

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



**RONALD O. PERELMAN**  
**INSTITUTE FOR JUDAIC STUDIES**



Program in  
**JUDAIC STUDIES**

**SPRING 2016**

# RONALD O. PERELMAN INSTITUTE FOR JUDAIC STUDIES

*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.

## FACULTY

### *Executive Committee*

Leora Batnitzky, *Religion*

Yaacob Dweck, *History*

Jonathan Gribetz, *Near Eastern Studies*

Irena Gross, *Slavic Languages (sits with committee)*

Martha Himmelfarb, *Religion*

William C. Jordan, *History*

Stanley N. Katz, *Woodrow Wilson School*

Eve Krakowski, *Near Eastern Studies*

Daniel Kurtzer, *Woodrow Wilson School (sits with committee)*

Lital Levy, *Comparative Literature*

Naphtali Meshel, *Religion*

Marina Rustow, *Near Eastern Studies*

Esther Schor, *English*

Moulie Vidas, *Religion*

## ASSOCIATED FACULTY

David Bellos, *French and Italian*

Jill S. Dolan, *English*

Anthony Grafton, *History*

Jan T. Gross, *History*

Hendrik Hartog, *History*

Wendy Heller, *Music*

Thomas Y. Levin, *German*

AnneMarie Luijendijk, *Religion*

Deborah Nord, *English*

Sarah Pourciau, *German*

Anson G. Rabinbach, *History*

Lawrence Rosen, *Anthropology*

Stacy E. Wolf, *Lewis Center for the Arts*

## EMERITUS FACULTY

Mark R. Cohen, *Khedouri A. Zilkha 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*

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

The Program in Judaic Studies welcomes two new colleagues this academic year: Marina Rustow, Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East and Professor of Near Eastern Studies and History, and Eve Krakowski, assistant professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies. Both are experts in the documents of the Cairo Geniza, though with different specialties within the corpus. Rustow is currently writing a book about Fatimid documents of state preserved in the Geniza, while Krakowski's work has focused on the family, women and gender. We are delighted to have them join us to carry forward the historic role Princeton has played in Geniza studies for decades under Mark Cohen, Rustow's predecessor as Zilkha Professor. We are also thrilled that Rustow has been honored this year with a MacArthur fellowship, a fitting acknowledgment of her groundbreaking work and energetic advocacy of the importance of the Geniza for the history of the medieval Islamic world.

In addition to our new faculty, we also welcome two postdoctoral fellows. David Sclar joins us for two years. He received his PhD from City University of New York in 2014 with a dissertation entitled "Like Iron to a Magnet: Moses Hayim Luzzatto's Quest for Providence." This spring he will teach JDS 248, Kabbalah: Concepts and History, and next fall he will take responsibility for our core course, JDS 202, Great Books of the Jewish Tradition. Avishai Bar-Asher joins us for this year only. He completed a dissertation entitled "Secrets of the Garden of Eden: Concepts and Imageries of Paradise in 13th Century Jewish Esotericism" at the Hebrew University in 2015, and he comes to Princeton with a Rothschild fellowship, a prestigious postdoctoral grant for graduates of Israeli universities. We are very pleased to have them here. They have already contributed to the intellectual life of our Program through presentations and conversation.

I am also happy to announce the promotion to tenure at the end of the last academic year of two members of the JDS faculty, Yaacob Dweck of History and Judaic Studies and Lital Levy of Comparative Literature. Dweck will serve as acting director of JDS while I am on leave in the spring of 2016. I am grateful to him for taking on this responsibility.

In addition to Rustow's MacArthur, several members of the Program faculty have received honors since our last newsletter.



Martha Himmelfarb

continued

Levy's book, *Poetic Trespass: Writing between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine* (2014), has been awarded two prizes, the Salo Baron Prize for a first book in Jewish Studies, by the American Academy of Jewish Research, and the Modern Language Association's prize for a first book, in addition to the prize it won last year, the Association for Jewish Studies' Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category Jewish Literature and Linguistics.

Esther Schor of the Department of English has been appointed the Inaugural Behrman Professor in the Council of the Humanities. She also received a University teaching award at commencement in June 2015.

Moulie Vidas of Religion and the Program in Judaic Studies has been named the Richard Stockton Bicentennial Preceptor.

Peter Schäfer, Perelman Professor emeritus and my predecessor as director of JDS, is the recipient of the 2015 Reuchlin Prize from the city of Pforzheim in Germany. The prize, named for the great Renaissance humanist Johannes Reuchlin, honors contributions to the humanities. Admirers of Schäfer's work will be interested to know that Gershom Scholem received this prize in 1969.

Finally, in the midst of all this good news, I have to report one piece of sad news, at least for JDS. Naphtali Meshel of Religion and the Program in Judaic Studies will leave Princeton at the end of this academic year to return to the Hebrew University. He has been a superb teacher, a wonderful colleague and an exceptional asset to JDS. We wish him all the best in his new position. We will miss him greatly.

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## COURSES

### Spring 2015

#### Introduction to Jewish Culture

Lital Levy

#### Ancient Judaism from Alexander to the Rise of Islam

Martha Himmelfarb

#### The Wise Guys: Readings in Biblical Wisdom Literature

Naphtali Meshel

#### American Jewish History

Yaacob Dweck

#### The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Jonathan Gribetz

#### Religion and Law

Leora Batnitzky and Yonatan Brafman

#### Modern Jewish History: 1750–Present

Yaacob Dweck

#### Intimate Geographies: Space and Place in Modern Hebrew and Arabic Literature

Lital Levy

#### Scripture and Tradition among Early Rabbis and Christians

Azzan Yadin-Israel

### Fall 2015

#### Great Books of the Jewish Tradition

Yaacob Dweck and Moulie Vidas

#### Jerusalem Contested

Jonathan Gribetz

#### Who Wrote the Bible?

Naphtali Meshel

#### Elementary Biblical Hebrew I

Naphtali Meshel

#### Modern Jewish History: 1750–Present

Yaacob Dweck

#### Stolen Years: Youth under the Nazis

Froma Zeitlin

#### East-Central European Jewish Biographies

Irena Gross

## NEW CONSORTIUM INCLUDES PRINCETON GRADUATE STUDENTS

Princeton's Program in Judaic Studies has joined Cardozo Law School's Consortium in Jewish Studies and Legal Theory, which offers graduate fellowships that aim to bring legal theory into the disciplines of Jewish history and Jewish law. The consortium fosters a community of impressive and accomplished PhD candidates in various disciplines of Jewish studies. For the 2015-2016 academic year, two Princeton graduate students, **EVA KIESELE** and **RAISSA VON DOETINCHEM DE RANDE**, are participating as fellows.

