I am delighted to have the opportunity to establish this program, which will shape intellectual concepts in the field, promote interdisciplinary research and scholarship, and perhaps most important, bring Jewish civilization to life for Princeton students—

Ronald O. Perelman

In 1995 financier and philanthropist Ronald O. Perelman, well known as an innovative leader and generous supporter of many of the nation’s most prominent cultural and educational institutions, gave Princeton University a gift of $4.7 million to create a multidisciplinary institute focusing on Jewish studies. The establishment of the Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Jewish Studies produced the first opportunity for undergraduate students to earn a certificate in Jewish Studies, strengthening Princeton’s long tradition of interdisciplinary studies and broad commitment to Jewish culture. The gift from Mr. Perelman, chairman and chief executive officer of MacAndrews and Forbes Inc., also supports a senior faculty position—the Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies—and a wide variety of academic and scholarly activities that bring together leading scholars to examine Jewish history, religion, literature, thought, society, politics and cultures.

Executive Committee
Leora Batnitzky, Religion
Yaacob Dweck, History
Jonathan Gribetz, Near Eastern Studies
Martha Himmelfarb, Religion
William C. Jordan, History
Eve Krakowski, Near Eastern Studies

Associated Faculty
David Bellos, French and Italian
Jill S. Dolan, English, Dean of the College
Anthony Grafton, History
Irena Gross, Slavic Languages
Jan T. Gross, History
Hendrik Hartog, History
Wendy Heller, Music
Lital Levy, Comparative Literature
Laura Quick, Religion
Marina Rustow, Near Eastern Studies
Esther Schor, English
Moulie Vidas, Religion
Daniel Heller-Roazen, Comparative Literature
Stanley N. Katz, Woodrow Wilson School
Daniel Kurtzer, Woodrow Wilson School
AnneMarie Luijendijk, Religion
Deborah Nord, English
Sarah Pourciau, German
Anson G. Rabinbach, History
Stacy E. Wolf, Lewis Center for the Arts

Emeritus Faculty
Mark R. Cohen, Khedouri A. Zilka Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, Near Eastern Studies
Stanley A. Corngold, German and Comparative Literature
John G. Gager, Jr., William H. Danforth Professor of Religion
Lawrence Rosen, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Anthropology
Peter Schäfer, Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies, Religion
Froma Zeitlin, Ewing Professor of Greek Language and Literature, Classics and Comparative Literature, Women and Gender, and Judaic Studies
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## DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

We are delighted to welcome Laura Quick to the Program. Quick serves as assistant professor of Religion and Judaic Studies and teaches Hebrew Bible and biblical Hebrew. She comes to us from Oxford University, where she received her PhD in 2016 and taught last academic year. Her book, *Deuteronomy 28 and the Aramaic Curse Tradition*, has just appeared. (Please see page 4 for new faculty books.)

JDS also welcomes Ra’anan Boustan as Research Scholar in Judaic Studies. Boustan is an expert in Judaism in late antiquity and received his PhD in the Religion Department here in 2004. He taught most recently at UCLA. I am also pleased to report that Moulie Vidas (Religion and Judaic Studies) was promoted to tenure last spring. He has been teaching at Princeton since 2012; he earned his PhD in the Religion Department here in 2009.

We and our students were privileged this fall to enjoy the presence of several visiting faculty members: Yonatan Brafman (Jewish Theological Seminary), who taught “Jewish Ethics: Philosophy, Interpretation, Practice”; Ilana Pardes, Stewart Fellow in Religion (Hebrew University), “Migration, Religion and Literature: From Genesis to Toni Morrison,” taught with Leora Batnitzky (Religion); and Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers University), “Yiddish in America.”

The past calendar year saw several conferences organized by JDS faculty on a range of the topics, which is a good indication of the breadth of interest of our faculty and students (see page 8). The distinguished lecturers and visitors JDS hosted last year also made an important contribution to campus intellectual life. We are grateful to the donors who have helped to make this contribution possible through the lectures and visitors they have endowed.

