I sometimes quip that I was born a social psychologist. My frame of the world is one in which each of our perceptions are shaped by the events and people around us. We live in contentious times, when civil discourse is drowned out by nasty rhetoric, intractable conflict has become normative, and individualism has displaced collective concerns. Although we are affected by broader social dysfunction -- as well as issues specific to the Jewish community -- my hope is that ASSJ can remain a place where we can constructively interact and support one another’s work.

One of these efforts addresses a fundamental concern for our field: inequities in opportunities and resources available to members. I am working to expand support for graduate students, non-institutionally affiliated scholars, as well as those who live outside of North America, to participate in the AJS and other ASSJ-sponsored meetings. As well, we are trying to acquire the resources to develop a small grants program to help members develop and disseminate new research. To date, we have received two wonderful gifts ($10k each) and, pending approval of a gift acceptance policy, I hope to attract other funding. In addition, a database of researchers and skills has been developed (under the leadership of Sarah Benor and in collaboration with NRJE; see https://nrje.org/experts/). We have also reinstated our graduate student travel grant program for AJS. When program acceptance letters are sent by AJS, we will send out a call for applications for travel grants.

A second effort is our development of an ethics code. Although many of us are part of disciplinary professional associations that promulgate ethics codes, it is clear that ASSJ needs its own statement. Developing a statement will provoke discussion among us about our ethical commitments and the code can serve as a powerful tool to deal with the organizations that support and use our research.
A committee headed by Jennifer Thompson has drafted a code. The Board, with some wider input, will work through the document over the next several months. My goal is to have a document ready for formal approval in December at AJS.

Regarding AJS, to be held in San Diego, the program is taking final form. As has already been announced, Harriet Hartman is our Sklare Awardee and her paper is entitled, “Gender Still Matters, Perhaps More than Ever.” It will be an opportunity for us to have a nuanced discussion of gender issues, focused both on our research community and in the Jewish world, writ large. As well, there will be a dozen panels and roundtables focused on social science. I realize that San Diego is a schlep for many of us on the East Coast, but I hope that many of you will be able to attend. Along with the Sklare lecture, we’re trying to organize another opportunity for ASSJers to gather.

This message is written in the first person, but I couldn’t accomplish very much without collaboration. In particular, I want to note my partnership with Judit Bokser Liwerant, Vice President. She’s been both an interlocutor and instrumental in moving our planning efforts forward. I also want to acknowledge Matt Boxer, who as Treasurer, has handled many of the details of maintaining the Association. Appreciation is owed, as well, to our editors Harriet Hartman (Contemporary Jewry) and Charles Kadushin (book series). They are doing the demanding and intensive work of ensuring that our work is disseminated. Thanks, as well, to the other officers and Board members who have helped to make our decision-making a truly collective process.

Finally, as will be evident from the Newsletter you are reading, special thanks to Laura Limonic for assuming the editorship.

L’shalom,

Len
## IN THIS ISSUE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President’s Message</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Members</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Conferences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News from Members</td>
<td>5-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members in the News</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ASSJ</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSJ Book Series</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Jewry</td>
<td>19-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Berman Jewish Data Bank</td>
<td>22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Jewish Policy Research</td>
<td>24-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cohen Center/Steinhardt</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Flyers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities and Fellowships</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of Donors</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Books in Jewish Studies</td>
<td>31-32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ASSJ Welcomes New Members

- Yochanan Altman, Middlesex University
- Silvia Berger, Smith College
- Robert Brym, University of Toronto
- Yael Siman Druker, Ibero-American University
- Perla Aizencang Kane, UNAM
- Amir Segal, Hebrew University
- Ken Wald, University of Florida
Upcoming Conferences

• Mini-Conference "After Charlottesville and Pittsburgh: Theoretical, Empirical, Comparative, Pedagogical, and Policy Implications of Sociology of Antisemitism" (Organized by American Jewish Year Book, Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and Berman Jewish DataBank), New York, NY Friday, August 9, 2019

• Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, NY, August 11-13, 2019

• Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture, Lund, Sweden, September 26-28, 2019

• Southern Jewish Historical Society, “Jews, Race, and Public Memory,” Charlottesville, Virginia, October 25-27, 2019

• ASSJ at the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 15-17, 2019

• Australian Association for Jewish Studies, Sydney Jewish Museum, Sydney, Australia, 9-10 February 2020

• 2020 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History
News from Members

Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut)

Publications


Conferences and Presentations

- Co-Organizer and Co-Presider: First American Sociological Association Preconference on Antisemitism, New York City, August 9, 2019, “After Charlottesville and Pittsburgh: Theoretical, Empirical, Comparative, Pedagogical, and Policy Implications of Sociology of Antisemitism, organized session for AJYB, Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and Berman Jewish DataBank), 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. (forthcoming- with Chad Alan Goldberg)

Michelle Shain (Center for Communal Research at the Orthodox Union)

New Position

- I have taken a new position as Assistant Director of the Center for Communal Research at the Orthodox Union. Our mission is to develop a sophisticated, ethical, and responsive research agenda to help to OU better understand and serve the Jewish community. People can read more about us at [https://ouresearch.org](https://ouresearch.org).