In addition to working closely with other fellows and gaining literacy in legal theory and its application to the study of Jewish texts, fellows interact regularly with prominent scholars, both in Judaic studies and legal theory. Graduate fellows take an eleven-session seminar on legal theory led by Suzanne Last Stone, professor of law at Cardozo Law School and director of the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization. The seminar is carefully designed to introduce students to the essential questions and problems of legal theory that are relevant to an examination of Jewish texts and Jewish history. This year's Consortium graduate conference will take place at Princeton in May 2016.

## CONGRATULATIONS to our 2015 Certificate Students:

**ANNA RUBIN** (Religion), **ARYEH NUSSBAUM COHEN** (History) and **BINA PELTZ** (Politics)



## 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 2015 was awarded to **ANNA RUBIN** '15 of Religion, for "Defining My Jewish Community: Intersections of Individuality and Community in America's Post-College Jewish Meaning Making."

## FACULTY UPDATES

**LEORA BATNITZKY** continues to serve as chair of the Department of Religion. Her current book project is a comparative study of Israel and India on religious freedom as understood through the lens of controversies about religious conversion in both countries. She is also co-editing two books. The first, with Yonatan Brafman of Jewish Theological Seminary, is an anthology of previously unpublished and untranslated writings on Jewish legal theory, titled *Jewish Legal Theories*, to be part of Brandeis's Library of Modern Jewish Thought. The second, with Hanoch Dagan of Tel Aviv University, is a study about human rights and religious institutions, titled *Institutionalizing Rights and Religion*, which will be published by Cambridge University Press. *The Book of Job: Aesthetics, Ethics, and Hermeneutics*, co-authored with Ilana Pardes of the Hebrew University, appeared in 2014; most of the essays in this volume originated at a conference on the book of Job held at Princeton in 2012. In January 2015 the Jewish Museum in Berlin hosted a panel discussion of the book, moderated by Peter Schäfer, the museum's director and Princeton professor emeritus.

**YAACOB DWECK** was promoted to associate professor with continuing tenure in the spring of 2015.

**LARRY ROSEN**'s new book, *Two Arabs, a Berber, and a Jew: Entangled Lives in Morocco*, has been published by University of Chicago Press.

**LITAL LEVY** is spending 2015-2016 as a fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center at the University of Pennsylvania. In spring 2015 she introduced a new multidisciplinary survey course, Introduction to Jewish Cultures. Her book *Poetic Trespass: Writing between Hebrew and Arabic in Israel/Palestine* was co-winner of the 2014 Jordan Schnitzer Prize from the Association for Jewish Studies for best book in Jewish literature or linguistics published from 2012 to 2014 and the 2014 Salo Baron Prize from the American Academy of Jewish Research for the best first book in Jewish studies.



Yaacob Dweck and Lital Levy

**JILL DOLAN**, Annan Professor of English and Professor of Theatre, was recently appointed Dean of the College. She will continue to teach in American theater and performance studies and in Jewish studies. She recently completed a book about playwright Wendy Wasserstein, a critical study of her oeuvre in the context of 20th century American history, popular culture and Broadway cultural tastes, to be published in 2016.

**JONATHAN GRIBETZ**'s first book, *Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter*, was published by Princeton University Press in 2014, and his article "Reading Mendelssohn in Late Ottoman Palestine: An Islamic Theory of Jewish Secularism" was published in *Secularism in Question: Jews and Judaism in Modern Times* (2015). He is currently working on a monograph on Palestinian studies of Judaism and Zionism in the 1960s-1980s. Two articles based on this project are forthcoming: "The PLO's Rabbi: Reform

Judaism and Palestinian Nationalism" in *Jewish Quarterly Review* and "When the Zionist Idea Came to Beirut: Judaism, Christianity, and the PLO's Translation of Zionism" in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. This year Gribetz is teaching courses on the long history of the city of Jerusalem, the intellectual history of Jewish nationalism, and research methods in Near Eastern Studies. He also directs undergraduate studies in the Near Eastern Studies department.

**EVE KRAKOWSKI**, who joined the Department of Near Eastern Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies in September, spent the previous year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University, where she worked on a book about Jewish women's coming-of-age in medieval Egypt;

# WELCOME!

## New Faculty

**MARINA RUSTOW**, Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, professor of Near Eastern Studies and History

**EVE KRAKOWSKI**, assistant professor of Near Eastern Studies and Judaic Studies

## New Postdoctoral Fellows

**DAVID SCLAR**

**AVISHAI BAR-ASHER**



Eve Krakowski



Marina Rustow (photo, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation)

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presented papers at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in New York, at UCLA and at the Association for Jewish Studies annual meeting; and published an article in *Jewish Social Studies*, “Formula as Content: Medieval Jewish Institutions, the Cairo Geniza and the New Diplomatics” (co-written with Marina Rustow).

**WILLIAM CHESTER JORDAN**'s most recent book, *From England to France: Felony and Exile in the High Middle Ages*, was published this year by Princeton University Press. In March he gave the Presidential Address of the Medieval Academy of America at the University of Notre Dame, which has appeared with the title, “*Etiam Reges, Even Kings*,” in the academy’s journal, *Speculum* 90 (2015). This past summer he delivered a plenary lecture at the King’s College/British Library commemoration conference in London on Magna Carta, titled “Magna Carta and the *Mise* of Amiens.” “Anti-Judaism in the Christina Psalter” was published in John Van Engen’s Festschrift, *Christianity and Culture in the Middle Ages* (2015).


