

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Grand Hyatt Washington Washington, DC

December 21–23, 2008

Sunday, December 21, 2008

GENERAL BREAKFAST <i>(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)</i>	8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	<i>McPherson/Franklin Square</i>
REGISTRATION	8:30 AM – 6:00 PM	<i>Independence Foyer</i>
AJS BUSINESS MEETING	9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	<i>Constitution A</i>
AJS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING	10:30 AM – 2:00 PM	<i>Farragut Square</i>
BOOK EXHIBIT <i>(List of Exhibitors, p. 65)</i>	1:00 PM – 6:30 PM	<i>Independence Ballroom</i>
FILM SCREENINGS <i>(List of Films, pp. 63 - 64)</i>	9:30 AM – 6:30 PM	<i>Conference Theatre</i>

Session 1, Sunday, December 21, 2008

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

1.1

Constitution A

AMERICAN RESPONSES TO NAZISM IN THE 1930s: NEW RESEARCH ON ANTISEMITISM, ISOLATIONISM, AND THE JEWISH REFUGEE PROBLEM

Sponsored by the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies

Chair: Racelle Weiman (Temple University)

American Elites and the German Jewish Refugee Crisis

Laurel Leff (Northeastern University)

Antisemitism in the America First Movement

June Melby Benowitz (University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee)

American Jewry and Illegal Immigration to Palestine, 1938–1940

Rafael Medoff (The David Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies)

1.2

Constitution B

NEH PLANNING GRANTS: TWO CURRENT JEWISH AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECTS

Chair: David Martz (National Endowment for the Humanities)

Discussants: Gabriel Goldstein (Yeshiva University Museum)

Joanne Jacobson (Yeshiva College)

Marsha Kinder (University of Southern California)

1.3

Constitution C

THE JEWISH WRITINGS OF MICHAEL CHABON

Chair: Helene Meyers (Southwestern University)

Discussants: Alan L. Berger (Florida Atlantic University)

Alisa Braun (University of California, Davis)

Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)

1.4

*Constitution E***JEWISH RESPONSES TO MODERN BIBLE CRITICISM: REJECTION, RESISTANCE, ACCOMMODATION***Chair:* Christian Wiese (University of Sussex)*Discussants:* Frederick E. Greenspahn (Florida Atlantic University)

Jay Harris (Harvard University)

Alan T. Levenson (University of Oklahoma)

1.5

*Penn Quarter A***PATRONAGE, TRUST, AND AGENCY: NETWORKS OF EUROPEAN JEWRY***Chair and Respondent:* Matthias B. Lehmann (Indiana University)**Livornese Hebrew Printing, Patronage, and Jewish Intellectual Networks in the Eighteenth Century**

Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)

Jewish Commercial Networks in Central Europe: Trade, Trust, and Bankruptcy

Cornelia Aust (University of Pennsylvania)

Jewish Political Networks and the Pogroms of 1881–82: Identifying Agents, Objects, Motivations

François Guesnet (University College London)

1.6

*Penn Quarter B***RETHINKING THE “OTHER”: PROBLEMS IN POST-MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT, POLITICS, AND THE MEDIA***Chair:* Janice Fernheimer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)**Is the “Other” Absolute? Two Conflicting Postwar French-Jewish Thinkers: Levinas and R. Leon Ashkenazi (Manitou)**

Susan A. Handelman (Bar-Ilan University)

From the “Other” to Politics: A New Reading of the Priority of the “Other” in Levinas

Jacob E. Meskin (Hebrew College)

The Media and the Construction of the “Other” in the Arab–Israeli Conflict

Richard Landes (Boston University)

1.7

*Independence G***EMBODYING AND WRITING THE STATE: WOMEN AND ZIONISM IN ARGENTINA, ISRAEL, AND THE UNITED STATES***Chair:* Mark A. Raider (University of Cincinnati)**Hebrew Queen Esther: Nationalizing the Female Body**

Hizky Shoham (Bar-Ilan University/Yale University)

American Housewives in the Promised Land: Two 1950s Memoirs of Life in Israel

Emily Alice Katz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Electing “Miss Sefarad”: Sephardic Jewish Women, Zionism, and Ethnic National Identities in Argentina, 1935–1960

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

1.8

*Independence I***GENDER, PRAYER, AND SPIRITUALITY***Chair:* Melissa Klapper (Rowan University)**A Spirited Chavruta: Spirituality and Gender in a Beit Midrash in Jerusalem**

Deidre Butler (Carleton University)

In the Key of Female: Music and Gender in the Modern and Contemporary American Cantorate and Jewish Worship Culture

Marsha Dubrow (The Graduate Center, CUNY)

The Religious Education of Women in Satmar Communities

Ilán Haim Fuchs (Bar-Ilan University)

1.9

Renwick

NEW STUDIES IN THE REDACTION OF RABBINIC TEXTS

Chair and Respondent: Serguei Dolgopolskii (University of Kansas, Lawrence)

Forced Interpretations as Evidence for Redactional Ideology: The Portrayal of Rabban Gamaliel II in the Yerushalmi

Richard Hidary (Yeshiva University)

From Synagogue to Literature: What We Can Learn from the Redactions of *Midrash Vayosha*

Rachel Mikva (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Reciting the Shema: Redactional History and the Ascendancy of the House of Hillel

Binyamin Katzoff (Bar-Ilan University)

1.10

Burnham

JEWISH WRITERS IN EASTERN EUROPE DURING AND AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Chair and Respondent: Joanna B. Michlic (Lehigh University)

Jewish-Russian Holocaust Poetry in Official Soviet Venues: 1944–1946 (Ehrenburg, Antokolsky, Ozerov)

Maxim D. D. Shrayder (Boston College)

“Shhh! I am talking now”: The Function of Holocaust Narratives in Hanna Krall’s Literary Reportages

Dorota Glowacka (University of King’s College)

Imre Kertesz’s Fatelessness: Film and Novel

Catherine Portuges (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

1.11

Lafayette

REGIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL PERSPECTIVES OF AMERICAN JEWRY

Chair: Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

A Preliminary Survey of Jewish Organizations in the United States

Paul Burstein (University of Washington)

Complicated Assimilations: Experiences of Difference among Mid-Twentieth-Century Southern Jews

Dina Pinsky (Arcadia University)

Western Jews, Ethnic Identity, and the Japanese American Other, 1900–1942

Ellen Eisenberg (Willamette University)

1.12

Roosevelt

SOLOMON SCHECHTER AND THE CREATION OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Chair: Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

Creating Centrist Judaism in England: Schechter’s Influence on Morris Joseph

Matthew LaGrone (University of Delaware)

Solomon Schechter and America: Mutual Influences

David B. Starr (Hebrew College)

Solomon Schechter’s Disciples and the Creation of Conservative Judaism

Michael Cohen (Tulane University)

1.13

Wilson

SELF AND OTHER IN THE FORMATION OF JEWISH IDENTITY

Chair and Respondent: Moshe Rosman (Bar-Ilan University)

Directionality and Mutability: The Place of the Hebrew Language in Medieval and Early Modern Jewish–Christian Discourse and Polemic

Daniel Stein Kokin (Yale University)

Kabbalah and Haskalah: A Dialectic Revisited

Sharon H. Flatto (Brooklyn College, CUNY)

The Egyptian Language in Rabbinic Literature

Rivka Kern Ulmer (Bucknell University)

1.14

*Cabin John***ISRAEL IN THE FIRST DECADE OF INDEPENDENCE: DEFINING CITIZEN RIGHTS IN A NEW STATE***Chair:* Carsten Schapkow (University of Oklahoma)**The 1948 Generation and Postwar Reconstruction**

Moshe Naor (Tulane University)

The Right to Travel Abroad during Israel's First Decade: Between State and Citizen

Orit Rozin (Tel Aviv University)

1.15

*Arlington***LITURGY AND MUSIC***Chair:* Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)**Credal Expression in the Shabbat-Evening Amidah**

Debra Reed Blank (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Function of Music in Creating a Coherent Liturgical Experience: Kabbalat Shabbat and Friday Ma'ariv

Boaz Tarsi (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Music of Friday Night Service in Sephardi/Mizrahi Traditions

Mark Kligman (HUC-JIR)

Session 2, Sunday, December 21, 2008**11:15 AM – 1:00 PM**

2.1

*Constitution A***SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON JEWISH CONTINUITY: INTERMARRIAGE AND IDENTITY FROM THE TALMUD TO MODERNITY***Chair:* Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota)**Acculturation and Intermarriage: The Case of Fourth-Century Mahoza**

Yaakov Elman (Yeshiva University)

Disappearing Acts? Intermarried Men and the Jewish Community

Keren R. McGinity (University of Michigan)

Gendered Identity Differences among Young Adult Children of Intermarriage

Rachel Rockenmacher (Independent Scholar)

2.2

*Constitution B***BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION AND GENDER STUDIES***Chair:* Diana Lipton (King's College London)**Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible: Theory, History, Scholarship**

Esther Fuchs (University of Arizona)

The Place of Women in Priestly Nationalism

Rachel Sharon Havrelock (University of Illinois, Chicago)

Genealogy, Gynecology, and Gender: The Priestly Writer's Portrait of a Woman

Elizabeth Goldstein (University of California, San Diego)

Ruth and Inner-Biblical Allusion: The Case of I Samuel 25

Yitzhak Berger (Hunter College, CUNY)

2.3

*Constitution C***A JEW AND PHILOSOPHER: A HANS JONAS RETROSPECTIVE***Chair:* Zachary J. Braiterman (Syracuse University)*Discussants:*

Leora F. Batnitzky (Princeton University)

David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Arizona State University)

Christian Wiese (University of Sussex)

Michael E. J. Zank (Boston University)

2.4

*Constitution E***HYBRID LANGUAGES: THEOLOGY, POETRY, AND LITURGY IN LIBERAL PRAYERBOOKS***Chair:* Alan Mintz (Jewish Theological Seminary)**Close Encounters of the Metaphoric Kind: Gender and Theology in *Siddur Mishkan Tefilah***

Rachel R. Adler (HUC-JIR)

Sneaking into the Prayerbook: The Boundaries between Poetry and Prayer

Maera Shreiber (University of Utah)

Judging Liberal Liturgy: The Last Taboo?

Catherine Madsen (National Yiddish Book Center)

2.5

*Penn Quarter A***THE MELTING POT: RECONSIDERING ISRAEL ZANGWILL'S PLAY AT ITS CENTENNIAL***Chair:* Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)***The Melting Pot*, *The Cockpit*, and *The Principle of Nationalities*: Zangwill's Theater of War and Peace**

Meri-Jane Rochelson (Florida International University)

The Arrival of the "Superman"? Reconsidering the Racial Content of Israel Zangwill's *Melting Pot* One Hundred Years Later

Aviva Taubenfeld (Purchase College, SUNY)

"A Wild Creature": Zangwill's Revolutionary Daughter

Susan David Bernstein (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Respondent: Todd M. Endelman (University of Michigan)

2.6

*Penn Quarter B***CREATING CULTURE/CREATIONS OF CULTURE: NORTH AMERICAN JEWRY IN MEDIA, MUSIC, ADVERTISING, AND ART***Chair:* Judith F. Rosen (The Graduate Center, CUNY)**The Pesach Rubenstein Murder Trial: Jews and Mass Media in Nineteenth-Century America**

Edward Portnoy (Rutgers University)

The Spaces and Places of American Jewish Advertising

Kerri P. Steinberg (Otis College of Art and Design)

The "Cult of Synthesis" Embellished: Jewish GIs and Their Art in World War II

Daniel M. Bronstein (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Cultural "Work": Singing, Dancing, Acting, Reading "far a shenerer beserer velt"

Ester Reiter (York University)

2.7

*Independence G***VISUAL CULTURE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST: JEWISH EXPERIENCE THROUGH THE PERPETRATORS' LENS***Chair:* David A. Brenner (Rice University)**The (Photographically Illustrated) Book of the Dead: On German *Friedhofsbücher***

Daniel H. Magilow (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Cinema and the Traumatized Tourist: Jewish Experience and Memory in *KZ* and *And Along Came Tourists*

Brad Prager (University of Missouri, Columbia)

Baroque and Beyond: Rethinking the Aesthetics of Fascism in Luchino Visconti's *The Damned*

Jennie Hirsh (Maryland Institute College of Art)

Respondent: Darcy Buerkle (Smith College)

2.8

*Independence I***ISSUES IN JEWISH DEMOGRAPHY***Chair:* Jonathon Ament (United Jewish Communities)**Sixty Years of World Jewish Demography: Change and Continuity**

Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Jewish Identity among Young Adults in Europe and North America

Benjamin Phillips (Brandeis University)

Four Questions about American Jewish Demography

Ira Sheskin (University of Miami)

Interfaith Couples: Rabbinic Wedding Officiation and Subsequent Jewish Engagement

