



LSA

JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL  
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

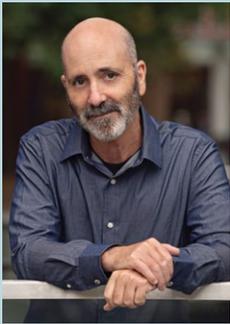
WINTER 2022

# FRANKELY SPEAKING



# From the Director

Winter term at the Frankel Center is off to an energetic start, and we look forward to a range of events, new and innovative teaching, and planning for the future. We are planning film screenings, lectures, and panels that have to do with a wide range of global Jewish experience in the past and



present. The themes covered in these events range as widely as Jewish studies itself. Presentations will cover history, literature, music, film; themes will touch on faith, identity, politics, sexuality, race, and gender. As of this writing, many of our events are scheduled to take place both in-person and simultaneously broadcast online. With the

experience of the past year and a half, we now know how to be nimble if conditions change and we feel we should hold an event completely online. It is satisfying to know that our students, faculty, Institute fellows, and staff continue to find ways to move forward in changing circumstances.

We are delighted to welcome a new colleague to the faculty—he has been with us as a Collegiate Fellow, but this term Mostafa Hussein joins us as a full-time Assistant Professor. Mostafa will be teaching classes on the interactions of Jews with other faiths and peoples in the Holy Land and Jerusalem. Welcome, Mostafa!

*It is satisfying to know that our students, faculty, Institute fellows, and staff continue to find ways to move forward in changing circumstances.*

The recently announced gift by the Padnos family (p. 5) represents another extraordinary opportunity for the Frankel Center to hire a distinguished scholar and teacher of Jewish Thought. We hope to conduct the formal search for this position in the coming academic year, and the Frankel Center community is taking time this semester to hold open discussions of what kinds of research areas this could entail. The wide range of Jewish thinking from ancient to modern, secular and religious, has intersected with the lived experience of Jewish people as well as the many other peoples and religions

they have encountered. This breadth of experience is exciting to us, and we are looking forward to the chance to explore it together.

The Frankel Institute launched the new year with a four-day symposium, “Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise.” This rich display of new scholarship on a crucial period of history for Jews and Christians felt like the culmination of many years of rethinking the connections of Jewish and global histories. This was a joint venture of the Frankel Institute theme year on Second Temple Judaism: The Challenge of Diversity and the Enoch Seminar, an international organ of scholarship on the convergence of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. The Enoch Seminar has significant roots in the Frankel Center, because of our own Gabriele Boccaccini’s founding role as well as the participation of many of our graduate students and current Institute fellows. The symposium was presented as an international webinar and had hundreds of registered participants from around the world.

The scholarship of many of our Frankel Institute fellows is on display in our ongoing podcast series, “Frankely Judaic,” accessible online through our website [<https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/resources/frankely-judaic-podcasts.html>]. We will continue to post episodes featuring our fellows for the rest of the year. Institute Fellow Rodney Caruthers III will present work at the SAJE lecture series at the Detroit Metro Jewish Community Center on March 9th.

On April 5th we hope to see many of you here and online for Shaul Magid’s presentation of the annual David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs. Professor Magid’s new book *Meir Kahane: The Public Life and Political Thought of an American Jewish Radical* (Princeton University Press) will be the taking-off point for this lecture, which will then be published as part of our Belin lecture series publications.

Enjoy the Winter edition of *Frankely Speaking*. We are pleased to produce three periodic newsletters this year in order to keep our Frankel Center friends, students, alumni, and the general public in touch with the many ways we continue to advance Judaic Studies at the University and in the community at large. Until the Spring/Summer issue, let me offer my personal thanks for your interest and wish you all well!

**Scott Spector**, *Interim Director*

# Mostafa Hussein

The Frankel Center is pleased to welcome Mostafa Hussein as a new faculty appointment for Winter 2022. Hussein, an intellectual historian studying Jewish–Arab relations in Israel/Palestine and the modern Middle East from the late 19th century to the present, was a Research Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies in 2016–2017 and then joined the Frankel Center as an LSA Collegiate Fellow in Judaic Studies from 2019 to 2021. Hussein says that he was drawn to the “openness of University of Michigan to interdisciplinary scholarship,” as it “makes it a great place to research and teach on the intertwining of Jewish history and culture with other histories and cultures...in dialogue with one another to better understand the ways in which cultures and histories meet together rather than studying them separately.”