I want to call special attention to the second Undergraduate Jewish Studies Conference, which took place in Princeton last February (see page 8). The third UJSC will take place at Yale in February 2018. We are proud of the founding of Princeton undergraduates in this impressive endeavor.◆

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**Martha Himmelfarb**
### COURSES

**FALL 2017**

- **Introduction to Jewish Cultures** - Lital Levy
- **Modern Jewish History: 1750-Present** - Yaacob Dweck
- **Black, Queer, Jewish Italy** - Alessandro Giammei
- **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** - Laura Quick
- **Yiddish in America** - Jeffrey Shandler
- **The World of the Cairo Geniza** - Marina Rustow
- **Who Wrote the Bible** - Laura Quick
- **Ancient Judaism: Alexander to Islam** - Martha Himmelfarb
- **Migration, Religion, and Literature: From Genesis to Toni Morrison** - Leora Batnitzky, Ilana Pardes
- **Jewish Ethics: Philosophy, Interpretation, Practice** - Yonatan Brafman

**SPRING 2018**

- **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** - Lital Levy
- **Great Books of the Jewish Tradition** - Yaacob Dweck, Moulie Vidas
- **Jewish Mysticism, Magic and Kabbalah** - Ra’anan Boustan
- **Martyrdom and Religious Violence in the Ancient Mediterranean World** - Ra’anan Boustan
- **History of Passover: From Moses to Jesus to Harry Potter** - David Sclar
- **The Politics of American Jewish Power and Powerlessness** - Lila Corwin Berman
- **Muslims, Jews, and Christians in North Africa** - M’hamed Oualdi
- **Harlots and Heroines** - Laura Quick
- **The Jews in Ancient Egypt** - Martha Himmelfarb

### BOOK GROUP PROMOTES INTERDISCIPLINARY DISCOURSE

*Go and Learn* is an interdisciplinary Jewish studies reading group for faculty and students, which meets about once a month over lunch to discuss a new and important book in Jewish studies. Selected books cover the range of current scholarship in the field, from ancient to modern, and from historical to anthropological. Graduate student organizers A.J. Berkovitz and Judah Isseroff hope this opportunity will not only stimulate thought, but encourage interdisciplinary discourse among scholars at Princeton working on Jewish studies from multiple angles and in various departments.
CONGRATULATIONS to our 2017 Certificate Students

Carolyn L. Drucker ’80 Memorial Prize

Through the generosity of the Drucker family, the Program offers an annual prize for the best senior thesis related to Judaic Studies.

First prize for 2018 was awarded to Maya Rosen (Independent Concentrator in Philosophy) for “The Bible Unbound: the Wakefield Brothers and Christian Hebraism” and second prize to Ayelet Wenger (Classics) for “Greek in the Arukh of Nathan ben Jehiel.”

Maya Rosen with Professor Anthony Grafton
**Faculty Updates**

**Leora Batnitzky** was a visiting professor at IDC Herzliya Radzyner law school in the summer of 2017 and will be the Sackler fellow at Tel Aviv University’s Institute for Advanced Study and visiting Professor at Tel Aviv University law school this winter. Publications in 2017 include two edited volumes, *Institutionalizing Rights and Religion: Competing Supremacies* (co-edited with Hanoch Dagan) and *Jewish Legal Theories: Writings on Religion, State and Morality* (co-edited with Yonatan Brafman). In Fall 2017 she co-taught a seminar on “Migration, Religion and Literature” with Ilana Pardes of the Hebrew University, a visiting fellow in the Humanities Council.

**Ra’anan Boustan** joined the Program in Judaic Studies as a Research Scholar. In addition to teaching, he serves as faculty editor of *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, along with Leora Batnitzky. As of 2017, JSQ’s board also includes Princeton faculty members Yaacob Dweck and Eve Krakowski, as well as other international scholars.

**NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**

- *Islam and the Rule of Justice: Image and Identity in Modern Law and Culture* by Lawrence Rosen
- *Jewish Messiahs in a Christian Empire* by Misha Haran
- *Jewish Legal Theories: Writings on State, Religion, and Morality* edited by Leora Batnitzky and Yonatan Brafman
- *Deuteronomy 28 and the Aramaic Curse Tradition* by Shira Quick
- *No One’s Ways: An Essay on Infinite Naming* by Daniel Heller-Roazen
- *Maimonides and the Merchants: Jewish Law and Society in the Medieval Islamic World* by Mark Cohen
Yaacob Dweck spent the academic year 2016-17 on sabbatical in Jerusalem. In the fall he taught a graduate seminar on Sabbetai Sevi at the Hebrew University in the Department of Jewish Thought, where he served as a Lady Davis Visiting Professor.

In addition to teaching courses on the Arab-Israeli conflict, research methods in the study of the Middle East, and modern Arab intellectual history, Jonathan Gribetz served as Near Eastern Studies Department representative and co-organized a conference on the Balfour Declaration with Victor Kattan of the National University of Singapore. His article “The PLO's Rabbi: Palestinian Nationalism and Reform Judaism” was published in Jewish Quarterly Review. On leave in Jerusalem with the support of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, a Fulbright scholarship and a Princeton University bicentennial preceptorship, he will continue to research and write a book on the history of the Palestine Liberation Organization’s Research Center in Beirut and its studies of Jews, Judaism, Zionism and Israel.