Bruce A. Phillips (HUC-JIR)

2.9

*Renwick***READINGS IN MODERN GERMAN JEWISH LITERATURE***Chair:* Jonathan M. Hess (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)**(Re)Visions of Wilhelm Meister: Bildung in the Life and Work of Karl Emil Franzos**

Leo W. Riegert Jr. (Kenyon College)

In My Flesh Shall I See God: Franz Kafka's "In der Strafkolonie," the Alphabet, the Covenant, and Isaac Luria's Tikkun Olam

Ruth Christa Anita Callahan (Glendale Community College)

Infants/Schlemiels: The Figure of Infancy in the Fiction of Franz Kafka and the Poetry of Paul Celan

Menachem Feuer (D'Youville College)

2.10

*Burnham***ART, ETHNICITY, AND NATIONALITY IN ISRAEL***Chair:* Alan Benjamin (Pennsylvania State University)**Israeli Choreography of Social Hierarchy: Ashkenazi Jews, Mizrahi Jews, and Arabs**

Dina Roginsky (University of Toronto)

Russian-Language Israeli Literature: An Introduction

Anna P. Ronell (Wellesley College)

Sing Us a Mawal: The Politics of Culture-Brokering Palestinian–Israeli Musicians in Israel

Galeet Dardashti (University of Texas at Austin)

Were the Burecas Kosher? The Attitude to Religion and Religious People in Israeli Cinema in the 1970s

Avi Picard (New York University)

2.11

*Lafayette***VARIETIES OF RABBINIC LITERATURE***Chair:* Dvora E. Weisberg (HUC-JIR)**Remapping Midrash Halakhah**

Azzan Yadin (Rutgers University)

"Flying in Air" and "Torah Bodies": A New Interpretation of M. Hagigah 1:8

Nehemia Polen (Hebrew College)

Sowing Flax and Trapping Deer: Narratives of Literary Origin in the Babylonian Talmud

Henry Abramson (Touro College South)

Respondent: Richard L. Kalmin (Jewish Theological Seminary)

2.12

Roosevelt

HA-SHOMER HA-TZAIR IN EUROPE AFTER THE HOLOCAUST: SHAPING COLLECTIVE MEMORY, MOLDING A COMMON FUTURE

Chair and Respondent: David Engel (New York University)

The Struggle of *Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair* for Shaping the Memory of the Holocaust

Eli Alexander Tzur (Academic College Seminar Ha-Kibbutzim)

“Broken Youth” into Pioneers: *Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair* in Europe after the Holocaust

Avinoam Jacob Patt (University of Hartford)

***Ha-Shomer ha-Tzair* after the Holocaust: Comradeship vs. Ideology**

Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)

2.13

Wilson

WAR IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE INSIDER/OUTSIDER PROBLEM

Chair: Jeffrey Haus (Kalamazoo College)

The Cultural Question among Russian Zionists on the Eve of the Balfour Declaration

Brian J. Horowitz (Tulane University)

Krig in Shpanyen: The Civil War Correspondence of S. L. Schneiderman

Jack Kugelmass (University of Florida)

2.14

Cabin John

INTERRELIGIOUS HOSTILITY IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES

Chair: Naomi Grunhaus (Yeshiva University)

“When ropes he pulls, with rubbish he’s full”: Anti-Christian Curses in the Medieval and Early Modern Period

Yaacov Deutsch (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The New Polemical Arguments of an Inquisition Prisoner: The Case of Isaac de Castro Tartas

Miriam Bodian (Touro College)

The Jewish Badge in Renaissance Italy: The Iconic O, the Yellow Hat, and the Paradoxes of Distinctive Sign Legislation

Flora Cassen (University of Vermont)

Distinctions without Much Difference? Ritual Murder, Blood Libel, and the Need to Classify

Emily Rose (Johns Hopkins University)

2.15

Arlington

CARIBBEAN HAVENS: JEWISH REFUGEE EXPERIENCES IN JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Chair: Judith Laikin Elkin (University of Michigan)

Last-Ditch Haven: Jamaica’s Role in the Re-Rescuing of Jews from the Holocaust

Paul R. Bartrop (Bialik College)

The Jewish Refugee Settlement in the Dominican Republic: Sosúa, 1940–1945

Marion Kaplan (New York University)

Jews to Trinidad: An Unintended Haven

Alisa Siegel (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

Respondent: Judah Cohen (Indiana University)

GENERAL LUNCH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

McPherson/Franklin Square

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

Session 3, Sunday, December 21, 2008

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

3.1

*Constitution C***JEWISH WANDERINGS, WANDERING JEWS***Chair:* Judith Page (University of Florida)**The Transformation of Elijah from Zealous Prophet to the Archetype of the Wandering Jew**

Rachel Adelman (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Shelley's Esemplastic Wandering Jew

Edan Dekel (Williams College)

Hans Christian Andersen's Ahasverus: In the Skin of a Jew

David Gantt Gurley (Harvard University)

The Eternal Odessit: Wanderings in and out of Old Odessa, The Jewish City of Sin

Jarrod Tanny (Ohio University)

3.2

*Constitution E***JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN LEARNING DURING THE HIGH MIDDLE AGES: PARALLELS AND POINTS OF CONTACT***Chair:* Martin I. Lockshin (York University)**The Process of Reading in Twelfth-Century Jewish and Christian Biblical Exegesis**

Michael A. Signer (University of Notre Dame)

Tosafists, Cathedral Masters, and Their Critics

Ephraim Kanarfogel (Yeshiva University)

Jewish Knowledge of Christianity in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

Daniel J. Lasker (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Echoes of the Eve/Mary Dichotomy in the Zohar

Sharon Koren (HUC-JIR)

3.3

*Penn Quarter A***RABBINIC REDACTORS AND THEIR READERS***Chair:* Judith R. Baskin (University of Oregon)**Confusing the Heavenly and Human Fathers: Rabbinic Power and Powerlessness in BT Massekhet Ta'anit**

Julia Watts Belser (Missouri State University)

In Front of the Text: Reading Self in Rabbinic Literature

Serguei Dolgopolskii (University of Kansas, Lawrence)

Literary Structure and Thematic Coherence in a Chapter of Bavli

Devora Steinmetz (Independent Scholar)

Jacob ibn Habib's Critique of Medieval Intellectual Culture: A View of the Ein Yaakov through the Lens of the Talmud

Marjorie S. Lehman (Jewish Theological Seminary)

3.4

*Penn Quarter B***INTERROGATING THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN JEWISH IDENTITY: AN EXPLORATION OF MODELS, METAPHORS, AND METHODS***Chair:* Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)**An Existentialist Approach to Jewish Identity**

Stuart Charme (Rutgers University)

Jungle Gyms and China Shops: Durability and Fragility in Jewish Identity Formation

Tali Hyman (HUC-JIR)

Between Me and the Deep Blue Sea: Identity Formation in a Time of Liquid (Post)Modernity

Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)

Gendering Jewish Studies in the Study of Identity

Debra Renee Kaufman (Northeastern University)

3.5

*Independence G***THE VISUAL CULTURE OF JEWISH WEDDINGS: A RING, A DOCUMENT, AND A FEW NICE PICTURES***Chair:* Carol Zemel (York University)**“Italian” Jewish Marriage Rings from Central Europe**

Vivian B. Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Transformations of the Ketubah or, the Gallery of Failed Marriages

Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)

Between Sacredness and Feminism: Male–Female Union in the Artwork of Nechama Golan

Edna Nahshon (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Respondent: Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

3.6

*Independence I***SACRED SPACE, TEMPLE, AND PRIESTLY TRADITIONS***Chair:* Judith H. Newman (Emmanuel College)**Reopening the Gates of Ezekiel’s Temple**

Steven P. Weitzman (Indiana University)

Conflicting Models of Jewish Sacred Space: A Neo-Structuralist Analysis

Seth Kunin (Durham University)

“And they shall observe all of its form”: Text and Place in Ezekiel 40–48

Adriane Leveen (HUC-JIR)

The Blasphemer Episode in Leviticus 24: Echoes of an Anti-Solomon Polemic?

Mark Leuchter (Temple University)

3.7

*Renwick***IDENTITY POLITICS AND JEWISH STUDIES***Chair:* Sara R. Horowitz (York University)*Discussants:*

Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)

Jeffrey Peck (Baruch College, CUNY)

Moshe Rosman (Bar-Ilan University)

3.8

*Burnham***ANNE FRANK, HER DIARY, AND THEIR MEDIATIONS***Chair:* Daniel Belasco (The Jewish Museum)**“I still believe”: Anne Frank in American Passover Haggadot**

Liora Gubkin (California State University, Bakersfield)

Sounding a Young Girl: Musical Representations of Anne Frank

Judah Cohen (Indiana University)

Educating (with) Anne Frank

Ilana Abramovitch (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY)

Remembering Anne Frank: Icon of Tolerance and Target of Anti-Semitism

Brigitte Sion (New York University)

3.9

*Lafayette***SEPHARDI/MIZRAHI WOMEN AND FAMILY***Chair:* Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)**Dreams of My Mother: Gender, Family, Love, and Mystical Self-Fashioning in Luis de Carvajal’s Spiritual Autobiography (Mexico, 1592–1596)**

Ronnie Perelis (Brandeis University)

Mizrahi Jews as Women? What Gender Studies Can Teach Us about Jews of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia

Alanna E. Cooper (University of Michigan)

Moroccan Judeo-Spanish Women’s Songs: Mysticism, Identity, and the Dynamics of Power

Vanessa Paloma (Hadassah Brandeis Institute)

The Western Sephardic Family as Reflected in *Thesovro Dos Dinim*, by Menasseh ben Israel, Amsterdam, 1647

Julia R. Lieberman (St. Louis University)

3.10

Roosevelt

WEST AND EAST: JEWISH HISTORIANS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

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

Setting the Record Straight: Polish Jewish Historians and Local History in Interwar Poland

Natalia Aleksiu (Tourro College)

“As brave with his pen as a Maccabee with his sword”: Graetz and the Embrace of Subjectivity in Jewish Historical Writing

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

Locating German Jewish Cultures between the Province, the Nation, and the Diaspora

Nils Roemer (University of Texas at Dallas)

Respondent: Michael Brenner (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

3.11

Wilson

ISSUES IN HEBREW LINGUISTICS

Chair: Benjamin H. Hary (Emory University)

Back for the Future, Forward for the Past: The Metaphoric Structuring of Hebrew Time Adverbials and Its Cultural Implications

Zelda K. Newman (Lehman College, CUNY)

The Potential of Informal Education in the Acquisition of Hebrew and Beyond: Hebrew-Speaking Summer Camps

Avital Feuer (University of Maryland)

3.12

Cabin John

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN THE YISHUV

Chair: Aviva Halamish (The Open University of Israel)

Women's Leadership in the Struggle for Suffrage in the Yishuv

Margalit Shilo (Bar-Ilan University)

Breaking through Traditionalism: Religious-Zionist Female Leadership during the Mandate Period

Lilach Rosenberg-Friedman (Bar-Ilan University)

Daring, Devotion, Vision: Ada Fishman (Maymon) and Cohorts Defy Gender Boundaries

Bat-Sheva Margalit Stern (Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies/The Open University of Israel)

3.13

Arlington

ASPECTS OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH THOUGHT

Chair: James Arthur Diamond (University of Waterloo)

Maimonides and the Medieval Islamic Understanding of *Phronesis*

Steven Harvey (Bar-Ilan University)

Maimonides' Theory of Law in His Introduction to His Commentary on the Mishnah

Lawrence J. Kaplan (McGill University)

Was Judah Alfakhar Really an Anti-Maimonidean?