Hussein’s interest in Jewish–Arab relations focuses on the ways in which both communities affect one another on the cultural and intellectual level. His draw toward this subject began while majoring in Judaic Studies as an undergraduate student in Egypt. He explains that he was “intrigued by the complicated and rich social, economic, and cultural relations between both people in the medieval and modern times in the Middle East,” yet at the same time was frustrated that previous explorations focused solely on the conflict and the politics of the relationship. With his appointment at the Frankel Center, Hussein hopes to continue challenging conventional historiographies that assume that Jewish and Arab communi-

*“The transcendence over national narratives empowers the ability to undergo a relational history by studying the interactions between Jews and Arabs in the modern times from angles other than the political and conflictual.”*

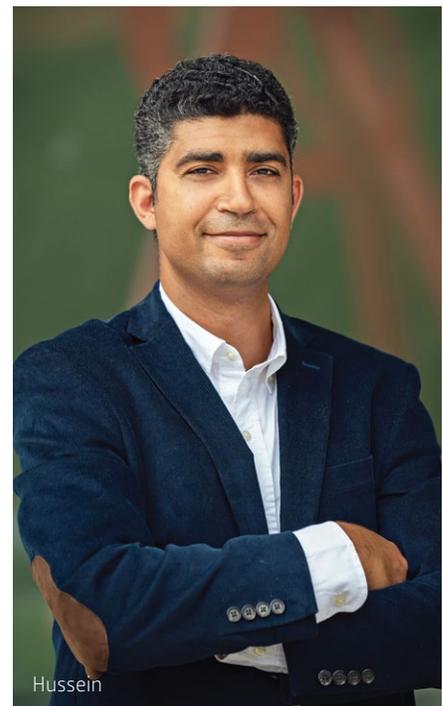
ties in Israel/Palestine and the modern Middle East were sealed off from one another, and to show how both communities have interacted in complex ways and had a mutual effect on each other through a host of relationships that crossed communal boundaries to shape each other’s self-perception and values.

Hussein highlights the importance of continuing this work:

*“The arbitrariness of national narratives excludes the life experiences of those whose lives were in common by setting boundaries between communities based on their ethnic identity. The transcendence over national narratives empowers the ability to undergo a relational history by studying the interactions between Jews and Arabs in the modern times from angles other than the political and conflictual.”*

His next project examines various perceptions of Jewish culture and history in the Arabic-speaking countries of the Middle East and the evolution of Jewish imageries from late 19th to mid-20th centuries. He also hopes to explore the relations between Jews and Muslims in the United States and how they are affected by the question of Israel/Palestine and the history of Jewish communities in the modern Middle East.

Hussein will be teaching “Jews and Arabs in the Holy Land” and “Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths.” He hopes that the courses will attract a diverse body of students, help them in their own exploration of the confluence of their political, religious, and ethnic identities, and enable them to realize the intertwined world of Jews and Arabs in the land. He also hopes to accompany a group of students overseas in the future to allow them to experience first-hand these complicated relations in various spaces in the Middle East.



Hussein

## Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event

# “When Patronage was ‘Matronage’: How Jewish Women’s Money Supported the Early Jesus Movement”

On November 17, an audience of undergraduates, faculty, and the general public assembled in Grand Rapids for the first live and simultaneously broadcast Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Event. Frankel Institute Fellow Dr. Shayna Sheinfeld presented a lecture called “When Patronage was ‘Matronage’: How Jewish Women’s Money Supported the Early Jesus Movement” at the Loosemore Auditorium at the Richard M. DeVos Center on Grand Valley State University’s campus. In addition to her residential fellowship at the Frankel Institute at the University of Michigan this year, Sheinfeld is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies.



Sheinfeld

Sheinfeld’s research aims to move beyond normative, elite evidence to include underrepresented populations such as women and enslaved people. She hopes that her lecture will give people a different picture than most have of Jewish and early Christian women. “They were not relegated to the home or ‘private sphere,’ they were not passively waiting to be guided by a man. They were active and thoughtful, they made decisions on their own, and they had money and agency and contributed in many ways to early Jewish and early Christian communities. These women were still products of their time and limited (as we all are) by our social and cultural situations.”