Publications

News from Members

Robert Brym (University of Toronto)

Research and Reports

- With co-investigators Keith Neuman and Rhonda Lenton, I recently completed fieldwork and wrote a report on the 2018 Survey of Canadian Jews. Modeling our work on the 2013 Pew Survey of American Jews, we interviewed a representative sample of 2,335 Canadian Jews in Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, where 82 percent of the country’s 392,000 Jews reside. Our report, SPSS data set, questionnaire, and codebook are posted on the Berman Jewish Databank. Media reports on the survey appeared in Israel (ha-Aretz, the Times of Israel), Canada (the Canadian Jewish News, the National Post, the Winnipeg Free Press, and Convivium Magazine), and the United States (Tablet Magazine). The Executive Summary of our report will be reprinted in the American Jewish Yearbook 2019.

Publications

- Yakov Leshchinsky was the leading demographer of the Jews before World War II and the first social scientist to estimate the number of Jews who perished in the Holocaust. My translation of his first book (from the Yiddish) was recently published: The Jewish Worker in Russia (Bloomington IN: Slavica, University of Indiana, 2018 [1906]). My Introduction to the work is available here. In the second half of 2019, two articles will be published: Robert Brym, “Antisemitic and anti-Israel actions and attitudes in Canada and internationally: a research agenda,” Patterns of Prejudice 53(2); and Rachel Shenhav-Goldberg, Robert Brym, and Talia Lenton-Brym, “In vitro fertilization and Israel’s fertility regime,” Canadian Review of Sociology 56(3).

Conferences and Presentations

- In June I presented a paper, “Qualifying the leading theory of diaspora Jewry: Jews from the former Soviet Union in Canada as a natural experiment,” at a Hebrew University symposium honouring Mark Tolts on his retirement.

- In November I will be hosting a symposium at the University of Toronto on “Racism, Islamophobia, Antisemitism, and the Future of Canadian Society.” Morton Weinfeld, Chair of Canadian Ethnic Studies at McGill University, will be one of the presenters.

Ongoing Research

- I am now preparing papers based on the 2018 Survey of Canadian Jews, seeing my translation of Leshchinsky’s The Economic Situation of the Jews in Poland (1931) through to publication, and laying the groundwork for a survey on antisemitism and anti-Zionism in Canada, which I hope to field in 2020.
Kenneth Wald (University of Florida)

Publications

  - Long before Jews became Democrats in the 1930s, they had developed a distinctive political culture that emphasized their equal citizenship in a secular state. This produced a strong commitment to the classic liberal regime separating religion and state. That doctrine became particularly important in the late 1980s when Jews, who had been moving in a Republican direction, swung back to the Democrats due to perceived threats to the liberal regime from the alliance between the GOP and conservative Christians. Rather than offer "Judaic" explanations to account for American Jewish liberalism, scholars need to pay more attention to those aspects of national political structures that enhance or retard political mobilization by minority groups. Theories about political opportunity structure, threat assessment, and social identity, among others, help to explain why American Jews are so politically different from other Americans and from Jews in other diasporas.

Roberta Rosenthal Kwall (DePaul University College of Law)

Publications


Courses

- In May, I taught a course on Jewish Law and the American Jewish Movements to a class of 60 at Radzyner Law School in Israel.
- I also gave a faculty workshop for the law school faculty on "Jewish Law and Remix."

Conferences and Presentations

- June 2-3, 2020, DePaul University College of Law will be hosting a major symposium featuring contributors to The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Law that I am co-editing with Professors Zev Eleff and Chaim Saiman.
News from Members

Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University)

Publications

• Jonathan Sarna announces the publication of the Second Edition of his AMERICAN JUDAISM: A HISTORY (Yale University Press). The new edition includes an new introduction reviewing the past fifteen years of scholarship, and a new conclusion that brings the story of American Judaism up-to-date. The index and all of the appendices have been revised as well.

• “The Future of the Pittsburgh Synagogue Massacre,” Tablet Magazine, November 5, 2018; expanded Hebrew version (“Hayu Devarim Me’olam”) in Makor Rishon, November 9, 2018).


Suzanne D. Rutland (University of Sydney, Australia)

Publications


Conferences and Presentations

• I presented at the INSS conference on “CONFRONTING THE CAMPAIGN TO DELEGITIMIZE ISRAEL IN THE ACADEMY”, Tel Aviv, Israel, 26-27 June on “Contemporary Antisemitism: the University of Sydney as a case study”. 
News from Members

Calvin Goldsheider (Brown University and American University)

Publications

• Immigration, Gender, and Family Transitions to Adulthood in Sweden, University Press of America, 2007 (Edited with Eva Bernhardt, Frances Goldscheider and Gunilla Bjerén).
• Several of my Mishnah studies have appeared or are forthcoming in Studies in Judaism, Humanities and the Social Sciences and will also appear in Exploring Mishnah’s World(s): Social Science Perspectives. 2019.