Jacob Adler (University of Arkansas)

“Since when does our soul exist?” The Jewish Philosopher Sa'd ibn Mansur ibn Kammūna (d. 1284) on the Pre-Eternity of the Human Soul

Lukas Muehlethaler (Yale University)

Session 4, Sunday, December 21, 2008

4:15 PM – 6:15 PM

4.1

Independence F

ISRAEL–DIASPORA RELATIONS: EVOLVING DEFINITIONS

Chair and Respondent: Allan M. Arkush (Binghamton University)

Diaspora Rebellions: U.S. Jews React to the “Who Is a Jew” Debate in Israel

Marianne R. Sanua (Florida Atlantic University)

Turning Points and Critical Decisions in Israel’s Tortuous Pursuit of Expediting a Convergence of Mutual Interests with the Jewish Diaspora

Natan Aridan (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

On Defining the Special Relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry

Mervin F. Verbit (Touro College/Brooklyn College, CUNY)

4.2

Penn Quarter A

MULTILINGUALISM AND JEWISH CULTURES: CASES IN NORTH AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA

Chair and Respondent: Alan Astro (Trinity University)

Cultural and Linguistic Multiplicities in the Writing of Marcel Bénabou

Dinah Assouline Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

Writing in Ladino: Language Revival and National Identity in Contemporary Argentina

Monique R. Balbuena (University of Oregon)

Shame and Honor, or Yiddish in Argentina

Lois Barr (Lake Forest College)

The Mother Tongue of the Jews of Egypt: Insights from Paula Jacques and Jacques Hassoun

Aimée Israel-Pelletier (University of Texas at Arlington)

4.3

Penn Quarter B

RESPONSES TO JEWISH COMMUNAL DISCONTINUITY

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History Fellowships Program

Chair: Hasia R. Diner (New York University)

From Legal Autonomy to Municipal Integration in Hamburg, 1750–1780

David Horowitz (Columbia University)

Family Ties: Converts and Community in Imperial Russia

Ellie Schainker (University of Pennsylvania)

La Nación: Community and Blood in the Atlantic World

Hilit Surowitz (University of Florida)

Respondent: Elisheva Carlebach (Columbia University)

4.4

Independence G

MARSHALL SKLARE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry

Chair: Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)

Smart Jews

Paul Ritterband (Haifa University)

Respondents: Amitai Etzioni (George Washington University)

Bethamie Horowitz (New York University)

4.5

Independence I

TEACHING AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES

Chair: Noam F. Pianko (University of Washington)

Discussants: Joyce Antler (Brandeis University)

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)

Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)

4.6

Renwick

RETHINKING JEWISH ETHICS*Chair:* Yudit K. Greenberg (Rollins College)**“These and those are the words of the living God”: A Critical Consideration for Contemporary Jewish Ethics**

Nina Redl (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Rosenzweig: On the Question of Being and the Commandment of Love

Daniel Brandes (University of King's College)

The Movement from Ethics to Social Life and Politics in Levinas's Thought, and Why Decency Obscures Obligation

Marc A. Cohen (Seattle University)

Rhetoric of Modern Jewish Ethics: A Methodological Proposal

Jonathan Crane (University of Toronto)

The Logic of Science vs. the Theory of Creation: The “Judgment of Contradiction” in Hermann Cohen's *Logic of Origin*

Hartwig Wiedebach (University of Zurich)

4.7

Burnham

YIDDISH FOLK CULTURE AND EARLY MODERN ASHKENAZIC SOCIETY*Chair and Respondent:* James Loeffler (University of Virginia)**Yiddish Wedding Folk Songs of Ashkenazi Jews: Function, Ethnography, Sociology, Texts, and Music**

Lyudmila Sholokhova (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

Yom-tov Spilman: A Nineteenth-Century Hasidic Klezmer between Tradition and Modernity

Joel E. Rubin (University of Virginia)

An Early Ashkenazic Folk Dance: Toward a History of the Sher

Walter Zev Feldman (Bar-Ilan University)

Jewish Folk Style in Wall Paintings of Eastern European Wooden Synagogues

Eugeny Kotlyar (Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts)

4.8

Lafayette

DEFINING THE “OTHER”: THE ARAB MINORITY IN A JEWISH STATE*Chair:* Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)**Contested Outlooks of Israeli Jews and Arabs: Arab Responses to the “100 Terms in Zionism”**

Yitzhak Nissan Reiter (University of Minnesota)

Discrimination vs. Permissible Preferential Treatment in University of Haifa's Dormitories, or, When Cicero Met Adalah in the Cafeteria

Nahshon Perez (University of California, Los Angeles)

Peacemaker Identity in America, Israel, and the Arab World: Social Capital or Social Stigma?

Ned Lazarus (American University)

The Problematic Ethnic and Sexual Discourses of Eytan Fox's *The Bubble*

Jonathan C. Friedman (West Chester University)

4.9

Roosevelt

CROSS-CULTURING AND HISTORY IN HEBREW LITERATURE*Chair:* Zohar Shavit (Tel Aviv University)**A Modern Man: Jesus in A. A. Kabak's *Bemishol Hatsar***

Melissa Weininger (University of Chicago)

Hearts and Bodies East and West: American Hebraists' Encounters with Eretz Israel

Stephen Katz (Indiana University)

"Two years before the Shoah it had no name": Literary Responses to the Holocaust, 1942–1945

Neta Stahl (Johns Hopkins University)

Speaking of Allegory: A. B. Yehoshua's *The Lover* and Walter Benjamin in *Ursprung des deutschen Trauerspiels*

Roberta Sabbath (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Amichai's Venice

Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)

4.10

Wilson

READING THE MEDIEVALS: CASE STUDIES IN RECEPTION HISTORY*Chair:* Miriam Bodian (Touro College)**Scripturalization of Rashi's Torah Commentary in Late Medieval and Early Modern Times**

Eric Lawee (York University)

Leon Modena as Reader and as Read

Yaacob Dweck (Princeton University)

A New Guide? The "Modern Maimonides" Motif in the Maskilic Reception of Spinoza

Daniel B. Schwartz (George Washington University)

Who Asks the Question? Rashi's Constructed and Constructing Readers

Devorah Schoenfeld (St. Mary's College of Maryland)

Respondent: Adam B. Shear (University of Pittsburgh)

4.11

Cabin John

STUDIES IN EARLY KABBALAH, ABRAHAM ABULAFIA, AND THE ZOHAR**Abraham Abulafia and the Cruciform Covenant**

Robert Sagerman (New York University)

"The superiority of man over the animal is nothing": Wisdom, Mysticism, and Ethics in the Writings of Jacob ben Sheshet of Gerona

Yechiel Shalom Goldberg (California State University, Long Beach)

The House in the Center of All: Divinity as Dwelling Place in Sefer ha-Zohar

Ellen Haskell (University of North Carolina at Greensboro)

The Snake and the *Ayalta*: A Sabbatian Reworking of a Zoharic Myth

David Joel Halperin (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

4.12

Arlington

THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND ANCIENT JUDAISM*Chair:* Moshe J. Bernstein (Yeshiva University)**Reading Polemic: The Temple Scroll and Rabbinic Accounts of the Display of the Temple Sancta to Festival Pilgrims**

Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)

A New Suggestion for the Reconstruction of 4Q370 and Its Implications for the Blessing of the Divine Name in the *Birkat ha-Mazon*

Alex Jassen (University of Minnesota)

Laws of Kosher Food in the Dead Sea Scrolls

Lawrence H. Schiffman (New York University)

Apocalyptic Literature, Ideas, and Movements: The Book of Jubilees and the Variety of Judaism in Antiquity

Todd Hanneken (St. Mary's University)

Sunday, December 21, 2008 Evening Program

MARSHALL SKLARE

6:15 PM – 7:00 PM

Independence H

AWARD RECEPTION

Sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry; the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University; the Center for Jewish Studies, The Graduate Center, CUNY; and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Haifa University. Open to all conference registrants.

WELCOME RECEPTION

6:15 PM – 6:45 PM

Independence Foyer

GALA BANQUET

6:45 PM

Constitution Ballroom

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

Remarks: Sara Horowitz, AJS President (York University)

Sponsored by:

American University, Jewish Studies Program
 Colgate University, Jewish Studies Program
 Columbia University, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies
 The George Washington University, Judaic Studies Program
 The Graduate Center, CUNY, Center for Jewish Studies
 HUC-JIR
 The Jewish Theological Seminary, The Graduate School
 The Johns Hopkins University, Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Jewish Studies Program
 Kean University, Jewish Studies Program
 Lehigh University, Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies
 New York University, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies
 The Posen Foundation
 Reconstructionist Rabbinical College
 Stony Brook University, Program in Judaic Studies
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
 University of Maryland, Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies
 University of Pennsylvania, Jewish Studies Program
 University of Virginia, Jewish Studies Program
 Yeshiva University

PLENARY SESSION

8:00 PM

Constitution Ballroom

Introduction: Marsha Rozenblit, Vice-President for Program (University of Maryland)

REFLECTIONS AT FORTY:

PAST PRESIDENTS ON THE FOUNDING OF THE AJS AND THE FIELD OF JEWISH STUDIES

Moderator: Judith Baskin (University of Oregon)

Discussants: David Berger (Yeshiva University), Robert Chazan (New York University), Jane Gerber (The Graduate Center, CUNY), Lawrence Schiffman (New York University), Robert Seltzer (Hunter College, CUNY), and Ruth Wisse (Harvard University)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 – MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2008

FILM

9:30 PM

Conference Theatre

THE HEBREW LESSON

Hebrew, 2006

Directed by David Ofek, Elinor Kowarsky, and Ron Rotem

*Presented by the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies,
University of Maryland, College Park.*

RECEPTION FOR

9:30 PM

Farragut Square

JORDAN SCHNITZER BOOK AWARDS

In honor of the 2008 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award recipients. Sponsored by the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation and the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all conference registrants.

Monday, December 22, 2008

GENERAL BREAKFAST

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Farragut Square

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

WOMEN'S CAUCUS BREAKFAST

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

McPherson/Franklin Square

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

AJS REVIEW

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Cherry Blossom

EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING

REGISTRATION

8:30 AM – 6:00 PM

Independence Foyer

BOOK EXHIBIT

9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

Independence Ballroom

FILM SCREENINGS

8:30 AM – 6:30 PM

Conference Theatre

Session 5, Monday, December 22, 2008

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

5.1

Constitution A

DIRECTORS OF JEWISH STUDIES: TEACHING ISRAEL STUDIES

Chair: Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)

Discussants: Pamela S. Nadell (American University)

Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)

Ilan Troen (Brandeis University)

5.2

Constitution B

RABBINIC GENDER AND THE BODY

Chair: Judith Hauptman (Jewish Theological Seminary)

“Candle in the womb”: Discourse of the Body in Leviticus Rabbah

Tammy J. Jacobowitz (University of Pennsylvania)

Patriarchal Stewardship: Women and Gender Relations in Avot de Rabbi Natan A and B

Natalie C. Polzer (University of Louisville)

Rabbinic Masculinity and the Gender of the “Other”

Cynthia M. Baker (Bates College)

Respondent: Evyatar Marienberg (Jewish Theological Seminary)

5.3

Constitution C

A FEARFUL ASYMMETRY? INTERPRETING THE BIBLE IN JEWISH SOURCES

Chair: Hindy Najman (University of Toronto)

Appreciating the Intuitive and Counter-Intuitive in Midrashic Theology

Michael A. Fishbane (University of Chicago)

What's in a Name? The Biblical Background of a Talmudic Martyrdom

Diana Lipton (King's College London)

The Medieval Discovery of Biblical Narrative

Meira R. Polliack (Tel Aviv University)

Resolving a Conundrum: Pinning Down Maimonides' Elusive Construal of the Maxim that "Scripture does not leave the hands of its *Peshat*"

Mordechai Z. Cohen (Yeshiva University)

5.4

Constitution E

JEWS AND NEW MEDIA I: SOCIAL SOFTWARE

Sponsored by the Working Group on Jews, Religion, and Media, Center for Religion and Media, New York University

Chair: Ilana Abramovitch (Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY)

Discussants:

Marcy Brink-Danan (Brown University)

Nathaniel Deutsch (Swarthmore College)

Janice Fernheimer (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)

Edward Portnoy (Rutgers University)

Brigitte Sion (New York University)

Chava Weissler (Lehigh University)

5.5

Penn Quarter A

JEWS AND AMERICAN CAPITALISM: NEW THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Chair: Hasia R. Diner (New York University)

Name-Changing and the Paradoxes of American Jewish Economic Life

Kirsten L. Fermaglich (Michigan State University)

Worshipping the Golden Calf: Rabbinical Anxieties over Affluence in Postwar America

Rachel Kranson (New York University)

A Tale of Two "Irving": Irving Howe, Irving Kristol, and the Role of the Intellectual in American Jewish Discourse in the Postwar Years

Ronnie Grinberg (Northwestern University)

The Rise and Fall of the House of Jarmulovsky: Banking and Real Estate Speculation in Gilded-Age New York

Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia University)

5.6

Penn Quarter B

POLITICS AND SOCIAL RELATIONS IN ROMAN JUDAEA

Chair: Robert G. Goldenberg (Stony Brook University, SUNY)

Charity and Social Justice in Early Rabbinic Literature

Gregg Gardner (Princeton University)

Josephus' Republic: How Josephus Reconceptualized Law as Politics

David Flatto (Harvard University)

Playing Roman: Jewish Identity and Roman Games in the Augustan Era

Loren R. Spielman (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Jews and the Roman Culture of Benefaction

Seth Schwartz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

5.7

Independence G

OUTSIDE THE ASHKENAZIC/SEPHARDIC DIVIDE: ITALIAN JEWISH STUDIES IN ITALY AND BEYOND

Sponsored by the Centro Primo Levi

Chair: Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)

Discussants:

Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)

Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)

Gadi Luzzatto Voghera (University of Padua/Boston University)

David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)

