

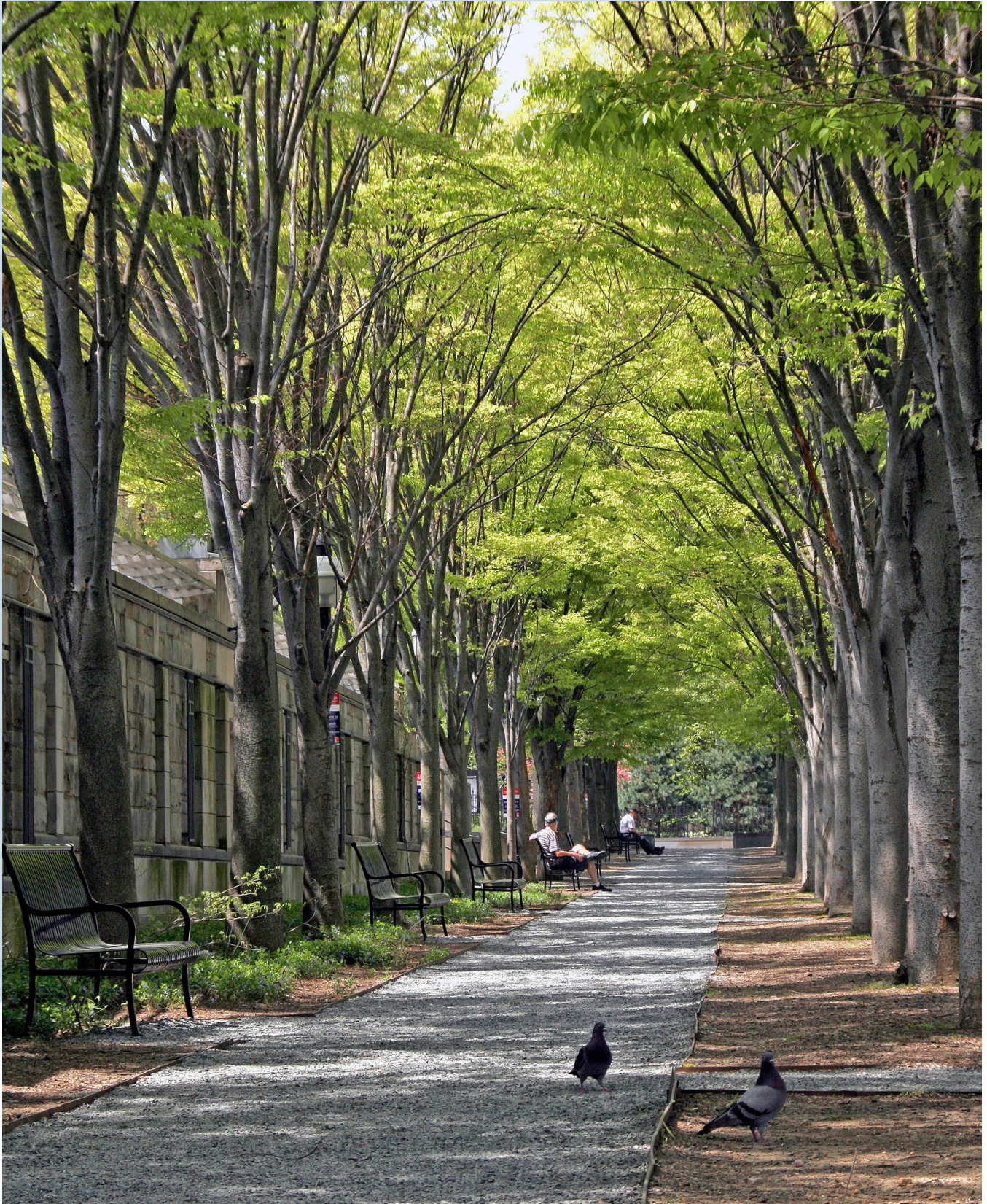
 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY



PROGRAM IN

Judaic Studies

Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies



SPRING 2023

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, 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 Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Jewish Studies allows 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, who was 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.

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Director's Message

After a number of difficult COVID years, we are all grateful to be back on campus, and I am happy to report that, as the contents of this newsletter attest, Princeton's Program in Judaic Studies and Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies (JDS) is flourishing. This is due in no small part to JDS's former manager, Heather Yacone, who has helped students, faculty, and our programs transition back to in-person life on campus. On p. 16 you can see posters for some of our recent in-person events, which offer a sense of the range of Jewish Studies at Princeton. The reports on undergraduate and graduate research funded by JDS on p. 11-14 also testify to the depth and diversity of Jewish Studies at Princeton. Of particular interest is the new podcast, *Women Who Went Before*, hosted by graduate students. JDS co-sponsored a number of events and conferences this year, including the Rabbinization and Diversity Conference, led by Eve Krakowski and Ra'anana Boustan, the second Summer Seminar on Jewish Legal and Political Thought, led by Leora Batnitzky (Princeton), Yonatan Brafman (JTS) and Suzanne Last Stone (Yeshiva, Cardozo), and a film screening of "*Where is Anne Frank*" including a discussion with director, Ari Folman, led by the Near Eastern Studies Program. This spring, we have hosted conferences on Ancient Judaism and Modern Jewish Thought.

