First Issue of New ASSJ Newsletter

Message from the Editor

When I first joined ASSJ many years ago, I recall receiving a Newsletter with informal messages and news of the world of social science approaches to the study of Jews and researchers involved in this study.

The Newsletter disappeared for many years. The ASSJ Board recently agreed that, despite our ability to send items on a timely, item-by-item basis via e-mail, a Newsletter was still a good idea. The plan is to publish one issue in June and one in November just preceding the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS) meeting.

Please think about items that you might submit for publication in the Newsletter. This is your chance to boast—to tell us of your achievements—about books and articles published, papers presented, awards earned, etc. It is also a place to tell us what you are working on so that others might communicate with you on current projects.

If someone wants to contribute an editorial or brief article on a substantive topic, the Newsletter might be considered as an outlet. We can also publish brief descriptions of the relevant happenings at your University or place of employment. All material should be sent to iSheskin@miami.edu.

About the ASSJ

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is a cross-disciplinary organization of individuals 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. The journal publishes research that draws on a range of social scientific fields and methodologies, and encourages cutting-edge research and lively debate.

All social science disciplines are represented, including sociology, social psychology, anthropology, demography, geography, history, social work, economics, political science, and Jewish education.

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

Ira M. Sheskin, Newsletter Editor
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Members Honored

**Arnold Dashefsky**
became the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies on Friday, April 3, 2009 in a ceremony at the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center in Storrs, Connecticut. The award was given by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. ☺

**Jonathan Sarna**
has been elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Academy is a prestigious honorary society and recognizes leaders in academia and the non-profit world. Jonathan is the Joseph H. and Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History at Brandeis and received ASSJ’s 2002 Marshall Sklare Award.

He is an extraordinary scholar, a mensch, and very deserving of recognition. He is being honored, but so too is our field. I feel privileged to work with Jonathan and congratulate him on this wonderful recognition. (Submitted by Len Saxe). ☺

**Jack Nusan Porter**
won the prestigious "Robin Williams Award for Distinguished Contributions to Scholarship, Teaching, and Service" from the American Sociological Association’s Section on Peace, War, and Social Change, for his research, teaching, and public education in the areas of the Holocaust, genocide, and conflict resolution. The awards will be given at the ASA’s annual meetings in August of 2009.

This is his second ASA section award in five years: He won the History of Sociology Award for Distinguished Scholarly Career Contribution in 2005 for his work in the history of sociology as founder of *The Journal of the History of Sociology*. ☺
News from Researchers

**KEREN R. McGINITY**
Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life
Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
Faculty Associate in American Culture
University of Michigan
kerenm@umich.edu

I am delighted to spread the word about my book published last month by NYU Press, *Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America*.

My current research project, "The Jewish Masculine Mystique: Interfaith Romance and Fatherhood in American Life," explores the meaning of intermarriage for Jewish men.

I welcome hearing from all colleagues working on Jewish men, intermarriage, whether rabbis should officiate, and any related topics.

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**BARRY R. CHISWICK & JDING HUANG**
Barry R. Chiswick
UIC Distinguished Professor
Economics Department
Department of Economics
Director, UIC Center for Economic Education
University of Illinois at Chicago


This paper uses data from NJPS 2000/01 to analyze the determinants of the non-reporting of earnings among adult men, and to analyze the determinants of earnings among those who reported earnings.
My time as a Senior Specialist at Nanjing and Shanghai Universities was busy and gratifying. I spent the time offering lectures and classes on a number of topics including, among others:

1. Jews and American Presidential Elections
2. The Jewish Minority Experience in History
3. American Jewry
4. Israel and American Jews
5. Jews and Fundamentalism
6. Jewish Studies and Social Science

My talks were offered primarily to graduate students at the Masters and Doctoral levels at both Shanghai (where I was hosted by the Dean of Graduate Studies Professor Changgang Guo) and Nanjing (where my host was Professor Xin Xu). In addition, however, I also spoke to approximately 300 undergraduates at the Puko College campus of Nanjing. I was invited and gave lecture #76 at the Nanjing University Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. The lecture, which was fully subscribed by over 50 attendees, on "Jews and Fundamentalism" will be translated and published. This is an exclusive series and the invitation is rarely given for speakers in English.

I also had a chance to travel to Henan University in Kaifeng (hosted by Dr. Zhang Qianhong, Dean of the College of History and Culture who had invited me), where I addressed approximately 125 students.