Sheinfeld’s current research at the Frankel Institute is geared toward her current monograph, *Big Tent Judaism: Diversity in Jewish Leadership in the First through Third Centuries CE*, which analyzes the varieties of leadership in Judaism in this period, including the early Jesus movement. As with her Padnos lecture, this project focuses on the inclusion of underrepresented populations in this time period, away from the traditional, masculine-centered ideas of leadership: a focus on political, religious, and military leaders. Sheinfeld explains:

“These are essential roles for an understanding of Jewish and Christian authority in this period, to be sure, but leadership roles exist at all levels of society, and by focusing on the elite roles only, we keep our gaze only on the most prominent figures and only on the most obvious ways one might be a leader. . . . We know that the early Jesus movement had women who were apostles and deacons, and women who financially and socially supported the movement. If we think beyond our immediate conceptions of elite



leadership, we can better see the diverse communities, institutions, and leaders in ancient Judaism.”

On December 13, Sheinfeld hosted a book launch for her textbook, *Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean* (Routledge 2022), written with co-authors Dr. Meredith Warren (Sheffield) and Dr. Sara Parks (Dublin). She also spoke on “Pacifism as Leadership in Jewish Antiquity” during the virtual Enoch Seminar and Frankel Institute conference *Studies in Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise*, which she is co-chairing in January 2022, and will be giving a talk at the Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies on “Was Jesus a Pharisee?” on February 28, 2022.

Sheinfeld looks forward to focusing on her research during the rest of her year at the University of Michigan and working with “such an amazing cohort of scholars.” “Even just two months into the fellowship,” she says, “our discussions help invigorate and excite my own research and writing, and more than once a comment by someone else has sent me on a merry research chase—I have already learned so much with this rich dialogue. I am incredibly grateful to my colleagues here, to Gabriele Boccaccini as our head fellow, and to the Frankel Institute for this opportunity.”

This was an exciting inauguration of the live and virtually simulcast Padnos Engagement on Jewish Learning events we will continue to hold annually. The fund was provided by a gift from the Stuart and Barbara Padnos Foundation to the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, and will facilitate annual public educational activities in Jewish Studies throughout the state with a focus on West Michigan.

## Padnos Family Donates Gift Exceeding \$1 million to The Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

In 1988, Stuart B. Padnos and Barbara Padnos, along with the Louis and Helen Padnos Foundation, together donated a gift to establish the Louis and Helen Padnos Visiting Professorship in Judaic Studies. This fund has enriched U-M’s Judaic Studies program by inviting scholars specializing in areas not regularly taught by permanent faculty to expand the breadth of Judaic academic offerings at the university.

In 2021, Daniel, Jeffrey, and Douglas Padnos, as trustees for the Stuart and Barbara Padnos Foundation, continued the family’s multi-generational commitment to supporting The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies with a gift exceeding \$1 million dollars. With this new generous gift addition, the Padnos Visiting Professorship is now expanded to a Faculty Professorship, establishing the The Stuart B. and Barbara Padnos Professorship in Jewish Thought.

Jeffrey Padnos shared that the brothers “are delighted to be able to expand upon it to establish this full professorship in Jewish Thought.

Director Scott Spector shares the center’s excitement for the opportunities that this new professor brings, stating that, “A new professorship in Jewish Thought is meant to provide coverage in some of the multiple and diverse traditions within Jewish life extending from biblical times to the present day. The focus on Jewish Thought opens up inquiries into how Jews have posed fundamental human questions about truth, beauty, and the constitution of the good life. We wish to examine the intellectual and cultural exchanges between Jews and their Muslim and Christian contemporaries. The study of Jewish Thought also attends to tensions between philosophical questioning and doctrines of Judaism. The study of Jewish philosophy provides students with multiple perspectives they can utilize in their own reflections on the possibilities of contemporary Jewish life. By introducing students to responses to questions of fundamental human concern, academic study of philosophy advances the goals of liberal arts education

“It was Stuart’s intention, which we strongly share, that the people chosen for this chair will demonstrate a passion for teaching, for connecting with people, and for contributing to mutual understanding.” **JEFFREY PADNOS**

Stuart and Barbara believed, and we have seen ourselves, that education can help people understand their similarities and differences, and that in most instances, the differences are far less than they thought. It was Stuart’s intention, which we strongly share, that the people chosen for this chair will demonstrate a passion for teaching, for connecting with people, and for contributing to mutual understanding.”

through a distinctive Jewish lens. The Padnos Professor endowment provides the resources to bring the unique insights of a scholar of Jewish thought to the University of Michigan and open up key areas of the humanities to Jewish concerns.”

The Stuart B. and Barbara Padnos Professorship in Jewish Thought will continue the family’s dedication to supporting the teaching and outreach of Judaic Studies.