I have good news to report about JDS faculty. Eve Krakowski was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in Near Eastern Studies and JDS. Marina Rustow, Khedouri A. Zilka Professor of Jewish Civilization of the Near East, and Peter Schäfer, Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies Emeritus, both received major international recognition for their scholarship this year. Esther Schor, John J. F. Sherrerd '52 University Professor, received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Martha Himmelfarb, William H. Danforth Professor of Religion Emeritus, received Princeton's most prestigious award in Humanities. On a bittersweet note, she retired in May 2022 after teaching at Princeton for 44 years. You can read about Martha's career and contributions on p.5.

I am excited to mention two new additions to our program this year. First, Ra'anana Boustan, Research Scholar in JDS, has been running a Jewish Studies Working Group for undergraduates which meets over dinner once a month. JDS faculty have been joining this group to talk about their research and what brought them to Judaic Studies. Second, the Program is delighted to be hosting Dr. Iuliia Skubytska as a Research Scholar at Princeton. The former director of the War Childhood Museum in Ukraine, Iuliia is teaching a seminar on "Trauma and Oral History: Giving Voice to the Unspeakable" this spring.

Finally, we are happy to introduce a new feature to our newsletter this year: interviews with JDS alumni who are doing exciting work in Judaic Studies and beyond. You can see our first two interviews on p. 8.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events this spring, as well as Reunions in May!

Leora Batnitzky
Director and Ronald O. Perelman Professor of Jewish Studies

FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS

FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

LEORA F. BATNITZKY
Religion

DAVID M. BELLOS
French and Italian

GABRIEL M. CITRON
Religion

YAACOB DWECK
History

JONATHAN M. GRIBETZ
Near Eastern Studies

EVE KRAKOWSKI
Near Eastern Studies

WILLIAM C. JORDAN
History

MARINA RUSTOW
Near Eastern Studies

LITAL LEVY
Comparative Literature

MOULIE VIDAS
Religion

ESTHER H. SCHOR
English & Humanities Council

ASSOCIATED FACULTY

JILL S. DOLAN
English, Dean of the College

ANTHONY T. GRAFTON
History

WENDY HELLER
Music

DANIEL HELLER-ROAZEN
Comparative Literature

STANLEY N. KATZ
*School of Public and
International Affairs*

DANIEL C. KURTZER
*School of Public and International
Affairs*

ANNEMARIE LUIJENDIJK
Religion

STACY E. WOLF
Lewis Center for the Arts

RESEARCH SCHOLARS

RA'ANAN S. BOUSTAN
Judaic Studies

IULIIA SKUBYTSKA
Judaic Studies

VISITING FELLOW

MERON M. PIOTRKOWSKI
Religion

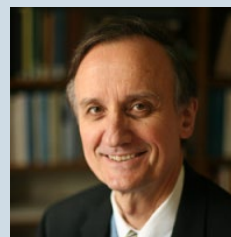
FACULTY HONORS



**PROMOTION TO
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**
Eve Krakowski



**2022 HASKINS MEDAL
MEDIÆVAL ACADEMY OF
AMERICA**
Marina Rustow



ORDEN POUR LE MÉRITE
Peter Schäfer
The Order Pour le Mérite was established in 1740 by King Frederick II of Prussia to recognize “men and women who have acquired an excellent reputation through widespread recognition of their services in science and art.”



**2022 GUGGENHEIM
FELLOWSHIP INTELLECTUAL
AND CULTURAL HISTORY**
Esther H. Schor

UPDATES

HOWARD T. BEHRMAN AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN THE HUMANITIES



Martha Himmelfarb, William H. Danforth Professor of Religion, transferred to emeritus status Spring 2022 after teaching at Princeton for 44 years. She is the author of many pioneering studies, including *Tours of Hell: An Apocalyptic Form in Jewish and Christian Literature* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 1983), *Ascent to Heaven in Jewish and Christian Apocalypses* (Oxford University Press, 1993), *A Kingdom of Priests: Ancestry and Merit in Ancient Judaism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006), *The Apocalypse: A Brief History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), *Between Temple and Torah: Essays on Priests, Scribes, and Visionaries in the Second Temple Period and Beyond* (Mohr Siebeck, 2013), and *Jewish Messiahs in a Christian Empire: A History of the Book of Zerubbabel* (Harvard University Press, 2017). She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the New Jersey State Council for the Humanities, and been named an Old Dominion Research Professor in the Council of the Humanities and awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. In recognition of her outstanding scholarship, she received the Howard T. Behrman Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities in 2022.