In addition to formal talks and classes, I met with at least 20 to 30 students (primarily graduate but also a few undergraduates) individually to counsel them on their interest in American academic life, Jewry, religion, fundamentalism, and similar topics. Some of these students also acted as my guides as they showed me around the cities of Shanghai and Nanjing. These encounters were especially gratifying because, they helped us both overcome the cultural differences between Chinese and American understanding.

Adding to this sort of people-to-people encounters I invited all the students affiliated with the Institute for Jewish Studies at Nanjing University to my apartment (supplied by the Institute) on Sabbath to review the different ways that the Jewish Bible is interpreted, sharing with them insights in the new book by James Kugel (of Harvard), *The Bible as It Was*.

I was also able to make important academic contacts with a variety of Chinese academics, both professors (junior and senior) and deans. These contacts promise to enable me to continue my relationship with the Chinese in ways that I hope will be fruitful in the future.

My treatment in China was excellent, and the hosts could not have been more gracious and accommodating. I only wish I could have spent more time in China and eagerly look forward to my next visit.
David Graham
This is the Abstract of the Doctor of Philosophy degree which I completed at Oxford in December.

Title: The socio-spatial boundaries of an 'invisible' minority: a quantitative (re)appraisal of Britain’s Jewish population

It presents a critical exploration of the dual ethnic and religious components of Jewish identity, arguing that this ‘White’ group has become ethnically ‘invisible’ in British identity politics and, as a consequence, is largely overlooked. In addition, the key socio-demographic processes relating to Jewish partnership formation are addressed and a critical assessment of data pertaining to the decline of marriage, the rise of cohabitation and the vexed topic of Jewish exogamy, is presented. The analysis culminates by linking each of these issues to the micro-geographical scale of the household and develops a critical assessment of this key unit of Jewish (re)production. Jewish population change is contextualised within the framework of the second demographic transition.

This deliberately quantitative study is designed to exploit a recent glut of data relating to Jews in Britain. It interrogates specially commissioned tables from Britain’s 2001 Census as well as four separate communal survey data sources. It highlights and challenges recent geographical critiques of quantitative methodologies by presenting a rigorous defense of quantification in post-'cultural turn’ human geography. It emphasizes the importance and relevance of this fruitful shift in geographical thought to quantitative methods and describes the role quantification can now play in the discipline. Above all, it synthesizes two disparate sets of literature: one relating to geographical work on identity and segregation, and the other to work on the identity, demography, and cultural practices of Jews. As a result, this thesis inserts the largely neglected ethno-religious Jewish case into the broader geographical literature while developing a critical quantitative spatial agenda for the study of Jews.
Still here in Newton, Mass, totally retired from teaching at 64—I can make more from my business than I can from a university part-time plus I had a bad experience at one of my schools, a state university here—that left me quite “unenthralled” with academia—I feel very close to the Mark Raider case at Cincinnati—an example, of academic obtuseness.

Most of my time this past year has been busy with the IAGS, the International Association of Genocide Scholars (see our website www.genocidescholars.com. I am treasurer and executive Board member and under the vigorous leadership of our President, former State Department diplomat Greg Stanton, we engaged in various projects both internally and externally. Externally, we are planning a major conference in Brussels in October 2009 on the genocide of the Kurds and other minorities under Saddam Hussein. This lead to the Board's first trip to Iraq to meet with Kurdish leaders. This was a mind-blowing trip both regarding Kurds (who have a Jewish background, by the way) and to insights into the war there.

Other trips (it has been a busy year) have been to Italy twice, to give a series of lectures at four Italian universities on the history and sociology of genocide and to do research on the Jews of Italy and in Italy during the Shoah. I spent a lovely Rosh Hashanah at the major shul in Rome.

Other trips have included to England (Sussex) to give a paper on comparative genocide at a conference there as well as several trips to New York and the Midwest.

Internally, the board has had to beat back a proposal from some members to label Israel's treatment of Arabs in Gaza as an act of "genocide." We will be seeing much more anti-Israel and even anti-Semitic calls from within academia, especially from Europe.

As for other projects and things done, I have just returned from Milwaukee, my hometown, for my mother's 100th birthday—held in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, where she moved when the Milwaukee neighborhood she had lived in since 1953 had gotten very dangerous with muggings and attacks against Jews and other whites. I was mugged there as well. It's a story that has not gotten much press it seems.