In fall 2017 William Chester Jordan was the Lester K. Little Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Residence at the American Academy in Rome. He presented some of his recent research on religious conversion in the 13th century.

In summer 2017 Lital Levy returned to the Yiddish Book Center to teach in the Great Jewish Books program. Her 2017 publications include an article on the Arab-Jewish debates, which appeared in the Journal of Levantine Studies, and an article introducing a special double issue of Prooftexts on Jewish literature and world literature, which she wrote and edited in collaboration with Allison Schachter of Vanderbilt University. This spring she is teaching a new course on cultural perspectives in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and a graduate seminar on the poetics of “passing” in African-American, Jewish-American, LGBTQ and Israeli-Palestinian contexts.

“Laying Og to Rest: Deuteronomy 3 and the Making of a Myth,” by Laura Quick, appeared in Biblica and was featured online in Mosaic Magazine, and her book Deuteronomy 28 and the Aramaic Curse Tradition was published.

Lawrence Rosen published a book entitled The Judgment of Culture and has another in press: Islam and the Rule of Justice, which includes essays on Muslim-Jewish relations. He spent the fall semester as a visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study, writing a book about tribes.

Having recently published the widely reviewed Bridge of Words: Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language, Esther Schor is now embarked on a biography of the Jewish social thinker Horace Kallen. She discussed her work on Esperanto on three episodes of Freakonomics and was interviewed by Amy Goodman on Democracy Now about last summer’s controversy regarding “The New Colossus” and the Statue of Liberty. A 20-page excerpt from her novella-in-verse, The Gilded Infant, appeared in Michigan Quarterly Review. She gave a paper entitled “L. L. Zamenhof: Revisionist of Covenantal Judaism” at an interdisciplinary research workshop at the POLIN museum in Warsaw. She is serving as as acting chair of the Humanities Council in 2017-18.

Associate research scholar David Sclar published articles in Jewish History and Jewish Studies Quarterly and received a fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. He is completing a book on the Italian kabbalist Moses Hayim Luzzatto and has started a new project on the creation and development of the Ets Haim Library in early modern Amsterdam.
2017 EVENTS

LECTURES AND SEMINARS

“Christum qui est Haedus Iudaeis, Agnus Nobis: A Medieval Kabbalistic Response to the Patristic Commentary on Exod. 23:19,” Jonatan Benarroch, Hebrew University

“Building a Back-story: Archaeology and the Crafting of Israel's Conquest Narratives,” Elizabeth Bloch-Smith, Princeton Theological Seminary

“Your Father’s Interests: Emotions, Business and Judaism in the 18th-Century Mediterranean,” Francesca Bregoli, Queens College; Biderman Lecture

“Looking for Early Composite Sugyot” and “Aspects of Literacy and Orality among Medieval Jews and Their Neighbors,” Robert Brody, Hebrew University

“Maimonides and the Merchants: Jewish Law and Society in the Medieval Islamic World,” Mark R. Cohen, Princeton University

“Polarization and Alienation in Jewish Life Today,” Steven M. Cohen, Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion; Diamond Memorial Lecture

“Poetry During the Holocaust and the Adornian Discourse of “Poetry after Auschwitz,” Sven-Erik Rose, University of California, Davis

“Medals and Shells: Morphology and History, Once Again,” Carlo Ginzburg, University of California, Los Angeles, Emeritus; Drucker Memorial Lecture

“A Walk in the Land: A Photographic Tour of Israel's National Trail,” Udi Goren, photographer

“The ‘Yemenite Babies’ Affair,” screening and discussion with Shlomo Hatuka, writer and activist

“Theater of History: Encountering the Past in American Jewish Museums,” Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York University, Emerita; Lapidus Family Lecture

“From the Bible to the Beach: The 3,000 Year Story of Hebrew,” Lital Levy and Philip Zhakevich, Princeton University

“Why Did They Not Fight: Awkward Truths about Jews and the Civil War,” Adam Mendelsohn, University of Cape Town, Mytelka Scholar in Residence; Mytelka Memorial Lecture

“Imposter Jews: Race, Religion and Sephardic Jews in America,” Devin Naar, University of Washington

“The Book of Ruth and the Question of Migration,” Ilana Pardes, Hebrew University