# Frankel Center 2022

## Winter Events

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Black King of the Bible in Duke Ellington's Symphonic Triptych "Three Black Kings"

An ICAMus–The International Center for American Music event, sponsored by MCECS–Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies, in collaboration with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and MES–Dept. of Middle East Studies, University of Michigan In honor of Martin Luther King Day 2022  
**January 27, 3:00–5:00pm**  
<https://tinyurl.com/2zvsappv>

### 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, 3:00–5:00pm**  
<https://tinyurl.com/t77y66uh>

### WCEE Roundtable. From There to Here: The Yiddish Origins and Cultural Travels of *Fiddler on the Roof*

**Mikhail Krutikov, Anita Norich, and Karolina Szymaniak**  
**February 16, 12pm**  
Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/5WJqA>

### WCEE Lecture. Refugee Crises in Contemporary Europe, From the English Channel to the Polish–Belarusian Border

**John A. Young**, Senior Staff Development Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; **Geneviève Zubrzycki**, professor of sociology, WCEE director, U–M  
**February 18, 12pm**  
Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/n878k>

### Is Spinoza Still Salient? Are the Rabbis Really Relevant? Thinking in the Era of Instrumentalized Knowledge–Making

**Gilah Kletenik**  
**February 24, 12pm**  
Hybrid, 202 South Thayer Street, Room 2022  
Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/y99w4>

### Jewish Reimaginings of Magic and the Limits of its Prohibition in Second Temple Literature

**Rodney Caruthers II**  
**March 9, 7pm**

### What Does It Mean to Keep a Secret?

**Deborah Porter**  
**March 10, 4pm**  
Hybrid  
Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/G11Qg>  
North Quad Room 2435

**March 17, 4pm**  
Screening of “**Blue Box**” by Michal Weits  
Chemistry Building Room 1800  
Virtual stream registration:  
<https://forms.gle/WUpSCPGRys9y5nyf6>  
The link will be available to stream  
March 17–20

**March 24, 4pm**  
Screening of “**How to Say Silence**” by Shir Newman  
Chemistry Building Room 1800  
Virtual stream registration:  
<https://forms.gle/oQUFHpW8ma9mgKD28>  
The link will be available to stream  
March 24–27

**March 25, 12pm**  
**Virtual Panel**  
Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/RWWR8>  
The film screenings will be followed by a virtual panel with Deborah Porter and both of the films’ directors, Michal Weitz and Shir Newman.

### The Society of Savage Jews: The Politics of Jewish Primitivism

**Sam Spinner**  
**March 22, 4pm**  
Hybrid, 2022 South Thayer Building  
<https://myumi.ch/844Z6>

### Detroit Metro JCC SAJE Series

**Kelley Coblenz Bautch**  
“**Recovering Stories of the Maccabean Matriarchs**”  
**April 6, 7pm**

### 32nd Annual David W. Belin Lecture

**Shaul Magid**  
“**God Shed His Light on Thee**’: American and Jewish Exceptionalism in the Thought of Meir Kahane”  
**April 7, 7pm**  
<https://myumi.ch/DJwAG>

### Frankel Institute Seminar

**Amy–Jill Levine**  
**John Collins**  
**April 11–13**

Visit [lsa.umich.edu/judaic/news-events](https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/news-events) for more information and our complete event schedule.



# Alumni Profile

## Anna Spitz

A.B. 2017 College of Literature, Science, & the Arts – Judaic Studies;

A.B. 2017 College of Literature, Science, & the Arts – Psychology

### *Describe your job responsibilities:*

I'm a full-time MPA student at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, concentrating in Urban and Social Policy and specializing in Technology, Media, and Communications. I am particularly interested in policy-making and governance at the local level, the public-private partnerships that can be leveraged to make local government more efficient with emerging technologies, and the ways in which technology can benefit those who have been historically marginalized.

This year I am working part-time as a public policy intern for Amazon. In my work for Amazon, I am fortunate to get to work on a wide range of policy issues from trade, to artificial intelligence, to empowering small businesses, to criminal justice reform. I research and track legislation for internal use, as well as interface with external stakeholders about ways in which Amazon can better benefit the community.

### *What is the most rewarding part of your work?*

Knowing that I get to play a part in helping small business owners maximize their revenue, helping to make decisions about Amazon's social justice funding, and learning about areas of policy that I haven't previously explored. My colleagues are so smart and, as a public policy nerd, I feel lucky that I can have an expert-level rundown on any policy issue that I'm interested in.

### *Tell us about studying at the Frankel Center:*

My Judaic Studies classes were a highlight of my academic undergraduate experience.