Even as Professor Himmelfarb produced significant and influential scholarly works over the course of her career, she has compiled an exemplary record teaching and service. Her courses have introduced generations of undergraduate and graduate students to a range of topics in ancient Judaism, focusing on literatures and cultures of the Greco-Roman world and guiding students to engage with rigor and care the texts that animated her interest in the field from her childhood years. Her graduate advisees, for whom she has proven a tireless advocate and caring mentor, have gone on to become major figures in the field and influential advisors of the next generation of graduate students focusing on religions of Mediterranean Antiquity.

The vibrant interdisciplinary community of scholars gathered in the Ronald O. Perlman Institute for Judaic Studies owes a great debt to Professor Himmelfarb's tireless work on behalf of Jewish Studies at Princeton. She was among the group of twelve faculty who in 1982 formed a Committee for Jewish Studies to organize interdisciplinary study in this field under the auspices of the Council for the Humanities and served as acting chair in its first year. She played a key role in the Committee's efforts to establish a certificate program in Jewish Studies, which was approved in 1995, and in the creation of the Ronald O. Perlman Institute in 1996. She served as Director of Judaic Studies from 2013 to 2020 and, because of her efforts, the program has thrived for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, and the Institute has become one of the most prestigious such academic entities in the country.

UPDATES



LEORA BATNITZKY
DIRECTOR, JUDAIC STUDIES

Along with directing the Program in Judaic Studies, Leora Batnitzky has been busy this year filling in as Acting Chair in the Department of Religion. She is currently working on two book projects: a short reception history of the book of Ecclesiastes and a study of the Jewish apostate and Catholic saint Edith Stein. Recent publications include “The Holocaustum of Edith Stein” in *Liberties* 3:1 (Fall 2022) and “Rethinking Christian and Jewish Exceptionalisms” in *Modern Theology* 38:1 (January 2022). This past semester she delivered lectures at UCLA, University of Chicago, Yale, Stanford, and Bar Ilan, and has organized a workshop of modern Jewish thought to take place at Princeton this spring.



RA'ANAN BOUSTAN
RESEARCH SCHOLAR, JUDAIC STUDIES

Over the past year, Ra'anán Boustan has published several articles, most notably “Afterword: Rabbinization and the Persistence of Diversity in Jewish Culture in Late Antiquity,” in *Diversity and Rabbinization: Jewish Texts and Societies between 400 and 1000 CE*, ed. Gavin McDowell, Ron Naiweld, and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra (Cambridge: OpenEdition Books, 2021), 427–49, as well as two co-authored studies on the Huqoq mosaics with his long-time collaborator Karen Britt: “Scenes in Stone: Newly Discovered Biblical Mosaics from the North Aisle in the Huqoq Synagogue,” *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5.4 (2021): 509–79, and “Historical Scenes in Mosaics from Late Roman Syria and Palestine: Building on the Seleucid Past in Late Antiquity,” *Journal of Late Antiquity* 14.2 (2021): 335–74. In January 2021 Boustan began his tenure as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Studies in Late Antiquity*, published by University of California Press, for which he has written a series of editorials, including “On Shaky Ground: Elites and their Discontents,” *SLA* 6.1 (2022): 1–4, and “Entanglements of Religion and Empire,” *SLA* 5.3 (2021): 287–91. He continues to co-edit the Princeton-based journal *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, with Leora Batnitzky and Sally Freedman. In March 2022 he co-organized (with Eve Krakowski and colleagues in Paris) a virtual international conference on “Rabbinization and Diversity: Methods, Models, and Manifestations.”



JONATHAN GRIBETZ
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, NEAR EASTERN STUDIES
DIRECTOR, NEAR EASTERN STUDIES PROGRAM

Jonathan Gribetz spent the academic year 2021-22 in Jerusalem, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, to work on a book about the Palestine Liberation Organization's think tank in Beirut. In fall of 2022, he was appointed to serve as director of Princeton's Near Eastern Studies Program.

UPDATES



LITAL LEVY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

In 2021 Lital Levy gave a public talk on the 19th c. Arab-Jewish feminist and writer Esther Azhari Moyal for the Yiddish Book Center, as well as talks for Jewish Studies at U.C. Davis and for Cultural Studies at U.C. Santa Cruz. In winter 2022 she delivered the Averroës Lecture on Jewish Communities in Muslim Lands for UCLA, and in May 2022 she gave the keynote lecture for the “Jewish Literatures and their Neighbors” conference at UC Irvine. Her article “Temporalities of Israel/Palestine: Culture and Politics” appeared in *Critical Inquiry* in summer 2021.