**ANNEMARIE LUIJENDIJK**, an Old Dominion Professor in the Council of the Humanities this year, is working on a new book on sacred scriptures as texts and artifacts, the sociology of reading, and the development of the canon in early Christianity, provisionally entitled “From Gospels to Garbage.” The perch for this interdisciplinary research is Oxyrhynchus, an extraordinary well-documented city in Egypt. Over a century ago archaeologists discovered in its garbage heaps a treasure trove of tens of thousands of papyri with mainly Greek, but also Latin, Hebrew and Coptic texts. Luijendijk is interested in issues of scriptural sacredness from the point of view of the “death” of books – that is, their damage, disuse and consequent burial or disposal. The Jewish practice of a *geniza* where manuscripts containing the name of God are kept before they are buried is well known. Luijendijk argues that certain Christians also followed this custom with their sacred scriptures.

**ESTHER SCHOR** is the inaugural Behrman Professor in the Council of the Humanities and a recent recipient of the President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching. Her book *Bridge of Words: Esperanto and the Dream of a Universal Language*, will be published by Metropolitan Books in 2016. Her memoir, *My Last J-Date*, is to be serialized by Tablet Magazine ([www.tabletmag.com](http://www.tabletmag.com)) in February 2016. Next June she will take up a poetry residency in Venice, sponsored by the Venice International Center for Jewish Studies to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Ghetto.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
10TH ANNUAL KWARTLER LECTURE  
Thursday, October 1, 2015  
4:30pm • Betts Auditorium

**An Evening with David Grossman**

Born in Jerusalem in 1954, David Grossman is a leading Israeli writer of his generation. He is the author of eight internationally acclaimed novels and two powerful nonfictional accounts, as well as children's books and a play. His work has been translated into more than thirty languages. His latest book, the game-changing drama *Falling Out of Time*, tells the story of a terrorist's perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. *Concrete and Elemental, Falling Out of Time* is a powerful, distilled experience of understanding and acceptance, and of art's triumph over death.



DAVID GROSSMAN

The **secrets**  
of the Haredi world

MON  
April  
27  
2015

W C C A S  
2  
4:30  
6:00  
pm

Lecture and discussion  
with  
**Yakir Englander**


Yakir Englander, a former Haredi Jew, wrote his Ph.D. on the Haredi community, focusing on sexuality and gender. He will share his personal experience growing up in this fascinating community and will share insights on the changes that the Haredi world in Israel is going through in the last 20 years.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Princeton University  
The Program in American Studies and the Program in Judaic Studies present  
The Lapidus Family Fund Lecture in American Jewish Studies

**GOLDA MEIR**  
American Roots, Zionist Life



**PNINA LAHAV**  
Boston University School of Law

Monday, March 23, 2015  
4:30 PM, 219 Aaron Burr Hall

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

www.princeton.edu/ams/american\_jewish\_studies/

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**IN BETWEEN**



**A One Man Show by Ibrahim Miari**

*In Between* is a semi-autobiographical one man show that portrays the complexities and contradictions of Palestinian-Israeli identity. On the precipice between two cultures stands Ibrahim Miari, son of a Palestinian Muslim father and Jewish Israeli mother. During an interrogation by Israeli airport security, he recalls his childhood in Acco (Acre), memories of his Jewish and Palestinian grandmothers, and of war. Questions surrounding his identity become even further complicated by his imminent marriage to a Jewish American woman.

Sunday, **October 18th at 6PM**  
Black Box Theater at Wilson College

Sponsored by: Judaic Studies, Center for Human Values, Center for Jewish Life, the Program in Near Eastern Studies and Council for the Humanities.

Photo by: Deborah Shinn/BlackBoxTheater.com

## 2015 EVENTS

### ENDOWED LECTURES

Jeannette Krieger and Herman D. Mytelka Memorial Lecture on Jewish Civilization:

*Mixing Musics: The Sacred Songs of Istanbul Jews*, **Dr. Maureen Jackson**

Kwartler Family Lecture: *Holding the Past: Justice and the Promise of Jewish History*,

**Laura Levitt**, Temple University

Lapidus Family Lecture: *Golda Meir: American Roots, Zionist Life*, **PNINA LAHAV**,

Boston University

Carolyn L. Drucker '80 Memorial Lecture: *Should Israel Regard Itself as Middle Eastern?*

*The Internal Debate*, **Shimon Shamir**, Tel Aviv University

R. James S. Diamond Memorial Lecture: *Political Zionism: The Dilemma of Liberal Jews*,

**Ruth Gavison**, Hebrew University

Kwartler 10th Anniversary Lecture: *Reading and Conversation*, **David Grossman**

Rose and Isaac Ebel Lecture on the Holocaust: *Righteous Among the Nations? Mohammed V and the Jews during Vichy Rule in Colonial Morocco*, **Daniel Schroeter**, University of Minnesota

### LECTURES AND SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

*Awake Zion: A Documentary*

*Maimonides and Contemporary Tort Theories*, **Yuval Sinai**, Yale University, and

**Benjamin Shmueli**, Yale Law School

*The Reconstruction of the Tiberian Pronunciation Tradition of Biblical Hebrew*,

**Geoffrey Khan**, University of Cambridge

*The Jews of Bamiyan: A Community of Traders and Scholars in Eleventh-Century Khorasan*,

**Shaul Shaked**, Hebrew University

*Bureaucracy of War: Jewish and Non-Jewish Refugees in Morocco, 1940-1945*,


**Aomar Boum**, University of California, Los Angeles

*The Secrets of the Haredi World*, **Yakir Englander**, Harvard Divinity School

*Aposynagogoi in the Gospel of John*, **Adele Reinhartz**, University of Ottawa

*In Between*, a one-man show by **Ibrahim Miari**

RABBI JAMES S. DIAMOND  
MEMORIAL LECTURE




**Ruth Gavison**  
Founding President of Matzliach, a Center for Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought

**POLITICAL ZIONISM:  
THE DILEMMA OF LIBERAL JEWS**

Ruth Gavison is Haim H. Cohn Professor Emerita of Human Rights at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the winner of the 2001 Israel Prize for Legal Research. Her areas of research include the relationships between law and politics; the identity of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state; processes of constitution-making; privacy and the private-public distinction; and the role of law and courts in divided democracies.