Roberta G. Sands (University of Pennsylvania)

Publications

• I am happy to announce the publication of my book, The Spiritual Transformation of Jews who Become Orthodox, published by SUNY Press. The hardback edition is available now; the paperback January 2020.
News from Members

Ira M. Sheskin (University of Miami)

Publications


Ongoing Research

• I am currently working on the Pilot Study for the UJA-Jewish Federation of New York 2020 Jewish population study. I have recently completed 1) focus groups of Jewish millennials for Beth David Congregation in Miami; 2) analyses of Jewish elderly for the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford and for Tower One/Tower East in New Haven; 3) a membership survey for B’nai Aviv in Weston, FL; 4) a feasibility study for a preschool for Congregation B’nai Yisrael, Armonk, NY; and 5) an analysis of the need for a mausoleum in a Jewish cemetery.

Herb Weisberg (The Ohio State University)

Publications


Harriet Hartman (Rowan University)

Publications

News from Members

Keren R. McGinity (Hebrew College and Brandeis University)

Honors and Awards
- Lilith 7 Feminist Highlights 2018 List
- JewishBoston Top Pick, January 21, 2019
- Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award for “Un-partnered: The Meaning of Being Single”
- Jewish Women in America, 1976-Present” (work in progress)

Publications
- Breaking the Silence: How the #MeToo Movement Woke the Jewish, Muslim and Christian Communities (Beacon Press, in progress).
- Review of *Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination* in the *Journal of Jewish Identities* 2019, vol. 12, no. 2.

Talks
- January 27, 2019. “Still Jewish and Newly Jewish: Two Histories of Women and Intermarriage in America.” Year of the Woman: Celebrating 100 Years of Women at the College [https://yearofwomen.cofc.edu/](https://yearofwomen.cofc.edu/) Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC
- March 13-15, 2019, “#MeToo" at “Jewish Feminisms/American Visions: Perspectives From Fifty Years of Activism” Conference Jewish Communal Leadership Program School of Social Work, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- March 31, 2019, “#MeToo: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward”, 20th Annual “Matters of Taste” Benefit, Jewish Community Day School, Waltham, MA
- April 7-9, 2019, “#GamAni: How #MeToo Inspired the American Jewish Community to Look Inward” International Symposium: Comparative Perspectives on #MeToo, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- April 10, 2019, “Jewish Continuity and the #MeToo Movement” Jewish Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- April 28, 2019 “New Reflections on Miriam in the #MeToo Era” Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA
- June 13-14 “Breaking the Cycle: The Jewish Community in the Age of #MeToo” Chicago Sinai Congregation 15 West Delaware Place Chicago, IL 60610
News from Members

Steven J. Gold (Michigan State University)

Publications


Conference 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.

Isaac L. Bleaman (UC Berkeley)

Dissertation


New Position

- In July 2018 I began working as a Language Engineer for Amazon Alexa, based in Cambridge, MA. In fall 2019, I will be an assistant professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, where I will continue my research and teaching focus on sociolinguistics and Yiddish.
News from Members

Bruce A. Phillips (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles)

Ongoing Research
- I am writing a book on intermarriage with Arnie Dashefsky (UCONN) to be published in 2020 as part of the ASSJ series.
- I am working with the Pat Brown Institute at California State University, Los Angeles to do a political poll of LA Jews (part of a series that includes African Americans, Asians, and Latinos). It will have a little bit of demography and is the first survey of LA Jews in over 20 years.

Conferences and Presentations
- I will be presenting a paper in July on Jews in inner-ring suburbs and a conference on Jewish migration organized by (among others) Judit Liwerant and Sergio DellaPergola of ASSJ.
- I will be presenting a paper at the Association for the Sociology of Religion in August on identity construction among Jews of mixed-ancestry, based on qualitative interviews I have been doing for the past five years.

Service
- I continue to serve on the ASSJ Board and on the editorial board of Contemporary Jewry.
- At HUC-JIR I enter my second decade as Chair of the four-campus Faculty Council and my third year as Faculty Governor on the Board of Governors.

Naches
- For the past 14 months I have greatly enjoyed being "Saba" to Sydney Brook Phillips, drawing on the work of Real Geffen z"l on the importance of Jewish grandparents.

Matt Boxer (Brandeis University)

Publications
News from Members

Barry R. Chiswick (George Washington University)

Conferences and Presentations
- Presented co-authored paper (with RaeAnn Robinson) "Free Women at Work in the Pre-Civil War United States" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Economics of the Household, Lisbon, May 2019.
- Lecture on "Why the Jews Flourished in America" Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2018

Publications
- "Foundations of Migration Economics" (co-authored with George Borjas) Oxford University Press 2019
- "The Impact of Exposure to Missionaries on the English Language Proficiency and Earnings of Immigrants in the US" (With Nicholas Larsen), International Journal of Migration, published online March 2019, hard copy forthcoming.