Mauro Perani (University of Bologna/European Association for Jewish Studies)

5.8

Independence I

UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN JEWRY

Chair: Norman A. Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

The Culture Heroes: The Role of Iranian Jews in the Preservation, Proliferation, and Development of Persian Music

Houman Sarshar (Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History)

Dhimma Status Revisited

Judith L. Goldstein (Vassar College)

Bridging Cultures: Being Iranian–Jewish, Becoming Iranian–Jewish–American

Leah R. Baer (Independent Scholar)

5.9

Renwick

LATIN AMERICA AND THE HOLOCAUST

Chair: Alejandro Meter (University of San Diego)

“Didn’t all the Nazis go to Argentina?” Latin American Studies and the Holocaust

Edna Aizenberg (Marymount Manhattan College)

Memories of Villa Clara (1902–1947): Silencing the Past

Judith Freidenberg (University of Maryland)

The Holocaust and the Dirty War: Figures of Jewish Memory in Argentina

Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley)

Remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising at the Obelisco: Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer and the Reshaping of the Memory of the Shoah in Argentina

Daniel Fainstein (Universidad Hebraica, Mexico City)

5.10

Burnham

THE NEW RUSSIAN JEWISH STUDIES

Chair and Respondent: Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)

Discussants:

Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

Pavel Lion (Russian State University of Humanities)

Alexander Militarev (Santa Fe Institute)

David Shneer (University of Colorado, Boulder)

5.11

Lafayette

CONCEPTS OF ETHNICITY AND HOME IN MODERN JEWISH LITERATURE

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

Claudia Roden’s *The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey from Samarkand to New York* as a Work of Modern Jewish Literature

Jo-Anne Berelowitz (San Diego State University)

Starring Judy S. Blume as Herself: American Jewish Children’s Author

Joellyn Zollman (San Diego State University) and Jonathan Krasner (HUC-JIR)

What Means Switch? Jewishness in Gish Jen’s *Mona in the Promised Land*

Caroline Margaret Rody (University of Virginia)

From Chabon and Landau to Krakow and Birobidzhan: Constructing Post-Postmodern, Global Homesites

S. I. Salamensky (University of California, Los Angeles)

5.12

Roosevelt

STUDIES IN MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE AND IDENTITY

Chair: Shaul Magid (Indiana University)

Kabbalah and Meditation

Pinchas Giller (American Jewish University)

On a Purported Copy of the Cosmographic Diagrams of R. Hayim Vital

Menachem Emanuel Kallus (Haifa University)

Attitude of the Founders of Hasidism to Gentiles

Igor Victor Turov (National University, Kiev Mogilyanska Akademiya)

5.13

Wilson

STRUGGLE, SOLACE, SUPPLICATION, SALVATION: ISRAELI WRITERS IN DIALOGUE WITH RELIGION

Chair: Barbara Mann (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Wrestling with Angels and Fathers in Haim Be'er's Confessional Prose

Hannah Simone Pressman (New York University/University of Washington)

"I am the holy virgin": The Use of Christian Personae in the Works of Leah Goldberg, Yonah Wallach, and Anna Herman

Adriana X. Jacobs (Princeton University)

The Destruction of the Redemptive Narrative: The Ekphrastic Poetry of Tuvia Rübner

Shahar Bram (University of Haifa)

"God changes, prayers are here to stay": Poetry and Prayer in the Late Works of Yehuda Amichai

Vered Shemtov (Stanford University)

5.14

Cabin John

THE NEED TO TELL: THE IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON TESTIMONY, EDUCATION, AND MEMOIR

Chair: Rakhmiel Peltz (Drexel University)

The Suicidal Message: Jean Améry's Testimony as Translation

Dan Leshem (Emory University)

Writing the Holocaust for Children in American Yiddish Children's Magazines (1939–1950)

Naomi Kadar (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Memoir as Testimony: Post-Holocaust Accounts of Jewish Life in Pre-Holocaust Eastern Europe

Beatrice Lang Caplan (Johns Hopkins University)

The Secret Life of Forgiveness: Re-Reading Holocaust Survivor Memoirs

Dennis B. Klein (Kean University)

5.15

Arlington

THE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL JEWISH PHILOSOPHY ACCORDING TO HERMANN COHEN

Chair: Michael E. J. Zank (Boston University)

Pre-Maimonidean Jewish Philosophy according to Hermann Cohen

Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary)

The Nearness of Divine Distance: Cohen's Approximation of Maimonides' Proximity

James Arthur Diamond (University of Waterloo)

Maimonides among the Prophets: Hermann Cohen and Making the Old New Again

Robert Erlewine (Illinois Wesleyan University)

Beyond the Law into the Law?

Dana Hollander (McMaster University)

BOOK EXHIBIT COFFEE RECEPTION 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM

Independence Ballroom

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History

Session 6.1, Monday, December 22, 2008

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

6.1

Independence Ballroom

POSTER SESSION

Mechanisms for Producing Jewish Identity in Community Contexts

Matthew Boxer (University of Wisconsin/Brandeis University)

Friedrich Bergammer: Poet in Exile

Gudrun Brokoph (St. Lawrence University)

Reading Rabbinical Calendar Texts against the Grain of Qumran: Revising the History of Calendar Practice in the Second Temple Period

Ron H. Feldman (Sonoma State University)

Attitudes and Dilemmas in the Research of Jewish Forced Labor during the Holocaust: The Case of the “Radom Transport”

Idit Gil (The Open University of Israel)

Birds of Passage/Harbingers of Change: Jewish Peddlers in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Rural America

Michael Hoberman (Massachusetts Historical Society)

The Rothschilds: Gendered Stereotypes in the Frankfurt am Main *Memorbuch*

Tzvia Koren-Loeb (Duisburg-Essen University)

***Sefer Yetzirah*—Birth and Transformation of a Text: Sa’adiah Gaon, Dunash, and Donnolo**

Piergabriele Mancuso (Boston University)

Sa’adiah Ga’on and Maimonides on the Logic and Limits of Legal Inference

Aviram Ravitsky (Harvard University)

Hungarians Are the Jews: New Perspectives on Jewish Assimilation in Europe

Maria Rethelyi (University of Chicago)

Freemason and Jew: Fresh Light on the Lessing–Mendelssohn Friendship

Bruce Rosenstock (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

From Hell to Hope: A Comparison of Jewish Survivor Reception in the United States and Australia

Suzanne Dorothy Rutland (University of Sydney)

The Convert Community of the Granada Kingdom after the 1492 Expulsion

Raquel Sanz-Barrio (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

Ahron Marcus: Portrait of a Zionist Hasid

Joshua Shanes (College of Charleston)

Is Religion “What You Are” or “What’s in Your Heart”? Competing Definitions of Religion in Intermarried Couples

Jennifer Thompson (Emory University)

Session 7, Monday, December 22, 2008

11:15 AM – 1:00 PM

7.1

Constitution A

JUDAISM OR JUDAISMS: THE POST-MODERN CHALLENGE

Sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research

Chair: Todd M. Endelman (University of Michigan)

Is Jewish History Really Jewish? The Boundaries of Minority History

David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)

Texts as Cultural Anchors: Talmud, *Piyyut*, *Hekhalot*

Ephraim Kanarfogel (Yeshiva University)

Judaisms, American Style: Diversity, Institutions, and Legitimacy Transformed

Calvin Goldscheider (Brown University)

Respondent: Paula E. Hyman (Yale University)

7.2

Constitution B

THE JEWISH SOLDIER: VISIONS OF HOME AND HOMELAND

Chair: Pamela S. Nadell (American University)

The German Jewish Soldier: From Participant to Victim

Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)

“I will be your home”: Refugee GIs and Their European Brides

Robin E. Judd (Ohio State University)

A Home Away from Home: Soldiers’ Welfare Huts and Jewish “Homes” in the World War I American Military

Jessica Cooperman (Muhlenberg College)

Respondent: Marsha L. Rozenblit (University of Maryland)

7.3

Constitution C

MAIMONIDES IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

Chair: Aaron Hughes (University of Calgary)

Did the Gaon of Vilna Denounce Maimonides? A Reconsideration of Philosophy and Hermeneutics in Jewish History

Eliyahu Stern (University of California, Berkeley)

A Copernican Turn to Scripture: Hermann Cohen between Maimonides and Spinoza

Daniel H. Weiss (University of Virginia)

Yeshayahu Leibowitz and Maimonides: A Critical Examination

Naftali Rothenberg (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

7.4

Constitution E

JEWS AND NEW MEDIA II: ARCHIVES AND THE CULTURAL MARKETPLACE

Sponsored by the Working Group on Jews, Religion, and Media, Center for Religion and Media, New York University

Chair: Andrea Lieber (Dickinson College)

Discussants:

Ari Davidow (Jewish Women’s Archive)

Ayala Fader (Fordham University)

Samuel Heilman (Queens College, CUNY)

Emily Alice Katz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Elkanah Shmotkin (Jewish Educational Media)

Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)

7.5

Penn Quarter A

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF JEWISH DIASPORA TRAVEL TO ISRAEL

Chair: Theodore Sasson (Brandeis University/Middlebury College)

Taglit-Birthright Israel: A New Form of Educational Tourism

Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University)

The Emergence of Jewish Alternative Tourism

Caryn Aviv (University of Denver)

Encounter with the Inner Other: Themes of Transition in “Traditional” Group Israel Travel

Shirah Hecht (Independent Scholar)

Respondent: Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)

7.6

Penn Quarter B

FREUD, GENDER, JEWISHNESS

Chair and Respondent: Matti Bunzl (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Freud’s “Jewish” Narrative

Anne Golomb Hoffman (Fordham University)

Transgressing Identity: Jews and Queers in Freudian Perspective

David Ross Fryer (Temple University)

Of Snips and Puppy Dog Tails: Freud’s Sublimation of *Judentum*

Jay Geller (Vanderbilt University)

7.7

Independence G

CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON UKRAINIAN NATIONALISM AND THE HOLOCAUST IN UKRAINE

Sponsored by the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative

Chair: Alti Berthe Rodal (Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative)

Contemporary Reinterpretation of the OUN’s Antisemitic Discourse

Marco Carynnyk (Independent Scholar)

Recent Debates in Ukraine over Nationalist Involvement in the Holocaust

John-Paul Himka (University of Alberta)

Memorialization of the Jewish Tragedy at Babi Yar: Historical and Current Perspectives

Aleksandr Burakovskiy (Independent Scholar)

Ukrainian Imagination and the Holocaust as Expressed in Ukrainian Literature under Soviet Censorship

Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern (Northwestern University)

Respondent: Henry Abramson (Touro College South)

7.8

Independence I

LATIN AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES: EXPLORING ASHKENAZIC AND SEPHARDIC JEWISH IDENTITIES THROUGH LATIN AMERICAN NARRATIVE, THEATER, AND FILM

Sponsored by the Latin American Jewish Studies Association

Chair: Edna Aizenberg (Marymount Manhattan College)

“The New Wave”: Moving Away from Jewish Stereotypes in Argentine Films

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

Yiddishe Mammies in Argentine Theater

Sandra Messinger Cypess (University of Maryland)

Gazing into the Broken Mirror: Mexican Jewish Women Negotiate Identity and Politics in Print and Film Versions of Rosa Nissan’s Work

Kenya Carmen Dworkin y Mendez (Carnegie Mellon University)

Respondent: Monique R. Balbuena (University of Oregon)

7.9

Renwick

HELLENISTIC JEWISH INTERPRETATIONS AND NARRATIVES*Chair:* Jed Wyrick (California State University, Chico)**“Joseph and Aseneth”: A Very Early Jewish-Hellenistic Romance**

René Bloch (University of Bern)

At the Beginning: The Septuagint as a Jewish Bible Translation

Leonard J. Greenspoon (Creighton University)

The Death of Moses according to Josephus

Louis H. Feldman (Yeshiva University)

The Election of Israel in the Wisdom of Ben Sira

Greg Schmidt Goering (University of Virginia)

7.10

Burnham

LINGUISTIC DISTINCTIVENESS IN MODERN JEWISH COMMUNITIES*Chair:* Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)*Discussants:*

Marion J. Aptroot (Heinrich Heine Universität)

Paul D. Glasser (YIVO Institute for Jewish Research)

Benjamin H. Hary (Emory University)

George Jochowitz (College of Staten Island)

Norman A. Stillman (University of Oklahoma)

7.11

Lafayette

POLISH-JEWISH ENCOUNTERS WITH THE HOLOCAUST: DIARIES, DOCUMENTATION, REFLECTIONS, AND RECOLLECTIONS*Chair:* Berel Lang (Wesleyan University)**Yizkor Books as Sources of Information about Polish-Jewish Relations**

Michlean L. Amir (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) and

Rosemary Horowitz (Appalachian State University)