April 29, 2015, 4:30 p.m.  
Computer Science Building, Room 104

Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Life and the Program in Judaic Studies.  
Ronald D. Preisman Institute for Judaic Studies.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



**Tara Zahra**  
University of Chicago

THURSDAY  
DECEMBER 3, 2015  
4:30PM  
EAST PYNE 010

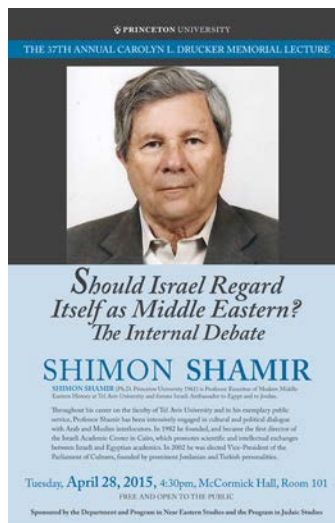
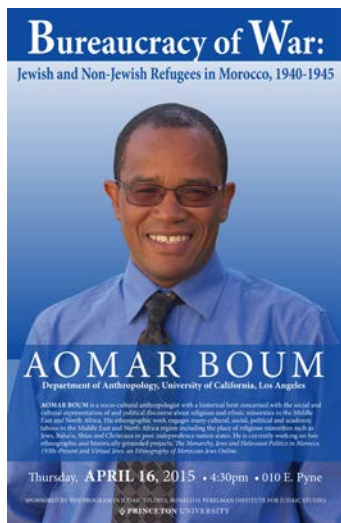
"Emigration, Ethnic Cleansing, or Humanitarianism: The Campaign to Resettle Eastern European Jews in the 1930s"

Tara Zahra is Professor of History at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on the transnational history of Modern Europe: migration; the family; nationalism; and humanitarianism. Zahra's most recent book, *The Great Departure: Mass Migration and the Making of the Free World*, will be published by Norton Press in Spring 2016.

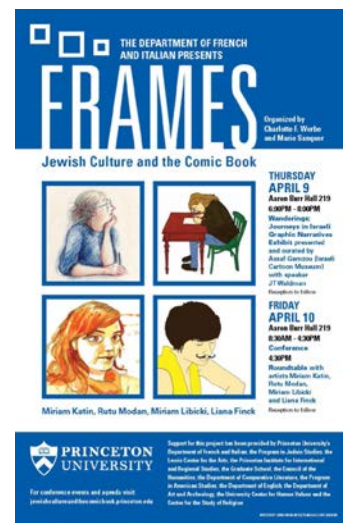
Sponsored by the Program in Judaic Studies, Ronald D. Preisman Institute for Judaic Studies, Princeton University.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC





- Theology of the Redaction of the Pentateuch*, **Joel Baden**, Yale University,  
*Enochic Traditions and the Last Lingua Sacra of Europe*, **Florentina Geller**, Free University of Berlin  
*Different Trains: Holocaust-era Railcars as Vehicles for Remembrance*, **Oren B. Stier**, Florida International University  
*Emigration, Ethnic Cleansing, or Humanitarianism: The Campaign to Resettle Eastern European Jews in the 1930s*, **Tara Zahra**, University of Chicago  
*Jewish (Mythopoeic) Incarnation: Christian Affinities in the Shaping of God and His Son in the Zohar*, **Jonatan Benarroch**, Hebrew University  
*When a Heretic Walks into the Rabbinic Study House*, **Michal Siegal**, Ben Gurion University  
*Conversation with Anna Bikont*, author  
**Conference: Frames: Jewish Culture and the Comic Book**



## UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING 2016

- LECTURES**
- Feb 9:** Martti Nissensen, University of Helsinki
  - Feb 29-Mar 4:** Inaugural Mytelka Scholar in Residence, **Elchanan Reiner**, Tel Aviv University
  - Mar 3:** Jeannette Krieger and Herman D. Mytelka Memorial Lecture, **Elchanan Reiner**, Tel Aviv University
  - Mar 9:** **Aaron Rubin**, Pennsylvania State University
  - Mar 29:** Carolyn L. Drucker '80 Memorial Lecture, **Ben Outhwaite**, University of Cambridge
  - Apr 7:** **R. Shai Held**, Mechon Hadar
  - May 18:** Rabbi James S. Diamond Memorial Lecture
- CONFERENCES**
- Feb 14:** Undergraduate conference on Judaic Studies
  - Mar 6-7:** Benedict Spinoza and Hermann Cohen: A Reconsideration
  - Mar 20-22:** Beyond Authority: Composition and Transmission in Late Antiquity
  - Apr 14-16:** 100th Anniversary of Jewish Life at Princeton

# UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER FUNDING

## SHIRA COHEN '16

I spent this summer in Philadelphia, working at the National Museum of American Jewish History in the Education Department. As an integral part of the Education team, I had the opportunity to participate in a variety of projects. First, I handled a number of non-programmatic writing projects that were critical for the department's operation, an important experience for me in understanding the institutional mechanisms of a non-profit organization. Second, I worked on two family guides, one for a special exhibition entitled "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile," on beloved children's book author, Bernard Waber; the other for the World Meeting of Families and the Pope's visit to Philadelphia. Third, and perhaps most enjoyable, I led children's tours – I feel that positive experiences in museums at the preschool and elementary school age are crucial for creating life-long learners and museum-goers. I was fortunate to engage with this first-hand, using the museum's collections on American Jewish History to learn, for example, about transportation, making the collections relevant to even the youngest audiences.

Perhaps one of the most important impacts of my summer was its influence on my academic path. While at the museum, I became deeply intrigued by Philadelphia's Jewish history and was able to explore the archives at Penn's Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies and the German Society Library of Pennsylvania. This material is the basis for my thesis on German-Jewish immigration to Philadelphia in the late 19th century, with a specific focus on mutual aid societies, namely the Jewish Hospital Association. Without the generous support of Judaic Studies, neither my internship nor my research would have been possible. I look forward to continuing my thesis research and staying connected to JDS this year!

