

THE
CROWN
FAMILY
CENTER
FOR
**JEWISH
AND
ISRAEL
STUDIES**

2018 - 2019

Northwestern

An abstract painting of a tree with a thick, textured trunk and branches. The colors are vibrant and varied, including shades of orange, red, yellow, green, and purple. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, giving the painting a sense of movement and depth. The background is a mix of these colors, creating a rich, layered effect.



Clockwise from top: Global Engineering Trek (page 6); Jess Schwalb (Weinberg College '19) at Harris Day of Jewish Study (page 2); The Klutznick Lecture in Jewish Civilization (page 4); German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop (page 2).

THE CROWN FAMILY CENTER FOR JEWISH AND ISRAEL STUDIES

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Northwestern

Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies

ON THE COVER

Detail from *Summer Wind in Upper Galilee*
Genesis Portfolio, Northwestern University Library
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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends, When the academic field of Jewish Studies first developed in the nineteenth century, its earliest advocates sought to place the Jewish tradition on equal footing with the established disciplines of History, Philosophy, and the Classics. Some of these scholars envisioned the nascent “Science of Judaism” as a kind of Jewish antiquarianism that might, through disciplined study and critical objectivity, at long last “give Judaism a decent burial.” The Hebrew Bible, rabbinic literature, medieval Jewish philosophy, and so on might no longer be of practical relevance to emancipated, enlightened modern Jews, but the fossilized remains of the Jewish tradition could at least be catalogued and analyzed from a modern, critical vantage point.

Needless to say, the intervening years have belied the notion that Jewishness is nothing but a relic to be pored over and then shelved in a museum case. Far from grinding to a halt with the arrival of modernity, the Jewish tradition has continued to develop and transform, its creativity, complexity, and contentiousness undiminished. The field of Jewish Studies has been revived in turn, as an increasingly diverse array of scholars expand the canon of Jewish literature, apply innovative methodologies to familiar sources, and bring to light neglected historical figures and events. The State of Israel in particular has served as the setting, and impetus, for animated political, cultural, and religious debate and experimentation—and the sub-discipline of Israel Studies has emerged as one of the most vibrant fields of inquiry in today’s scholarly landscape.

To be sure, study of the Jewish past and present for their own sake continues to be a vital component of the fields of Jewish and Israel Studies. But the relevance of these fields for understanding today’s world has become increasingly self-evident. From the controversies over Israel’s “nation-state law” to those over anti-BDS legislation; from the exclusion of Jewish Zionists at the Women’s March to “Jexodus” and “Jews for Trump”; from the attacks in Pittsburgh and Poway to the chants of marchers in Charlottesville; from the halls of Congress to the House of Commons to the chambers of the Knesset—more than ever, making sense of our fraught modern era requires sophisticated, informed, critical perspectives on Jewish and Israeli history, society, thought, and culture.

The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies seeks to provide students, faculty members, and the broader public with these vitally important intellectual tools. The Center serves as a hub for teaching, research, and public engagement, and encompasses scholars who specialize in the broad scope of Jewish history, literature, philosophy, and languages. Our strengths in Jewish Studies are augmented by specialists in the field of Israel Studies, who have bolstered the study of Israeli history and politics by including perspectives drawn from science and technology, economics, and environmental studies. The students who take our courses, the faculty whose research we support, and the community members who attend our many public events emerge with the knowledge and skills necessary to not only understand the past, but also to help shape the future.

In the pages that follow, you can learn about the courses, public events, and academic scholarship supported by the Crown Center over the course of the 2018-19 year. We are proud to serve as a resource to students and faculty, and work hard to build bridges beyond the ivory tower to the greater Chicagoland community. I warmly invite you to get involved in the coming academic year in whatever way you choose—by attending our events, engaging with our faculty, or helping to support our collective efforts with a donation.

David Shyovitz
Director

German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop

The German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop, held on Monday, October 29 and Tuesday October 30, brought together more than a dozen scholars of German Studies, History, Literature, and Religion from around the United States and Germany to Northwestern for two days of sharing research on the interaction of Jewish and Christian artists, theologians, and philosophers in the 19th and 20th centuries. Papers addressed topics as varied as the influence of Christian biblical scholars on the work of Jewish biblical scholars and vice versa; philosopher Hans Jonas' notion of "reading" the world; and the use of parable (*mashal*) as a literary form in sources ranging from the Talmud to the notebooks of Franz Kafka. Organized by Claire Sufrin and Nitzan Lebovic (Lehigh University), the meeting was sponsored by the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies with additional support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Berman Center for Jewish Studies at Lehigh University, the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, and the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies at Northwestern.



German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop participants

The Manfred H. Vogel Lecture in Judaic Studies

**"Between Jesus and Paul:
From Apologetics to Jewish
Theological Affirmations"**

Paul Mendes-Flohr,
University of Chicago



Paul Mendes-Flohr with Claire Sufrin
and David Shyovitz

This year's Manfred H. Vogel Memorial Lecture in Judaic Studies, held on Monday, October 29, in conjunction with the German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop, featured historian Paul Mendes-Flohr, whose work on German Jewish intellectuals including Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig has made an indelible mark on the study of modern Jewish history. In his talk, "Between Jesus and Paul: from Apologetics to Jewish Theological Affirmations in 20th Century Germany," Professor Mendes-Flohr addressed the fascination of many German-Jewish intellectuals with the key figures of early Christianity, Jesus and Paul. Animated by captivating details such as Jacob Taubes' claim that Paul was so deeply rooted in Judaism that he "spoke

Yiddish," the talk illustrated how German Jews explored the meaning of Judaism by examining the central heroes of early Christianity. The talk was also attentive to what was happening at that time in the work of Christian theologians such as Adolf von Harnack, whose *Essence of Christianity* portrayed Judaism in a negative light and elicited harsh responses from, among others, Leo Baeck and Franz Rosenzweig.

Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study

**"What is Antisemitism? Historical,
Political and Personal Perspectives"**

A panel discussion with faculty
and students

On Sunday, March 3, a panel of professors and students addressed aspects of antisemitism at the 2019 Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study. The engaged audience of more than 150 Northwestern students and community members considered, among other things, pre-modern roots of antisemitism, the role of antisemitism in the white power movement, and the relationship between antisemitism and anti-Zionism. The panel featured Professors David Shyovitz and Sara Hirschhorn of Northwestern University and Professor Kathleen Belew of the University of Chicago in conversation with Northwestern students Jess Schwalb, Ariel Sheffey, and Charlie Valdes Yelin. Professor Claire Sufrin served as moderator.



Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study



Author Nicole Krauss with Claire Sufrin

“Israel at a Crossroads? Electoral Politics in a Divided Nation”

A panel discussion on the April 2019 Knesset election

On Wednesday, March 13, in the run-up to the (first) 2019 Israeli Knesset elections, panelists Yael Aronoff (Michigan State University), Anshel Pfeffer (Haaretz), Elie Rekhess (Northwestern University) and Yedidia Stern (Israel Democracy Institute) shared perspectives on the Israeli political landscape gleaned from their areas of



“Israel at a Crossroads” panel

academic, journalistic, and public policy expertise. Over the course of a lively discussion, the speakers disagreed in their predictions, but reached a unanimous consensus that the electoral season had exposed the deep divisions in Israeli society in an unprecedented fashion.

Renée and Lester Crown Speaker Series

“A Literary Conversation with author Nicole Krauss”

In an onstage conversation with Professor Claire Sufrin on Monday, April 8, author Nicole Krauss was thoughtful and reflective about the process of writing and the responsibilities of an author to her readers as she discussed themes that are central to her work. Nicole Krauss is one of the most important Jewish American novelists writing today. Her 2006 book, *History of Love*, is an enthralling tale of loneliness and the power of literature to create bonds across time and space. Her 2011 book, *Great House*, which won a National Book Award (among other prizes), explores memory, loss, and storytelling. Her most recent novel, *Forest Dark*, takes place in Tel Aviv, with two protagonists on spiritual quests to free themselves from their respective obsessions. Like writers of an earlier generation such as Philip Roth, Saul Bellow, or Cynthia Ozick, Krauss’ work is written in a Jewish key yet resonates widely with a universal audience: her books have been translated into more than 30 languages and sold well around the world.



Undergraduates attending “Israel at a Crossroads? Electoral Politics in a Divided Nation”

“Deborah Lipstadt on Antisemitism”

In cooperation with the Chicago Humanities Festival

On Thursday, May 2, the award-winning historian and author of *The Eichmann Trial* and *Denial: Holocaust History on Trial* delivered a penetrating and provocative analysis of antisemitism, focusing on its current, virulent incarnations on both



Deborah Lipstadt

the political right and left: from white supremacist demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia, to mainstream enablers such as Donald

Trump and Jeremy Corbyn, to a gay pride march in Chicago that expelled a group of women for carrying a Star of David banner. Lipstadt painstakingly elucidated history’s ongoing manifestations of “the hate that will not die,” and contextualized contemporary antisemitism through a long historical lens.

2018-2019 EVENTS

Symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East

Co-sponsored by the Northwestern Center for Water Research

“Drought, Insecurity, and Conflict in Israel, the Middle East, and Beyond” was the topic of this year’s symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East, the fourth in an annual series, held on Monday, May 6. The panel of experts discussed issues affecting water insecurity including climate change, drought, and contamination, as well as challenges in regulating limited resources in an area of political tension. Guest speakers included Yaakov Garb of Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Yochanan Kushnir of Columbia University, Jim Yoon of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Giora Shaham of the Government Authority for Water and Sewage in Israel.

The symposium was co-chaired by Aaron Packman, Director of the Center for Water Research, Elie Rekhess, Associate Director for Israel Studies at the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, and Sera Young, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Global Health. This interdisciplinary symposium is part of an ongoing collaboration between the Northwestern Center for Water Research and the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. This year’s symposium was co-sponsored by the McCormick School of Engineering and the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.



