small class sizes allow for easy recognition, and various events also offer students the opportunities to learn with professors in a more intimate setting,” said Bloomberg. “The center



has friendly faces, a plethora of opportunities both on and off campus, and has been a backbone to my Michigan experience.”

Rebecca Levy will be joining US Bank as a product manager after graduating with a bachelor of arts in cognitive science and minor in Judaic studies. “Not only was I able to take interesting classes that I really enjoyed, but I also felt a sense of community,” said Levy.

Economics major and Judaic studies minor **Joshua Zack** said, “The faculty and staff within the Judaic studies program at the University of Michigan are made up of high-caliber individuals with impressive backgrounds and widely recognized work. I always found the semester course lineups to be intriguing, filled with interesting courses ranging from Jewish history, philosophy, culture, and more. The Judaic studies program helped me as a Jew learn more about my history and culture. I am very thankful to have been a part of such an impressive program.”

Honors student **Jason Semaya** graduated with a bachelor of arts in Judaic studies, history, political science, and Middle East & North African studies. “One of my favorite things about the Judaic studies program is the variety of different courses available,” said Semaya. “I have taken classes about Modern Hebrew, Israeli television and media, and Nazism, among other courses. These have all given me a unique perspective on my own Jewish identity and they have helped me develop a strong understanding of my heritage, and the history of my community.”

To celebrate the graduates, the Frankel Center held a virtual event featuring remarks from center director Jeff Veidlinger, followed by associate director Shachar Pinsker’s congratulation of the students and presentation of the Judaic Studies Class of 2021 to their friends and family.

The 2021 graduates join a distinguished group of Frankel Center alumni. We wish them the best of luck!





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