I found my way to a degree in Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan by accident. I grew up as the rabbi's daughter in my local community and felt pretty confident in my Judaic knowledge after graduating from a K-12 Jewish day school. When I got to Michigan, I decided to enroll in one of Professor Julian Levinson's classes, thinking that I would get an easy A. I learned so much about Judaica in this intro-level class and became enchanted (and only earned a B+). I had never examined Jewish learning from a secular, academic perspective and it was like looking at my most important identity and ancestry in a new light. So I kept taking class after class in Judaic studies and eventually ended up majoring in it!

*“Studying Judaic studies is not just the study of Judaic studies. It is the study of literature, sociology, law, art, governance, and history.”*

I want to give some additional shoutouts to inspirational teachers: Professor Elliot Ginsburg, Professor Rebecca Wollenberg, and Professor Deborah Dash Moore (DDM helped me land an internship with The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization after graduation!). Each of these professors' teachings stuck with me and made a lasting impression.

### *How did your education prepare you for your current job?*

I see much of the Talmud as policymaking. Studying with the Frankel Center was the first time I really opened the Talmud alone, sat down, and felt like I was spending time with the historical rabbis over the centuries discussing and reforming the best way for the Jewish

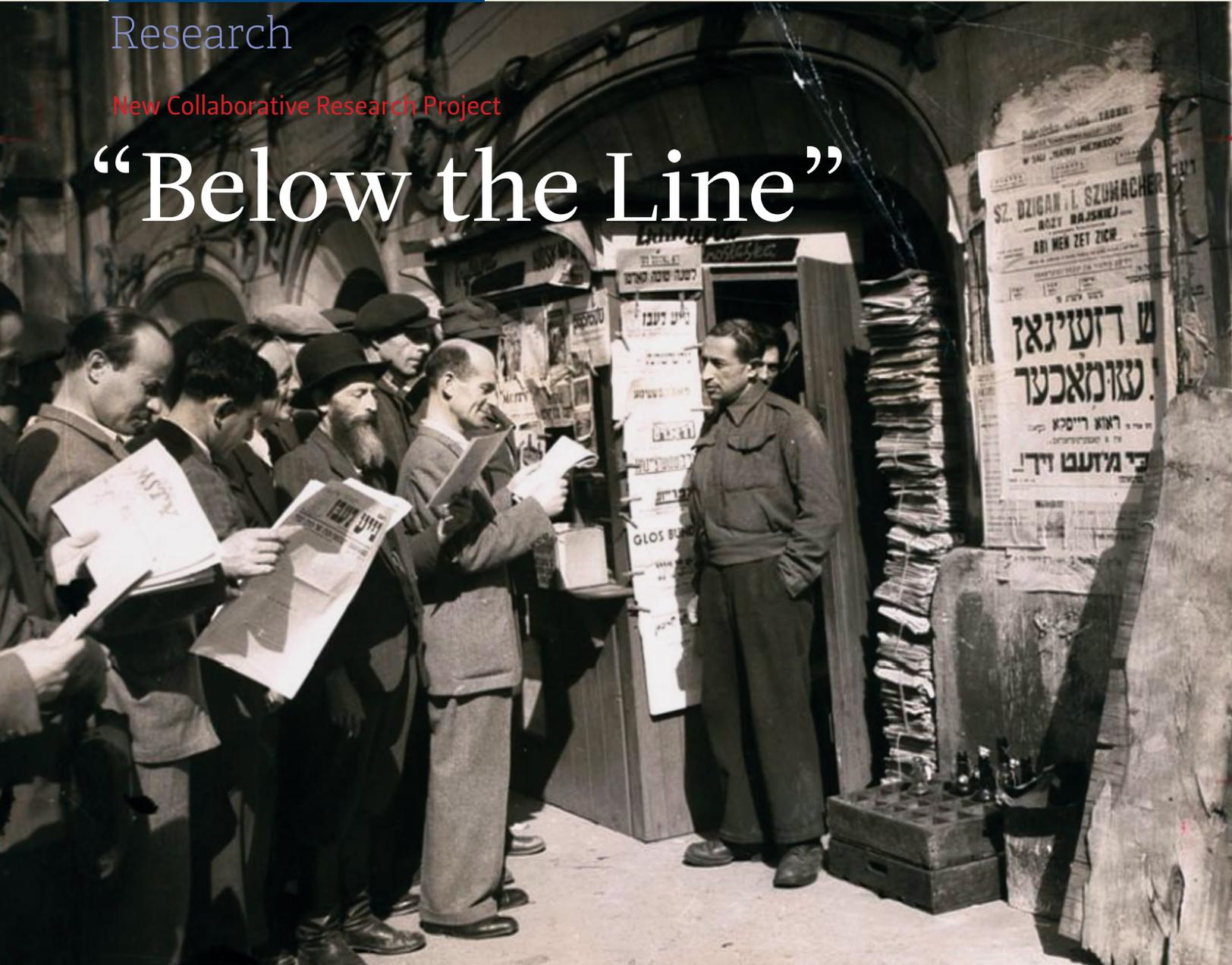


people to live both individually and collectively. Examining the rabbis' debates alongside critically analyzing the texts with my classmates truly sharpened my critical thinking.

