I recently have been giving versions of a lecture that I frame with a story from "the old country" about a schlemiel who even when he does something right, is wrong. We seem to be predisposed to see the dark underside of even the brightest cloud. Jewish communal discourse focuses on the dangers of assimilation, antisemitism, and anti-Israel sentiment. Yet, we live in an era that by the yardstick of history, is probably the most objectively positive for Jews. I feel much the same about our field and the ASSJ.

There is much that is troubling about the current political and academic climate. We are intellectuals who search for truth in an era of disrespect for ideas and truthfulness. The gaps between the academic haves and have-nots seem to be growing, not shrinking. And, while most of us are part of a religious-ethnic tradition that places high value on the quality of our relationships, our behavior has not always matched our aspirations. Nevertheless, this is also an era of extraordinary advances in our social science methodology and a vast new set of channels to communicate and interact with one another. There has never been a moment when there was as much interest in our work and so much depended on it. Our surveys, ethnographies, and policy analyses are no longer only collect dust on bookshelves, but are the focus of discussion and debate within our research community and beyond.

I plead guilty to being an optimist, but I assure you it’s not characterological. Being critical comes far more naturally, and I have to strain a bit to see the good. What makes me an optimist is that I revel in challenges. Perhaps the one thing that we all might agree about is that these are challenging times. Yes, there are lots of difficulties, but within each is an opportunity. In my role as ASSJ President, I want to encourage us to embrace the challenge of using our expertise in the service of shedding intellectual light on the contemporary Jewish condition.
My hope for ASSJ is that we can become an even more effective community. A community of social scientists that supports one another and works collaboratively to further the understanding of Jewish life. Our central activities involve our journal, our book series, our listserv, our meetings-ways to share what we are learning with one another. Even if you don't accept the optimistic part of my take on the Jewish community and our field, perhaps it is even more important that you join with others to ensure that our scholarship furthers an understanding of our community that can lead to positive changes.

Although this has been a difficult year, your support of the ASSJ has been critical. Clearly, we have a lot of work to do-not only in developing and disseminating high-quality research but also in developing norms around gender equality, ethical conduct in research, and remedies for the inequities that exist across our field and the institutions in which we work.

I'm thankful to be in a position that allows me to work with each of you, with my students and colleagues at Brandeis, and with the broader Jewish community. I want to give special thanks to the members of the ASSJ board, particularly the officers-Sarah Benor, Matthew Boxer, and Jennifer Thompson. Special thanks to Sarah who is ending her service as vice president. And heartfelt appreciation to Ira Sheskin who has edited the newsletter for a decade and is stepping down.

I look forward to seeing you many of you at the AJS meeting in Boston. If you are there, be sure to attend the Sklare lecture on Sunday afternoon.

This will be my last Newsletter for the ASSJ. I have enjoyed my 10 years as editor and wish to thank all who made contributions to the Newsletter.

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**New Members**

*Welcome to our New Members*

Katie Light Soloway  
Boston University

Chaim Tureff  
Rabbi Jacob Pressman Academy
Upcoming Conferences

- American Jewish Historical Society, Philadelphia, 2020
- American Sociological Association, New York, August 10-13, 2019
- ASSJ at the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 15-17, 2019
- Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, University of British Columbia, June 2-4, 2019
- Association for Israel Studies, Kineret College on the Sea of Galilee, June 24-26, 2019.
- Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, August 11-13, 2019
- Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Boston, March 1-2, 2019
- Australian Association for Jewish Studies, Monash University, February 11-12, 2019
- Israeli Sociological Society, 2019
- Midwestern Jewish Studies Association,
- Network for Research in Jewish Education, Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago, Jun 17-18, 2019
- Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Toronto, May 21-23, 2019
- Southern Jewish Historical Society, 2019
- Western Jewish Studies Association, California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus, May 5-6, 2019
- World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, 2021
- Latin American Jewish Studies Association, UCLA, June 3-4, 2019

Editor’s Note: Not all organizations announce the place and time of their conferences well in advance. If the next conference was not yet listed, I have simply listed the year when the next conference will occur.
Keren McGinity as one of the Forward 50 for 2018

The Forward 50 lists the American Jews who have had a profound impact on the American Jewish community or on the national situation each year.

Giving A Jewish Response To #MeToo
“There needs to be a Jewish response to the #MeToo movement.”

That was the clarion call from Jewish Studies professor Keren McGinity detailing some of the harassment she had personally suffered in the Jewish institutional world.

A gender historian who specializes in the changing meanings and experiences of Jewish intermarriage, her story was no less forceful for the irony that one of the few times in which converts, intermarried women and Jewish women are treated similarly is when they are being sexually harassed.