“Interpreting the Bible for Modernity: Jewish Children's Bibles in the Time of Haskalah,” Dorothea Salzer, University of Potsdam

“Producing Sacred Scriptures: Muslim and Jewish Practices in a Comparative Perspective,” Daniella Talmon, Ben Gurion University

“Israel at 70: Deep Social Fissures, Shared Aspirations,” Manuel Trajtenberg, Tel Aviv University; Kwartler Family Lecture

“Negotiating the Principle of (non)-Contradiction: Johann Frischmuth (1619-1687) on the Rabbinic Sceptic Dialectic,” Giuseppe Veltri, University of Hamburg

“Literary Estate as Mirror of Persecution: The Restitution Case of the Yiddish Poet Naftali Hertz Kon,” Ina Lancman, daughter of Naftali H. Kon; Tomasz Koncwieicz, Princeton University; and Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University
SECOND UJSC ATTRACTS STUDENTS FROM SCHOOLS IN US AND ISRAEL

On February 19, 2017, Princeton hosted the second annual Undergraduate Judaic Studies Conference, attended by some 30 students from different schools, including Barnard and Middlebury colleges; Northwestern, Princeton and Yeshiva universities; the universities of Michigan and Pennsylvania; and Herzog College in Israel. An intercollegiate board of students had reviewed papers from undergraduates, addressing the full range of sub-fields of Judaic studies, and selected the twelve best to present at the conference. Professor Moulie Vidas gave the keynote address on his recent research on the Palestinian Talmud, and the student presenters, from around the US and one from Israel, discussed their independently-researched papers on topics ranging from biblical components of Nazi propaganda to kabbalistic views of disabilities, from rabbinic tales of graveyards and demons to contemporary Ultra-Orthodox masculinities. Co-chaired by seniors Matthew Kritz and Carolyn Beard, it was a day filled with questions, conversations and networking.

CONFERENCES ADDRESS JUDAIC STUDIES ANCIENT TO MODERN

Academic conferences in 2017 included “The Balfour Declaration: 100 Years in History and Memory,” organized by Jonathan Gribetz (assistant professor in Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies) and Victor Kattan of the University of Singapore; “Judaism in the 7th and 8th Centuries,” organized by Martha Himmelfarb (professor of religion and director of Judaic Studies), Eve Krakowski (assistant professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies) and Moulie Vidas (associate professor of religion and Judaic Studies); and “Joseph’s Dreams—Modern Visions,” organized by Leora Batnitsky (Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies and professor of religion) and Ilana Pardes (visiting professor in the Humanities Council and Stewart Fellow in Religion).
UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER FUNDING

NOREEN ANDERSON ’19

Never have I felt the way I did walking through the Old City in Jerusalem this past summer, with people of different religions, backgrounds, ethnicities, levels of observance and nationalities, all participating in the physical history of a land. I was inside history. As my Israeli friend put it, “We are standing at the center of the world.” While I spent most of my time in Israel studying in an Ulpan in Tel Aviv, I returned to Jerusalem as often as I could, to practice speaking and to learn through living. Between classes, I traveled to the Dead Sea and Ein Gedi, I jumped into the Mediterranean Sea almost daily, and I visited Yad Vashem. Studying a rich and dynamic religious history, a diverse and curious people, and endless literature is both intriguing and daunting. If I have learned anything, it is that I have so much to learn! In Israel, in Jerusalem, Judaism breathes through both the secular and non-secular, and I am yearning to discover more about this tradition.

CAROLYN BEARD ’18

In June I researched the life and writings of St. Edith Stein, traveling to Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy, for my senior thesis. I conducted research in archives, including the Edith Stein-Archive in Cologne, the Archive at Auschwitz and the Vatican Library, and also studied statuary and artistic memorialization of Stein in spaces and places important to her life and afterlife across Europe.

In Poland I visited Stein’s birth city of Wrocław and examined the documentation of her death at the Archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. In Germany I spent most of my time in Cologne, where Stein lived as a monastic and where the Edith Stein Archive is located. I conversed with the head librarian, sought recommendations for secondary sources, and explored the library’s extensive collection on Stein. I also visited a number of memorials, including Bert Gerresheim’s 1999 statue in the city center. On side trips I visited additional places where Stein lived and worked.

continued
Lila Currie ’18

In selecting my internship for this past summer, I was immediately drawn to the mission of the National Museum of American Jewish History, which would allow me to explore my Jewish identity while expanding on my major in History, while living in my home city of Philadelphia. I came out of this internship with a really strong respect for my time at Princeton and the skills in research and critical thinking that I’ve gained as an undergraduate here.