Professor Yochanan Kushnir



Symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East participants

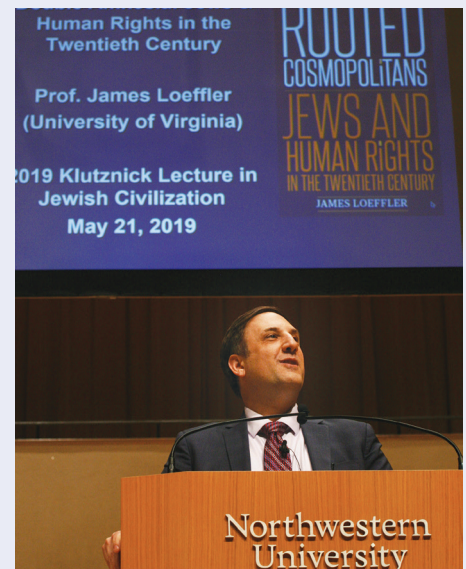
Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Lecture in Jewish Civilization

Co-sponsored by the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

“Double Amnesia: Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century: The Unknown Story of how Zionism Invented International Human Rights”

James Loeffler, University of Virginia

The 2019 Klutznick Lecture on Tuesday, May 21 featured Professor James Loeffler, whose recent book *Rooted Cosmopolitans* (Yale, 2018) uncovers the Jewish political roots of the international human rights movement. In his lecture, Loeffler focused particularly on Hersch Zvi Lauterpacht, the “father of international human rights law,” who helped to draft both the Israeli Declaration of Independence and the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Loeffler illuminated the ways in which Lauterpacht and other intellectuals and activists saw their commitments to universal human rights and to political Zionism as compatible, and mutually reinforcing.



Professor James Loeffler



Professor James Loeffler; Paula Harris, Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; Dean Adrian Randolph, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences; Professor David Shyovitz; Professor Claire Sufrin

2018-2019 COURSES

Faculty and graduate student colloquia

Thursday, November 1

**“From Jackson to Johannesburg
to Jerusalem: How the 1967 War
Turned Diaspora Jewish Zionists
into White People”**

Sara Hirschhorn, Visiting Assistant
Professor in Israel Studies,
Northwestern University

Thursday, February 14

**“My Fingers for War: A Prayer for Jewish
Militiamen in Colonial Suriname”**

Eli Rosenblatt, Affiliated Scholar,
Northwestern University

Wednesday, April 3

**“Protecting the Faith: Censoring
Benjamin of Tudela’s Book of Travels”**

Marci Freedman, Sava Ranisavljevic
Postdoctoral Fellow in Judeo-Spanish
Studies, Northwestern University

Wednesday, May 1

**“Israel’s Digital Policy: Biometrics,
Social Media Regulation and ‘Sdarot’”**

Efrat Daskal, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel
Studies, Northwestern University

Monday, May 13

“Maimonides the Mālikī”

Marc Herman, Institute Fellow at the
Frankel Center for Advanced Judaic
Studies at the University of Michigan
*Co-sponsored by the Middle East and
North African Studies Program*

Co-sponsored events

Wednesday, November 14

**“Thinking about Poetic Redundancy
with Vergil and the Hebrew Bible”**

Andrea Rotstein, Tel Aviv University
Sponsored by the Department of Classics

Monday, February 25

**“Sovereignty as Self-Elimination:
The Israeli Case”**

Joyce Dalsheim, University of
North Carolina
*Sponsored by the Middle East and
North African Studies Program*

Monday, March 4

**“Institution, Community, Politics:
On Book Three of Franz Rosenzweig’s
Star of Redemption”**

Petar Bojanic, University of Belgrade,
University of Rijeka
Sponsored by the Department of German

Wednesday, April 24

**“Writing History, Writing Biography:
Capturing H.G. Adler’s Many Worlds”**

Peter Filkins, Bard College
Sponsored by the Department of German



Global Engineering Trek

Jewish History 750-1492

History of the Holocaust

Holocaust Trials

Economic History of Israel

Arabs in a Jewish State

Hamas and Palestinian
Political Islam

Gender, Race and the Holocaust

Jewish Life in Medieval Europe

Shattered Worlds: Representation
after the Shoah

Job’s Tears: Jewish Response
to Suffering

A Rabbi and a Priest Walk Into
a Bar To Talk About God

Introduction to Yiddish Culture:
Literary Images of the Shtetl

Tales of Love and Darkness:
Eros and Isolation in Modern
Hebrew Literature

Modern Israel: History, Politics
and Society, 1882-present

Zionism and its Critics

From Globalization to Nationalism:
Should We Blame the Media?

Media and Minorities in Israel

Reporting the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Yiddish Culture and the Holocaust

Water in Israel and the Middle East:
Reliance, Sustainability and Security

Introduction to Hebrew Bible

Introduction to Judaism

Kabbalah

Gender and Sexuality in Judaism

Religion and Literature

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Hebrew I, II, III

2018 JEWISH STUDIES MINORS

DANIELLA (DANI) LEWITTES

"I grew up attending Jewish day school for most of my life, and Jewish learning was not always something that I appreciated throughout my childhood. I did not understand the impact studying Jewish topics

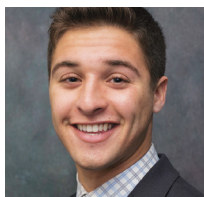


Daniella Lewittes

had on me until I arrived at Northwestern, finding myself desperately missing the comfort of a classroom in which I could... deepen my understanding of

Judaism's rich history and mind-blowing concepts. I missed the feeling of challenging myself and always questioning my classmates through animated discussions both in and out of the classroom. When I began taking Jewish Studies classes for my NU distribution requirements, I knew that I had finally gotten what I had so badly craved. While my career interests (and therefore my major) lie elsewhere, it quickly became obvious to me that I needed to pursue a Jewish Studies minor and make Jewish Studies a part of my life forever. Northwestern has helped me do just that, and I am eternally grateful."