## ARIEL FUTTER '15

I traveled to Israel in order to begin research on the 1995 Constitutional Revolution. In a 1995 ruling, Israeli Supreme Court Chief Justice Aharon Barak declared that the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty and the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation passed earlier that decade were constitutional documents and granted the court the right of judicial review. I used my time in Israel in order to meet with law professors who study the Constitutional Revolution and Supreme Court and to access archival materials stored in Israel's National Archives. I was surprised to learn that the Basic Laws themselves were not approved by a majority of Knesset (Israeli Parliament) members. Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty was passed by a vote of 32-21. My meetings helped me formulate paths for future research as well. It seems that the mechanisms of judicial review in Israel are not yet well understood. While the Supreme Court uses judicial review, the Knesset must decide whether or not to respect such a decision. My thesis work will try to better understand the interaction between the Court and the Knesset, using the documents I discovered in the archive.

## MATTHEW KRITZ '18

This past summer I had the tremendous opportunity to work at the Israel Democracy Institute with Gideon Rahat, associate professor of political science at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He researches candidate selection methods and electoral reform, particularly in light of trends of personalization within the political sphere (i.e., shifting focus from political parties to individual candidates/politicians). This summer his research focused on the role social media plays within broader personalization trends in democracies worldwide.

Over my two months in Israel, I gained immensely from the chance to work with a highly regarded academician on issues of pressing relevance for political strategists. Additionally, working with Prof. Rahat and his other research assistants, graduate students at Hebrew University, gave me the chance to improve my Hebrew language skills. Spending time at the Israel Democracy Institute also allowed me to participate in weekly

presentations by visiting scholars, who discussed various issues regarding the future of Israel's political structures. Most important, though, was spending two months in Israel, a country that, despite at times seeming foreign and strange, always feels like home.

### **SARAH LOSSING '17**

This past summer Judaic Studies aided me in funding a three-week Hebrew Ulpan (intensive language course) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. During these three weeks, I not only made enormous progress in my ability to speak, understand and write in Hebrew, but also had the amazing opportunity to explore Jerusalem. My fellow classmates at Hebrew University, specifically the school's Rothberg International School, were from all over the world. Sometimes the only way I was able to communicate with them was in Hebrew. Despite some language barriers, we were still able to learn in the same classroom, and make personal connections as well. The global outlook of students at the school made me realize the importance of language. In particular, I realized the importance of learning to speak Hebrew in Israel (and Jerusalem, to be specific): the city is important both historically and religiously to so many different people that the ability to speak Hebrew is a necessity in finding and immersing oneself in truly Israeli, Jerusalemite culture, as opposed to simply being a tourist.

As part of our program, our class went on multiple tours of Jerusalem, conducted in Hebrew, which gave me the chance to learn about the city's rich and complicated history in a much more evocative manner than reading about it in a textbook. The tours, as well as smaller expeditions throughout the city with friends, showed me parts of Jerusalem that would have remained completely hidden if I had only spent a few days there. A final cultural experience that I appreciated as a Reform Jew occurred when one of my friends in the program invited me to spend Shabbat with her and her Orthodox aunt and uncle. I had never attended an Orthodox Jewish service or spent the whole day away from electronics and trying my best to be Shomer Shabbas. Although I do not plan on continuing this practice, I greatly appreciate the opportunity I had to experience a different aspect and form of Judaism, especially in the most holy city in the world. Overall, my three weeks in Jerusalem were filled with interesting and educational classes, as well as new and exciting cultural and religious experiences, that made me regret having to leave after less than a month.

### **DANIELLE PINTZ '17**

I spent the summer in Tel Aviv, using my JDS funding to take an intensive Hebrew course. I had a great summer, both in terms of how much I learned and how much I enjoyed myself.

The Hebrew department at Princeton is strong but very small. I very quickly finished all the classes offered here and wanted more. The class I took in Israel was extremely well taught, and I made rapid progress. I also learned a lot of Hebrew just from living in Tel Aviv and interacting with Israelis daily. After this summer I feel much more confident in my Hebrew abilities and hope to be able to use them for the rest of my life.

In addition to learning a lot of Hebrew, I also had a wonderful time living in Israel and getting to experience Israeli culture first-hand. I lived in an apartment with three other Princeton students, right by the Port of Tel Aviv. I got to spend a lot of time at the beach, eating amazing Israeli food and meeting many interesting people from all over the world. It was truly a fantastic summer, and I am so grateful to the Judaic Studies Department for helping me to make it happen.

### **MAYA ROSEN '17**

I spent this summer studying Talmud in New York City, mainly at Yeshivat Hadar, but also at the Drisha Institute and Jewish Theological Seminary. The intensive nature of the program where I was studying allowed me the opportunity to sharpen my textual tools, improve my language skills and engage with texts on a conceptual

continued

level in a new way. The majority of my time was focused on the eighth chapter of the Talmudic tractate Bava Kama, which deals with tort law, and I gained an increased appreciation for the rabbinic system and ancient legal codes. I am very grateful to the Program in Judaic Studies for making this possible, and I look forward to continuing my study of rabbinic literature at Princeton.

### GRACIE STONE '16

Thank you again for your generous support this summer. With the funding from Judaic Studies, I chose to attend Ulpan while I worked in Tel Aviv for the summer, and also to take an Israeli history course. For an American who had never been exposed to Israel or its politics, language or culture, it was an absolutely amazing experience, and the classes allowed me to enjoy and understand my work all the more. I was able to use simple Hebrew to travel and talk with friends and fellow travelers, while I worked for a small think tank called the Economic Cooperation Foundation.

It was overwhelming at times, as I would spend my days working and my nights learning Hebrew and discussing what I had learned with my Israeli teachers and friends as they taught me about life in Israel. But, so long as you're willing to keep an open mind and listen and learn respectfully, you can have an amazing – if sobering and awe-inspiring – time in Israel. It's a beautiful and complicated country, filled with people who want to teach you about all of the above. It was an unforgettable experience, made possible and improved so much because of the funding that I received. I will never forget a moment of it.