Debora Darabi ’18

With support from the Program in Judaic Studies, I was able to research the history of Jewish communism and communists in Brazil in the 1930’s and 1940’s. The Jewish community at the time was highly polarized between the communist wing of political/economic asylum seekers and the conservative regime-sympathizers, Zionists and Yiddishists.

One of the most harrowing parts of the history of the Jewish community was the significant persecution they suffered at the hands of the anti-communist regime of Getúlio Vargas. One person whose story I would like to share was Elise Saborovsky Ewert, who was born in Hannover in 1907. In 1935, after having dedicated her life to anti-war political efforts for justice and peace, she participated in a leftist anti-fascist revolt against Vargas. At the hands of the police, she was beaten, raped in front of her husband, and electrocuted—then she was deported to Nazi Germany and delivered to a prison for communists, where she was again tortured until she was eventually transferred Ravensbrück, where she died in 1940. None of her torturers was ever brought to justice. Filinto Müller, engineer of the system, was awarded a Grand Cross of the Military Order of Aviz of Portugal in 1961.

Avital Fried ’20

At Givat Haviva, I learned so much spoken Arabic, but most importantly I got to experience the Israeli-Arab culture, which is unique to 100,000 Arabs living in Israel proper. I lived on a campus right outside a cluster of Arab villages, and I went to the villages for Arabic lessons, visits to host families, grocery shopping and more. The conversations and observations will last me a lifetime, and I am excited to share some of my most memorable experiences with the Princeton community.

Delaney Kerkhof ’18

The National Museum of American Jewish History promotes a diversity of thought, experience and ethnic background, which was very enriching for me. I also learned a lot about how museums and nonprofits function. As a part of my research project, I got the opportunity to work with each department at the museum, as well as the internship director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. It showed me how much I enjoy working with others and the social aspect of my work. Because of this, I want to work in a career where I can work with others on a team.

Matthew Kritz ’18

In May I had the opportunity to attend a conference on “Multidisciplinarity in Jewish Studies Education” in Gerona, thanks to support from the Judaic Studies Program. The conference was a gathering of representatives of
Jewish studies programs at various universities, to discuss how multidisciplinarity can be incorporated into these programs in meaningful ways that do not detract from the focus of traditional courses. I described Princeton’s Undergraduate Judaic Studies Conference as an example of an extra-curricular event that fostered dialogue between fields under the umbrella of Judaic studies. Attending the conference allowed me to share our success stories with European counterparts, learn about the current state of European Jewish studies, and see the beautiful town of Gerona with its few remaining indications of its once-flourishing Jewish community.

**Jonathan Lebeau ’18**

This past summer I interned in Tel Aviv, which also afforded me the opportunity to do research for my senior thesis. I am writing my thesis with a particular consideration to Christian Zionism, and I received funding to visit the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. Although they were closed for parts of the summer due to renovation, I was able to make numerous visits to these archives, which hold significant records of communication between the British army in Palestine before 1948 and Zionist bodies. I used this communication to gain insight into the relationship between non-Jewish Zionists and Jewish Zionists, and the research afforded a wider context into the operations of Christian Zionism by turning to the state of Zionism pre-1948.

**Sang Lee ’18**

Thanks to the Judaic Studies Program, I was able to do archival research this summer at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv (DLA) in Marbach-am-Neckar in Germany. I stayed there for three weeks, looking through Paul Celan’s personal library and the Celan Nachlass in order to better understand and construct a coherent reading of Celan’s very last collection of poems, *Zeitgehöft*. Using personal and biographical information gleaned from the DLA—especially in reading Celan’s personal, annotated copies of authors such as Osip Mandelshtam and Martin Heidegger—I was able to make better sense of the “strain” in Celan’s Jewish identity, which he described as being *pneumatisch* in his poems.

**David Major ’20**

This summer I participated in the iEngage Internship Program at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, learning about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and numerous issues facing Israeli society and Jewish society worldwide. Half my internship was attending lectures and seminars, mostly about political, social and religious issues facing Israeli society, and I attended small group sessions. The other half of my internship was assisting the research of Yitzhak Benbaji, professor of philosophy at Tel Aviv University and a scholar at the institute. The main projects we focused on were a paper discussing the justifications for the 1948 War and certain arguments for secular Zionism. I conducted historical research for Yitzhak, read over his papers and proposals, and discussed ideas with him. It was a fantastic intellectual and spiritual experience, and I am extremely grateful to the Program for Judaic Studies.