The original op-ed in the New York Jewish Week was both an account of an anonymous harasser and a broader call for self-searching on a communal level:

*If we want to create positive cultural change for ourselves and for our daughters, women must speak out and the Jewish community must act.*

In the days that followed, it became clear — especially through the reporting of Hannah Dreyfus — that McGinity’s harasser was Steven M. Cohen, a hitherto widely-respected and cited expert on Jewish demography. Several other women accused him of significant improprieties, leading to his apology and resignation.
The admission brought into question the profoundly influential work that Cohen had done for the Jewish community over decades. Had his attitude toward women colored his understanding of continuity?

Many institutions which had used his expertise regularly — including this one — cut ties with him as Cohen retreated to do teshuva for his abuses.

But McGinity’s larger, communal, point is still in play. She has set an example by serving on the Sexual Misconduct Task Force of the Association for Jewish Studies, but until we, as a community, craft a meaningful response to the #MeToo moment, we are all guilty of endangering our daughters’ future. ☛

— Dan Friedman

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**Opportunity for PhD Students Studying Religion and Philanthropy**

**2019-2020 Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship opportunity**

The Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship supports the last year of dissertation research that engages issues within religion & philanthropy or faith & giving. Applicants representing all fields of study are encouraged to apply; $25,000 award for the Lake Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship.

The link to the application, along with more information regarding the fellowship, can be found here on our website: [www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/fellowship](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/fellowship)

Applications are now being accepted until January 15, 2019. ☛

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**Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Jewish Experience - Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Denver**

The Center for Judaic (CJS) and its Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society (RMJHS) are seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Jewish Experience with a preferred start date of January 7, 2019 (the start of our AY 18-19 Winter quarter). This is a two-year position, contingent on successful performance. The Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Jewish Experience (the Fellow) teaches 3 courses per year cross-listed between Judaic Studies, and at least one other discipline within the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS). Courses can vary but are expected to bring interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the American Jewish experience to the CAHSS curriculum. The Fellow is also expected to engage the Beck Archives and other regional primary resources in her or his research and classrooms, as well as to work (with CJS support staff) to organize 1-2 public events or projects each year (e.g. lectures, salons, podcasts). The Fellow will also help us develop creative local and national partnerships that help strengthen our educational mission. ☛
The American Jewish Year Book is published by Springer with the cooperation of The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. Edited by Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin.

Part I of the 2018 volume to be published in January 2019 contains two chapters on The Quality of American Jewish Life with more than 20 authors. Chapter 3 is Anti-Semitism in Contemporary America by Tom W. Smith and Benjamin Shapiro, followed by American Jews and the Domestic Arena (Steven Windmueller), American Jews and the International Arena (Mitchell Bard), United States Jewish Population, 2018 (Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky), Canadian Jewish Population, 2018 (Charles Shahar) and World Jewish Population, 2018 (Sergio DellaPergola).

Part II contains up-to-date listings of Jewish Federations, Jewish Community Centers, Jewish human service agencies, national Jewish organizations, Jewish overnight camps, Jewish museums, Holocaust museums, Israeli consulates, national Jewish periodicals and broadcast media, local Jewish periodicals, Jewish studies programs, holocaust and genocide studies programs, Israel studies programs, as well as Jewish social work programs in institutions of higher education, books, journals, and scholarly articles on the North American Jewish communities, websites and organizations for research on North American Jewry, and major Judaic research and holocaust research libraries. Finally, the volume contains a list of major events in the North American Jewish communities, a list of persons honored by the Jewish and general communities, and obituaries for the past year.

ASSJ members and others ordering through Arnie Dashefsky, can take advantage of the bulk rate price of $79.95 (inclusive of shipping). The price from Springer is $180.

See the two page flyer at the end of this Newsletter.

The first five issues of the Year Book (2012-2017 have 25,100 chapter downloads from the Springer website. Thanks to all of our authors! ☺
News from Members

Arnold Dashefsky
University of Connecticut

Book

Article

Panel Organizer/Presider

Sarah Bunin Benor
Hebrew Union College

Book:

This book offers sociological and structural descriptions of language varieties used in over 2 dozen Jewish communities around the world, along with synthesizing and theoretical chapters. Language descriptions focus on historical development, contemporary use, regional and social variation, structural features, and Hebrew/Aramaic loanwords. The book covers commonly researched language varieties, like Yiddish, Judeo-Spanish, and Judeo-Arabic, as well as less commonly researched ones, like Judeo-Tat, Jewish Swedish, and Hebraized Amharic in Israel today. (See flyer at the back of this Newsletter.)

Other publications:
Steven Gold
Michigan State University

Edited Book Chapter

Book Review

Paper Presentations
● Adaptation and Identity Formation in the Israeli Diaspora, Israel at 70: Critical Perspectives on Diaspora Relations, Identity and Antisemitism, Koschitzky Centre October 7-8, 2018. York University, Toronto, Canada.