MERON T. PIOTRKOWSKI

VISITING FELLOW, RELIGION

Meron M. Piotrkowski (Ph.D. 2015, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), is a historian of antiquity, specializing in the Second Temple period. The focus of his research is on the Egyptian-Jewish Diaspora. He is the author of *Priests in Exile: The History of the Temple of Onias and Its Community in the Hellenistic Period* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2019) and part of the team of commentators and contributors to the new *Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum* (vols. IV-VII; ed. by N. Hacham and T. Ilan). Since August 2021 he has been a Visiting Fellow at Princeton’s Department of Religion, working on the history of the Jewish community of Oxyrhynchus in Egypt during the Hellenistic-Roman and Byzantine periods. Within the framework of his research project at Princeton, Piotrkowski examines Jewish papyri discovered at Oxyrhynchus and seeks to test, inter alia, the generally accepted hypothesis that Egyptian Jews and Judaism were completely annihilated as an immediate outcome of the Jewish Diaspora Revolt (115-117 CE). In 2022 he was a member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, and from autumn 2023, he will be Associate Professor of Ancient Jewish History at Oxford University.”



MARINA RUSTOW

PROFESSOR, NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

In 2022 Marina Rustow won the Haskins Medal from the Medieval Academy of America. She also launched the Princeton Geniza Project database version 4.0 in partnership with the Center for Digital Humanities.



ESTHER H. SCHOR

PROFESSOR, ENGLISH & HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Esther Schor is on leave working on her book in progress: *The Plurist: A life of Horace Meyer Kallen*. For the 2022-23 academic year, she is the NEH Scholar in Residence at the Center for Jewish History.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ELIAS R. SACKS, PH.D. '12

Immediately upon completing my dissertation in the summer of 2012, I joined the faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder in the Department of Religious Studies, and I've been the director of the Program in Jewish Studies there for the last three and a half years.



As a graduate student in Princeton's Program in Judaic Studies, I truly valued the spaces that existed for students working on different topics to be in conversation with one another, present work to one another, and get feedback from one another. That was meaningful for me, as it helped me understand why my work might be relevant to someone who wasn't already invested in my particular area of study. It helped me figure out what language, what concepts, and what conversations could help my work resonate with other kinds of scholars.

My time at Princeton motivated me to offer my students the same kind of mentoring and support I was fortunate enough to receive. I saw the difference that generous mentoring made in discovering my scholarly voice and gaining the confidence to put my work out there, my voice out there, and myself out there. That commitment to mentorship and support and generosity to students is something that's shaped a lot of the work that I've done.

In January 2023 I'm starting a new position as the director of the Jewish Publication Society. Part of what I'm excited about when it comes to this new opportunity is the chance to help others make a difference and, in doing so, shape broader conversations. Academic work was never presented at Princeton simply as an abstract intellectual exercise taking place in an ivory tower. It was presented to me as something that couldn't make a difference, and in fact, had to make a difference politically, civically, ethically, and interpersonally.

RAQUEL UKELES '93

I began working at the National Library of Israel as the first-ever curator of the Islam and Middle East Collection in 2010 and was promoted to head of collections a little over two years ago. My role now includes overseeing the development of all the NLI's collections, including collecting, preserving, and opening access to the world's largest and most important Judaica collection — everything from rare manuscripts to historical Jewish newspapers to the Jewish internet.



I graduated from Princeton in 1993, before the Program in Judaic Studies was created. My studies focused on comparative Islamic and Jewish studies, which was a developing field with few practitioners at that time. What I loved about Princeton was the extraordinary intellectual freedom and space for creativity that allowed me to take on this massive topic and chart my own course. It was this extraordinary launch for a young person to see that the world was open.

As a student I loved being in close contact with world-famous professors who really cared about teaching and mentoring. At the time, it was always so surprising to me how much full professors were investing in teaching undergraduates. I loved the diversity of classes that I was allowed to take that allowed me to keep learning and exploring new subjects and different perspectives.

Today I'm in a position where I utilize all the different kinds of training and knowledge that I gained at Princeton. Even though it's been a long journey, I've come full circle and am now in an institution with a sense of global service. I'm in a position where I can shape and craft our strategic directions of how to serve both the global Jewish community and the world in all of these crossroads that Israel is — the Jewish world, the Middle Eastern world, and Israeli society. The basis of everything I do — rigorous scholarship and critical thinking — is a direct result of my Princeton education, and its approach to learning has been invaluable.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS JUDAIC STUDIES CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

2021

GRACE S. MASBACK

Near Eastern Studies

JAKE BRZOWKSY

School of Public and International Affairs

2022

AVI SIEGAL

Philosophy



CAROLYN L. DRUCKER '80 MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Drucker Memorial Prize is awarded each year for the best senior thesis related to Judaic Studies (broadly defined). In 2021 the Program awarded a first, a second, and two third-place winners.