AARON STRAUSS "When I arrived at Northwestern freshman year, I was certain of very few things. Which classes to enroll in, which clubs to sign up for... it all seemed like the decisions I was making were those of life-altering proportions. There was one decision though, that was something of a no-brainer. And that was Hebrew study. I'd been flirting with fluency since I'd



Aaron Strauss

learned how to spell my Hebrew name in Kindergarten, and the Hebrew studies minor gave me the final push I needed. It was nice to know that no matter how

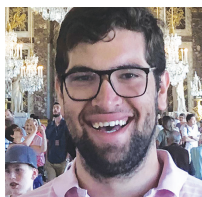
my other choices panned out, my decision to study Hebrew would be a challenge that I understood and loved."



GLOBAL ENGINEERING TREK IN ISRAEL Shortly before the school year officially began last September, a dozen undergraduates from across the university participated in the first-ever Global Engineering Trek (GET) in Israel with Professors Elie Rekhess and Aaron Packman. Students examined Israel's critical water infrastructure, experienced its culture of innovation, and toured diverse historical and archaeological sites. One student commented, "Having history and engineering so intertwined made the experience twice as interesting. Being able to switch between the two kept things fresh and helped with digesting all of the information." The GET was sponsored by the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies and the NU Center for Water Research with the support of The Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern (ISEN).

JILL STACEY HARRIS PRIZE IN JEWISH STUDIES

The 2019 Jill Stacey Harris Prize in Jewish studies was awarded to Weinberg College senior **ALEXANDER OLTARSH**. Alexander's paper "How Changing Standards in Denaturalization Cases Changed the Government's Use of Evidence in Prosecuting Them,"



Alexander Oltarsh

was written for Professor Benjamin Frommer's course, "Holocaust Trials." The essay examines the case of John Demjanjuk and uses it to identify

key patterns in the pursuit of Holocaust perpetrators within the American court system. Through comparison with several other cases, Oltarsh outlines how judges established the standard of proof necessary for the denaturalization of Nazi war criminals and how these standards came to shape Demjanjuk's situation.

The Jill Stacey Harris Prize has been awarded annually since 1991 for the best undergraduate essay in Jewish Studies.

DINNER AT TA'IM PO, MOCK ISRAELI RESTAURANT

Northwestern Hebrew students of all levels experienced Israeli culture first-hand as professor of Hebrew Hanna Tzucker Seltzer created the mock restaurant "Ta'im Po" (It's Tasty Here) in a campus lounge. Students were able to practice their language skills by ordering Israeli dishes from a Hebrew menu and conversing with native speakers who acted as servers.

This event was co-sponsored by the Middle East and North African Studies Program and supported by a Course Enhancement Grant from the Weinberg College Dean's Office.



Ta'im Po

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“ I benefited enormously from an amazing level of support from my advisors, who guided and challenged me every step of the way.”

Sarah Wolf



Sarah Wolf

Sarah Wolf received her PhD in Religious Studies from Northwestern University in 2018. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

WHAT SORTS OF COURSES ARE YOU TEACHING?

WHO ARE YOUR STUDENTS?

I teach a wide range of students: undergraduates in the dual-degree program between JTS and Columbia/Barnard; MA and PhD students in the graduate school; students in the school of education, some of whom are studying online while working full-time; and rabbinical students, who are all ages and backgrounds. Most of my courses are seminars with 15 or so students. This year I'll be teaching a freshman seminar exploring the concept of canon; a cross-listed elective related to my research on emotions in rabbinic literature (see below); and a class on sex and family in the Talmud for first-year rabbinical students.

WHAT WAS YOUR DISSERTATION ABOUT?

My dissertation explored the development of literary elements—plot, characterization, and narration—in legal literature towards the end of the classical rabbinic period. I showed that this development took place at a time when rabbinic culture became increasingly scholastic, meaning that it began to center around text study in formalized academies. I argued that as study became the most important ritual activity for the rabbis, their engagement with law became less about solving practical or textual problems, and more about creating compelling imaginary worlds in which to explore legal concepts.

WHAT RESEARCH ARE YOU DOING NOW?

I'm currently researching the portrayal of emotions in rabbinic literature, and I'm particularly interested in the use of emotions as legal categories. For example, humiliation is considered to be a civil crime that carries a financial penalty, which means that the

rabbis discuss the parameters of how to legally determine what humiliation entails and how much it is worth. I'm also looking at the category of despair (legally relevant when someone loses an object and despairs of getting it back, thus relinquishing claims to ownership) and possibly also jealousy and regret.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR NEW POSITION?

I am lucky to have landed in an institution that has felt like a good fit for me in many ways, but the best part of my position is probably the teaching. I have a fair amount of flexibility about what I teach, and my students tend to be smart, motivated, respectful, curious, and often able to read primary texts in the original. As a young professor in a small Jewish world, I do sometimes wind up teaching my friends, which is definitely a bit weird, but is also a pretty good problem to have.

HOW DID NORTHWESTERN'S JEWISH STUDIES COMMUNITY PREPARE YOU FOR THESE NEXT STAGES IN YOUR CAREER?