Ariela Keysar
Trinity College

Paper Presentations
● "The Evolution of North American Jews' Relations with Israel from Adolescence to Adulthood: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class of 5755," A Symposium: Israel at 70: Critical Perspectives on Diaspora Relations, Identity and Anti-Semitism, York University Toronto, Canada, October 7-9, 2018
● "Value Preferences in Young Adults: Loneliness, Religiosity, Gender and Culture in 14 Cultures," Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, October 26-28, 2018 (with Benjamin Beit-Hallahmi and Mika Lassander)
● Winter Seminar, Louisville Institute, January 23-25, 2019

Guest Co-Editor

Research in Progress
● U.S. Principal Investigator, Young adults and religion in a global perspective, YARG, 2015-2018.

Barry A. Kosmin
Trinity College

For those of you interested in the wider diaspora I attach an infographic highlighting the main findings of an on-line survey of European Jewish leaders (28 countries & 10 languages) I recently directed. The full report is available at:

Roberta Kwall
DePaul University College of Law

My review of Chaim Saiman's book Halakhah: The Rabbinic Idea of Law was published in Commentary Magazine. Here is the link:
https://www.commentarymagazine.com/articles/funny-don't-look-yeshivish/
● In October I spoke at Elon Law School in North Carolina about "Female Personhood and Consent in Jewish Marriage."
● Also in October I presented at the Midwest Jewish Studies Association Conference on "Sex, Consent and Marriage Jewish Style."
Judit Bokser Liwerant
Senior Full Time Professor of Political Science at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico (UNAM).

Publications

- Past and Present of Latin American Jewry: a conceptual path. The Marshal Sklare Award, Contemporary Jewry
- The 1968's Movements: Emerging Transnationalism and World -System Waves, with Federico Saracho, Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales, N.234,
- Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in a global world. A view from Latin America. An End to Antisemitism The Kantor Center, University of Vienna. (submitted)
- Antisemitism, anti-Israelism and Anti-Zionism as contemporary and historical discursive forms, with Yael Siman, Anahuac University Anthology on Human Rights.
- Latin American Jews. Changing horizons and new challenges, Annual Assessment, Jerusalem, Jewish People Policy Institute, 2018

Presentations

- International Conference "An End to Anti-Semitism", organized by the University of Vienna, the Kantor Center of University of Tel Aviv February 18th-22nd 2018, at the University of Vienna. Paper presented: Anti-Semitism in a global world. A view from Latin America.
- International Conference on Secularization, "The Politization of the Sacred and the Sacralization of Politics, The Institute of Juridical Research, Mexico, UNAM, April 23-27

Paper presented: Religion, Politics and the Public Sphere ( in process for its publication)
- Academic dialogues on Populism and Religion, University of Culiacán, April 29-30
- Third National and First Iberoamerican Congress of Scientific Journals, UNAM, May

Paper: Social sciences facing globalization
- International Conference "Challenging links and communal recognition" Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, Buenos Aires, June 2018
- Paper presented: Borders, Plural Identities and communal orders: Latin America in a Transnational World

XIX International ISA World Congress of Sociology, "Power Violence and Justice", Toronto, July 15-21
- Organizer and presenter: session "Prejudice, exclusion and violence in a transnational world"
- Paper: Antisemitism in a transnational world: recurrences and changes.
- International Encounter of the Social Sciences, International Book Fair, Guadalajara November 30
- Session: The Decline of Democracy. The Disenchantment with Democracy Debated
- International Encounter of the Social Sciences. FIL, November 30
- Session: 1968 in the World, November 28
Teaching activities
● Doctoral Research Seminar -(First and second semester 2017-2018)
● Renewing the Social Sciences. A political sociology for the 21 century: Multiple modernities, globalization and transnationalism revisited.

Doctoral Thesis
● Concluded and approved, Public Instances of Human Rights in Mexico as an expression of Democratic Institutionalization (1990-2010)
Emilio Álvarez Icaza Longoria.
● In progress:
  ● Social memory of the Holocaust in Mexico. An analysis of the museography production, Bertha Mendlovic Pasol.
  ● State racism and migration. human rights violation- migrants from Central America crossing Mexican territory" Agustín Morales Mena.
  ● A model for analyzing identity reconfiguration in migrants of the 1.5 generation in multicultural societies, Adjani Gabriela Tovar Pimentel.

Conferences
● On Democracy facing the challenges of populism and nationalism, International Seminar, UNAM, April 2018
● Encounter on 1968: a year of changes, El Colegio de México, September
● Latin America Seminar of Youth Movements in Latin America, Bitui, Conference: Analyzing Youth movements in the 21 Century, October
● Academic Encounter Freedom of Knowledge, Freedom for Knowledge, México, El Colegio Nacional, October
Conferences: Racism and Intolerance in Mexico
● Launching of the Book Jews and Jewish Communities in Latin America, Bejarano, Topel et al eds. Bar Ilan University, October
Conference: Changing Jewish identities, communal order and social spaces
● Conversatorium on 1968, with the authors of the issue 1968: 50 years later, Mexican Journal of Political and Social Sciences, November
● Launching of the Book: Knowledge and Power, Alejandra Salas Porras, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, November

Editorial
● Member of the International Scientific Committee of recently founded Journal Violence, Maison des Sciences de L'Homme.