Laura Limonic (SUNY College at Old Westbury)

Publications

Conferences and Presentations

Ongoing Research
- Transnational Chabad- The role of transnational actors in the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in Latin America. Project funded by the Global Religion Research Initiative – Templeton Trust/University of Notre Dame.
News from Members

Ariela Keysar (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut)

Publications


- Guest Co-Editor - Methods Matter, *Contemporary Jewry*, 2019

Conferences and Presentations


- “Tracking Millennial Conservative Jews: The Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class of 5755” *JTS Symposium*, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, March 5, 2019

- *Winter Seminar*, Louisville Institute, January 23-25, 2019

- YARG, Annual Seminar, Turku, Finland, December 14-16, 2018


- “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

Ongoing Research

- From one-religion to mixed religion and no-religion families: The religious evolution of millennials from adolescence to adulthood, Grant support from Louisville Institute. October 2018-November 2019, Ariela Keysar, Principal Investigator

- The Class of 1995/5755 Longitudinal Study, 2016-2019, Ariela Keysar, Co-Principal Investigator
Members in the News

Matt Boxer (Brandeis University)


Roberta Rosenthal Kwall (DePaul University College of Law)

- I was interviewed by the prominent Israeli journalist Shmuel Rosner about my forthcoming book "Remix Judaism" for his podcast "Rosner's Domain," which is distributed by the Jewish Journal. Here is a link to my interview with him: https://jewishjournal.com/podcasts/rosners-domain-podcast/298998/roberta-r-kwall-can-you-remix-judaism/

- "Jewish Lawmaking and Cultural Analysis," The Conservative Yeshiva, Jerusalem

- "Tikkun Olam: Judaism's Most Celebrated Remix" at Kehallat Ahavat, Zichron Yaakov

- "Remix Judaism in the Diaspora," Modi'in Kehallat
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)

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ASSJ BOOK SERIES UPDATE

The ASSJ Book Series, Studies of Jews in Society, has moved from the University of Nebraska Press (http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/series/studies-of-jews-in-society/) to Springer Publications (http://www.springer.com/series/8879).

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, political science, 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 work in and serve Jewish organizations; and interested individuals. The style, rigorous scientifically, is accessible to a general audience.

The most recent book in the series, Jewish Population and Identity: Challenges and Trends, edited by Sergio DellaPergola and Uzi Rebhun, was published in early 2018 and can be ordered from the Springer Web Site which gives further details about the series. Several exciting new books are in the pipeline and will be announced when they are published.

The previous four titles: Helen Kiyong Kim and Noah Samuel Leavitt, JewAsian: Race, Religion, and Identity for America's Newest Jews; Yael Raviv, Falafel Nation: Cuisine and the Making of National Identity in Israel; Rebeca Raijman, South African Jews in Israel: Assimilation in Multigenerational Perspective; and Fran Markowitz, Stephen Sharot, and Moshe Shokeid (eds.), Toward an Anthropology of Nation Building and Unbuilding in Israel, are still available from the University of Nebraska Press web site though the site says “We are no longer accepting submissions for this series.”

Springer offers a 40% discount to registered members of the ASSJ, making the series more competitive in price than most commercial publishers. The coupon code is “SOJS2018”. The members can add the code to the coupon/token field in the shopping cart. The amount will then be reduced by 40%. There are only 150 coupons, corresponding to the approximate number of ASSJ members. Please don’t cheat as this will deprive other members of their discounts!

Scholars are urged to contact the series editor, Charles Kadushin (kadushin@brandeis.edu) or any of the board members listed on the Web Site with ideas about book projects.
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.

The second issue of Contemporary Jewry v39 will contain the following articles:

- The 2018 Marshall Sklare Award Address, by Arnold Eisen
- Boomers, Millennials - Gen Xers! - and Post-Nostalgic American Judaism A Response to Arnold Eisen’s Sklare Address, by Shaul Kelner
- Social Selves and Tradition: Response to Chancellor Arnie, by Riv-Ellen Prell
- Holocaust History, Far-Right Parties, and Antisemitic Incidents, by Ayal Feinberg and Brandon Stewart
- End-of-Life Decision Making in Orthodox Judaism: The Case of the 1977 Conjoined Twins, by Joshua Cypess
- Jewish Schools and the Challenges of Denominationalism in England, by Maxim Samson
- Understanding the Demographic Challenge: Education, Orthodoxy and the Fertility of American Jews, by Michele Shain
- Income Concentration Trends and Competition in the Charitable Sector: An Analysis of Jewish Charities in England and Wales, by Donatela Casale Mashiah

Upcoming special issues include:

- Judaism and World Religions, guest edited by Professor Alon Goshen-Gottstein
- Iberian Jews, guest edited by Dr. Silvina Gesser
- A special forum on analyzing and reflecting on the social scientific study of Jewry - the state of our field and suggestions for its future

The Table of Contents of Contemporary Jewry v39(1) appears below on p. 21.
CONTEMPORARY JEWRY

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Contemporary Jewry

Volume 39 · Number 1 · March 2019

Editor's Introduction
H. Hartman 1

Rabbi Menahem Gelfand (1943–2019): An Appreciation 3

Guest Editors' Introduction to this Special Issue on Methodology
I. Horwitz - A. Krayar 9

Correction to Guest Editors' Introduction to this Special Issue on Methodology
I. Horwitz - A. Krayar 15

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

From the Mouths of Children: Widening the Scope and Shifting the Focus of Understanding the Relationships Between American Jews and Israel
S. Zalus 17

H. Shaul Bar Nissim - M.A. Brooker 31

Jewish Identification Differentials in Israel and in the United States: Similarity Structures Analysis
S. Della Porta - A. Krayar - S. Levy 53

A New Approach to Understanding Contemporary Jewish Engagement
J.K. Amstutz - L. Saxe - C. Kahana - M. Boxer - M.A. Brooker 91

Can Convenience Samples be Trusted? Lessons from the Survey of Jews in Europe, 2013
L. Daniel Statzsky 115