2021

- 1st GRACE S. MASBACK**
“Four Letters, Three Languages, Two Continents, One Network: The Sephardic Trade Diaspora in the 18th Century Ottoman Empire”
- 2nd MALKA A. HIMELHOCH**
“Save This Woman from the Shackles of Aginut’: A Case for the Decoupling of Marriage and Law in America”
- 3rd YAEL R. MARANS**
“Angels and Dybbuks: How Three Plays Queer Jewish Continuity”
- 3rd JAMES M. PACKMAN**
“Formulation and Validation of a Scale of Antisemitic Stereotypes”

2022

NAOMI SHIFRIN
“Collective Trauma, Identity, and Healing: An Ethnography of Neo-Hasidic Jews in English-Speaking Jerusalem”



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

COURSES

SPRING 2022

**GREAT BOOKS OF THE
JEWISH TRADITION**

Ra'anan S. Boustan

**MODERN JEWISH HISTORY:
1750-PRESENT**

Yaacob Dweck

HOLOCAUST TESTIMONY

Thomas A. Trezise

RELIGION AND LAW

Leora F. Batnitzky

MEDIEVAL JUDAISM

Eve Krakowski

**MODERN HEBREW
LITERATURE: A HISTORICAL
INTRODUCTION**

Lital Levy

FALL 2022

**MODERN HEBREW
LITERATURE: A HISTORICAL
INTRODUCTION**

Lital Levy

**THE WORLD OF THE CAIRO
GENIZA**

Marina Rustow

**ZIONISM: JEWISH
NATIONALISM BEFORE AND
SINCE STATEHOOD**

Jonathan M. Gribetz

STUDENT FUNDING

UNDERGRADUATE

FAHIM AZAZ, CLASS OF 2024

This past summer, I learned Arabic through the online branch of a respected language institute in Amman, Jordan called Qasid. Through this program, I was able to steadily learn about a year's worth of Arabic through one-on-one classes and discussions with my instructors. This has allowed me to begin looking at Arabic-language documentary material for my junior independent work and beyond, where I seek to uncover details about the interreligious interaction between Jews, Christians, and Muslims in medieval Egypt.

AVI CHESLER, CLASS OF 2025

This past summer I spent six weeks in Israel in an intensive beginner's Arabic course that provided significant education of both the language and the culture.



Avi Chesler

SARAH DRAPKIN, CLASS OF 2023

My thesis is centered around the work of my great-grandfather, Israel Drapkin, who was a doctor and criminologist. He established the institutes of Criminology in Santiago, Chile in 1937 and in Jerusalem, Israel in 1959. I went to Israel this summer to meet with the current director of the Institute of Criminology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Badi Hasisi, attend a conference on criminology in Herzilya, and meet with and interview two of Drapkin's former students and colleagues, Simha Landau and Leslie Sebba.

ADAM HOFFMAN, CLASS OF 2023

My research focused on Stropkov, Slovakia, my grandmother's birthplace and home to a once thriving Jewish community. I visited a local church that housed census documents reaching as far back as the 17th century. Through the centuries, the Jewish census, which was always authored by the town's rabbinic leaders, ranged in the quality of its assiduity and penmanship. The text did not show a clear arc of progression: certain decades reflected a deep expertise with Slovak script, while other decades, sometimes later, recorded the census in Hebrew because of an apparent unfamiliarity with Slovak. Through my historical research, I know that different political structures in Slovakia and their downstream effects on Jewish engagement with non-Jewish society, produced or restricted knowledge of Slovak language and culture.

JAY KAPLAN, CLASS OF 2023

Thanks to funding I received from Program in Judaic Studies and Ronald O. Perelman Institute for Judaic Studies, I travelled home to Johannesburg this summer to explore the history of the South African Jewish community, from our arrival to current emigration from RSA across the globe. Through my research, I discovered that most of the South African Jewish community followed a similar path, being made up almost entirely of Ashkenazi Jews. Similarly, my extended family have followed the general trend of Jewish emigration from South Africa by moving to the US, the UK, Australia, and Israel. This project allowed me to get in touch with South African Jewish communities in each of these countries.

GABRIEL LEBEAU, CLASS OF 2023

My project is inherently concerned with both the Jewish community's politics and Italian politics more generally. I studied key topics in Italy's modern history, including the Risorgimento – the unification of Italy in the 19th century – and the development of fascism. In order to study these topics in Italian politics, I visited various museums found in cities from Florence to Turin. Additionally, I was able to conduct interviews both in Rome and Milan with leaders from each city's Jewish community. From these interviews, I practiced my academic Italian and learned about the pressing issues that the Italian Jewish community faces in contemporary Italian politics.

STUDENT FUNDING

ZEV MISHELL, CLASS OF 2023

This past summer I studied colloquial Arabic at the Givat Haviva Center for Shared Society in Israel. For five weeks I participated in this intensive Arabic program, which was taught entirely in Hebrew. Classes would begin at nine a.m. and continue through seven p.m. almost every day. As one of three Americans in the program, I had a meaningful opportunity to be with Israelis who are trying to build a shared society between Jews and Palestinians. The program offered me the opportunity to immerse myself in a particular subset of Israeli culture and to engage with the society from an entirely new perspective. Because I was learning Arabic in my second language, I was able to notice the commonality between Hebrew and Arabic, which made it easier to learn the new language and profoundly altered how I relate to speaking Hebrew.