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

Studying Judaic studies is not just the study of Judaic studies. It is the study of literature, sociology, law, art, governance, and history. Even if you are only a tiny bit interested in Judaism in any sense, you will likely find a class with the Frankel Center that ties into your other interests and sparks new ideas within yourself.

# “Below the Line”



In 2019, a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Collaborative Research grant was awarded to Professor Shachar Pinsker of the Frankel Center along with co-directors Professor Naomi Brenner (Ohio State University) and Professor Matthew Handelman (Michigan State University).

The project focuses on the *feuilleton*, an important and immensely popular feature in newspapers and journals during the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. A novel form of urban literature and journalism, the *feuilleton* was a critical public space for political debate, social commentary, and literary innovation that supplemented the news in a time of rising literacy and growing newspaper circulation.

This project was initiated in 2017 as a collaboration between the three co-directors and a growing group of scholars from North America, Europe, and Israel. Early stages were supported by a Small Initiatives Grant from the American Academy for Jewish Research, the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University. In the interview below, Professor Shachar Pinsker reflects on how the project directors adapted their plans for the NEH grant amidst a global pandemic and how they plan to continue building upon it in the future.

*While most people think of the feuilleton as a European form that was popular in France and Germany, our project and the website show it to be a truly global phenomenon.*

***What exactly is a feuilleton, and why is it important to Jewish Studies?***

The French word *feuilleton* means “small leaf,” in reference to its mode of inclusion in newspapers. It was visibly marked as different by a line toward the bottom on the page. This format “below the line” indicated that *feuilletons* could be cut off and read separately, independent from the rest of the paper and the political news that was subject to censorship. Over the course of the 19th century, the *feuilleton* became a site for literary and polemical performances in the newspaper, featuring wide-ranging topics: cultural and political criticism, articles of literary and scientific nature, as well as stories, sketches, travel accounts, local reportage, and poetry. Heinrich Heine and other Jewish writers began to experiment with *feuilleton* writing in the 1820s and 1830s and, with the lifting of press restrictions after the revolutions of 1848, the *feuilleton* became a widespread phenomenon across Europe. By the 1860s, Jewish newspapers in Hebrew and Yiddish had started to adopt and adapt this popular newspaper form.

***How did you first become interested in this area of research, and how has this project changed since its initiation in 2017? How has the project grown collaboratively?***

I first became interested in the *feuilleton* when I was doing research and writing my book *A Rich Brew: How Cafés Created Modern Jewish Culture* (NYU Press, 2018). I noticed that so many texts written by Jews and about Jews were published in newspapers and journals as *feuilletons*. I knew little about the *feuilleton*, and I also assumed that someone has done comparative work on the *feuilleton*, but I discovered that the topic was under-

studied and poorly understood. However, because *feuilletons* were written and published in so many languages, newspapers, and cities, it is impossible for any single scholar to comprehend them. I approached my colleague Naomi Brenner at Ohio State University, who did research on popular serial fiction published as *feuilleton* in newspapers, and we organized a panel at the AJS conference, and then a small one-day symposium in Ann Arbor. Both were successful and showed that there is much interest in the topic. At that point, we also approached Matt Handelman, a scholar of German and Jewish Studies and Digital Humanities at Michigan State University to collaborate with us. We applied for and received a grants from the American Academy of Jewish Research and National Endowment for Humanities to organize two international conferences in order to convene scholars from Israel, Europe, and the US. We did a very successful conference at the Hebrew University and the National Library of Israel. We widened the circle of scholars working on the *feuilleton* and modern Jewish culture to include historians, literary scholars, philosophers, and media scholars, who work on materials from the early 19th century to the 21st century. This covers materials written in Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Judeo-Arabic, German, Russian, French, Polish, Spanish, and Dutch. So, like the *feuilleton* itself, the project became multilingual and transnational.