Keren McGinity
Brandeis University and Hebrew College

Publications
● "From the December Dilemma to the December Delights," Jewish Educator Journal, Fall 2018.
● "Why It Was So Hard to Say #MeToo And What I Learned When I Finally Did," AJS Perspectives, Fall/Winter 2018 (forthcoming).
Presentations

- "#MeToo in Sacred Spaces" Religion News Association, Columbus, OH, September 14, 2018.

Teaching

- Graduate Course, "Jewish Intermarriage in the Modern American Context," Hebrew College

Randal F. Schnoor
York University


Ira Sheskin
University of Miami, Geography and Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies

Publications


Presentations

Jennifer Thompson
California State University, Northridge

- This year I was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in my position as Maurice Amado Professor of Applied Jewish Ethics and Civic Engagement in the Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Program at California State University, Northridge. I am working on a book about the Jewish affiliations of secular and self-identified “unconventional” Jews, based on ethnographic fieldwork at the High Holiday services at the Laugh Factory comedy club in Hollywood, the Sholem Community in Los Angeles, and Jewish genealogical societies in Los Angeles and abroad. I’m also leading a team of scholars from across the U.S. studying the experience of women scholars in Jewish studies, and consulting on Denver’s Jewish community study and the Pat Brown Institute of Cal State L.A.’s political poll of Los Angeles Jews. Additionally, I’m developing resources for a secular Jewish sexual ethics and sexuality education program for parents and adolescents.

Mark Trencher
Nishma Research

Presentations
- "Leaving the Fold: Dissent from Communal Authority in the Orthodox World" in October, at Creighton University’s 31st Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization - Authority and Dissent in Jewish Life, in Omaha, NE.
- Mark also presented findings from Nishma's Research ("The Revolving Door - Why Some People Come to Orthodoxy While Others Leave" and "10 Surprising Findings About American Modern Orthodox Jewry") at a number of synagogues: Young Israel of West Hartford, CT; Young Israel of New Rochelle, NY; Prospect Heights Shul, Brooklyn, NY; Congregation Kol Israel, Brooklyn, NY; Congregation Anshe Chesed, Linden, NJ; Congregation BIAV, Overland Park, KS; Young Israel of Northridge, Los Angeles, CA; and Denver Academy of Torah, Denver, CO.

🔗
ASSJ Sklare Award

The Marshall Sklare Award is an annual honor of the Association for the Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ). The ASSJ seeks to recognize "a senior scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry." In most cases, the recipient has given a scholarly address. In recent years, the honored scholar has presented the address at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies. The award is named in memory of the "founding father of American Jewish sociology" Marshall Sklare (1912-1992), who had been Klutznick Family Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies and Sociology at Brandeis University.

Sklare Award Winners

1992 Sidney Goldstein (Brown, demography)
1993 Seymour Martin Lipset (Hoover Institute and George Mason University, sociology)
1994 Celia Heller (NYU, history)
1995 Daniel Elazar (Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, Temple University, and Bar Ilan University, political science)
1996 Samuel Klausner (University of Pennsylvania, sociology)
1997 Walter Zenner (SUNY at Albany, anthropology)
1998 Bernard Reisman (Brandeis, communal service)
1999 Sergio DellaPergola (Hebrew University, demography)
2000 Charles Liebman (Bar Ilan, political science)
2001 Calvin Goldscheider (Brown, sociology and demography)
2002 Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis, history)
2003 Samuel Heilman (CUNY, sociology)
2004 Egon Mayer (Brooklyn College, sociology)
2005 Elihu Katz (University of Pennsylvania and Hebrew University, communications)
2006 Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan, history)
2007 Barry Chiswick (University of Illinois at Chicago, economics)
2008 Paul Ritterband (Haifa University, sociology)
2009 Charles Kadushin (Brandeis, sociology)
2010 Steven M. Cohen (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion)
2011 Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota, anthropology)
2012 Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University, social psychology)
2013 Morton Weinfield (McGill University, sociology)
2014 Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis, sociology)
2015 Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (NYU, performance studies)
2016 Bruce Phillips (HUC/USC, sociology)
2017 Judit Bokser Liwerant (Political Science, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico)
2018 Arnold M. Eisen (Jewish Theological Seminary) 😊
This year's ASSJ Marshall Sklare Award will be given to Prof. Arnold M. Eisen, Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Prof. Arnold Eisen ("Arnie" to his many friends) bridges the fields of Modern Jewish Thought and the social scientific study of religion. As an eminent scholar, he is a widely recognized authority on religious change and the modern transformation of Jewish religious belief and practice. As an influential and pioneering religious and communal leader in American Judaism, he reflects his beliefs that American Jews feel connected to Jewish ritual, practice, and community, but at the same time maintain their autonomy deciding how, when, where and why to engage in Jewish life.