Zev Mishell

GRACE ROSENBERG, CLASS OF 2023

This past summer I was to take part in the German Department's Princeton-in-Munich program, where I would have been learning in person about Munich's central role in National Socialism. After the class was moved online, I remained enrolled but decided that I would make the trip to Munich myself. I spent two weeks taking language classes at the Goethe-Institut in the morning and exploring the city and surrounding areas in the afternoon. Visiting Germany was important in its personal-academic meaning for me, a German major focusing on German-Jewish literature and antifascist aesthetics.



Grace Rosenberg

GRADUATE

DJAIR DIAS FILHO, Religion

Thanks to the generous support I received from the Program in Judaic Studies, I was able to travel to England to attend the Lincoln College Summer School in Greek Palaeography in Oxford. I had the opportunity of strengthening my philological training with this intensive week of learning on Greek manuscripts, their history and use. I also spent a couple of days in Lisbon, where I could meet with the coordinator for the Portuguese translation team of Philo of Alexandria's works.

ADINA GOLDMAN, Religion

As a student of ancient Judaism and Christianity, I was able to study Qur'anic Arabic through an intensive summer program at the Harvard Divinity School. The course, which built on my previous studies in Modern Standard Arabic, developed my language skills to the point that I have been able to pursue considerable further study and research in the field of Qur'anic Studies.

ELIAV GROSSMAN, Religion

I travelled to Vienna in June for a graduate student conference co-organized by the University of Vienna and Princeton. JDS generously gave me additional support to remain in Vienna for a few extra days, during which I was able to view Hebrew manuscripts in the Austrian National Library. I'm currently interested in forgeries produced by rabbis, and one of the most fascinating texts I saw was a commentary to the Aleynu prayer falsely attributed to Hai Gaon.



Eliav Grossman

STUDENT FUNDING

ALBERT KOHN, Religion

The grant from the Program in Judaic Studies allowed me to travel to Paris for two weeks. I spent my first week visiting the Archives Nationales and collecting preliminary materials for my dissertation. I spent the second week with the ERC research group Beyond the Elite, which is led by Professor Elisheva Baumgarten of the Hebrew University. Group members were in Paris studying the physical remains of medieval Jewish life and meeting French scholars.

JOHN LADOCEUR, Religion

This summer, with funding provided by Judaic Studies' Summer Research Funding grant, I traveled to Israel to undertake a five-week Biblical Hebrew intensive program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I took this course for the purposes of both linguistic preparation for my comprehensive exams in Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism, as well as to equip me to better carry out my research on Ethiopic translations of Second Temple Jewish texts in late antiquity.

CAIT MONGRAIN, Religion

The funding I received from Judaic Studies enabled me to travel to Israel and see many sites I had written about but never seen: Gamala, Gennesareth, Jerusalem, Masada. Each new place gave me a fuller understanding of the scenes from Flavius Josephus' *The Jewish War* and changed the way I thought about these narratives. I had had the privilege of visiting the archaeological site at Huqoq, home to a later Jewish synagogue known for its unusual, intricate mosaics, one of which will now likely appear in a later chapter of my dissertation.

ANDREA ANTENAN PEECHER, Religion

The JDS fellowship funded my participation in an intensive Biblical Hebrew course held at Princeton Theological Seminary. Over the course of eight weeks, I acquired the equivalent of two semesters worth of Biblical Hebrew instruction. I attended online lectures and precepts daily while working through textbook exercises and drilling vocabulary and grammar. Now that I have completed the course, I am able to accomplish more critical study of the Hebrew Bible and its later reception.

YOAV SCHAEFER, Religion

This past summer I received funding from the Program in Judaic Studies to travel to Israel for my dissertation research. My dissertation focuses on Salomon Maimon's Hebrew commentary on the first part of Maimonides' *Moreh ha-Nevukhim* (*Guide of the Perplexed*), entitled *Giva'at ha-Moreh* (*Hill of the Guide*) and published in 1791. Many of Maimon's Hebrew writings, including his early and unpublished *Heskek Shlomo* (*Salomon's Desire*) are located at the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. While in Israel, I was able to study *Heshek Shlomo* and other texts related to Maimon and his interpretation of Maimonides.



Cait Mongrain

STUDENT FUNDING

REBEKAH HAIGH, Religion

Podcast: Women Who Went Before

About the Podcast

Introducing a new podcast! “Women Who Went Before” is a gynocentric quest into the ancient world. The hosts, Princeton University PhD candidates Rebekah Haigh (REL) and Emily Chesley (HIS), interview the world’s top scholars to unearth the lives of women from the ancient Mediterranean. Religion is thoroughly interwoven into the podcast, as many of the texts it explores were produced by and for Jewish and early Christian communities. It is a history podcast and detective journey in one, sifting through texts and tropes to find the women who lived beneath. Season one investigates what “counts” as important for history, what are the challenges and rewards in studying ancient women, and why these topics still matter today.

“One of the most shared podcasts I’ve been listening to recently.” So says a recent listener. Co-sponsored by Judaic Studies, “Women Who Went Before” has already gained a following across six continents, and episodes have been assigned in classes at Duke University and Phillips Theological Seminary. With more than 1,900 downloads and counting, the podcast introduces ancient women’s history through cutting-edge scholarship in creative and contemporary packaging.