Foregrounding the Family: An Ethnography of How Families Make Decisions About Hebrew School
I.M. Horwitz 155

RESEARCH UPDATES

Research Update
H.K. Kim 173

BOOK REVIEWS

Kirsten Fermanich: A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Jewish Name Changing in America
S. Robin 177

Elan Ezrachi: Awakened Dream: 50 Years of Complex Unification of Jerusalem, [Hebrew]
C. Kahana 181

Further articles can be found at link.springer.com

Instructions for Authors for Contemporary Jewry are available at http://www.springer.com/12997
DataBank staff
Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, Director
Ron Miller, Senior Academic Consultant
Arnold Dashefsky, Director Emeritus and Senior Academic Consultant

Contact: info@jewishdatabank.org

The Berman Jewish DataBank ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank)) has added a number of new studies to its holdings in the first half of 2019, including:

- New reports on the 2018 U.S., Canadian and World Jewish populations
- Reports from four surveys of European Jewish leaders commissioned by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the JDC International Centre for Community Development
- American Jewish Committee surveys of Jewish public opinion in the U.S., Israel and France
- The 2019 Muslim American Poll, with comparisons to Jews, Catholics and Protestants

The U.S. Jewish Population report ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1061](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1061)), authored by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky, contains population information at the national, regional, state and metro levels, as well as in Jewish Federation service areas. It also contains maps and a listing of all communities of at least 100 people (as a PDF and in Excel) that have been posted separately. The Canadian Jewish Population report ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1059](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1059)), written by Charles Shahar, presents population data at the national, provincial and metropolitan levels, and puts the total Canadian Jewish population at just under 392,000. The report summarizes data on the Jewish population from the 2011 National Household Survey, focusing on basic demographics (including a map of Jewish Canada), geographic distributions, age of the Jewish population, seniors, and a section on Jewish Ottawa. The World Jewish Population report ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1060](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1060)), prepared by Sergio DellaPergola, has population and demographic information about Jews across the globe, including the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The author discusses several definitions of the Jewish population and those connected to it. Under the “core” definition, the report estimates 14,606,000 Jews worldwide in 2018, an increase of 98,400 (0.68%) over the revised 2017 estimate.

The three population reports initially appeared as chapters in the 2018 American Jewish Year Book, published by Springer. The DataBank is pleased to thank Springer for permission to post the reports and make them available to DataBank stakeholders, and the Year Book editors, Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin, for facilitating the arrangement between Springer and the DataBank. The DataBank’s entire collection of U.S., Canadian and World Jewish population reports can be found on the Resources page ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/?category=Resources](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/?category=Resources)).
Conducted in 2008, 2011, 2015 and 2018, the European Jewish leaders’ surveys cover such topics as debates over conversion and inclusion of interfaith families, the scope and quality of programs for various target populations, the prospects for a new generation of leadership, antisemitism, migration, European integration and assessments of events in Israel. The 2008 study was conducted by Gallup. The principal investigator for the 2011, 2015 and 2018 surveys was Dr. Barry Kosmin, the founding director of the DataBank and now Research Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture at Trinity College. The DataBank thanks Marcelo Dimentstein, Director of Research & Evaluation at JDC-Europe, for permission to post the reports. The reports can be found as follows:

2008: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1037](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1037)
2011: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1036](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1036)
2015: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1038](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1038)
2018: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1039](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1039)

The three concurrent AJC surveys ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1063](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1063)) of Jewish public opinion in the United States, Israel and France were commissioned for the AJC Global Forum, held in June 2019. Materials from the surveys include reports, questionnaires, frequencies, crosstabs and the U.S. data file. The DataBank extends its thanks to Kenneth Bandler at the AJC for permission to post the materials. The surveys were fielded by Social Science Research Solutions in the United States, Geocartography Knowledge Group in Israel, and Ifop International Research Group in France. The DataBank’s full collection of AJC surveys can be found on the U.S. National page([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/?category=U.S.%20National](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/?category=U.S.%20National)).

The 2019 American Muslim Poll ([https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1057](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1057)) is the fourth annual survey commissioned by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. Study materials include reports, questionnaires, and tables comparing Muslim, Jewish, Catholic and Protestant respondents. The DataBank is very pleased to thank the IPSU’s Dahlia Mogahed for providing the materials and granting permission to post them. The 2019 survey was fielded by Social Science Research Solutions. Materials from ISPU’s three previous American Muslim Polls, conducted in 2016, 2017 and 2018, are also available at the DataBank:

2016: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/796](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/796)
2017: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/826](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/826)
2018: [https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1032](https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1032)

In addition to these new holdings, the DataBank is co-sponsoring a half-day preconference session on the sociology of antisemitism at the upcoming American Sociological Association annual conference in New York City. The session, organized by Arnie Dashefsky and Chad Alan Goldberg, is scheduled for Friday, August 9, 1-5 p.m. More information about the ASA conference is available at [https://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2019](https://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting-2019).
INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH POLICY RESEARCH