In a way that few others have done, he has drawn upon the corpus of Jewish thought to conceptualize American Judaism, Jewish community, and identity and to suggest how we can adapt to the challenges of modernity. The breadth of his work extends well beyond Jewish thought per se. His scholarship is attuned to the nuances, diversity, and complexities of contemporary American Jewish life, and he co-authored a pivotal study in American Jewish identity drawing upon theory, in-depth qualitative interviews, and survey evidence. *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America* argued that communal loyalties and norms no longer shape Jewish identity as powerfully as they did several decades ago. The book's personal narratives and analysis of "moderately affiliated" American Jews in their younger adult years, coupled with survey data, raised important questions for all those concerned with the meaning and future of Judaism in American life.

In one of his early works, *The Chosen People in America*, Eisen richly charts the attempts of American Jewish thinkers to adapt the changing notion of chosenness to an American context. Through an astute examination of sermons, essays, debates, prayer-book revisions, and theological literature, Eisen traces the ways in which American rabbis and theologians effected a compromise between exclusivity and participation that allowed Jews to adapt to American life while simultaneously enhancing Jewish tradition and identity.

In *Rethinking Modern Judaism*, he called for a fundamental rethinking of the story of modern Judaism. The wide-ranging volume explores the central role that practice plays in Judaism's encounter with modernity.

His body of work over the decades is characterized not only in creative insight and depiction. It also illuminates innovative policy directions and practice implications for American Jewry and American Judaism. He most explicitly does so in *Taking Hold of Torah*, where he asks and addresses critical questions: What is the meaning and purpose of Jewish tradition? What is the significance of faith and covenant? What are the contemporary uses of ritual? What should a new agenda for politics in American Jewish life include? What legacy is to be left to future generations?

His numerous awards include:
Koret Prize, 1999, for outstanding contributions to the Jewish community
National Jewish Book Award, Koret Foundation, 1998, for *Rethinking Modern Judaism*
National Jewish Book Award, 1987, for *Galut*

In 2006, Eisen was appointed as the seventh Chancellor of The Jewish Theological Seminary, Arnie is the second non-rabbi to hold this post. He is also the first person with a social science background to serve as Chancellor.

Before coming to JTS, Eisen served in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University and as its Chair. Prior to that, he taught in the Department of Jewish Philosophy at Tel Aviv University, and the Department of Religion at Columbia University. While at Stanford, he was the Koshland Professor of Jewish Culture and Religion.

In addition, Dr. Eisen sits on the board of directors of the Tanenbaum Center, the Covenant Foundation, and the Taube Foundation.

**Selected Publications**

**Books**
- *Taking Hold of Torah: Jewish Commitment and Community in America* (Indiana University Press, 1997)

**Articles**


The Mandell L. Berman Service Award is given periodically to a civic or business leader or an academic for a career of distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jews either through service or financial support of such research. Named for a great philanthropist and supporter of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and various other research entities, the Berman Service Award recognizes the work of leaders in many sectors of the Jewish community whose efforts have advanced the social science of Jewry.

Berman Award Winners

2010 Mandell “Bill” Berman Lifetime Achievement Award
2011 Irene and Eddie Kaplan (Washington, DC)
2012 Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut, Storrs, Sociology)
2013 Rela Mintz Geffen, Gratz College
2015 Barry Shrage, CJP, Greater Boston’s Jewish Federation
2017 Ambassador Stuart E. Eizenstat 

Bill Berman
The ASSJ

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is a cross-disciplinary organization whose research concerns the Jewish people throughout the world.

The ASSJ encourages and facilitates contact among researchers, supports the dissemination of research, and assists in the cultivation of younger scholars.

The organization's journal, Contemporary Jewry, is issued three times per year. All social science disciplines are represented, including anthropology, demography, economics, geography, history, Jewish education, political science, social psychology, social work, and sociology.

Our members are primarily academics, but also policy analysts, communal professionals and activists, and are engaged in a wide range of scholarly activity, applied research, and the links between them.

www.assj.org

ASSJ Executive Board

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Judit Bokser Liwerant, National Autonomous University of Mexico

**Australia-New Zealand representative**
David Graham, University of Sydney, Australia and Institute of Jewish Policy Research (UK)

**Student representative**
Mijal Bitton, New York University
The ASSJ Book Series, Studies of Jews in Society, has recently undergone several changes. We have moved from the University of Nebraska Press to Springer Publications. The Springer site is still under revision to reflect the changes.