I benefited enormously from an amazing level of support from my advisors, Mira Balberg and Barry Wimpfheimer, who guided and challenged me every step of the way. They also worked with me to craft a training program, and ultimately an approach to the job search, that would fit my specific interests and career goals.

JEWISH STUDIES GRADUATE CLUSTER FELLOW NEWS

STEPHANIE BRENZEL defended her dissertation “As Strong as Death: Franz Rosenzweig’s Philosophy of Love in *The Star of Redemption*” this past spring. She will begin work as the Igor Kaplan Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish-Christian Relations at the University of Toronto in August and will spend the next year turning her dissertation into a book.

LEV DASCHKO is currently in the process of publishing an article on Jewish postcard makers in nineteenth-century Czernowitz. He is also working on his dissertation on interethnic relations in the Austrian borderland of Bukovina before the First World War. This year he was awarded the Neporany Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies for 2019-20.

TOVA MARKENSON completed the body chapters of her dissertation on Yiddish theatre and Jewish women’s migration in early-twentieth century Argentina with the support of research fellowships from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture and the Sexualities Project at Northwestern. She also published a performance review of Argentinean director Sebastián Kirsznner’s new play *La Shikse* in *Theatre Journal*, completed an article on Yiddish theatre’s contributions to the Argentine avant-garde, presented at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education’s national conference, and took part in a Digital Yiddish Theatre Project workshop. Over the summer, she participated in a summer research institute on migration at Harvard University’s Mellon School for Theatre and Performance Research. She is delighted to be the incoming Crown Graduate Fellow.

RACHEL MERRILL MOSS had a fruitful dissertation research year in Poland supported by a 2018-2019 Fulbright research grant. During the academic year, Rachel presented work at the American Society for Theatre Research Conference, the British Association for Slavonic and East-European

Studies Conference, and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Summer Convention, and she participated in the year-long Doctoral Seminar at the Polin Museum for the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. She also represented Fulbright Poland at the EU-US Young Leaders Seminar in Brussels in April. In early July, Rachel participated in the 2019 Leonid Nevzlin International Forum for Young Scholars on East European Jewry in New York. In November, Rachel will be co-convening a working session at the 2019 American Society for Theatre Research Conference, entitled “Performing a People’s Public: Theatre’s New Publics in Central and East Europe and Russia.”

MAHMURE İDİL ÖZKAN is a doctoral student in linguistic anthropology. Her dissertation project investigates the 2015 offer of Spanish citizenship to Sephardic Jews, exploring language ideologies, citizenship, transnational migration, and understandings of homeland and belonging among Turkish Sephardic Jews. In June 2018, she presented a paper on Turkish Jews’ configurations of time and identity through a focus on metalinguistic narratives on Judeo-Spanish at the “Turkish-Jewish Entanglements: Resilience, Migration, and New Diasporas” conference at the University of Graz. In summer 2018, she conducted exploratory research in Barcelona and Istanbul with funding from the Buffet Institute Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, TGS, and the Fan Foster Foundation.

GRACE KESSLER OVERBEKE presented at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference, received the Mark and Ruth Luckens International Prize in Jewish Thought and Culture, and successfully defended her dissertation “The Forgotten Pioneer: Jean Carroll and the Jewish Female Origins of Stand-Up Comedy.” After graduating from Northwestern in the Spring of 2019, she will serve as the 2019-2020 Perilman

Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies at Duke University before beginning a tenure-track job as Assistant Professor of Theatre at Columbia College Chicago in August 2020. She is currently working on an article for a special volume of *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* and developing her dissertation into a book proposal.

BOGDAN PAVLISH is a third-year PhD student in history working on the Armenian diaspora in seventeenth-century Poland-Lithuania. His research on the economic and religious connections of Armenian merchants and clerics has also brought southeast Europe and the Near East into the scope of his project. In summer 2019, he worked in the libraries and archives of the Vatican, studying materials from Catholic missionaries to the Armenians of Poland-Lithuania and other parts of early modern Eurasia. His research trip to Rome was organized and funded by the University of Notre Dame.

BENJAMIN RICCIARDI completed his PhD in Religious Studies in 2019 with a dissertation entitled *The Weekday Amidah as a Performative Anti-Theodicy*. Over the past year he submitted an article on Hermann Cohen and another on Steven S. Schwarzschild. His current research focuses on the intersection of Jewish philosophy and video games.

ANASTASIIA SIMFEROVSKA worked on her Jewish Studies subfield at libraries and archives in Poland, Israel, and Ukraine. In September 2018, she gave a public lecture “The Art and the Catastrophe: the Role of the Holocaust in the Making of the Jewish Artist,” at the TKUMA Institute for Holocaust Studies, in Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk), Ukraine; in November 2018, she presented “The Jewish Face of Lviv: Portraiture in the Multi-Ethnic City 1890’s-1930’s,” at Wrocław University, Poland; and in July, 2019, she presented “A Jewish Artist in the Nazi-occupied Lviv: Jonasz Stern, William Ochs, Henryk Beck,”

at the International Conference “Art and the Holocaust: Reflections for the Common Future,” held in Riga, Latvia. She received a Crown Family Center Israel Studies Research Grant to work on her chapter-length project “A Jewish Artist Between the Galut and the Land of Israel: Wilhelm Wachtel, Zeev Porath, Mikhail Steinberg.”