Season One: A Sketch

- **Episode 0** “Missing, Presumed...Absent? Where Were All the Ancient Women?”
- **Episode 1** “Invisible Women and How They Make History,” with Sarit Kattan Gribetz
- **Episode 2** “Ghostwriting the Daughters of Men: Whose Writing Is It Anyway?” with Annette Yoshiko Reed
- **Episode 3** “Fall Girl: Theology, Gender, and How Eve Ruined Us All,” with Elaine Pagels
- **Episode 4** “The Two Breasts of the Father’: Does Your God Look Like You?” with Susan Ashbrook Harvey
- **Episode 5** “Was the Oldest Profession a Profession?” with Thomas A. J. McGinn
- **Episode 6** “Scepter and Sword: African Warrior Queens,” with Solange Ashby
- **Episode 7** “Women Get a Head: Gender and Other Weapons,” with Caryn Tamber-Rosenau
- **Episode 8** “Suffering Witches to Live: Jewish Women and the Legacies of Religious Law,” with Elizabeth Shanks Alexander
- **Episode 9** “In Her Own Words: Ancient Women Writers,” with Kate Cooper
- **Episode 10** “Out of Pandora’s Box, Recovering Hope,” with Deborah Lyons

SUMMER SEMINAR ON JEWISH LEGAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

For several years Princeton's Program in Judaic Studies has participated in a consortium with Yeshiva University's Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization. Other members of the consortium include Columbia University, The Jewish Theological University, New York University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University. The seminar was held in two parts this year. In June the consortium met at the University of Pennsylvania, and in December at Cardozo Law School. Fourteen students participated from the United States, Israel, and Europe.

The Summer Seminar on Jewish Legal and Political Thought was a wonderful opportunity to gain familiarity with competing accounts of what law is, how it works, and where law functions (or does not function) within political society. The purpose of the seminar is to equip graduate students in all areas of Jewish Studies to think carefully about law, an especially important lens for students of ancient Judaism since so much of our textual evidence for the period is legal in nature. The seminar gathered a range of graduate students from the United States and Israel, and the text-based discussions as well as informal conversations were excellent learning opportunities. I look forward to the second installment of the seminar in December.

ELIAV GROSSMAN, Graduate Student, Religion

The seminar was a marvelous opportunity to engage with top professors, meet like-minded students, and reflect on vital ideas and texts. Although I was among the younger participants, I felt well-prepared, to a significant extent thanks to a terrific Princeton seminar with Professor Batnitzky in fall 2019: "Topics in Modern Jewish Thought: Political Theory." It was a special treat for me, just a month after my Princeton graduation, to continue learning with Professor Batnitzky. The seminar helped clarify my thinking, notably with respect to the relationship between the Jewish tradition and 20th-century legal theory. I am now even more excited about pursuing a career in which my work frequently interfaces with my Judaic Studies background.

AVI SIEGAL, Class of 2022

Learning in the Seminar for Jewish Legal and Political Thought was a real game-changer for my research. A PhD student in modern Jewish philosophy with a particular interest in political thought and the philosophy of Halacha, I found the lectures by Leora, Suzanne, Yoni, and Ari extremely helpful to help me consider my research questions from new angles and perspectives. The seminar also provided me with an invaluable set of tools in legal theory, a field I was much less familiar with at the start of the seminar. Thanks to the readings, which were always compelling and enlightening, I now feel much more confident addressing this literature in my research project. I enjoyed our discussions around the coffee during the intermissions, and I look forward to implementing the important insight and perspectives I gained from them in my research. Last but not least, I met inspiring young scholars from diverse backgrounds with whom I look forward to staying in touch.



ANAËL MALET, Bar-Ilan University

2022 EVENTS

2022

3/15

AMERICAN SHTETL
THE MAKING OF KIRYAS JOEL,
A HASIDIC VILLAGE
IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

JEANNETTE KRIEGER AND HERMAN
D. MYTELKA MEMORIAL LECTURE

David W. Myers
Professor, Study and Learning Programs, Princeton University

March 15, 2022
4:30pm-6:00pm
\$25 Suggested Price

Nomi Stolzenberg
Professor, Institute for Jewish Studies, Princeton University

TO REGISTER: <https://www.princeton.edu/~judaic/academic-events/american-shtetl>

3/30

BIDERMAN LECTURE

Between Minorityhood and Futurelessness:
Political Pathology, Palestine, and Post-Diasporist
Reckoning in the Polish Jewish 1930s

KENNETH MOSS
Associate Professor of History, Princeton University

March 30, 2022
4:30pm-6:00pm
219 Aaron Burr Hall

4/27

BIDERMAN LECTURE

Is Justice Good?
Franz Kafka and Walter Benjamin Asked

PAUL NORTH
Deputy and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of German, Linguistics and Literature