Focused on social scientific studies of Jewry, the series takes a broad perspective on "social science," to include anthropology, communications, demography, economics, education, ethnography, geography, history, politics, population, social psychology, and sociology. Books may rely on quantitative methods, qualitative methods, or both. The series is directed to social scientists and general scholars in Jewish studies as well as those generally interested in religion and ethnicity; academics who teach Jewish studies; undergraduates and graduate students in Jewish studies, sociologists interested in religion and ethnicity; communal professionals and lay leaders who deal with Jewish organizations and individuals. The style, rigorous scientifically, is accessible to a general audience. Springer offers a 40% discount to registered members of the ASSJ, making the series more competitive in price than most commercial publishers.

"The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is proud to announce the publication of Jewish Population and Identity: Concept and Reality - In honor of Sidney Goldstein, edited by Sergio DellaPergola and Uzi Rebhun of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This is the first in the new Springer series on Studies of Jews in Society. Using demographic methods, the book is an important source for understanding Jewish life in the past and present, covering a rich array of topics with a broad range of scholarly approaches by 17 leading international experts.

"The study of world and local Jewish populations provides an important contribution to the study of religious and ethnic groups. It documents patterns of population change but also engages with the ever-present issue of "Who is a Jew?" deeply delving into the nature, boundaries, and qualities of Jewish corporate identification.

"Through state-of-the-art analytical methods, the authors use new censuses and surveys as well as historical sources that have recently become accessible. While some of the findings point to consistency in Jewish demographic and identification patterns, others show new trends in intergenerational change as well as the diversity of religious and ethnic orientations within Jewish communities.

"Following the editors' introduction, the 14 chapters are divided into six sections: Jewish family and intermarriage; Jewish identity: a view from the United States; Jewish identity: a view from Israel; Migration and demographic change: Latin America; Migration and demographic change: Eastern Europe; and Historical demography.


The series has a new editor, Charles Kadushin (kadushin@brandeis.edu) and an enlarged board of editors who will assist the editor in setting policies and reviewing book projects:

Sara Benor
Judit Bokser Liwerant
Matt Boxer
Jonathan Boyd
Paul Burstein
Barry Chiswick
Carmel Chiswick

Sergio DellaPergola
Rela Gefen
Zvi Gitelman
Calvin Goldscheider
Harriet Hartman
Samuel Heilman
Debra Kaufman
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Shaul Kelner  
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett  
Lilach Lev Ari  
Riv-Ellen Prell  
Uzi Rebhun  
Jonathan Sarna

Ted Sasson  
Leonard Saxe  
Ira Sheskin  
Chaim Waxman

Contents of Jewish Population and Identity

- Patterns and Structure of Social Identification: Uruguayan Jewish Migrants to Israel and Other Countries, 1948–2010 by Shorer-Kaplan, Maya, Pages 117-141.
- The Jewish State and State Judaism: An Economic Perspective by Chiswick, Carmel U., Pages 143-150.
- The Jewish Population of Buenos Aires according to the National Census of 1895: Confirmations, Disagreements and New Findings by Rubel, Yaacov, Pages 153-171.
- The Emigration of Polish Jews in the 1930s by Cherniavsky, Irith, Pages 195-211.
- Post-Soviet Jewish Demographic Dynamics: An Analysis of Recent Data by Tolts, Mark, Pages 213-229.
- Sources of the Eighteenth Century General Jewish Censuses of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Their Applicability to Historical Demography Research by Šiauciunaitė-Verbickienė, Jurgita, Pages 233-247.
- The First General Jewish Census in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Socio-economic Characteristics of the Karaite and Rabbanite Communities (1764–65) by Troskovaite, Docile, Pages 249-262.
Contemporary Jewry, the journal of the ASSJ since 1975, serves as the single source for the social scientific consideration of world Jewry, its institutions, trends, character, and concerns. In its pages can be found work by leading scholars and important new researchers from around the world. While much relevant scholarship about Jewry is published in general social science journals, as well as more narrowly focused periodicals, no other single scholarly journal focuses primarily on the social scientific study of Jewry. The distinguished editorial board reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal.

Contemporary Jewry CFP: Analysis and Reflection on the Social Scientific Study of Jewry: The State of our Field and Suggestions for its Future

The active exchange of reflection and introspection this summer among members of ASSJ, the Association of the Social Scientific Study of Jewry—and beyond—began an important process that Contemporary Jewry would like to continue in a special forum focused on our-broadly defined-field of social science research. Contemporary Jewry invites scholarly analysis of our field, both within and outside of the academy, including (but not limited to) analytical arguments about:

- the causes and consequences of gender imbalances in power, authority and voice (who chooses what to study, how to study it, and what counts as important, as but one set of issues);
- gender as a focus but no less important issues related to sexual orientation, race/ethnicity/nationality, and/or ability/merit;
- research ethics (including human subjects issues and whose responsibility this is);
- empirical data documenting women’s and other minorities’ place within the public sphere (e.g., inequities in pay, prestige, positions);
- ethical responses to unethical procedures and/or conduct

While analytical thought pieces will be considered, preference will be given to those that ground analysis in previous scholarship whenever possible. Visions of innovation and reform will be considered, with preference given to those which are evidence-based rather than purely speculative.