AMANDA RUPPENTHAL STEIN was the 2018-19 Crown Graduate Fellow. Her dissertation (working title: “Sounding *Judentum*: Assimilation, Art Music, and Being Jewish Musically in 19th Century Germany”) explores how art music served as an avenue of assimilation for 19th century German-speaking Jews and challenges existing scholarly narratives on musical expressions of Judaism and Jewishness by musicians during this period. Amanda also traveled twice to Uganda in 2019, participating in a Cantors Assembly solidarity mission and recording project and conducting fieldwork at the Centennial Celebration of the Abayudaya Jewish community.

ARIEL WEINER is a PhD student in Comparative Literary Studies (CLS) and German. In 2018-19, Ariel received a Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). She also passed her CLS Theory Exams, and completed her second year of coursework. In June she attended the second annual Summer Institute for Psychoanalysis at Northwestern and participated in the Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC)’s Summer Institute on Media Aesthetics in July. She also received funding from the Jewish Studies Cluster to pursue German language acquisition over the summer.

CROWN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

The recipient of the 2019-20 Crown Graduate Fellowship is

Tova Markenson, a doctoral candidate in the School of Communication’s Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Theater and Drama, and a Jewish Studies Graduate Cluster fellow. Tova is currently at work on a dissertation titled “Entrance Forbidden to the Yiddish Theatre: Performance, Prostitution, and Protest in Buenos Aires (1900-1939),” and the Crown Fellowship will help to fund her studies as she completes the project over the course of the coming year.

Tova’s fascinating project reveals the strategies by which Jewish women “performed” femininity in early-twentieth-century Argentina, where Jewish women were disproportionately associated with prostitution. Tova challenges historical assumptions that the thriving Yiddish theatres in Buenos



Tova Markenson

Aires were funded by a notorious Jewish prostitution ring that trafficked Jewish women from Eastern Europe to Argentina during this period. As she argues, these assumptions were in fact rumors based in antitheatrical prejudice. To revise the history of Argentine Yiddish theatre, Tova uses these early-twentieth-century perceptions about Yiddish theatre and prostitution to understand the performance of women’s sexual and religious identities—both on the Argentine Yiddish stage, where Yiddish “brothel dramas” explicitly tackled the question of Jewish prostitution, and in the auditorium, where outraged activists mobilized Yiddish theatregoers towards anti-prostitution reform.

Tova’s research opens up a fascinating, and unknown (perhaps even suppressed) chapter in Latin American Jewish culture, and promises to make a path-breaking contribution to Theater Studies and to Latin American Jewish history.

DANNY M. COHEN, Associate Professor of Instruction in the School of Education and Social Policy, received the Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Professor of Instruction university teaching award in Spring 2019. He and Phyllis Lassner co-authored a new introduction for the reprint of the memoir *I Was A Doctor in Auschwitz* by Gisella Perl, published by Lexington Books.

SARAH CUSHMAN, Director of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, and Lecturer in the Department of History, taught “Gender, Race, and the Holocaust” in Spring 2019. She completed several articles including “The Auschwitz Women’s Camp: An Overview and Reconsideration,” for the *Palgrave Handbook on Holocaust Literature and Culture*, edited by Victoria Aarons and Phyllis Lassner, and “How Deep the Gray — ‘Privileged’ Jewish Women Prisoners in Auschwitz-Birkenau,” to be published in *Proceedings from the 2018 Ethel LeFrak Holocaust Education Conference: Women, The Holocaust, and Genocide*. In 2018, Professor Cushman received the Professor Shulamit Reinharz Research Award from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute for research on the geography of the Auschwitz women’s camp.

EFRAT DASKAL, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies, taught three courses exploring the intersection between Israel studies and communication studies. She continued her research in digital rights advocacy, ethical regulation of social media, and cyber-security awareness, the latter in cooperation with the Federman Cyber Security Center Law Program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She presented her work at six international conferences and prepared five papers for publication.

PETER FENVES, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Professor of Literature, Department of German and Program in Comparative Literary Studies, will be publishing along with Julia Ng a new translation of Walter Benjamin’s seminal essay “Toward the Critique of Violence”



İpek Kocaomer Yosmaoğlu

with Stanford University Press on the hundredth anniversary of its appearance in 1921. The volume will include hitherto untranslated and even unpublished texts as well as the first English-language translations of contemporaneous writings by several outstanding German-Jewish writers and thinkers, including Hermann Cohen, Erich Unger, and Kurt Hiller.

MARCI FREEDMAN, Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellow in Judeo-Spanish Studies, presented her ongoing research into the censorship of Benjamin of Tudela’s *Book of Travels* at a Crown Family Center colloquium, and at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Renaissance Studies. Her current research focuses on an unknown Italian manuscript which argues against the censorship of Hebrew books using an array of Jewish and non-Jewish sources. The project received a grant from the Undergraduate Research Assistant Program, which allowed Freedman to hire an undergraduate research assistant to support the project in Summer 2019. Freedman taught “Jewish History, 750-1492” in Spring Quarter.