April 27, 2022
4:30pm-6:00pm
219 Aaron Burr Hall

5/4

Heidegger and His Jewish Reception

A CONVERSATION WITH
DANIEL HERSHKOWITZ AND ED BARING

Daniel M. Herszkowitz
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Princeton University

May 4, 2022 | 4:30pm | 219 Aaron Burr Hall

Registration: <https://www.princeton.edu/~judaic/academic-events/heidegger>

9/13

THE ROSE AND ISAAC EBEL LECTURE

Casablanca International:
the Second World War, Jewish Politics, and the Moroccan Left

September 13, 2022
219 Aaron Burr Hall | 4:30pm

ALMA HECKMAN
Associate Professor of History, Princeton University

9/20

THE E. FRANKLIN ROBBINS/JUA-FEDERATION LECTURE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2022
219 Aaron Burr Hall
4:30pm

Ruth
A Migrant's Tale

ILANA FARDES
Associate Professor of Religion and the Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University

10/12

Of Plush Toys, Hope, and Sorrow:
Presenting Children's War Experiences in a Museum Setting

IULIIA SKUBYTKA
Assistant Professor of History, Princeton University

October 12
All Levels, 10:00am-12:00pm
4:30pm Lecture, Dinner to follow

10/24

JULIE COOPER
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Jewish Emancipation and Modern Theories of Citizenship

October 24
Department of Religion Lounge
Class of 1879 Hall
4:30pm

11/1

MYTELKA SCHOLAR SEMINAR

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED
Professor, Department of Philosophy and Hebrew Studies, Princeton University

Solomon Maimon's Political Theology

NOVEMBER 1
A17 Julius Romo Rabinowitz Building
4:30pm Lecture, Dinner to follow

11/2

JEANNETTE KRIEGER AND HERMAN D. MYTELKA MEMORIAL LECTURE

YITZHAK Y. MELAMED
Professor, Department of Philosophy and Hebrew Studies, Princeton University

Schopenhauer on Spinoza:
Animals and Evil

November 2
A17 Julius Romo Rabinowitz Building
4:30pm

11/15

THE STORY OF HOW THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT BECAME AN APPLE

TEMPTATION TRANSFORMED

NOVEMBER 15
A17 JULIUS ROMO RABINOWITZ BUILDING | 4:30PM

E. FRANKLIN ROBBINS/JUA-FEDERATION LECTURE

Azam Yudin-Israel
Professor of Jewish Studies, Ben-Gurion University

2023 EVENTS

2023

FEBRUARY 13, 2023

ANCIENT JUDAISM REGIONAL SEMINAR

Chancellor Green Rotunda

Organized by Adina Goldman and Eliav Grossman

MARCH 5-6, 2023

MODERN JEWISH THOUGHT WORKSHOP

Chancellor Green Rotunda

Organized by Profs. Leora Batnitzky and Randi Rashkover



MARCH 22, 2023

BIDERMAN LECTURE

Mira Balberg, Department of History,
University of California, San Diego

*What Moses Forgot: Memory Failures in
Late Ancient Rabbinic Judaism*

4:30 pm, A17 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building

OCTOBER 10-12, 2023

MYTELKA SHOLAR

Ronny Vollandt, Ludwig-Maximilians
University, Munich



OCTOBER 20, 2023

KWARTLER FAMILY LECTURE

Sarit Kattan Gribetz, Department of
Theology, Fordham University

*How did Helena of Adiabene Become
Queen of Jerusalem?*

4:30 pm, A17 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building

EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS



LEFT TO RIGHT:

- Top: Talk given by E. Franklin Robbins/UJA-Federation Lecturer Azzan Yadin-Israel (Rutgers University) Yaacob Dweck (History) and Leora Batnitzky (Religion)
- 2nd Row: Ebel Lecturer Alma Heckman (University of California, Santa Cruz) and Jonathan Gribetz (Princeton University) Burt Biderman, Biderman Lecture Paul North (Yale University), Mark Biderman '67 and Wendy Biderman
- 3rd Row: Iuliia Skubytksa (Judaic Studies) Ed Baring (UCHV) and Daniel Herskowitz (University of Oxford)
- Bottom: Rosalind and Art nold Mytelka '58 with Mytelka Scholars David Myers (University of California, Los Angeles) and Nomi Stolzenberg (University of Southern California)



EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS



LEFT TO RIGHT:

Top: Panel discussion with E. Franklin Robbins/UJA-Federation Lecturer Ilana Pardes (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem), with panel - Maya Kronfeld (Society of Fellows), Leora Batnitzky (Religion), Moulie Vidas (Religion) and Steven Weitzman (University of Pennsylvania)

Robin, Wendy and Mark Biderman '67 with Biderman Lecturer, Kenneth Moss (University of Chicago)

Middle: Rosalind and Arnold Mytelka '58 with Mytelka Scholar, Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins University)

Gabriel Citron (Religion)

Bottom: Ra'anán Boustán (Judaic Studies) and Eliav Grossman (Religion)

Elizabeth Li (UCHV)

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