***How has the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic affected the project?***

The COVID-19 pandemic caught us in the midst of our plans for a large conference in Ann Arbor in May 2020. It took us some time to realize how much the project would be disrupted by the pandemic. There was no possibility of

international traveling. For a long time, we couldn't access essential libraries and archives. However, after a few months we realized that we can move forward. Instead of a large conference, we held online workshops (September 2020–March 2021). We also switched gears and focused on materials that were already digitized and/or materials that our collaborators around the world could access wherever they were located. We developed new digital resources on *feuilletons* for our project website.

***How does the website contribute the project, and how can the public and scholars utilize it?***

The website is a major achievement, and we are very proud of and thankful for the large team of scholars, students, librarians, and technology experts who created it with us. This website now features approximately 25 Jewish *feuilletons* in the original form in which



*A novel form of urban literature and journalism, the feuilleton was a critical public space for political debate, social commentary, and literary innovation that supplemented the news in a time of rising literacy and growing newspaper circulation.*

they were published, along with English translations, brief commentaries by experts, along with a timeline and map that show where and when all these feuilletons were published. It represents a preview of the central goals of the future publication: to make available to interested readers a diverse set of Jewish feuilletons with academic context and commentary. With the international conference, the online workshops, and a new project website, we have been able to make significant progress toward the goals of creating, connecting, and convening a large cohort of scholars interested in Jewish feuilletons.

**What is your personal favorite feature or content on the website?**

It's hard to pick a favorite feature. I love the linguistic and thematic range of the texts we made available. I am thrilled that we have such a geographical range, with feuilletons published in Berlin, Calcutta [Kolkata], Frankfurt, Johannesburg, Mainz, Moscow, New York, Odessa, Paramaribo, St. Petersburg, Salonica, St. Petersburg, Tel Aviv, Vienna, and Warsaw. While most people think of the feuilleton as a European form that was popular in France and Germany, our project and the website show it to be a truly global phenomenon. You need to check the map to see how widespread the Jewish feuilleton was to understand how popular and influential it was.

The Frankfurter Zeitung (1906) with the distinctive feuilleton section “below the line.” (Source: Wikipedia).



In terms of texts, of course I love the text by the writer David Frischmann from St. Petersburg (1886) that I translated from Hebrew and wrote commentary about. But perhaps the most surprising text that I encountered so far is “The Disappeared Sukkah,” written by Abraham Philip Samson in Dutch, published in the monthly journal *Teroenga* in Paramaribo, Suriname, in October 1945. The feuilleton examines the reasons why Paramaribo’s synagogues were struggling in the 1940s. It reveals not only the difficulties faced by Surinamese Jews, but also their interactions with Afro-Creole Surinamese. Eli Rosenblatt, who was a fellow at the Frankel Institute, found it, translated it, and wrote a commentary to this fascinating text.

**What plans do you have for the project moving forward?**

We applied for a large collaborative research grant to continue to do research around the world over the next three years. The result of this will be an edited volume of scholarly essays on the feuilleton, the public sphere, and modern Jewish cultures. It will be published by the University of Michigan Press in print and as an open-access digitally enhanced e-book. The e-book will integrate our original scholarship on the Jewish feuilleton with primary sources for scholars,

students, and the general public. We also plan to continue to develop the website, to collaborate with media outlets, and to convene scholars to give talks in order to make the project accessible to the public.

**Is there anything else you'd like to share?**

I want to thank Naomi Brenner and Matt Handelman, the best collaborators anyone can dream of. I also want to make sure I mention not only the scholars who are collaborating on the project (some of their names with links to information about them is in the About Us page), but also the essential work of Judaic Studies graduate students and Institute fellows who worked with us. I also want to thank Joe Bauer (digital scholarship research consultant at U-M), Beth Binsky (graphic designer), Julia Falkovitch-Khain (website developer and database coordinator), and Nadav Liniel (project assistant) for the excellent work they have done. And finally, the project is grateful for the Frankel Center, the College of LSA, the American Academy of Jewish Research, and the NEH for their continuing support.

**For more information about the project and our activities, please see: <http://www.feuilletonproject.org/>**

## Faculty



**Adi Saleem Bharat** participated as a discussant in “Jewish–Muslim Gender Trouble: The Potential and Pitfalls of (Inter)Faith Encounters” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.



**Aileen Daas** has been honored with a 2021 Goodwin Award of Merit of the Society for Classical Studies for her marvelous book, *Galen and the Arabic Reception of Plato’s Timaeus* (Cambridge University Press, 2020).