BENJAMIN FROMMER, Associate Professor in the Department of History, offered courses on the history of the Holocaust and about trials of Holocaust perpetrators and deniers. In addition, over this past year he completed several articles, including: “The Saved and the Betrayed:

Hidden Jews in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia,” in Ari Kohen and Gerald J. Steinacher, ed., *Unlikely Heroes: The Place of Holocaust Rescuers in Research and Teaching* (Nebraska University Press, 2019), and “Privileged Victims: Inter-marriage between Jews, Czechs and Germans in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia,” which will be published next year as part of a volume that he co-edited with Adrienne Edgar, *Inter-marriage from Central Europe to Central Asia: Mixed Families in the Age of Extremes*, (Nebraska University Press, forthcoming 2020).

EDNA GRAD is Distinguished Senior Lecturer Emerita of Hebrew Language in the Jewish Studies Program.

PETER HAYES, Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor of Holocaust Studies Emeritus in the Departments of History and German, received a National Leadership Award from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at its 25th Anniversary Luncheon in Chicago. In addition, his book *Why? Explaining the Holocaust* appeared in Spanish and Polish translations and is being developed into a multi-part documentary for television. He also published his newest book, co-authored with Christopher Browning and the late Raul Hilberg, *German Trains, Jewish Souls*. After 20 years of service, including the last five as chair, he stepped down from the Academic Committee of the USHMM in May 2019. He remains hard at work, in partnership with Stephan Lindner of Munich, on finishing a book called *Profits and Persecution: German Big Business, the Nazi Economy, and the Holocaust*.

SARA HIRSCHHORN, Visiting Assistant Professor in Israel Studies, prepared a proposal for her second book, tentatively entitled *From Jackson to Johannesburg to Jerusalem and Back: How the 1967 War Transformed Diaspora Zionists into White People*, research for which was supported by a Crown Family Center Israel Studies Research Grant over summer 2019. She presented her work at the Hebrew University,

Stanford University, and University of Toronto (amongst many others) and appeared at the U.S. Department of State, AIPAC, AJC, and various other communal platforms. She also completed a journal article entitled “From Goldineh Medinah to City of Gold: American Jews and Jerusalem after the 1967 War.” She taught the courses “Zionism and its Critics” and “Modern Israel: History, Politics, and Society, 1882-Present.”

LUCILLE KERR, Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, used her Spring 2019 research leave to work on two chapters of her book project *Readings in Latin American Jewish Literature and Culture*. One, a reading of Jacobo Timerman’s *Preso sin nombre celda sin número* (1980), is situated at the intersection of testimonial studies and Jewish studies. Her reading is a literary interrogation of previous testimonial and Jewish readings of this text that have seen it primarily as a transparent source of historical and biographical information, bypassing its literariness and the complex figures of its testimonial subject. The other considers verbal and visual works revolving around Jewish immigration to Latin America, framing the discussion in the legal history of passports and Jewish cultural production in the region. Her undergraduate and graduate teaching continued to focus on 20th-21st century Latin American narrative more broadly.

JACOB LASSNER, Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor Emeritus of Jewish Civilization in the Departments of History and Religious Studies, completed the manuscript for his book *Middle East Politics and Historical Memory*, which is in production and will appear early in 2020. He presented four conference papers including “Strategies of Resistance to Unwanted Authority: The Arab Response to British Rule in Palestine” at the annual meeting of the Space Between Society and “Islamist Responses to Unwanted Authority: The Concept and Practice of Revolution in Traditional Arab Societies, Past and Present” at the annual conference of the Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa.

PHYLLIS LASSNER, Professor of Instruction Emerita in the Cook Family Writing Program and the Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Jewish Studies Programs, published her essay, “The American Voices of Hidden Child Survivors: Coming of Age Out of Time and Place” in *New Directions in Jewish American and Holocaust Literatures* edited by Victoria Arons and Holli Levitsky (SUNY Press, 2019). She and Danny M. Cohen wrote the introduction to a new edition of Gisella Perl’s memoir, *I Was a Doctor in Auschwitz*, published by Lexington Books in 2019.

MARCUS MOSELEY is Associate Professor of Yiddish Language in the Jewish Studies Program.

ANNA PARKINSON, Associate Professor in the Department of German, is a co-convenor of the “Critical Theory in the Global South” Mellon project (2017-2020), housed in the Critical Theory Program at Northwestern. As part of this project, she is researching and designing a new course titled “Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory.” She participated in a workshop titled “The Reception of the Jews in China during WWII” at NYU’s Shanghai campus. She also presented papers drawn from current research at the Sixth Biennial German Jewish Studies Workshop; at the Lessons and Legacies conference XV: “The Holocaust: Global Perspectives and National Narratives;” and at the German Studies Association conference.

YOHANAN PETROVSKY-SHTERN, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Department of History, was on sabbatical in 2018-2019. During that time, he gave multiple presentations of his book *Jews and Ukrainians: a Millenium of Co-Existence* (University of Toronto Press, 2nd edition 2018) in Poland, Israel, and Ukraine. He supervised Ukrainian editions of his books *The Anti-Imperial Choice* and *The Golden Age Shtetl*, published in 2018 and 2019 respectively by KRYTYKA/Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, and presented these books in Ostroh, Rivne, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Odessa.

He taught courses at the Universities of Wroclaw, Chernivtsi, Kyiv, and Kharkiv. Presently he is editing a historical guide to Uman focusing on the Ukrainian, Polish, and Jewish legacy of this shtetl and working with Arthur Green on a manuscript tentatively entitled *Defender of the Faithful: the Life and Thought of Rabbi Levi Itshak of Berdichev*.