The Jewish Presence in the Warsaw Uprising

Anna Borejsza-Wysocka (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

Warsaw Polish Writers Encountering the Holocaust

Rachel Feldhay Brenner (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Biography of a Holocaust Image

Dan Porat (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

7.12

Roosevelt

RABBINICS AND THE CHRISTIAN WORLD: DIALOGUE AND DEBATE*Chair and Respondent:* Kris H. Lindbeck (Florida Atlantic University)**A Note on Jewish and Christian Mediators**

Boris Ostrer (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The *Rashbi* Stories: Monastic Traditions and Their Jewish Analogies

Michal Bar-Asher Siegal (Yale University)

The Wayward Disciple: On Gehazi, Jesus, and the Birth of Christianity

Amram Tropper (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

7.13

Wilson

READING GENDER IN HEBREW LITERATURE*Chair:* Neta Stahl (Johns Hopkins University)**Toward a New History of Women's Poetry in Hebrew**

Miryam Segal (Harvard Divinity School/Indiana University)

“Ahot” and the Role of Masculinity in Agnon's Early Writing

Philip A. Hollander (Tulane University)

“Lights in the dark”: Prostitution in Hebrew Literature

Ilana Szobel (Brandeis University)

7.14

Cabin John

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ORTHODOXY

Chair: Shuly Rubin Schwartz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Gedolim on Public-Affairs Issues: The Netziv, Rav Hutner, and Rabbi Soloveitchik on Antisemitism, the Holocaust, the Jewish Community—and Da-As Torah

Jerome A. Chanes (Brandeis University)

Being Heard: Yiddish Performances at Hasidic Girls' Schools, Integration and Insularity

Ester-Basya Vaisman (Harvard University)

“When Orthodoxy was not as chic as it is today”: The Jewish Forum and American Modern Orthodoxy

Ira Robinson (Concordia University) and Maxine Jacobson (Independent Scholar)

A Good Bais Yaakov Girl: Judaism, Feminism, and the Creation of Orthodox Girl Culture

Leslie Ginsparg (Touro College/New York University)

7.15

Arlington

EARLY MODERN MESSIANISM(S): CONTEXT, CONFLUENCE, AND DISCOURSE

Chair and Respondent: Elisheva Carlebach (Columbia University)

Topsy-Turvy World's End: The Lost Tribes in Apocalyptic Scenarios from Sixteenth-Century Germany

Rebekka Voss (Harvard University)

The Religio-Political Jew: Post-Sabbatian Political Thought in Daniel Levi de Barrios and Abraham Pereyra

Anne Oravetz Albert (University of Pennsylvania)

Messianism and Exile in the Works of Rabbi Jonathan Eibeschütz

Pawel Maciejko (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

GENERAL LUNCH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

McPherson/Franklin Square

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

AAJR LUNCH

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Independence F

For the Fellows of the American Academy for Jewish Research

SEPHARDI/MIZRAHI

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Independence H

CAUCUS LUNCH

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

LUNCHTIME MEETING

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Farragut Square

PEDAGOGY AND JEWISH STUDIES

(Note: This meeting does not include lunch.)

Chair: Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark University)

Commentators: Justin Cammy (Smith College), Benjamin Hary (Emory University), Kenneth

Waltzer (Michigan State University)

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

Session 8, Monday, December 22, 2008

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

8.1

Constitution A

**JEWISH STUDIES, JEWISH MONEY, AND THE FUTURE OF AN ACADEMIC FIELD:
REFLECTIONS BY SCHOLARS AND DONORS**

Sponsored by Sh'ma: A Journal of Social Responsibility

Chair: Steven J. Zipperstein (Stanford University)

Discussants: Lisa D. Grant (HUC-JIR)
Paul Zakrzewski (Foundation for Jewish Culture)
Julian A. Levinson (University of Michigan)
Yael H. Zerubavel (Rutgers University)

8.2

Constitution B

**MAIMONIDES AND SPINOZA ON THE PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHICALITY
OF SCRIPTURE**

Chair: Alan Lawrence Udoff (Saint Frances College)

Maimonides and Spinoza on Secondary Causes in the Bible

Joshua Parens (University of Dallas)

Torah as Political Philosophy: Maimonides and Spinoza on *Huqqim*

Edward Halper (University of Georgia)

Spinoza's Critique of Maimonides: The Meaning of Political Freedom

Steven Frankel (Xavier University)

Respondent: Hillel Fradkin (Hudson Institute)

8.3

Constitution C

MARX AND THE JEWISH QUESTION: NEW PERSPECTIVES

Chair: Daniel H. Magilow (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)

Marx on the Jewish Questions: Reflections on Its Place in Jewish Intellectual History

Eugene Sheppard (Brandeis University)

Reading Marx through Spinoza

Julie Klein (Villanova University)

Getting Real with "Real Jews": Performative Strategies in Marx's "On the Jewish Question"

Sven-Erik Rose (Miami University)

Herzl's *Old New Land*: Between Utopia and Socialism

Eran Kaplan (Princeton University)

8.4

Constitution E

YIDDISH PROSE

Chair and Respondent: Michael Wenthe (American University)

Hope and Fear: Y. L. Peretz in 1905–1906

Michael C. Steinlauf (Gratz College)

Intertextual Relationships in Hasidic and Maskilic Narratives of Sea Travel, 1815–1825

Ken Frieden (Syracuse University)

Some Texts on Shabbetai Tsvi in Old Yiddish Literature (Seventeenth–Eighteenth Century)

Jean Baumgarten (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)

8.5

Penn Quarter A

POPULAR PURITY PRACTICES IN LATE ANTIQUITY

Chair: Samuel Secunda (Yale University)

Water, Women, and Worship: "Jewish-Christian" Perspectives on Ablution

Annette Yoshiko Reed (University of Pennsylvania)

Ballei Kerian and Popular Religion of Jewish Palestine in Late Antiquity

Reuven Kiperwasser (Bar-Ilan University)

Stepped Pools, Ritual Bathing, and Domestic Life among the Jews of Roman Galilee

Stuart S. Miller (University of Connecticut at Storrs)

Respondent: Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)

8.6

Penn Quarter B

THE BAVLI AND ITS HISTORY

Chair: David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

Meta-Systemic Concerns as Indicators of Late-Stage Stammaitic Compositions: The Case of *bEruvin* 95–96

Jay Rovner (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Bavli as Classical Literature: The Argument from Rhetorical Forms

Barry S. Wimpfheimer (Northwestern University)

The Bavli's Redaction of Traditions about the Destruction of the Temple

Kris H. Lindbeck (Florida Atlantic University)

The *Proto-Talmud* and the *Stam*: The Two Voices of the Talmud

Ari Bergmann (Columbia University)

8.7

Independence G

MODERNITY AND MODERNISM IN JEWISH ART

Chair: Maya Balakirsky-Katz (Touro College)

***A Winter's Day in the Jewish Neighborhood*: Artistic Representations of Jewish Life in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam**

Saskia Coenen Snyder (University of South Carolina)

Creating a "Moorish Cathedral": The Construction of the Great Synagogue in Budapest, 1854–1859

Rudolf Klein (Szent István University, Budapest)

The "Death" of Expressionism and Its "Rebirth" as a Jewish Form: Notions of Jewish Art in Weimar Germany

Celka Straughn (Harvard University)

8.8

Independence I

BLACK-JEWISH RELATIONS: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES AND THE STATE OF THE FIELD

Chair: Eric L. Goldstein (Emory University)

Discussants:

Cheryl Greenberg (Trinity College)

Daniel Itzkovitz (Stonehill College)

Jonathan Karp (Binghamton University, SUNY)

Jonathan S. Skolnik (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

8.9

Renwick

SIXTEENTH-CENTURY KABBALAH AND ITS AFTERMATH

Chair: Joel Hecker (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

***Tikkun Leil Shavuot* of R. Joseph Karo and the Epistle of Solomon ha-Levi Elkabetz**

Mor Altshuler (Independent Scholar)

Rabbi Moses Cordovero's *Sefer Gerushin*: Contemplation, Devotion, and the Negotiation of Landscapes

Zohar Raviv (University of Michigan)

Identity, Reincarnation, and Rebirth in the Writings of R. Hayyim Vital

Eitan P. Fishbane (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Spiritual Friendship in Jewish Mystical Tradition: The Bet El Contracts

Lawrence B. Fine (Mount Holyoke College)

8.10

Burnham

GERMAN JEWISH CULTURE: BEYOND THE CANON

Chair: Leslie Morris (University of Minnesota)

Germans, Jews, and the Novel: Reading Romance in Nineteenth-Century Germany

Jonathan M. Hess (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)

Hugo Bettauer's Erotic Revolution

June Hwang (University of Rochester)

Self-Hatred and Self-Help: Theodor Lessing as a Popular Psychologist

Paul Reitter (Ohio State University)

German Jewish "Cultural Studies"? Reflections on Kafka's Kitsch and Middlebrow "Yeckische" Culture

David A. Brenner (Rice University)

8.11

Lafayette

THE ISRAEL ATTACHMENTS OF AMERICAN JEWS: ENGAGING THE DEBATE

Chair: Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (United Jewish Communities)

Assessing the Assessment: Critical Weaknesses in "American Jewish Attachment to Israel: An Assessment of the 'Distancing' Hypothesis"

Jonathon Ament (United Jewish Communities)

The Distancing Hypothesis Reassessed: Israel Attachments in Local Community Studies

Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut at Storrs)

Distancing from Israel: The Impact of Intermarriage among Non-Orthodox Jews

Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)

Respondents:

Charles Kadushin (Brandeis University)

Theodore Sasson (Brandeis University/Middlebury College)

8.12

Roosevelt

CENTRAL EUROPEAN ZIONISM AND THE DIALECTICS OF NATIONALISM

Chair: Michael Berkowitz (University College, London)

The Voyage of a Metaphor: "Jewish Normalization" and the Dialectics of Zionism

Arie Dubnov (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

From "West" to "East" and Back Again: The Reverse Course of Hans Kohn's Nationalism

Adi Gordon (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

From Prague to Berlin: Robert Weltsch and the Dialectics of Nationalism

Stefan Vogt (New York University)

Jacob and Esau in the Emancipation Era: The Central European Jewish Intelligentsia and the Dilemmas of the European Nation State

Malachi Hacohen (Duke University)

Respondent: Derek J. Penslar (University of Toronto)

8.13

Wilson

VARIETIES OF CRYPTO-JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Chair and Respondent: L. Scott Lerner (Franklin & Marshall College)

Lexicography, New Christians, and Jewishness in Seventeenth-Century Spain: The Case of Sebastián de Covarrubias Horozco

Jacques Lezra (New York University)

Comparing Crypto-Jewish Narratives

Dalia Kandiyoti (College of Staten Island, CUNY)

Crypto-Jew, "Real American": George Allen, the Lumbroso Clan, and the Remaking of U.S. Identities

Jonathan Freedman (University of Michigan)

8.14

Cabin John

JEWISH IMMIGRANT AUTHORSHIP

Chair: Yael Feldman (New York University)

Concealing the Immigrant Past: The Construction of Amichai's Israeli Self

Nili R.S. Gold (University of Pennsylvania)

The Unconscious Yiddish Theater of the Immigrant Author

Shirli Sela-Levavi (Rutgers University)

Somnambulist Song: The Feminine Language of Diaspora and the Exile of the *Shkhhina* in Agnon's *Ido and Enam*

Nitsa Kann (Dickinson College)

Entangled Roots: Helena Janeczek's *Lessons in Darkness*

Federica K. Clementi (University of South Carolina)

8.15

Arlington

INTERTEXTS: PRIMO LEVI AND DANTE

Chair: Marty Plax (Cleveland State University)

Dante and Primo Levi: The Black Hole at the Core of *If This Is a Man*

Sharon Portnoff (Connecticut College)

Submerged and the Saved: Primo Levi, Dante, and the Jewish Presence in the Italian Canon

Gabrielle Elissa Popoff (University of Kentucky)

Asymmetry and Life: A Levian Reading of *Paradiso* III–V

Jessica Otey (University of Virginia)

Respondent: Risa Sodi (Yale University)

BOOK EXHIBIT

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Independence Ballroom

COFFEE RECEPTION

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish History

DIVISION MEETINGS

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM

See p. 62 for locations.

An opportunity to meet with Division Chairs to discuss themes for the 2009 annual meeting.