**Anita Norich** was awarded the AJS Women’s Caucus Mentoring Award.



**Bryan Karle Roby** participated as a discussant in “Confronting Race in Jewish Studies” and “Translating Women Writers: Language, Politics, and Aesthetics” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.



**Deborah Dash Moore** was awarded the AJS Women’s Caucus Mentoring Award by the Association for Jewish Studies. Her article, “A New World Babylonia: The United States of America,” appeared in *The Oxford Handbook of the Jewish Diaspora*, ed. Hasia R. Diner (2021), 253–278. DOI: 10.1093/oxford-hb/9780190240943.013.30



**Devi Mays** has been awarded the Dorothy Rosenberg Prize of the American Historical Association for her incredible book *Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora*. The Dorothy Rosenberg Prize for the history of the Jewish diaspora recognizes the most distinguished work of scholarship on the history of the Jewish diaspora published in English during the previous calendar year. In making its selection, the prize committee pays particular attention to depth of research, methodological innovation, conceptual originality, and literary excellence. Her book was also awarded the 2021 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category of Modern Jewish History and Culture: Africa, Americas, Asia and Oceania. Mays also moderated a discussion on “Globalizing Jewish History, De–Ashkenazifying the Jewish Studies Curriculum” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.



**Karla Goldman** presented “‘All Races and Creeds’ or ‘Belonging to Our Persuasion’? Shifting Currents in the History of the Jewish Hospital of Cincinnati” and participated in the session “American Jewish Women and Volunteerism: Gender, Unpaid Labor, Activism, and Community in the Twentieth Century” as a Chair and Respondent at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.



**Scott Spector** chaired “Berlin and the Writing of the ‘Zionist Imaginary’” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. With Geneviève Zubrzycki, he interviewed Jeffrey Veidlinger about Veidlinger’s new book

*In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The Pogroms of 1918–1921 and the Onset of the Holocaust.*



**Shachar M. Pinsker** participated as a discussant in “A Woman of Letters: A Roundtable in Memory of Rachel Feldhay Brenner” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.

## Graduate Students

**Cassandra Euphrat Weston** presented “Geburt–Kontrol and Oreme Froyen: Reproductive Politics between Radical and Reform at the 46 Amboy St. Clinic” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.

**Nadav Linial** presented on “Hard Definitions: Genre and Ideology in Brenner’s Out of Distress” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. His new volume of poetry, *Praise* [in Hebrew], was recently published with Pardes Publishing House. He is the 2011 recipient of the Teva Poetry Prize and the 2010 recipient of The Israeli Ministry of Culture and Education Award for Up and Coming Poets. The manuscript of his new volume, *Hallel*, was awarded the Israeli Center for Libraries and the Pa’is Foundation award in 2021.

**Marina Mayorski** presented “Popular Ladino Fiction and the Formation of Sephardic Cultural Modernity in the Late Ottoman Empire” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference.

**Samuel Shuman** is a recipient of the 2021–2022 AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for his project “Cutting Out the Middleman: Displacement and Distrust in the Global Diamond Industry.”

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

Non-Profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Ann Arbor, MI  
 Permit No. 144



<< Judaic Studies students making latkes at the 2021 Hanukkah Cooking event.

**Executive Committee**  
 Scott Spector, Director  
 Bryan Roby  
 Deborah Dash Moore  
 Ruth Tsoffar

**Newsletter Credits**  
 Editor: Jillian Lucio  
 Designer: Mike Savitski  
 Printer: Allegra • Print • Mail • Marketing

**Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Steering Committee**  
 Alexandra Minna Stern  
 Deborah Dash Moore  
 Peggy McCracken  
 Bryan Roby  
 Ruth Tsoffar  
 Geneviève Zubrzycki  
 Scott Spector, Director

**Academic Advisory Board**  
 Lila Corwin Berman, Temple University  
 Miriam Bodian, University of Texas–Austin  
 Ross Brann, Cornell University  
 Richard Cohen, Hebrew University  
 Shaul Kelner, Vanderbilt University  
 Marjorie Lehman, Jewish Theological Seminary  
 Ranen Omer–Sherman, University of Louisville  
 Derek Penslar, Harvard University  
 Michael Swartz, Ohio State University  
 Beth Wenger, University of Pennsylvania  
 Yael Zerubavel, Rutgers University

**The Regents of the University of Michigan**  
 Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods  
 Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc  
 Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor  
 Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor  
 Sarah Hubbard, Okemos  
 Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms  
 Ronald Weiser, Ann Arbor  
 Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor  
 Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)