**Kevin McElwee ’18**

My summer grant enabled me to spend six weeks in Moscow and four in Washington, D.C. In Moscow, knowing of my interest in journalism, Professor Simon Morrison, who led Princeton’s Global Seminar, organized lectures by *The Guardian*’s Russia correspondent and a representative of TV Rain, Russia’s only independent television continued
channel. He helped me get credentials for a press conference on the Bolshoi scandal, which led to a day-long internship with the New York Times Moscow Bureau. I talked to many westernized young Russians and wrote about what it meant to grow up under Putin. In Washington with the GroundTruth Project, I took advantage of the Princeton in Washington Program, toured the FBI, the Pentagon, the Newseum and CBS studios, got a rundown on US foreign policy from the Army Chief of Staff, and learned about immigration and healthcare from Obama’s domestic policy adviser. This amazing summer would not have happened without the generosity of Judaic Studies.

NATHANIEL MOSES ’19

This summer I studied Palestinian Spoken Arabic at the Minerva Institute in Jerusalem, receiving 150 contact hours in a class of only six students. Our days were split into four two-hour classes, dealing with grammar, speaking and media. By the end of the course I had achieved basic proficiency in spoken Palestinian Arabic and had refreshed my Hebrew skills, as the course was taught in Hebrew. I complimented my classroom learning by exploring Arabic-speaking areas of Israel and Palestine. After class I would walk to an Arabic-language bookstore/coffee-shop in East Jerusalem and try to soak up the conversations of those around me. When the course was over, I spent a day in Ramallah and Jericho, and I was able to get around and conduct conversations using my Arabic. This brings me closer to my academic goal of working with Arabic-language sources in my independent work.

TALI PELTS ’20

Thanks to JDS, I spent this summer interning at the Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. This is both a think tank and an educational center, and I was able to benefit from both those components. During seminars and lectures, I learned from renowned thinkers who specialize in the study of Zionism, Talmud and Jewish thought, and I assisted a researcher with investigating the origins of the phrase “light unto the nations.” I appreciated the opportunity to work closely with a professor and see how an idea evolves from an amorphous question and begins to take form as research produces new findings and leads.

DANIEL SCHWARTZ ’19

This past summer I studied Arabic in Jerusalem at the Minerva Institute. Although I had already taken Arabic at Princeton for four semesters, these classes offered me a chance to learn the Palestinian dialect, which is very different from the formal language I study at Princeton. Moreover, Minerva gave me a chance to learn Arabic in Hebrew, which leads to much more efficient instruction than Arabic through English. Studying Arabic in Israel, specifically, was a special experience that gave me a chance to think about studying the language in the context of the many cultures and political views in the country, including those of my classmates.

DELANEY THULL ’18

This summer I completed an independent project that involved traveling to England, Germany and the Czech Republic, to better understand the character of people who became known as democratic heroes through their efforts to resist oppression and violence. Examples included abolition activists in the UK, networks of World War II resistance fighters across Europe, and the orchestrators of the Velvet Revolution in Prague. My grant allowed me to visit key sites. In Berlin I visited the Topography of Terror, the Jewish Museum of Berlin and the Holocaust Memorial. In Prague I visited the Jewish Quarter and the Terezin concentration camp. I was impressed by the “stumbling blocks” in the sidewalks at the previous residential addresses of murdered families, and encounters with individual stories were very meaningful to my understanding. I realized that for every known story of a heroic person, there are many more yet untold.
GRADUATE SUMMER FUNDING

A.J. BERKOVITZ (RELIGION)
Thanks to the Program in Judaic Studies, I had an academically productive summer. The funds provided allowed me to spend a significant amount of time in the National Library of Israel, where I completed a full draft of my dissertation and looked through necessary manuscripts. I was also able to travel to Israel for the World Congress in Jewish Studies, an event that gathers international scholars at Hebrew University once every four years. In addition to networking, I presented a paper on the titles of the Aramaic Targum of Psalms, which forms the first seeds of a new project on translation and interpretation.

LORENZO BONDIOLI (HISTORY)
I am deeply grateful to the Program in Judaic Studies for its support, which allowed me to carry out my research and training plans for the summer. I first attended the International Medieval Congress, Leeds (UK), where I presented a paper on the customs duties imposed on Sicilian Jewish merchants in 11th-century Sicily. This earned me an invitation to collaborate on a two-year joint research project between the Italian National Research Council and the Egyptian Academy of Sciences, “Peace Building between East and West, 11th-16th centuries.” I then went to Beirut, Lebanon, to attend an intensive one-on-one course in Modern Standard Arabic and Levantine dialect. I can hardly emphasize enough how much progress in both linguistic areas matters for the successful completion of my doctoral research, which is mainly based on Judeo-Arabic documents from the Cairo Geniza, as well as for my personal and professional position as a student of the pre-modern Middle East.