Session 9, Monday, December 22, 2008

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

9.1

Constitution A

POLITICIZED ACADEME: THE REACTIONS TO ARIEL TOAFF'S

***LE PASQUE DI SANGUE* AND OTHER TREATMENTS OF THE BLOOD LIBEL**

Chair: Bernard D. Cooperman (University of Maryland)

Discussants:

Marina Caffiero (University of Rome)

Gadi Luzzatto Voghera (University of Padua/Boston University)

Piergabriele Mancuso (Boston University)

Micaela Procaccia (Direzione generale per i beni archivistici)

Magda Teter (Wesleyan University)

9.2

Constitution B

THE (IM)POSSIBILITIES OF JEWISH SECULARISM

Sponsored by the Posen Foundation

Chair and Respondent: Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University)

The Jewish Enlightenment Bible as a Secularizing Project

David J. Biale (University of California, Davis)

Lost in Migration: Leibush Lehrer's Ambivalent Secularism

Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University)

Jewish Secularism, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Israel: The Traditionalist Critique

Yaakov Yadgar (Bar-Ilan University)

9.3

Constitution C

BIBLICAL NARRATIVE, LAW, AND HISTORY: INTERRELATIONSHIPS AND METHODS

Sponsored by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, and the Jewish Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania

Chair: David Glatt-Gilad (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Neo-Babylonian Perspectives on the Prophetic Summons to Trial

Shalom Holtz (Yeshiva University)

Ritualizations in Narrative Endings in Genesis

Susan Zeelander (University of Pennsylvania)

Legal Fiction: Torah Law in the Book of Ruth

Adele Berlin (University of Maryland)

History Writing in Israel and Judah during the Monarchic Period and

Some Mesopotamian Analogues

Mordechai Cogan (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

9.4

Constitution E

MANY FACES OF JEWISH NOSTALGIA: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVE

Chair: Jeffrey A. Shandler (Rutgers University)

Notebook of an Absent Native Land: Moyshe Kulbak's *Rayzn*, *Meshiekh ben Efrayim*, and the Poetics of Nostalgia

Marc Caplan (Johns Hopkins University)

The Ethnography of Nostalgia: On Comparing Eva Hoffman and Saidiya Hartman

Ato Quayson (University of Toronto)

Between Shtetl and the Red Hammer: Nostalgia in Contemporary Russian Yiddish Music

Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto)

The Yearning for Nostalgia

Olga Gershenson (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)

9.5

Penn Quarter A

NEW SOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES ON EARLY JEWISH MYSTICISM

Chair: Rebecca M. Lesses (Ithaca College)

New *Hekhalot* Fragments from the Cairo Genizah

Gideon Bohak (Tel Aviv University)

***Hekhalot* Literature as a "Byzantine" Literature**

Ra'anan Shaul Boustani (University of California, Los Angeles)

***Piyyut* and *Hekhalot*: New Sources and Their Implication for the History of Early Jewish Mysticism**

Michael D. Swartz (Ohio State University)

9.6

Penn Quarter B

ANTISEMITISM ON AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Chair: Eunice G. Pollack (University of North Texas)

Discussants:

Peter J. Haas (Case Western Reserve University)

Kenneth L. Marcus (Baruch College of Public Affairs, CUNY)

Stephen H. Norwood (University of Oklahoma)

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin (University of California, Santa Cruz)

9.7

Independence G

(MODERN AMERICAN) VISUAL JUDAISM AND VERNACULAR CULTURE

Chair: Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (New York University)

Visual Judaism: A Methodological Investigation

Kenneth Koltun-Fromm (Haverford College)

Through My Father's Eyes or Seeing Jewish

Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)

Jewish Theology in the Society of Spectacle

Zachary J. Braiterman (Syracuse University)

9.9

Renwick

THE GENDER OF JEWISH MODERNITY

Chair: Maeera Shreiber (University of Utah)

Lads in Distress: Engendering Modern Masculinity in Hebrew Autobiography

Tamar S. Hess (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Muscular Anxiety: Reforming Jewish Masculinity after the Great War

Robert J. Adler Peckerar (University of California, Berkeley)

A Woman's Place in Modernity: Masculine and Feminine Space in Hebrew and Yiddish Short Fiction

Allison Schachter (Vanderbilt University)

9.10

Burnham

NEW CONFIGURATIONS OF JEWISH CULTURAL NATIONALISM

Chair and Respondent: Samuel D. Kassow (Trinity College)

Mediterranean Zionists *avant la Lettre*

Steven Bowman (University of Cincinnati)

Rereading *Altneuland*: Theodor Herzl and Cultural Zionism

Jess Olson (Yeshiva University)

Between Politics and Culture: Diaspora Nationalism in Revolutionary Russia

Joshua M. Karlip (Yeshiva University)

German Jewry between Assimilation and the "Conscious Pariah": Moses Hess, Moritz Goldstein, and Hannah Arendt

Y. Michal Bodemann (University of Toronto)

9.11

Lafayette

RABBIS AND THEIR CULTURAL CONTEXT(S)

Chair: Herbert Basser (Queen's University)

An Iranian Hell in the Babylonian Talmud

Samuel Secunda (Yale University)

***Reishit ha-Bekhorah*: Firstborn Inheritance from Mesopotamia to the Mishnah**

Jonathan S. Milgram (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Torah in *Triclinia*: the Architecture and Iconography of Banquet Halls in Rabbinic Practice and Imagination

Gil Klein (Franklin & Marshall College)

"For the Lord your God moves in the midst of your camp": Concentration and Diffusion of the Divine in Qumran and Rabbinic Ritual

Yehuda Septimus (New York University)

9.12

Roosevelt

JEWS AND THE MODERN CITY: VIEWS FROM EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES

Chair: Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan)

Jewish Space in the City and the Civil War of Italian Unification

L. Scott Lerner (Franklin & Marshall College)

From the Shtetl to the City: Orthodox Jewish Life in Antwerp

Veerle Vanden Daelen (University of Antwerp)

Between the Scheunenviertel and the Romanisches Café: Berlin as an Enclave of Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism

Shachar M. Pinsker (University of Michigan)

The Politics of Moving: Jews and the American City

Lila Berman (Pennsylvania State University)

9.13

Wilson

INSULTS THROUGH THE AGES

Chair: Charlotte Fonrobert (Stanford University)

The Little Foxes That Ruin the Vineyards: Shem Tov ibn Shem Tov on the Pernicious Influence of Jewish Philosophy

Hartley Lachter (Muhlenberg College)

Rabbinic Insults in the Early Modern Period

Matt Goldish (Ohio State University)

Jewish Insults in the Modern Period: On Neo-Orthodox Popes and Jewish Jesuits

Alexander Joskowitz (University of Mississippi)

Respondent: Allan L. Nadler (Drew University)

9.14

Cabin John

THE USE OF BIBLICAL SOURCES IN MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT

Chair: Leah Hochman (HUC-JIR)

Martin Buber and the Biblical Prophets of Zionism

Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)

Spirit and Power in Buber's Reading of Isaiah

William Plevan (Princeton University)

Partnering with God: Buber's Biblical Hermeneutics and the Abraham Narratives:

A Comparison with Erich Fromm and Leo Strauss

Jonathan A. Cohen (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The Allegory of Love and the Revelation of Ethical Alterity

Randy L. Friedman (Binghamton University, SUNY)

9.15

Arlington

JEWISH COMMUNITY AND SOCIETY IN LATER OTTOMAN TIMES

Chair: Ronnie Perelis (Brandeis University)

Mapping the Jewish Elite in Eighteenth-Century Istanbul: A Network Approach

Yehoshua (Shuki) Ecker (Tel Aviv University)

Natural Disasters and Jewish Life in Ottoman Syria

Yaron Ayalon (Princeton University)

Moses Hagiz and the Shelihut from Palestine in the Eighteenth Century

Matthias B. Lehmann (Indiana University)

***At-Talmud* and *As-Sahyuniyya*: A Sephardic Jew's Presentation of Judaism in Arabic, and Its Reception in Late Ottoman Palestine**

Jonathan Gribetz (Columbia University)

Monday, December 22, 2008 Evening Program

AJS PERSPECTIVES EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING	6:30 PM	<i>Cherry Blossom</i>
ASSOCIATION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by the Association for Israel Studies. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	<i>Independence H</i>
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES AND AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by the American Jewish Archives and the American Jewish Historical Society. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	<i>Farragut Square</i>
EMERGING WRITERS AWARDS RECEPTION <i>Honoring recipients of the 2008 Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers and the 2008 Harry and Tamara Handelsman Prize for Jewish Nonfiction. Sponsored by the Foundation for Jewish Culture and Moment Magazine. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	<i>Independence I</i>
HARVARD UNIVERSITY, CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES RECEPTION <i>Honoring Professor Ruth Wisse. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	<i>Independence F</i>
GENERAL DINNER <i>(By pre-paid reservation only.)</i>	7:30 PM	<i>McPherson/Franklin Square</i>
THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF AMERICA RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by the Wohl Office of Alumni Affairs of JTS. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	<i>Independence I</i>
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS RECEPTION <i>Honoring Hillel J. Kieval and Martin S. Jaffee for their editorial work on AJS Review, and welcoming Elisheva Carlebach and Robert Goldenberg as the journal's new editors. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	<i>Independence F</i>
GRADUATE STUDENT RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies. Open to all graduate students.</i>	9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	<i>Farragut Square</i>
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY RECEPTION <i>Sponsored by Brandeis University Press, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program, Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, and Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry. Open to all conference registrants.</i>	9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	<i>Independence H</i>

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22 – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2008

FILM

9:30 PM

Conference Theatre

BEING JEWISH IN FRANCE

France, 2007, 73 minutes (*Part I, French with English subtitles*)

Directed by Yves Jeuland

*Presented by the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies,
University of Maryland, College Park.*

Tuesday, December 23, 2008

GENERAL BREAKFAST

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

McPherson/Franklin Square

(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)

AJS PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND

7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Farragut Square

DIVISION CHAIRS BREAKFAST MEETING

REGISTRATION

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Independence Foyer

BOOK EXHIBIT

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Independence Ballroom

FILM SCREENINGS

8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Conference Theatre

Session 10, Tuesday, December 23, 2008

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10.1

Constitution A

JEWISH AND ENVIRONMENTAL THOUGHT

Chair: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Arizona State University)

Discussants: Ron H. Feldman (Sonoma State University)
Roger S. Gottlieb (Worcester Polytechnic Institute)
Lawrence Troster (Bard College)
Martin D. Yaffe (University of North Texas)

10.2

Constitution B

GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN CONTEMPORARY JEWISH AMERICAN LITERATURE

Chair: Wendy Ilene Zierler (HUC-JIR)

Constructing Gender on the Planet of the Jews

Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)

Fluid Identities and Orientations: Sexuality and Jewishness in Jewish Women's Recent Fiction

Judith M. Lewin (Union College)

Pastan's Eves: An Exploration of the Ways in which the Biblical Eve Appears in the Poetry of Linda Pastan

Anne Lapidus Lerner (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Men of the World: Jewish Masculinities in Transit(ion) in Maxim D. Shrayer's

Waiting for America: A Story of Emigration

Helena Gurfinkel (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)

10.3

*Constitution C***CASE STUDIES IN THE MODERNIZATION OF RUSSIAN JEWS, 1881–1914***Chair:* Elissa Bemporad (New School University)**From Haskalah to Science in the Youthful Odyssey of Waldemar Haffkine**

Evelyn Ackerman (Lehman College, CUNY)

From Haskalah to “Historism” in the Secular Judaism of Simon Dubnow

Robert M. Seltzer (Hunter College, CUNY)

Distinctive Models: Letters as a Key to Russian-Jewish Aspirations in the Early 1900s

Alice Nakhimovsky (Colgate University)

Yiddish Letters, Emigration, and Modernization at the Turn of the Century

Roberta Newman (YIVO Institute of Jewish Research)

10.4

*Constitution E***MEDIATING JEWISH STUDIES TO NONACADEMIC AUDIENCES***Chair:* James S. Diamond (Princeton University)*Discussants:*

Hasia R. Diner (New York University)

Robert J. Eisen (George Washington University)

Carol Huppig (The Jewish Publication Society)

Allan L. Nadler (Drew University)

Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis University)

10.5

*Penn Quarter A***JEWISH ART(S) AND THE AESTHETICS OF RUPTURE AND REPAIR: PAINTING, ARCHITECTURE, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION***Chair and Respondent:* Matthew Baigell (Rutgers University)**Terribilità in Jewish: Fragmentary Renaissances in Modern Jewish Art and Thought**

Asher D. Biemann (University of Virginia)

Jewish Architects after Auschwitz: Louis I. Kahn and Peter Eisenman Confront the Holocaust

Gavriel Rosenfeld (Fairfield University)

Jewish Space and Historic Preservation in Postwar Central Europe

Michael Meng (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

10.6

*Penn Quarter B***ETHNOGRAPHY OF JEWISH RITUAL***Chair and Respondent:* Simon Josef Bronner (Pennsylvania State University)**The Rise of Tu B'Shevat as a “Jewish Arbor and Ecology Day”: Balancing Themes of Land of Israel, Modern Israeli State, Ecology, and Mysticism**

Seth Ward (University of Wyoming)

The Traditional Commitment Ceremony

Vanessa L. Ochs (University of Virginia)