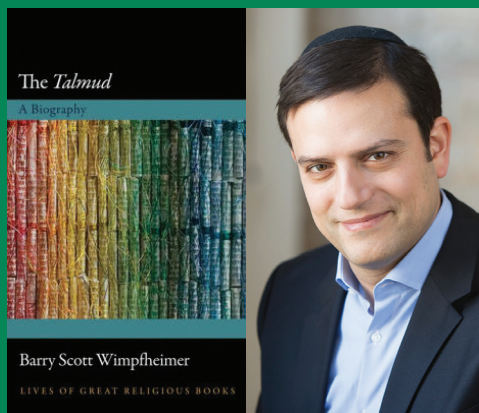
ELIE REKHESS, Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies, Visiting Professor in the Department of History, and Associate Director of Israel Studies, spoke on “The Impact of the 1967 War on the Arab Minority in Israel” for the “Six Day War—Five Decades Later” conference held at the Y&S Nazarian Center for Israel Studies at UCLA. He also gave papers at the Academic



Elie Rekhess

Engagement Network National Conference; at the Association of Israel Studies Annual Conference; and at a conference on “Israel in the Netanyahu Era,” at the Smokler Center for Jewish Life at Johns Hopkins University. He also spoke at the Center of Hebrew Studies, Faculty of Letters, University of Bucharest, Romania, and delivered a talk on “Israel’s Arab Christian Community,” at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

Professor Barry Wimpfheimer's book *The Talmud: A Biography* wins a 2018 National Jewish Book Award



FOR NEARLY TWO MILLENNIA, the Talmud has been at the center of Jewish spiritual, cultural, and social life. In his award-winning 2018 book *The Talmud: A Biography*, Professor Barry Wimpfheimer explores the origins, development, and reception of the Talmud in and beyond Jewish culture. His introduction to this unlikely best-seller sheds

light upon the Talmud's overlapping roles as a source of traditional teachings, a touchstone of cultural authority, and a powerful symbol of Jewishness for both supporters and critics.

KEN SEESKIN, Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization, and Professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Religious Studies, will retire at the end of next academic year after 47 years at Northwestern. When he entered Northwestern as an Assistant Professor in 1972, there was no Jewish Studies Program and no full-time faculty member teaching the history or culture of the Jewish people. Ken is currently putting the finishing touches on a sequel to his book *Thinking about the Torah* entitled *Thinking about the Prophets*. A conference honoring his contribution to the University will be held in May of 2020.

DAVID SHYOVITZ, Associate Professor in the Department of History, and Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, spent the 2018-19 academic year at work on his book project *O Beastly Jew! Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages*, and published an article on aberrant human bodies in medieval thought in the volume *Monsters and Monstrosity in Jewish History* (Bloomsbury, 2019). He delivered invited lectures at Harvard

University, the University of Illinois, Chicago, the University of Tennessee, and the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and led a study tour for the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago to Madrid, Cordoba, Seville, and Toledo, Spain. He also began a term as chair of the Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Literature, and Culture division at the Association for Jewish Studies.

CLAIRE SUFRIN, Associate Professor of Instruction in the Jewish Studies Program and Assistant Director of Jewish Studies, co-chaired the German-Jewish Hermeneutics Workshop held at Northwestern in October 2018, where she also presented a paper on Martin Buber's theories of revelation. In addition, she presented her work on religion and literature at Illinois Wesleyan University and at the Association for Jewish Studies annual meeting. She taught undergraduate courses on interfaith dialogue; gender and sexuality in Judaism; and religion and literature, in addition to a course on Martin Buber for the Northwestern University Alumnae Continuing Education Program.

HANNA TZUKER SELTZER, Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Jewish Studies and Middle East and North African Studies Programs, presented "But Both Their Hands Reach Out: Ideology and the Father-Son Relationship in Preliminaries by S. Yizhar" at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. She also presented "What Are We Talking About When We Talk About Israeli Culture: On Cultural Gaps, The Challenge and The Opportunity" at the 2019 National Association of Professors of Hebrew International Conference. Additionally, she developed and taught two new classes for third-year Hebrew students based on the themes: "Parents and Children in Israeli Culture" and "Between Two Writers: Sayed Kashua and Etgar Keret."

BARRY SCOTT WIMPFHEIMER, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and the Pritzker School of Law, participated in the Jewish Book Council's Author Network and spoke at venues across the country about his book *The Talmud: A Biography*, which was awarded the National Jewish Book Award in the category "Education & Jewish Identity" in March 2019. Wimpfheimer also published "Codes," a comparative analysis of ancient Mesopotamian, Jewish, Greek, and Roman law codes in Bloomsbury's *A Cultural History of Law, Volume I*.

İPEK KOCAOMER YOSMAOĞLU, Associate Professor in the Department of History, delivered talks on violence and the Ottoman Empire at Leiden University and New York University in Fall 2018. She drafted a book proposal for an edited volume based on the papers delivered at the symposium "Turkish-Jewish Entanglements" that took place at the University of Graz in June 2018. She also taught an undergraduate seminar on "Nations and Nationalism in the Middle East" in Spring 2018 and continued work on her research project about Ottoman and Turkish Jews in the interwar years.

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Student and faculty participants at the Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study

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