### AYELET WENGER '17

This summer I participated in the Princeton-in-Munich summer program. I took the intensive fourth-semester German course, which consisted of class each morning at the Goethe Institute, a weekly German literature course with Prof. Michael Jennings from Princeton, and the commitment of program participants to communicate only in German.

I became interested in German primarily because of my interest in ancient Judaic texts. Studying German allows me to access the vast and critical body of literature that German scholars of Bible and religion have produced. While I was in Germany, I also became very curious about the strange complexities of German Jewry. I'm still puzzling over the Regensburg Judensau, the bustling Berlin Lauder Yeshurun Midrasha, the Dachau concentration camp, the Regensburg synagogue of aging Russians who can't understand the German sermon, and the Würzburg Cathedral employee who assured me that Jews don't have a monopoly on the Menorah. I hope to continue both my study of German and my exploration of Judaism in Germany in the future, and I'm very grateful to the Program in Judaic Studies for their generous support.



Ayelet Wenger in Germany

# GRADUATE SUMMER FUNDING

## A. J. BERKOVITZ, RELIGION

Thanks to generous funding from Judaic Studies, I was able to enrich my research and build an extended academic network by spending a large portion of this past summer in Israel. In addition to attending a conference related to my research, and several other lectures, I was able to meet with and speak to several notable professors about my various projects. I further enriched my knowledge of archeology, an important tool in my studies, by visiting both major museums and archeological sites. As an added bonus, I was able to practice and refine my spoken Hebrew. I am truly a better scholar because of the support of the Judaic Studies program.

## JONATHAN HENRY, RELIGION

This summer, aided by generous funding from various sources at Princeton, I traveled to Israel, to the site of Legio, to gain field experience in the acquisition of material culture. Working under the auspices of the Jezreel Valley Regional Project, we cleared an unassuming pasture to reveal a long-lost Roman military encampment. This finding attracted instant media attention as being connected to the Armageddon of John of Patmos' Apocalypse. Of broader historical interest, findings from this site will provide a wholly unprecedented glimpse into Roman imperial management of its Eastern concerns. I went as a mere volunteer, but enjoyed a few moments of minor importance, such as finding the first coin and digging into the first vestiges of a surprising layer of Bronze Age remains beneath the Roman remains. Not least important were the many special conversations and discussions I shared with staff and other volunteers.

One of my ancillary aims for traveling to Israel was to visit important sites. Not only did I gain experience so that I can teach future students from a more personally informed viewpoint, but I also recorded several brief video tours in order to "take them there with me." In one noteworthy instance, my traveling companion, Mark Letteney, and I became tightly embedded in a Ramadan procession down the Via Dolorosa in the Old City of Jerusalem. I was able to capture some of the excitement and tension of such processions, which have been a part of Jerusalem's life for millennia. I also highlighted aspects of the royal complex in Caesarea. The traveling component of this trip provided me with many educational insights that will be beneficial both for me and for my future students. I am grateful and honored to have been the recipient of such generous funding, which made these experiences possible.

## EVA KIESELE, RELIGION

Thanks to the generous support of JDS, I was able to pursue two projects during the summer: a two-week intensive French course, and a summer seminar "Exploring Universals," jointly conducted by Prof. Naphtali Meshel of Princeton and Dr. Anand Mishra of the University of Heidelberg.

Seeking to boost my French in minimal time to a level that would allow me to access an important body of research literature, I had selected the most intensive program I could find. At the École de Langue Française in Paris, I studied in a small group in the morning and one-on-one in the afternoon. Two of my private instructors held advanced degrees in literature in addition to their language education, and challenged me to discuss my own research. Thus I learned to explain the complex composite nature of the talmudic text and the question of its redaction, in my humble French! The two weeks proved an enormous success. Not only is my reading comprehension now at a level where I can turn to the relevant literature without hesitation, I have also begun to build up an active stock of technical vocabulary for my own field.

My French project was followed by three weeks of pure cutting-edge research with the seminar "Exploring Universals" – one of my most memorable experiences so far. Biblical and Vedic sacrifices served as the ritual

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basis of a proposed analogy between ritual and language, complemented by Meshel's "Grammar" of the Levitical prescriptions and the fascinatingly abstract grammar of Sanskrit by the 5th c. BCE grammarian Panini. After familiarizing ourselves with our tools for a week in Princeton, we enjoyed the unique opportunity to study the ancient Vedic texts with senior scholars from Benares Hindu University and to observe the rituals prescribed first-hand in Varanasi, India. As the seminar proceeded, we struggled with questions that could not resonate more with my own research: how do we best describe human actions or expressions that are clearly patterned, yet neither built from intuitive minimal constituents nor organized according to unambiguous rules? Why do we, or ancient practitioners and exegetes, interpret a ritual sequence in a certain way, and why do we imbue it with a certain meaning? "Metalanguage" – the phenomenon of not necessarily verbal expressions that function as rules of interpretation to a given utterance – became a recurrent theme in the seminar, and will certainly do so in my future work. It was an added benefit to the seminar that the participants came from such a wide range of disciplines, from neuroscience to linguistics to religion. I was deeply impressed with their intellectual interaction and the productivity of this bold interdisciplinary enterprise. This was certainly an inspiration for the teaching career I aspire to, and for future collaborations. The seminar will lead into an ongoing research project that I hope to be involved in.

### MARK D. LETTENY, RELIGION

Mine was a summer of late nights, early mornings and big discoveries. Due in large part to the Program in Judaic Studies' generous funding, I was able to participate as field staff on the first full excavation season of a



3D rendering of excavation square

Roman legionary camp located in the Jezreel Valley, Israel. Our expedition constitutes the first discovery of a permanent legionary *castra* in the Roman East, and our goals this season were centered around understanding the size and orientation of the camp. We unearthed colonnaded streets, large monumental architecture and the ornate bath of a commander's residence.