Research team
Dr Jonathan Boyd (Executive Director)
Dr L. Daniel Staetsky (Senior Research Fellow and Director of the European Jewish Demography Unit)
Dr David Graham (Senior Research Fellow)
Dr Keith Kahn-Harris (Projector Director, European Jewish Research Archive)
Professor Sergio DellaPergola (Trustee, Senior Research Adviser and Chairman of the European Jewish Demography Unit)
Professor Stephen H. Miller OBE (Trustee and Senior Research Adviser)

Institute reports

• Miller, Stephen H. (2018). Academic achievement and engagement in Jewish life: first signs of a brain drain? London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. JPR has been conducting research on Jews in Britain for many years, allowing us to explore trends in Jewish life over time. This study takes four major datasets, spanning close to quarter of a century, to investigate an important and challenging question: is there a negative correlation between high academic achievement and Jewish community engagement? Or, more simply, are the most academically qualified Jews turning away from Jewish communal life? The study demonstrates that: Jews with postgraduate qualifications are, on average, the least engaged members of the Jewish community; the gap in levels of Jewish communal engagement between postgraduates and others is particularly substantial in areas such as synagogue membership, outmarriage, charitable priorities and support for Israeli government policy; highly educated Jews are about half as likely as non-graduates to see their fellow Jews as a source of natural support, or to express concern about Jewish continuity.
INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH POLICY RESEARCH

Institute reports (cont.)

- **Boyd, J. (2019).** Numbers of children in Jewish schools: Statistical bulletin for 2015/16 to 2017/18. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. Produced by JPR on behalf of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, this statistical bulletin contains data on Jewish school enrolment in the UK for the academic years 2015/16 to 2017/18. It is intended to help community educators and policy makers monitor changing trends over time and to inform thinking about the development of the field. The report confirms and adds to our existing understanding of enrolment, demonstrating again that more and more Jewish children are going to Jewish schools. The actual number has risen from about 5,000 in the 1950s to close to 35,000 today, a period which, by contrast, has also seen the UK Jewish population as a whole decline by about 30%. The most acute numerical increase has occurred over the past twenty years or so, with the total more or less doubling from about 17,000 in the mid-1990s to the level found today.

- **Graham, D. and Boyd, J. (2019).** The apartheid contention and calls for a boycott. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. In late 2017, JPR published a major study of attitudes towards Jews and Israel among the population of Great Britain, - one of very few studies conducted anywhere that empirically demonstrates a clear connection between extreme hostility towards Israel and more traditional forms of antipathy towards Jews. This report explores this connection yet further, focusing specifically on two particularly prevalent ideas that are often experienced by British Jews as antisemitic: the contention that Israel is 'an apartheid state' and that it should be subjected to a boycott. It again finds a clear correlation between these views and more traditional anti-Jewish ones, although this is more the case with the boycott idea than the apartheid one. However, it also notes that the correlation is stronger with other anti-Israel beliefs, particularly those arguing that Israel exploits the Holocaust for its own purposes, and those claiming that Israel is excessively powerful or the primary cause of troubles in the Middle East.

- **Staetsky, L. D. (2019).** Projections of demand for places in state-funded mainstream Jewish secondary schools in London. London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research. This statistical study, authored by JPR Senior Research Fellow, Dr Daniel Staetsky, and supported by Partnerships for Jewish Schools (PaJeS), uses an empirical approach to predict future levels of demand for mainstream Jewish secondary schools in and around London. Using Local Authority data to examine applications and admissions from 2011 to 2018, it projects forward to the academic year 2022/23 in order to support future planning. It is a follow-up to previous work in this area, and it draws on observations from the field that allow us to assess the accuracy of that work and to extend our projections further into the future.

- **Data night: a seder discussion guide.** London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research, 2019. This is a publication JPR produced just before Pesach for use around the seder table. It takes four well-known themes from the Haggadah and uses recently published data as a mechanism to encourage discussion.
Major projects

- **European Union study of discrimination and hate crime against Jews in Europe**

  Working in partnership with Ipsos, the JPR team completed its major study of Jewish people’s perceptions and experiences of antisemitism for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and the results were published by FRA in Brussels in December 2018. The study is the largest ever undertaken among European Jews – 16,395 responded – and it covered thirteen EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The report is available on the JPR website (www.jpr.org.uk), and we are about to publish a follow-up study, using the dataset to focus on young Jewish Europeans (aged 16-34): their Jewishness, attachments and perceptions and experiences of antisemitism. We expect this to be the first of several follow-up studies we will publish over the coming year or two. The academic team that worked on the original project involved JPR’s own researchers alongside a wider group of national research experts, including Sergio DellaPergola, Lars Dencik, Andras Kovacs, Chantal Bordes-Benayoun, Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Olaf Glockner, Hanna van Solinge and Martina Weiss.

- **European Jewish Demography Unit**

  JPR opened its new European Jewish Demography Unit in January 2019, that is now working to generate up-to-date demographic data about European Jewish populations. The Unit is being headed up by Dr Daniel Staetsky and chaired by Professor Sergio DellaPergola, with a mission to provide demographic information both for academic purposes and to support Jewish community development work across the continent.

- **Jewish Community Survey of South Africa**

  Working in partnership with the Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town, JPR is currently in the middle of conducting a major national study of South African Jews in order to provide data to support Jewish community planning. The study touches of numerous themes including Jewish identity, patterns of belonging, religious observance, assimilation, education, emigration and social and political attitudes. The project is being led by JPR Senior Research Fellow, Dr David Graham, who has previously managed similar studies in the UK and Australia. We expect to complete the fieldwork in July 2019 and publish the findings in early 2020.