ALYSSA CADY (RELIGION)
This summer was a productive one for me, linguistically and professionally. Beginning in June, I began taking a Biblical Hebrew class at the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. The course was quite intensive, and by its conclusion the class was translating excerpts from Genesis and 1 Kings. I particularly enjoyed practicing my binyanim under the shade of the trees in the botanical garden adjacent to the school. While in Jerusalem, I also commuted back and forth to Tel Aviv to attend a conference jointly hosted by Princeton and Tel Aviv University, and I was also able to see many of the archaeological sites in Israel. When I returned from Israel, I attended Princeton’s graduate German reading course and completed my modern language requirements.

JOSH CALVO (RELIGION)
I spent the summer of 2017 in Lebanon, where I completed the high advanced level of intensive Arabic at the American University in Beirut. This was my first time living in an Arabic-speaking country since college, and I wouldn’t have traded the experience of living and learning in a capital of Arab culture for any other academic or cultural opportunity. I traveled all over tiny Lebanon, visiting forgotten Jewish sites and used bookstores, all while...continued
diving deeper into the bottomless ocean of the Arabic language and culture. Even when the academic experience at AUB was challenging or dispiriting—and the difficulty of achieving true fluency in Arabic seemed more overwhelming from my high vantage than in earlier courses—I still had the vibrant city of Beirut to remind me how worthwhile the journey was for recapturing my ancestors’ language and meeting my academic goals.

**Jon Catlin (History)**

This summer I was able to study and do research in Germany. My research centers on the concept of “catastrophe” in German-Jewish thought, specifically philosophical responses to the Shoah. I improved my language abilities in German through an intensive reading and writing course at the Free University of Berlin, which has already proved essential to my research on German-language philosophy. From my base in Berlin, I was able to attend and present at multiple conferences in my research field, including a conference reevaluating the legacy of Hannah Arendt at the Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies in Vienna; a conference on the concept of “crisis” at Oxford University, where I presented on Theodor Adorno’s writings on the philosophy of history “after Auschwitz”; and the first annual Critical Theory Summer School in Berlin, which provided a critical reappraisal of the work of the German-Jewish thinkers known as the Frankfurt School, centered on the theme of “progress and regression.” I am very grateful to Judaic Studies for allowing me to pursue these rewarding opportunities.

**Elena Dugan (Religion)**

With the support of Judaic Studies I was lucky enough to travel to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv for the first time, for a Princeton-Tel Aviv graduate exchange. The exchange constituted not only a workshop in which we read texts alongside our Tel Aviv colleagues, but also a conference in which I was able to present and receive feedback on my own independent work, as well as an archaeological tour of Jerusalem with some of the world’s experts in the archaeology and history of the area. I also was able to tour the Israel Museum and the Od City, and to practice my Arabic (and Hebrew!) with the locals. It was an amazing educational experience, and the fact that I could experience it in the company of colleagues, both from Princeton and from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, made it all the richer. I also, thankfully, got to brush up on my German to work toward completing my German-language general exam, and with the help of a personal tutor I have been tuning my research language skills and preparing myself to work in the secondary literature of Judaic studies. I am truly grateful for the financial support that made my summer activities possible.
**Brahim El Guabli (Comparative Literature)**

*During my research trip in Morocco and Holland* in summer 2017, I made the acquaintance of several important colleagues, and gathered a wealth of archival and secondary materials that I needed to complete my dissertation. In Morocco I did extensive research at the Moroccan National Library, used the Moroccan archives and the national collection of newspapers to look into sentiments about Moroccan Jews, met colleagues, visited the National Council for Human Rights, scouted Moroccan bookstores for new books in my field, and attended events organized by local NGOs. In Holland I visited Amnesty International’s headquarters to consult pictorial archives about Morocco during the “years of lead,” consulted the Berber archives, visited museums to think more about how memories of the war have been incorporated in Dutch national memory in order to use it as a model for Morocco, and delivered a paper on memory.

**Judah I. Isseroff (Religion)**

I took seven weeks of daily German classes at the Goethe Institute.