All submissions will be peer-reviewed, according to the regular processes of the journal.

We welcome shorter-than-average submissions (5,000-7,000 words), though exceptions may be made. Clarity of focus, appropriate scholarly grounding of analysis, representation of diverging viewpoints, and insightful suggestions will be among the criteria for selection. Shorter contributions which contain insightful reflection and/or suggestions for the future conduct of our field will be considered as well.

Interested contributors are welcome to submit an initial abstract for feedback, though this is not a requirement.

All manuscripts should be submitted to the Contemporary Jewry editorial manager by February 1, 2019, designated as S.I.: Analysis and Reflection.
For details on the submission process, please see

Address all inquiries to:
Harriet Hartman, editor-in-chief of Contemporary Jewry, hartman@rowan.edu

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The Berman Jewish DataBank

The Berman Jewish DataBank has launched a newly-designed website. The new DataBank has a cleaner and more consistent look across the site, and it organizes our materials neatly into six major categories: U.S. National, U.S. Local, U.S. Topical, Canada, Global and Resources. The new site also provides a robust search function, and it has the capacity to grow seamlessly as our holdings and functionality expand. The DataBank continues to be linked to the Berman Jewish Policy Archive and the Jewish Survey Question Bank, providing users with the resources of three sites in one.

As we move to the new website, we also want to highlight several recent additions to our holdings, including:

- Reports on the 2017 U.S., Canadian and global Jewish populations, originally published in the American Jewish Year Book
- Materials from local Jewish community studies in Detroit, the San Francisco Bay Area, Buffalo, Nashville, Seattle, Washington, DC, Pittsburgh and Naples
- The 2018 American Jewish Committee survey of U.S. and Israeli Jews

We hope the new DataBank website and our ever-growing collection of materials serve you well, and we are eager to hear your feedback. We welcome comments, questions and suggestions at info@jewishdatabank.org, or feel free to write to me directly.

We also hope that you will join us for a panel session on Antisemitism in Contemporary America at the upcoming Association for Jewish Studies conference, co-sponsored by the DataBank and the American Jewish Year Book. The session is scheduled for Sunday, December 16 at 12:30 p.m. Lastly, while there is much that is new at the DataBank, some things remain unchanged. One is our commitment to the DataBank’s mission. A second is our sense of responsibility to our stakeholders. And a third is our gratitude to the commissioning organizations and researchers who archive their data, reports and other study materials at the DataBank. Without their contributions, our work would not be possible.

Contact the Databank
DataBank users can contact the DataBank at info@jewishdatabank.org and can sign up for the DataBank's email list on the bottom of every page of the DataBank website.

From Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Ph.D.
Director, Berman Jewish DataBank
Senior Director, Research and Analysis
The Jewish Federations of North America ☺
The Berman Jewish DataBank

congratulates

Ira Sheskin
on 10 years as editor of the ASSJ Newsletter!

Many thanks, Ira!
Authors and ASSJ members cited below:

Leonard Saxe, Director CMJS/SSRI, Klutznick Professor of Contemporary Jewish Studies
Matthew Boxer, Assistant Research Professor
Matthew Brookner, Graduate Research Associate
Fern Chertok, Research Scientist
Charles Kadushin, Distinguished Scholar CMJS
Janet Krasner Aronson, Associate Director CMJS
Rachel Minkin, Research Associate
Michelle Shain, Associate Research Scientist

Book Chapter

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Commentaries


General Social Survey

The General Social Survey (GSS) is announcing its module competition for proposals to add items to the 2020 GSS. The submission deadline is January 30th. Details can be found at http://gss.norc.org/Documents/other/GSS%20Call%20for%20Proposals%202020.pdf

Tom W. Smith
NORC at the University of Chicago
1155 East 60th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

CFP: Seeking Articles on Gender, Sexuality, and Judaism (for the journal G’vanim)

by Matthew NYU

The Academy for Jewish Religion is seeking potential articles for the next volume of our journal, G’vanim: The Journal of the Academy for Jewish Religion, which will be dedicated to the topic of "Gender, Sexuality, and Judaism." Contributions may consider the topic from any historical period and from any rigorous methodology. To be considered for publication in this volume, abstracts for articles must be received by December 28, 2018. If approved, complete articles of 1500-5000 words in length will be due March 1, 2019. Authors are invited to submit abstracts of 250-500 words for potential articles to the current editor, Dr. Matthew Goldstone (mgoldstone@ajrsem.org) for review.
Members in the News