- **European Jewish Research Archive**

  Work has continued on our publicly available online archive for research publications on contemporary European communities. The archive went live in 2015 and includes items that draw on, or discuss, social research on European Jewish communities since 1990. EJRA works in collaboration with the Berman Jewish Policy Archive (BJPA) in New York so that each is accessible from the other’s website. As part of our work on EJRA in 2018, we created four curated collections of items grouped by topic (including ten key studies on European Jewry, Jewish education, antisemitism and migration), and began work on a fifth focusing on the Holocaust and memory. We have also begun to add curated collections of items from significant authors in the field.
Published articles

Boyd, J. Hitler’s deadly footprint on post-war Hungary, ’Jewish Chronicle, July 2018
Boyd, J. Far-left fury on Israel can signify so much more,’ Jewish Chronicle, August 2018
Boyd, J. We’re rattled, but we’re also ever more divided,’ Jewish Chronicle, September 2018
Boyd, J. If you are solidly secular, you’re still very Jewish,’ Jewish Chronicle, October 2018
Boyd, J. We’ve heard of Holocaust denial but Holocaust distortion is more common – and more dangerous,’ Jewish Chronicle, November 2018
Boyd, J. There’s hope amid the darkness of Jew hate,’ Jewish Chronicle, December 2018
Boyd, J. Antisemitism data no reason to cry ‘gevalt!’ Jewish Chronicle, December 2018
Boyd, J. To preserve Judaism we need to look in and out at the same time,’ Jewish Chronicle, January 2019
Boyd, J. Why select a Jewish school for your child? Jewish Chronicle, January 2019
Boyd, J. Squeezing the wiggle room between anti-Zionism and antisemitism,’ Jewish Chronicle, January 2019
Boyd, J. Leaving or remaining: we’re still thinking about it,’ Jewish Chronicle, February 2019
Boyd, J. When it comes to hate, listen to UK Jews,’ Jewish Chronicle, March 2019
Staetsky, D. ‘Anti-Zionism and antisemitism: Are they related?’ Times of Israel, March 2019
Boyd, J. The world has changed and it’s not all good,’ Jewish Chronicle, March 2019
Boyd, J. When discussing Muslim attitudes towards Jewish people, nuance is critical,’ Jewish Chronicle, April 2019
Staetsky, D. ‘In defence of polls and pollsters,’ Times of Israel, April 2019
Staetsky, D. ‘Israel is not small: a demographic update,’ Times of Israel, May 2019
Boyd, J. ‘A Eurovision win would make our hearts sing,’ Jewish Chronicle, May 2019
Spring 2019 Publications

Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis University

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
Eliana Chapman, Research Specialist
Fern Chertok, Research Scientist
Janet Krasner Aronson, Associate Director CMJS
Rachel Minkin, Research Associate
Michelle Shain, former Associate Research Scientist

Book Chapter


Institute Reports

Volodarsky, S., Hecht, S., Shain, M., Saxe, L. (2019). The Impact of Taglit-Birthright Israel on Participants from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Germany. Waltham, MA: Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University.

Podcast

FIRST EVER PRECONFERENCE ON ANTISEMITISM AT ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
"After Charlottesville and Pittsburgh: Theoretical, Empirical, Comparative, Pedagogical, and Policy Implications of Sociology of Antisemitism"
(Organized by American Jewish Year Book, Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and Berman Jewish DataBank)

Friday, August 9, 2019
1:00 - 5:00 pm
New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 6th Ave, New York, 2nd Floor, Sutton Center
Registration Fee: $15

The chant, “Jews will not replace us,” at the Charlottesville, VA, rally in August, 2017, and the mass murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, in 2018, followed by the shootings at Chabad outside of San Diego earlier this year, suggest that antisemitism may not be easily dismissed as a latent phenomenon in the US, which bears only minimal scrutiny by social scientists. Historically, significant and pioneering research on the topic of antisemitism was carried out by prominent social scientists in the 20th century, including Wirth (The Ghetto 1928), Adorno et al. (The Authoritarian Personality 1950), and Glock and Stark (Christian Beliefs and Anti-Semitism 1964). In this preconference, co-organized and co-chaired by Arnold Dashefsky and Chad Alan Goldberg, we will assemble several colleagues to address the 1) theoretical, 2) empirical, 3) comparative, 4) pedagogical, and 5) policy implications of advancing the “sociology of antisemitism.” Each session will open with brief paper presentations followed by Q&A. Participants will gain a better understanding of the sociology of antisemitism, which expands on the theme of the annual meeting: “Engaging Social Justice for a Better World.”