**Jonathan Henry (Religion)**

*Thanks to the generous funding I received* from the Program in Judaic Studies, I was able to network with international colleagues, advance my research, and enrich my ability to write and teach. In Berlin I attended the International Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting, where I had been invited to present some of my research on the transmission of apocryphal texts. My travels through Italy took me to numerous sites, some well-known and others hardly discussed at all. I gathered information pertaining to history of religion and culture in Naples, Nola, Chiusi, Rome, Como, Milan and Brescia. In some cases I was able to gain special access to non-public places, and I gathered a treasure-trove of information, compiling a personal resource from which I will draw for years to come.

**Isaac Landes (Religion)**

*This summer I was able to visit Jerusalem* and also begin taking Arabic lessons. In Jerusalem I attended the 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies, which takes place at the Hebrew University every four years and brings together scholars from across the globe. Not only did I learn a tremendous amount from the various panels and lectures, but I was also able to meet with other researchers and have conversations that significantly impacted how I am beginning to conceptualize my PhD project. In addition, I used my time in Jerusalem to further prepare my MA thesis for publication as a book, by visiting the Institute for Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts at the National Library in order to view images of the manuscripts that I quote and by meeting with my MA advisers. The funding provided by the Program in Judaic Studies has proved to be extremely important for my studies. I am truly grateful for the opportunities made possible by the program.

**Mark Letteney (Religion)**

*Summer 2017 was productive* for the staff of the Jezreel Valley Regional Project precisely because our excavation did not go according to plan. As a regional project, we intend to engage in a variety of small-scale, strategic
excavations in order to fulfil the goal of writing the archaeological and social history of the Jezreel Valley, from prehistory to the Middle Ages. This, our third season excavating at the castrum of the Roman 6th legion, was supposed to wrap up our time there and answer remaining questions about when the site was established, when it was abandoned, and a rough outline of subsequent settlement. But a spate of exciting discoveries caused us to change our plan and commit to Legio as a focal point for our project for at least two more seasons, through 2021. I count myself extraordinarily fortunate to be able to continue working with the JVRP as a field archaeologist and a digital preservation specialist, in large part thanks to the generosity of the Program in Judaic Studies. I gained valuable teaching experience with the JVRP field school, where I was an instructor for Advanced Field Techniques, and spent time at the Albright Institute in Jerusalem preparing for the Legio field publication, of which I will be a main author.

In addition to four weeks of excavation and field school, the JVRP completed three weeks of archaeological survey in the area around Tel Abu Shusha. A team of 12 surveyed 8 square kilometers with 10m resolution, cataloguing and geotagging over 2,500 anthropogenic features on the landscape—everything from ancient oil presses to Roman era mansions. I thank the Program in Judaic Studies for their continuing support of this important project.

**Daniel May (Religion)**

**Due to the generosity of the Program** in Judaic Studies, I was able to participate in the 17th annual World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, which brought together participants from over 40 countries and included 1,500 lectures. I gave a paper on the political thought of Isaiah Berlin and Leo Strauss and their responses to the collapse of liberal democracy in Europe and their approach to the Jewish question, arguing that their approach to Jewish issues and Jewish politics reveals a surprising affinity.

**Joshua Picard (Near Eastern Studies)**

**This summer I spent seven weeks in France** at the Institut d’Avignon, where I advanced my French reading and speaking capacities to the high level needed for my research. Over the course of two graduate seminars, I read hundreds of pages, produced analytical papers in French, and built competence in using French scholarly writing. I then went to Jerusalem to access Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic primary sources in print and manuscript held at the National Library of Israel. These included a large collection of letters written by the 19th-20th century Libyan Rabbi Mordechai Ha-Cohen and a number of documents concerning educational institutions in Tripoli in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This material has allowed me to expand my research concerning changes in education in 19th-century Tripoli. The institutions in question have typically been understood in the context of local events; I have identified strong evidence that a regional lens is required to understand the innovations that emerged in the final decades of Ottoman rule. I expect to publish what I have found in an article in the coming year, with the ultimate goal of challenging the role assigned to Tripoli in the academic study of Jewish North Africa.

**Charlotte F. Werbe (French and Italian)**

**I traveled to Lausanne, Switzerland**, this past summer in order to conduct research for the fourth chapter of my dissertation. At the Musée Cantonal des Beaux-Arts, I consulted the archives from Esther Shalev-Gerz’s past exhibition titled “Between Telling and Listening” (2012). I had the opportunity to speak to the curator of the exhibit, as well as visit the space where it took place. I am grateful to the Judaic Studies Program for funding my travel to Switzerland. ✤
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