My main task was technological, and I am proud to have been part of a team of three that broke new ground in the digital preservation of archeological material. We implemented the first-ever system of in-field 3D modelling of ongoing excavations, and in parallel we developed paperless excavation software live in the field. We made a full-resolution 3D model of every open square at every change of locus, with the result that we leave the season able to return and re-excavate every feature digitally. The models are accurate to within a millimeter and tagged to the Israeli GPS grid,

which means we can measure with breathtaking precision exactly what was done in the field and exactly where. And, importantly, independent scholars will be able to do the same with our data years hence. Archeology has long been known as "the only science that kills its informant" – since once a square is excavated, it can never be put back together for another observer. We have begun to make this old adage obsolete, with the help of 3D modelling and many, many cups of coffee.

The software development project was similarly successful because my team met with field archeologists every afternoon to hear about bugs and feature requests, and spent the evening coding so the product was ready to go by the time we left our lodging for the site at 4:30 a.m. The software is nearly finished, and when it is we will distribute it freely to any excavation interested in using the platform in their own work.

I wound down an intense summer studying modern Hebrew at the University of Haifa, where I gained a firm foundation upon which I will continue to build my speaking and reading knowledge of the language.

I want to thank the Program in Judaic Studies for generously supporting my research this summer. On the basis of my work in the field, I have been asked to join the Jezreel Valley Regional Project's permanent staff, splitting my time between work on the technology team and consulting for the excavation on Late Antique Judaism and Christianity as it relates to our archeological findings. I look forward to sharing my experiences with students at Princeton this coming year and in years to come, as I continue research on the Roman Sixth Legion.

### **DANIEL MAY, RELIGION**

Due to the generosity of the Judaic Studies Program I was able to participate this summer in an intensive German course at the Goethe Institute in Berlin. It was a wonderful and challenging experience, with intensive language immersion classes every day from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., and visits and tours of the city through the afternoons and evenings.

As a result of the time in Berlin and these studies, I was able to dramatically improve my German language skills, which will greatly assist me in my ongoing work at the intersection of Modern Jewish thought and Democratic theory. Already the work I have done over the summer has proven tremendously valuable in my scholarship, and I am indebted to Judaic Studies for their generosity and support.

### **SHEERA TALPAZ, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE**

This summer I engaged in pre-dissertation research both abroad and at Princeton and continued my study of Arabic, thanks to the generous summer funding award I received from the Program in Judaic Studies. In June I spent two weeks in Israel, where I began to collect relevant Arabic and Hebrew texts and materials that are difficult and expensive to find stateside (e.g., the complete works of Mahmoud Darwish in the Arabic/Diwan Mahmoud Darwish). Additionally, I met with poet Anat Zecharya and interviewed her about her role in the contemporary Israeli poetry scene; the relationship among Israeli poetry, politics and history; and issues of translation from modern Hebrew to English. Through this interview, I was able to make several other contacts I hope to reach out to in the coming year and in future visits to Israel.

After my travels I spent one month continuing my study of Arabic at the University of

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Sheera Talpaz (second from r) with Advanced Arabic class at the Arab American National Museum, Dearborn, Michigan

Michigan's Summer Language Institute. I enrolled in Advanced Modern Standard Arabic 2, which involved four hours of daily classwork, in addition to two to four hours of daily homework. I benefitted from reviewing the material from Al-Kitaab texts, in addition to practicing both my speaking and writing skills. During one special day of class, we took a field trip to Dearborn, Michigan, home to some 40,000 Arab Americans. While there, we visited the Arab American National Museum and spoke Arabic in several shops and restaurants around the city – a culturally immersive experience within the United States. While I enjoyed my summer language studies, in future I hope to return to more intensive Arabic programs (such as Middlebury Language School) in order to improve rather than just maintain my level of Arabic.

### **ALEXANDER WAMBOLDT, ANTHROPOLOGY**

My dissertation is based on ethnographic fieldwork conducted between 2013 and 2014 among couples and their families in Israel, in addition to matchmakers, marriage rights activists, religious clergy, state officials and the clients of all of the above.

This past summer, building off my previous ethnographic fieldwork, I travelled to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem with the generous help of the Program in Judaic Studies and the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, in order to investigate recent developments in the Tzohar Bill, a marriage reform passed by the Israeli Knesset at the end of my fieldwork in 2014. Recent applications of this law had criminalized many forms of marriage ceremonies that I studied during my fieldwork.

During the month of June 2014, I revisited several of the wedding officiants in my ethnography to research how this new law affected their livelihoods. For the individuals with whom I met, the Tzohar reforms have further marginalized couples attempting to marry outside Orthodox Jewish ceremonies, who now fear criminal complications to such unions, in addition to the legal complications such marriages previously had. Nevertheless, I attended several non-Orthodox weddings, witnessing the new forms of family, sociality and religious meanings that such rituals foster and celebrate.

### **CHARLOTTE WERBE, FRENCH AND ITALIAN**

Thanks to the generous award from the Judaic Studies Program, I was able to continue studying Yiddish this past summer. I had the opportunity to take part in the Steiner Summer Yiddish Program offered by the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. This intensive seven-week program provided a unique opportunity for studying Yiddish, as it offered language classes, cultural activities and internship opportunities specifically tailored for intermediate-level students. The afternoon seminars every week featured a specific theme, from ethnography to Yiddish literature. The intermediate students also had the opportunity to take a course with Samuel Kassow, a renowned Holocaust historian. Yiddish will play a role in my dissertation, and as a side project I am working on translating a Yiddish memoir written by a Belgian Holocaust survivor. I could not be doing this without the Yiddish language training from this past summer. I count myself lucky to have been able to participate in this program and am very grateful to the Judaic Studies Program.