Rethinking Ritual Theory in Anthropology and Jewish Studies: Levinas, Geertz, and the Problem of Meaning

Don Seeman (Emory University)

The Discourse about the Wedding Ritual: Hierarchies of Gender, Knowledge, and Authority

Irit Koren (Rutgers University)

10.7

*Independence G***NEW APPROACHES TO JEWISH CULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA***Chair:* Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley)**Was the “Lost” Embrace Really Ever Lost? Israeli–Argentinean Relations in Four Contemporary Novels**

Amalia Ran (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

Nation, Religion, and Soccer: Jewish Perspectives from Latin America

Alejandro Meter (University of San Diego)

Keeping the Mystery Alive: Jewish Mysticism and Difference in Alejandro Jodorowsky’s Works

Ariana Huberman (Alfred University)

I Hear, Therefore I Know: Post-Shoah Motifs in Dorfman’s *Death and the Maiden*

Paul B. Miller (Vanderbilt University)

10.8

*Independence I***NORMALIZING EMERGENCY: THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE STATE OF EXCEPTION***Chair:* Dana Hollander (McMaster University)**Friedmann’s War: Political Theology and the Israeli Supreme Court**

Nitzan Lebovic (Tel Aviv University)

Normalizing Emergency: Israeli Literature in 1956

Uri Cohen (Columbia University)

Beaufort: Lebanon, Closure, and the Unending State of Emergency

Todd S. Hasak-Lowy (University of Florida)

Respondent: Anson Rabinbach (Princeton University)

10.9

*Renwick***EXPLORATIONS IN THE SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF ITALIAN JEWRY IN THE EARLY MODERN ERA***Chair:* Francesca Bregoli (University of Oxford)**Gendered Paradigms and Gendered Prospects: Italian Jewish Converts in the Early Modern Context**

Stefanie Siegmund (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Hearing Jewish, Writing Italian: Reconsidering the Written Sources of Italian Jewish Music

Francesco Spagnolo (Judah L. Magnes Museum)

Law and Architecture: The Tent Pollution Crisis in Eighteenth-Century Italy

David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)

One Woman, Two Husbands, Two States, Three Laws: Making Marriage and Divorce Civil in Revolutionary Italy

Lois Dubin (Smith College)

10.10

*Burnham***DEATH AND ACCULTURATION IN JEWISH LATE ANTIQUITY***Chair:* Jonathan S. Milgram (Jewish Theological Seminary)**Resurrection: Theodicy or Anthropology?**

Reuven Kimelman (Brandeis University)

The Jewish Community of Byzantine Zora: Inculturation and Jewish Identity in Late Antique Palestine

Steven Fine (Yeshiva University)

10.11

*Lafayette***CONTEMPORARY TRANSNATIONALISM: THE JEWISH DIASPORA AS A PARADIGMATIC CASE***Chair:* Sergio DellaPergola (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**Israel and Diaspora in an Era of Globalization**

Eliezer Ben Rafael (Tel Aviv University)

Being Transnational: Shifting Centers and Reshaping Identities

Judit Bokser Liwerant (Unam Mexico)

Transnationalism Today: A Challenge to Social Thought

Michel Wieviorka (École des hautes études en sciences sociales)

10.12

*Roosevelt***CENTRALIZATION, IDENTITY, AND REDACTION IN BIBLICAL COMPOSITION***Chair:* Benjamin D. Sommer (Jewish Theological Seminary)**What Is Past Is Prologue: Composing Israelite Identity in Judges 5**

Mark Smith (New York University)

The Flood, the Day of Atonement, and the Priestly Redaction of Genesis 1–11

Robert Kawashima (University of Florida)

Centralization or Separation of Powers? Religion and Politics in Deuteronomy

Baruch Alster (Bar-Ilan University)

Responses to Neo-Assyrian Universalism and the Centralization of Worship in the Time of Hezekiah

Shawn Zelig Aster (Yeshiva University)

10.13

*Wilson***TWO PUBLISHING CONTROVERSIES AND OBSTACLES ON THE ROAD TO A POSTWAR JEWISH POLITICAL REVIVAL***Chair and Respondent:* Michael C. Steinlauf (Gratz College)**Jewish History Confronts Communist Politics: A Publishing Controversy in Poland in 1968**

Karen Auerbach (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum)

The Polish Fear of Fear Itself? A Critical Assessment of the Reception of Jan T. Gross's Work

Jessie Labov (Ohio State University)

10.14

*Cabin John***VIOLENT HALAKHAH***Chair:* Devora Steinmetz (Independent Scholar)**Shechem the Hivvite or Shechem the Snake? How Are Shechem's Actions Judged in Post-Biblical Sources?**

Tzemah Yoreh (American Jewish University)

Killing the Gentile Woman: Violent Rabbinic Traditions on Sexual Relations between Jewish Men and Gentile Women

Laliv Clenman (University of Toronto)

Judaism and Genocide: Destroying Amalek

Harry Fox (University of Toronto)

10.15

*Arlington***A SEMINAR: MAIMONIDES ON CREATION***Chair:* Daniel H. Frank (Purdue University)**Why Maimonides Meant What He Said about Creation**

Kenneth R. Seeskin (Northwestern University)

Maimonides on Creation and the Eternity of the World

Haim (Howard) Kreisel (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Respondent: Roslyn Weiss (Lehigh University)

Session 11, Tuesday, December 23, 2008

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM

11.1

*Constitution A***POLITICAL THEOLOGY IN RECENT JEWISH THOUGHT***Chair:* Claire Katz (Texas A&M University)**On the Origins of “Political Theology”: Judaism and Heresy between the Wars**

Benjamin Lazier (Reed College)

Prophetic Politics and the Phenomenology of Hope: Martin Buber, Leo Strauss, and the Theologico-Political Problem

Akiba J. Lerner (Stanford University)

“Thus Paul’s teaching coincides with ours”: Race and Ethnicity in Recent Jewish Political Theology

Gregory Kaplan (Rice University)

11.2

*Constitution B***YIDDISH POETRY AND PROSE***Chair:* Kathryn A. Hellerstein (University of Pennsylvania)**Possessed by the Other: A Gendered View on (Spirit) Possession in Modern Yiddish Literature**

Agnieszka Legutko Olowina (Columbia University)

Poetry of the Incomprehensible: N. B. Minkov’s *At The Edge*

Jordan D. Finkin (University of Oxford)

“*Makes fun toyt*”: The Literary Persona in the Poetry of Glatstein, Leyeles, Minkoff, and Likht in the 1930s

Itay B. Zutra (Jewish Theological Seminary)

Revisiting Wiesel’s *Night* in French and Yiddish

Alan Astro (Trinity University)

11.3

*Constitution C***NEW DIRECTIONS IN DEAD SEA SCROLLS SCHOLARSHIP***Chair:* Steven D. Fraade (Yale University)**The Image of Otherworldly Priesthood at Qumran**

Joseph Angel (Yeshiva University)

The Ritual Performance of the Shirot at Qumran and the Production of Scripture

Judith H. Newman (Emmanuel College)

The Reworking of the Exodus Story in 4Q422

Ariel Feldman (Haifa University)

Qumran Hebrew: A Survey of Opinions, with a Trial Cut (1QS)

Gary A. Rendsburg (Rutgers University)

11.4

*Constitution E***NEW FEMINIST APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF JUDAISM***Chair:* Sara R. Horowitz (York University)*Discussants:*

Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg (Colgate University)

Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin (Temple University)

Liora Gubkin (California State University, Bakersfield)

Leah Hochman (HUC-JIR, Los Angeles)

Laura S. Levitt (Temple University)

Andrea Lieber (Dickinson College)

Randi Rashkover (George Mason University)

11.5

*Penn Quarter A***JEWES AND THE AMERICAN NATION***Chair and Respondent:* Beth S. Wenger (University of Pennsylvania)**“A great man has fallen in Israel”: The Judaization of Abraham Lincoln**

Gary P. Zola (HUC-JIR)

American Rabbis and the First Years of World War II: The View from the Pulpit

Marc Eli Saperstein (Leo Baeck College)

Explaining Judaism to the Nation

Rachel Gordan (Harvard University)

11.6

*Penn Quarter B***CONVERSION, ANXIETY, AND THE RHETORIC OF MARGINALITY BETWEEN
MEDIEVAL RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES***Chair:* David Malkiel (Bar-Ilan University)**Ambiguous Belonging, Shared Sanctity, and Imagined Conversion in Late Antique and
Medieval Jewish Relations with Non-Jews**

Alexandra Cuffel (Macalester College)

**Gedaliyah of Oxford and Yom-Tov of London: Conversion, Madness, and Adolescent Suicide
in the Late Twelfth Century**

Ephraim Shoham (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Apostasy Imagined: The Rhetoric and Realities of Conversion in Medieval Ashkenaz

Chaviva Levin (Yeshiva College)

11.7

*Independence G***EMERGENT JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PARTICIPANTS: A RESEARCH
SEMINAR***Sponsored by S3K Synagogue Studies Institute**Chair:* Steven Martin Cohen (HUC-JIR/S3K Synagogue Studies Institute)*Discussants:*

Caryn Aviv (University of Denver)

Shirah Hecht (Independent Scholar)

Chava Weissler (Lehigh University)

Respondents:

Elie Kaunfer (Mechon Hadar)

J. Shawn Landres (Jumpstart/Project on Emergent Religious and Social
Entrepreneurship)

11.8

*Independence I***JEWES AS CO-CREATORS OF MODERN WESTERN THEATER***Chair:* Jeanette R. Malkin (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)**Berlin/Vienna: Jewish Actresses in Pre-1933/1938 Theater**

Brigitte Dalinger (University of Vienna)

Crossing Second Avenue: Molly Picon's Mainstreaming of Yiddish Culture

A. Botein-Furrevig (Ocean County College)

**In the Eye of the Yiddish Tempest: New Perspectives on a Polish-Jewish Production of
Shakespeare's *Tempest* in Interwar Poland**

Aviv Livnat (Tel Aviv University)

Respondent: Seth L. Wolitz (University of Texas at Austin)

11.9

*Renwick***SOCIAL ETHICS AND MATERIAL PERFORMANCES***Chair:* Susan Shapiro (University of Massachusetts, Amherst)**Tikkun Olam: Re-Enchanting the Public Sphere While Changing the Subject?**

Yehudah Mirsky (Jewish People Policy Planning Institute)

Towards an Integrated Jewish Social Activism: Perspectives from Arthur Waskow, Michael Lerner, Irving “Yitz” Greenberg, and Jonathan Sacks

Eric Caplan (McGill University)

Materializing New Jewish Ritual: Jews with Jewish Tattoos

Erika Meitner (Virginia Tech)

Judaic Responsibility for the Living and Kosher Certification Today

Aaron Gross (University of California, Santa Barbara)

11.10

*Burnham***GENDER, FAMILY, CHILDREN, AND THE HOLOCAUST***Chair:* Robert Moses Shapiro (Brooklyn College, CUNY)**Helping Hands: American Jewish Women and Child Survivors in the Aftermath of the Holocaust**

Beth B. Cohen (California State University, Northridge)

“A generation in search of stories”: Children of Survivors and the Work of Memory

Arlene J. Stein (Rutgers University)

The Rescue of Children and Youths at Buchenwald

Kenneth Waltzer (Michigan State University)

Surviving Survival: Abba Kovner’s “The Black Angel” and the Poetics of Trauma

Leah Wolfson (College of Charleston) and Ofra Yeglin (Emory University)

11.11

*Lafayette***DRINK, SEX, AND HUMOR AMONG EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS***Chair:* Joshua Zimmerman (Yeshiva University)**The Demise of the Jewish Tavern Keeper in the Kingdom of Poland**

Glenn Dynner (Sarah Lawrence College)

Sex Guidance for a Nineteenth-Century Traditional Jewish Male: The Case of the Kitzur Shulkhan Arukh

Evyatar Marienberg (Jewish Theological Seminary)

The Jewish Origins of Soviet Underground Humor

Emil Draïtser (Hunter College, CUNY)

11.12

*Roosevelt***POLITICS, CULTURE, AND IDEOLOGY IN ISRAEL***Chair:* Yael H. Zerubavel (Rutgers University)**Between Civic and Ethnic: Israel in Light of the Zionist Utopias**

Yitzhak Conforti (Bar-Ilan University)

Knowing Jerusalem through Disciplinary and Cross-Disciplinary Engagement

Miriam F. Elman (Arizona State University)

Zionism and Post-Zionism in the Teaching of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook and the Origins of Gush Emunim

Motti Inbari (Brandeis University)

“The Despicable Romanticism of ‘Holy War’”: Palestine, 1918

Yael Feldman (New York University)

11.13

Wilson

WOMEN'S DEATH IN ISRAELI LITERATURE*Chair and Respondent:* Ranen Omer-Sherman (University of Miami)**Death, Femininity and *Gesamtkunstwerk*: A. B. Yehoshua's *Molcho***

Michal Ben-Horin (University of Florida)

Productive Catastrophes, Creative Displacements: Past and Present Israeli Narratives in Gabriella Avigur-Rotem's *Ancient Red*

Shiri Goren (New York University/Yale University)

Nothing Left to Live For: Women's Suicide in Israeli Literature

Rachel S. Harris (University at Albany, SUNY)

11.14

Cabin John

JEWS AND SHIFTING IDENTITIES IN FRANCE AND ALGERIA*Chair:* Paula E. Hyman (Yale University)**Jewish, Algerian, French, and Republican: Changing Conceptions of Jewish Identity and Politics during the Algerian War**

Ethan Katz (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

A Drama of Faith and Family: Custody Disputes, Familialism, and Nationalism in Postwar France

Daniella Doron (New York University)

Jewish Immigrants Are Not Immigrants: Autochthony and Jewish Belonging in France

Kimberly Arkin (University of Chicago)

Emancipatory Inclusion and Exclusion in Colonial Algeria: Perceptions and Experience in the Construction of Algerian Jewish Identity

Steven Uran (Centre national de la recherche scientifique)

Respondent: David Weinberg (Wayne State University)

11.15

Arlington

RABBINIC TERMS AND THEIR HISTORY*Chair:* Reuven Kimelman (Brandeis University)***Af-Al Pi Še'en R'aiah La-Davar*: The Hermeneutic, Its Characteristics, and Their Implications**

Michael L. Chernick (HUC-JIR)

Legal Implications in the Mechanics of "Kulah Rabbi . . ."