AGENDA

Session One (1-2:45 pm): Theoretical, Empirical, and Comparative Perspectives
Chair: Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut, arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu
“Varieties of Antisemitism in Contemporary Europe,” Gunther Jikeli, Indiana University: gjikeli@indiana.edu
“Contemporary Left Antisemitism,” David Hirsh, Goldsmiths, University of London: hirshd@gmail.com
“How to Think About Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism,” Jeff Weintraub, New School for Social Research: weinj058@newschool.edu
“Antisemitism in Contemporary America,” Tom W. Smith and Benjamin Schapiro, NORC: SMITH-TOM@norc.org and schapiro-benjamin@norc.org

Session Two (3:15-5 pm): Pedagogical and Policy Perspectives
Chair: Chad Alan Goldberg, University of Wisconsin, cagoldberg@wisc.edu
“Contemporary US Antisemitism on College Campuses: The Power of a Small Group of Haters,” Len Saxe, Brandeis University: saxe@brandeis.edu
“Teaching and Learning About Antisemitism: A Survey of Teachers,” Jennifer Rich, Rowan University: richj@rowan.edu
“Is Antisemitism in America Different: The Response of Pittsburgh to the Shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue,” Peter K. Gluck, Independent Scholar: pgluck@gmail.com
“Globalization and Antisemitism: The Crisis of Modernity,” Charles Small, Oxford University and ISGAP: charles.small@isgap.org
Opportunities and Fellowships

Herbert D. Katz Center, University of Pennsylvania, call for fellowship applications for the 2020-21 academic year on the theme of "America's Jewish Questions":
https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/fellowships/fellowship-program/call-applications

Donors

The ASSJ extends its gratitude to our generous donors

- The OU Center for Communal Research, in memory of Moshe Hartman
- Arnold Dashefsky
- Daniel Judisman
- Daniel Liwerant
- Hebrew Union College in support of the Sklare reception
Jewish voting is distinctive and paradoxical. Stereotypes about the voting habits of American Jews include that they vote at unusually high levels, that they’re liberal, that they vote for Democratic candidates without regard to their self-interest, and that Israel is their most important issue. Not only are all of those claims wrong, but they obscure aspects of Jews’ voting behavior that are much more interesting. The Politics of American Jews uncovers new perspectives on Jews’ political choices by analyzing the unprecedented amount of survey data that is now available, including surveys that permit contrasting the voting of Jews with that of comparable non-Jews. The data suggest several mysteries about Jewish voting. While more Jews are Democrats than are liberals, there has not been a previous exploration of why more politically conservative Jews are not Republicans. A fresh picture of Jews’ political behaviors shows that Jews are no longer politically monolithic. They vote on the basis of their self-interest and their values, but not all Jews share the same self-interest or the same values. While most Jews have incorporated being Democratic and liberal into their political DNA, growing divisions in their ranks suggest a
Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States

Kugel and Frijoles: Latino Jews in the United States analyzes the changing construction of race and ethnicity in the United States through the lens of contemporary Jewish immigrants from Latin America. Since Latino Jews are not easily classified within the U.S. racial and ethnic schema, their ethnic identity and group affiliation challenge existing paradigms. Author Laura Limonic offers a view into the lives of this designation of Jewish immigrants, highlighting the ways in which they adopt different identities (e.g., national, religious, or panethnic) in response to different actors and situations.

Limonic begins by introducing the stories of Latino Jewish immigrants and laying out the important questions surrounding ethnic identity: How do Latino Jews identify? Can they choose their identity or is it assigned to them? How is ethnicity strategic or instrumental? These larger questions are placed within the existing scholarly literature on immigrant integration, religion, and ethnic group construction. Limonic explains how groups can be constructed when there is a lack of a perfect host group and details the ways different factors influence ethnic identity and shape membership into ethnic groups. The book concludes that group construction is never static in the United States, and, in particular, how race, religion, and class are increasingly important mediating factors in defining ethnicity and ethnic identity. As the Latino population continues to grow in the United States, so does the influence of millions of Latinos on U.S. culture, politics, economy, and social structure. Kugel and Frijoles offers new insight with which to understand the diversity of Latinos, the incorporation of contemporary Jewish immigrants, and the effect of U.S. ethno-racial structures for immigrant assimilation.

Laura Limonic is an assistant professor of sociology at the College of Old Westbury of the State University of New York.

Published by Wayne State University Press (2019).

The Spiritual Transformation of Jews Who Become Orthodox

Spiritual transformation is the process of changing one’s beliefs, values, attitudes, and everyday behaviors related to a transcendent experience or higher power. Jewish adults who adopt Orthodoxy provide a clear example of spiritual transformation within a religious context. With little prior exposure to traditional practice, these baalei teshuvah (literally, “masters of return” in Hebrew) turn away from their former way of life, take on strict religious obligations, and intensify their spiritual commitment. This book examines the process of adopting Orthodox Judaism and the extensive life changes that are required.

Based on forty-eight individual interviews as well as focus groups and interviews with community outreach leaders, it uses psychological developmental theory and the concept of socialization to understand this journey. Roberta G. Sands examines the study participants’ family backgrounds, initial explorations, decisions to make a commitment, spiritual struggles, and psychological and social integration. The process is at first exciting, as baalei teshuvah make new discoveries and learn new practices. Yet after commitment and immersion in an Orthodox community, they face challenges furthering their education, gaining cultural knowledge, and raising a family without parental role models. By showing how baalei teshuvah integrate their new understandings of Judaism into their identities, Sands provides fresh insight into a significant aspect of contemporary Orthodoxy.

Roberta G. Sands is Professor Emerita at the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice.

Published by SUNY Press (2019).