Keren McGinity

- "#WeToo" Blog by President and Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, Hebrew College, June 22, 2018
  https://blog.hebrewcollege.edu/wetoo/
- "Famous Abusers Seek Easy Forgiveness," by Danya Ruttenberg, Washington Post, Sept. 6, 2018
  https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/famous-abusers-seek-easy-forgiveness-rosh-hashana-
  h-teaches-us-repentance-is-hard/2018/09/06/c2dc2cac-b0ab-11e8-9a6a-565d92a3585d_story.
  html?utm_term=.6a7c2b288c98
- "What's the Best Way to Say #MeToo?" by Lara Moehlman, MOMENT magazine, Sept. 13, 2018
  https://jwa.org/podcasts/canwetalk/episode-24-archiving-metoo
- "Interfaith Families Increasingly Jewish" NYJW/Times of Israel, Nov. 21, 2018
  https://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/interfaith-families-increasingly-jewish

Mellon Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Women's and Gender Studies

The Programs in Jewish Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at Vanderbilt University
invite applications for the position of Mellon Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Judaism beginning in the 2019 fall semester. This is a non-tenure-track position with a 3-year appointment. We are seeking a scholar working on women and Judaism in global or transnational contexts from a comparative perspective, in a range of fields including, but not limited to, anthropology, religious studies, and political science.

The successful candidate will have a strong research agenda in Jewish Studies and women and/or gender, and/or sexuality. PhD required; teaching experience preferred. In addition, in accordance with Mellon Foundation guidelines, applicants must have received the Ph.D. no more than four years from the start of the position. Teaching load 2/2. For more information on our programs please visit the program websites at www.vanderbilt.edu.

Applications, including cover letter, CV, writing sample, teaching philosophy (and evidence of effectiveness), and three letters of reference should be submitted. Review of applications will begin on February 15, 2019. Apply here: https://apply.interfolio.com/57501
This book offers sociological and structural descriptions of language varieties used in over 2 dozen Jewish communities around the world, along with synthesizing and theoretical chapters. Language descriptions focus on historical development, contemporary use, regional and social variation, structural features, and Hebrew/Aramaic loanwords. The book covers commonly researched language varieties, like Yiddish, Judeo-Spanish, and Judeo-Arabic, as well as less commonly researched ones, like Judeo-Tat, Jewish Swedish, and Hebraized Amharic in Israel today.

**Benjamin Hary**, NYU Tel Aviv, Israel; **Sarah Bunin Benor**, Hebrew Union College, USA

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LIKE EVERYONE ELSE BUT DIFFERENT, Second Edition
The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jews
By Morton Weinfeld
with Randal F. Schnoor and Michelle Shames

A timely analysis of the possibilities and challenges of multiculturalism
as seen in the iconic case of Canada's Jewish community.

Liberal democratic societies with diverse populations generally offer minorities two usually contradictory objectives: the first is equal integration and participation; the second is an opportunity, within limits, to retain their culture. Yet Canadian Jews are successfully integrated into all domains of Canadian life, while at the same time they also seem able to retain their distinct identities by blending traditional religious values and rituals with contemporary cultural options.

Like Everyone Else but Different illustrates how Canadian Jews have created a space within Canada's multicultural environment that paradoxically overcomes the potential dangers of assimilation and diversity. At the same time, this comprehensive and data-driven study documents and interprets new trends and challenges including rising rates of intermarriage, newer progressive religious options, finding equal space for women and LGBTQ Jews, tensions between non-Orthodox and Orthodox Jews, and new forms of real and perceived anti-Semitism often related to Israel or Zionism, on campus and elsewhere.

The striking feature of the Canadian Jewish community is its diversity. While this diversity can lead to cases of internal conflict, it also offers opportunities for adaptation and survival. Seventeen years after its first publication, this new edition of Like Everyone Else but Different provides definitive updates that blend research studies, survey and census data, newspaper accounts and articles, and the author's personal observations and experiences to provide an informative, provocative, and fascinating account of Jewish life and multiculturalism in contemporary Canada.

"Undoubtedly the most important study of Canadian Jewish life in a generation."
—Harold Troper

"There should be a book like this for any and all groups that make up Canadian society. Meanwhile, read this one. You will laugh a little, think a lot, and learn why no one will ever write the last word on the Jews of Canada — though Morton Weinfeld comes close."
—Desmond Morton

"An outstanding analysis of Canadian Jewish life today, written with verve and humour and accessible to all."
—Gerald Tulchinsky

Morton Weinfeld is professor of sociology and holds the chair in Canadian Ethnic Studies at McGill University.

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