Herbert Basser (Queen's University)

The "Treyf" Pot: How Utensils Came to Require Kashering

David Brodsky (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College)

GENERAL LUNCH**12:45 PM – 1:45 PM***McPherson/Franklin Square**(Note: By pre-paid reservation only)*

AJS BOARD OF**1:00 PM***Farragut Square***DIRECTORS MEETING**

Session 12, Tuesday, December 23, 2008

1:45 PM – 3:45 PM

12.1

*Constitution E***MINORITIES IN ISRAEL: IS JEWISH LAW STILL RELEVANT?***Chair:* Naftali Rothenberg (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)*Discussants:* Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis University)

Aviad Hacoen (Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

Suzanne Last Stone (Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law)

12.2

*Penn Quarter A***TOPICS IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND THEOLOGY***Chair:* Zvi Jonathan Kaplan (Touro College)**Czech–Jewish Relations during World War II: The Role of the Czechoslovak Underground Movements in Shaping the Czechoslovak Exiles' Policy towards the Jews**

Jan Lanicek (University of Southampton)

Emmanuel Levinas and Modern Philosophy's Complicity with the Holocaust

William Henry McDonald (University of Oklahoma)

The Religious Response to Kristallnacht: Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Conceptions

Gershon Greenberg (American University)

Triumph on the Periphery: Political Antisemitism in Rural Northern Germany

George Vascik (Miami University)

12.3

*Penn Quarter B***FAMILY AND LIFE CYCLE IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES***Chair:* Robert Chazan (New York University)**Family in Seventeenth-Century Yiddish Letters: Structure and Sentiment**

Joseph M. Davis (Gratz College)

Children, the Body, and the Synagogue

Tali Berner (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Naked Bodies, Shrouds, and the Care for the Dead in Medieval Ashkenaz

Yechiel Y. Schur (University of Pennsylvania)

12.4

*Independence G***STUDIES IN HASIDISM AND MODERN/CONTEMPORARY JEWISH MYSTICISM***Chair:* Don Seeman (Emory University)**Old Pictures, New Meanings: Visual Kabbalah on the Web and Western Esotericism**

Marla Segol (Skidmore College)

Reconsidering Boundaries: Kabbalah for Non-Jews

Jody Myers (California State University, Northridge)

Touching God: Degrees of *Devekut* in Contemporary Israeli Kabbalah

Aubrey L. Glazer (Jewish Community Center of Harrison)

12.5

*Independence I***MEDIEVAL RABBINIC LEADERSHIP AND THOUGHT***Chair:* Herbert Basser (Queen's University)**Contrasting Leadership Styles: Moses and Abraham Maimonides**

Elisha Russ-Fishbane (Harvard University)

Sex for Clarification: Rabbinic Approaches to Anomalous Legal Situations in Medieval Codes and Commentaries

Tirzah Meacham (University of Toronto)

The Holy Writ and Its Authorship in Medieval Karaite Commentaries on the Pentateuch

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

12.6

*Renwick***JEWISH PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL WELFARE***Chair:* Lee Shai Weissbach (University of Louisville)**The Mentally Ill in Jewish Eastern Europe: Roles, Attitudes, and Care in the Modern Period**

Natan Meir (Portland State University)

Philanthropy, Charity, and the Turn-of-the-Century Immigrant Poor

Erica Simmons (University of Toronto)

12.7

*Burnham***HEBREW, ENGLISH, AND CONTEMPORARY JEWISH/ISRAELI IDENTITY IN AMERICA***Chair:* Ayala Fader (Fordham University)**Ideologies in Action: Hebrew in the Classroom**

Sharon Avni (New York University)

Nativizing the Jew: *Ivrit* Phonology and the Construction of the Authentic Israeli in the Diaspora

Shlomy Kattan (University of California, Berkeley)

Hebrew in Dialogue: Contemporary Jewish American Writing

Hana Wirth-Nesher (Tel Aviv University)

Respondent: Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)

12.8

*Lafayette***FROM THE OTHER SHORE: AMERICANIZATION IN A TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE***Chair:* Katja Vehlow (University of South Carolina, Columbia)**“Murdered in a fight for the Jewish flag”: The Death of 13-year-old Sadie Dellon and the Images of Irish Americans among Jewish Immigrants in New York City**

Gil Ribak (Efal Seminary)

Differences and Secrets: Two Novels by an American Jewish Surgeon

Sonja Mekel (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Between Old and Promised Lands: Voices of Russian Jewish Immigrant Authors in America

Victoria Khiterer (Macon State College)

12.9

*Roosevelt***JEWISH THEOLOGY***Chair:* Gregory Kaplan (Rice University)**“Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord?” Divine Silence and Theological Protest in the Writings of Abraham Joshua Heschel**

Shai Held (Harvard University)

Transcending Time: Elements of Romanticism in the Thought of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik

Moshe Z. Sokol (Touro College)

The Return of the Messianic: Walter Benjamin Again at the Center

Eric Jacobson (Roehampton University, London)

The Hermeneutics of Divine Love in Jewish Thought: Possibilities and Challenges

Yudit K. Greenberg (Rollins College)

- 12.10

EUROPEAN JEWISH POLITICAL THOUGHT AND THE PROMISE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
Chair: Eugene Sheppard (Brandeis University)
Jewish Autonomy in America: The View from Russia
Simon Rabinovitch (University of Florida)
The Other Old-New Land: Eastern Europe in the Interwar American Jewish Political Imagination
James Loeffler (University of Virginia)
Jewish Nationalism and Collective Identity in a Global Era
Noam F. Pianko (University of Washington)

Wilson
- 12.11

WORKS IN PROGRESS GROUP IN MODERN JEWISH STUDIES
Chair: Claire Sufrin (Northeastern University)

Cabin John
- 12.12

HOLINESS, PURITY, AND THE TEMPLE
Chair: Carl S. Ehrlich (York University)
Miqra' Qodes' and the Structure of Leviticus 23
Baruch J. Schwartz (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
Between Sacred and Secular: The Significance of Sanctuary Pilgrimage in Biblical Israel
Eric Grossman (Frankel Jewish Academy)
Politics and Purity: The High Priest Caiaphas in Historical Context
Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa)
Is Holiness Contagious?
Martin I. Lockshin (York University)

Arlington

DIVISION MEETINGS ROOM LOCATIONS MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 4:00 PM – 4:30 PM		
Bible <i>Penn Quarter A</i>	Modern Jewish Thought and Theology <i>Constitution C</i>	Modern Jewish History in the Americas <i>Independence I</i>
Talmud, Midrash, Rabbinics <i>Penn Quarter B</i>	Jewish History in Late Antiquity <i>Penn Quarter A</i>	Israel Studies <i>Lafayette</i>
Yiddish Literature <i>Constitution E</i>	Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Literature, and Culture <i>Constitution B</i>	Holocaust Studies <i>Arlington</i>
Modern Jewish Literature <i>Burnham</i>	Sephardi/Mizrahi Studies <i>Wilson</i>	Jews and the Arts <i>Independence G</i>
Modern Hebrew Literature <i>Cabin John</i>	Modern Jewish History in Europe, Asia, Israel, and Other Communities <i>Roosevelt</i>	Social Sciences, Anthropology, and Folklore <i>Lafayette</i>
Medieval Jewish Philosophy <i>Constitution B</i>		Gender Studies <i>Constitution A</i>
Jewish Mysticism <i>Renwick</i>		Linguistics, Semiotics, and Philology <i>Constitution A</i>

AJS 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FILM FESTIVAL

Sponsored by the Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies,
University of Maryland

Organized by Professor Bernard D. Cooperman

All films will be screened in the Conference Theatre (Lagoon Level, 1B)

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

About Sugar Cane and Homecoming (The Netherlands and Brazil 2008)
Directed by Shaul Kesslassi. 54 minutes. (Portuguese with English subtitles.)

The Affair (Israel 2006) Directed by Assaf Harel. 78 minutes.
(Hebrew and English with English subtitles.)

Almost Peaceful (France 2002) Directed by Michel Deville. 94 minutes.
(French with English subtitles.)

Baghdad Twist (Canada [based on Iraqi archival images] 2007)
Directed by Joe Balass. 30 minutes.

Being Jewish in France (France 2007) Directed by Yves Jeuland.
Part I: 73 minutes. (French with English subtitles.)

Blessed Is the Match: The Life and Death of Hannah Senesh (USA 2008)
Directed by Roberta Grossman. 86 minutes.

Bloodlines (Australia 2008) Directed by Cynthia Connop. 52 minutes.

Children of the Sun (Israel 2007) Directed by Ran Tal. 70 minutes.
(Hebrew with English subtitles.)

Cobwebs (Israel 2008) Directed by Micha Livne. 63 minutes.
(Hebrew with English subtitles.)

Eyes Wide Open (Israel and USA 2008) Directed by Paula Weiman-Kelman.
60 minutes. (English and Hebrew with English subtitles.)

Fence Wall Border (Israel 2006) Directed by Eli Cohen. Part III: 60 minutes.
(English, Hebrew, and Arabic with English subtitles.)

The Hebrew Lesson (Israel 2006) Directed by David Ofek, Elinor Kowarsky, and Ron Rotem. 123 minutes. (Hebrew, English, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish with English subtitles.)

AJS 40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FILM FESTIVAL

(Continued from previous page)

His Wife's Lover (USA 1931) Directed by Sidney M. Goldin. 80 minutes.
(Yiddish with English subtitles.)

The Holocaust Tourist (U.K. 2005) Directed by Jes Benstock. 10 minutes.

The House on August St. (Israel 2007) Directed by Ayelet Bargur. 63 minutes.
(Hebrew and German with English subtitles.)

Jewboy (Australia and France 2007) Directed by Tony Krawitz. 52 minutes.

The Monster Among Us (USA 2008) Directed by Allen Mondell and
Cynthia Salzman Mondell. 71 minutes.

My Brother's Wedding (USA 2003) Directed by Daniel Akiba. 36 minutes.

Praying with Lior (USA 2007) Directed by Ilana Trachtman. 87 minutes.

To See If I'm Smiling (Israel 2007) Directed by Tamar Yarom. 59 minutes.
(Hebrew with English subtitles.)

A Touch Away (Israel 2007) Directed by Ron Ninio. Eight 38-minute episodes.
(Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles.)

Tree of Life (USA 2008). Directed by Hava Volterra. 76 minutes.
(English, Hebrew, and Italian with English subtitles.)

2 or 3 Things I Know about Him (Germany 2005) Directed by Malte Ludin.
85 minutes. (English and German with English subtitles.)

Wasted (Israel 2007) Directed by Nurit Kedar. 70 minutes.
(Hebrew with English subtitles.)

*The AJS thanks the following distributors for providing films for the Second Annual
AJS Conference Film Festival:*

Eden Films, Tel-Aviv, Israel; First Run Features, New York, NY; Icarus Films,
Brooklyn, NY; Katahdin Foundation, Berkeley CA; Media Projects, Inc., Dallas,
TX; National Center for Jewish Film, Waltham, MA; Ruby Pictures, New York,
NY; Ruth Diskin Films, Jerusalem, Israel; Women Make Movies, New York, NY.

Selections subject to change.