Charlotte Werbe with fellow students of Yiddish



# ALUMNI UPDATES

**ROB BERNSTEIN '08:** After graduating with my degree in religion, I spent a year with Princeton-in-Asia living and working at a Buddhist temple in Tokyo. Then I attended law school at Columbia, where I argued in the moot court finals and wrote the highest-scoring brief in various competitions. I recently completed federal clerkships, one on the district court in Chicago and one with Judge Danny J. Boggs on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. One of the best parts about clerking was experiencing life in Louisville, Kentucky, where I kept a blog about my adventures traveling the Bluegrass State and studying bourbon: [www.kentuckyismyland.com](http://www.kentuckyismyland.com) (the title comes from a poem by Kentucky writer and educator Jesse Stuart). In August I moved to D.C. and started as an associate at Bancroft PLLC, a boutique litigation firm focused on Supreme Court and appellate litigation.

**RIVKA COHEN '12:** I am currently working as a lab manager at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and am in the process of applying to graduate school in Psychology. Fingers crossed! I still use my Judaic Studies background, teaching Hebrew and Sunday school at the local synagogue. This is one of the most meaningful parts of my life, and my JDS background enriches what I am able to teach my students. Best wishes, and I hope everyone is doing well.

**ZACHARY HUGHES '08:** Since November 2013 I have been operations manager for Uber in Boston. My job entails a wide range of behind-the-scenes activities essential to keeping the Uber app up and running in New England, including managing regulatory issues, pricing, strategic planning, product management, supply growth, and more. It's a great job with a company I love, and hopefully any JDS grads who haven't gotten to try Uber yet will be checking it out soon. We're available in Israel now too. I live with my wife Cayla, two-year-old daughter Naomi, and our cats (Jimmy and Little Bear) in Brookline, Massachusetts. JDS-ers should feel free to reach out if you're in the area.

**ABBY KLIONSKY '14:** I am nearing the end of a two-year fellowship in the education department at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, which is based in Jackson, Mississippi, but works with congregations and Jewish communities across the south, from Texas and Oklahoma all the way up to Virginia. Although there's quite a bit of office work, including writing a complete curriculum, the most exciting part of my job is traveling every other weekend to the communities I work with. When I'm there, I help implement exciting programming in religious schools, run teacher training workshops, and lead parts of Shabbat services, among other things. In 2015 I've been on more than 50 airplanes and driven tens of thousands of miles, and am looking forward to continuing explore the South.

**AVI MILLER '09:** I am a first year PhD student in Ancient Judaism/Rabbinics at New York University.

**ARYEH NUSSBAUM COHEN '14:** Just a few days after graduating, I was honored to be selected as one of this year's *New York Jewish Week* 36 Under 36. I am currently living in New York, pursuing my dream of being an opera singer. After an active summer of concerts, I'm in the midst of a year-long study-intensive period, focusing on honing my vocal technique, and it's going astoundingly well! I was also thrilled to serve as Hazzan Sheni for the East Midwood Jewish Center during the recent High Holidays, my sixth year at the congregation.

**RENA LAUER '05:** I live in Corvallis, Oregon, where I'm an assistant professor of medieval and early modern history at Oregon State University. After graduating from Princeton in History, with certificates in Judaic Studies

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and Medieval Studies, I spent a year working with minority communities (including Ethiopians, Bedouins and Muslim Gypsies) while living in Jerusalem. Then, after studying Latin and Greek at the University of Pennsylvania, I matriculated in a history PhD program at Harvard. My work took me for extended periods to Venice, Italy, where I did research in the state archives on medieval Jews of the Venice's eastern Mediterranean empire, before finishing my PhD in 2014. My husband Kevin Osterloh (\*08, another Princeton Judaic Studies alum) and a historian of the ancient Mediterranean, and I moved west to take up positions at OSU. We're loving the mountains, the rocky coast and our backyard blueberry bushes, and I'm writing a book about the Jews of Venetian Crete, who spent considerable time and resources suing each other in the island's secular courts in the 14th and 15th centuries.

**ANNA RUBIN '15:** Since graduating, I have moved to Chicago, and I'm working at the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs as an Organizing Fellow through my year in AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps. I'm quickly learning the world and skills of community organizing by working with the Chicagoland Jewish community to create a powerful Jewish base that can mobilize as allies in support of Chicago's most vulnerable and oppressed populations. Currently, we are working to solidify comprehensive and accountable trauma care on Chicago's South Side (currently a trauma care desert) and pass an Illinois budget that provides adequate revenue to the state, rather than cutting necessary social services. I am living with 14 other Avodahniks, learning, growing and cooking together every day, as we begin our careers in the social justice sector. Fun fact: I wrote about AVODAH in my thesis – "me-search" in the truest sense of the term!

**BINA PELTZ '15:** In September I began my fellowship as the Princeton ReachOut 56-81-06 Domestic Fellow at the Harlem Community Justice Center in Harlem, New York. This fellowship, generously supported by Princeton alumni, allows for a recent graduate to collaborate with a public interest organization to devise a project that aligns with the fellow's interests and goals. I have been fortunate to work at the Harlem Community Justice Center, a community court where I interned in the summer of 2014. Community courts are neighborhood-focused courts that seek to improve crime-ridden communities by addressing low-level offenses, aiming to restore public trust in the courts while also improving the quality of life in the community. I wrote my senior thesis on community courts, and this year is particularly exciting for me as I get to put my research into action. In my capacity as the Youth and Community Justice Fellow, I work primarily with the Justice Center's youth programs, and I have also been working with the Justice Center staff to incorporate restorative justice practices into the organization's framework.

**R. JOSEPH SKLOOT '05:** I'm currently finishing my dissertation at Columbia on printing and early modern Jewish culture and am proud to say that my curiosity about this field was born in Tony Grafton and Peter Schäfer's classrooms a decade ago. I also serve as a rabbi of Washington Hebrew Congregation, a remarkable community formed over 162 years ago in the District of Columbia. My wife Erin and I, along with our daughter, love living in and exploring this vibrant city.

**JACK THIROLF '06:** I am living in Washington, D.C., where I head up government relations and public policy in the U.S. and Canada for Enel, the Italian electric utility. My wife is Catherine Peff '07 (Anthropology)—we met while working together in Vietnam in 2007-2008. We have two daughters, Billie Ann (born Oct 2013) and Rosemary (born Sep 2015). I am also getting my JD at Georgetown Law in the evenings and am on track to be done in spring 2017.



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