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Yet, Milwaukee Jewry is tough and hangs in there and is as productive as ever. There is a new Jewish Museum on Prospect Avenue that I urge ASSJ members to see and I'm in it with my parents. It is rather un-nerving to see yourself in a museum while one is still alive. There is also a new history of Milwaukee Jewry coming out by author and journalist John Gurda in June. (Andy Muchin and I were to write it but a personal tragedy in Andy's life...
scotched that.) Also, Andy has come out with a video on Small Town Jews in Wisconsin and I am working on an essay called "Milwaukee and Hollywood"—on why so many Jews went out West to make their fortune in Hollywood. as you know "Laverne and Shirley" and "Happy Days' are based on Milwaukee drive-ins and many Jews were involved in those two projects. For a small town of only 22,000 Jews, Milwaukee certainly has made its mark.

The movie "Defiance" came out about Jews in the Soviet Resistance. My own book on the subject is being looked at in Hollywood for a movie as well, so I've been bitten by the Hollywood "bug" myself.

My latest books (not anthologies but all my own writings) are The Genocidal Mind and Is Sociology Dead? If you go to my Wikipedia entry and/or Google my full name you will see links to many of my other projects.

Arnold Dashefsky


Dashefsky and Lazerwitz have amassed a treasure trove of information, both quantitative and qualitative, that enables the reader to understand not only who makes donations to Jewish charities and philanthropies, but why they give. The implications of their findings and the models they have constructed to explain them go well beyond the Jewish communities to just about any voluntary organization that relies on charitable giving for its lifeblood."—William V. D'Antonio, Life Cycle Institute of Catholic University

Charitable giving and philanthropic behavior are frequently the subject of media reports and newspaper headlines. Examining the incentives and barriers to charitable behavior, Dashefsky and Lazerwitz account for such giving by members of the Jewish community. A discussion of motivations for charitable giving, Charitable Choices relies on quantitative and qualitative data in one religio-ethnic community.

*Interruption and Jewish Journeys in the United States* is an in-depth study of intermarried couples in four diverse metropolitan areas, Boston, St. Louis, Atlanta, and the Bay areas of San Francisco. Utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods, it seeks to probe the nature of their relationship to Judaism and the Jewish community giving voice to both the Jewish and Christian partners as it explores the development of their perceptions and their attitudes. Recognizing the reality that living in an open society provides varied opportunities for choices and modes of personal identity, this study is non-judgmental. Since the phenomenon of intermarriage is a reality that cannot be ignored by the Jewish community, the end product of this study is a series of policy recommendations that focus upon the family, the community, rabbis, and other clergy and communal professionals.

**Harriet Hartman & Moshe Hartman**


The first part of *Gender and American Jews* examines the distinctiveness of American Jews in terms of family behavior, labor-force patterns, and educational and occupational attainment; the second investigates the interrelationships between "Jewishness" and religious, economic, and family behavior, including intermarriage. The analysis utilizes the results of the two most recent National Jewish Population Surveys, and draws on relevant sociological work on gender, religion, and secular achievement.
Beyond the walls of their synagogues, Jewish adults are creating religious meaning in new and diverse ways in a range of unconventional sites. In Back to School, authors Alex Pomson and Randal F. Schnoor argue that the Jewish day school serves as one such site by bringing adults and children together for education, meeting, study, and worship-like ceremonies. Pomson and Schnoor suggest that the day school functions as a locus of Jewish identity akin to the Jewish streets or neighborhoods that existed in many major North American cities in the first half of the twentieth century.

Back to School began as an ethnographic study of the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School (DJDS) in Toronto, a private, religiously pluralistic day school that balances its Jewish curriculum with general studies. Drawing on a longitudinal study at DJDS, and against the backdrop of a comparative study of two other Toronto day schools as well as four day schools from the U.S. Midwest, Pomson and Schnoor argue that when parents choose Jewish schools for their children they look for institutions that satisfy not only their children’s academic and emotional needs but also their own social and personal concerns as Jewish adults. The authors found an uncommon degree of involvement and engagement on the part of the parents, as genuine friendships and camaraderie blossomed between parents, faculty, and administrators. In addition, the authors discovered that parents who considered themselves secular Jews were introduced to or reacquainted with the depth and meaning of Jewish tradition and rituals through observing or taking part in school activities.

Sitting on the cusp between the disciplines of education and the sociology of contemporary Jewish life, Back to School offers important policy implications for how Jewish day schools might begin to re-imagine their relationships with parents. Jewish parents, Jewish studies scholars, as well as researchers of educational and social trends will enjoy this evocative volume.

Nancy Isserman

Isserman, Nancy, “Political Tolerance and Intolerance: Using Qualitative Interviews to Study Attitudes in Holocaust Survivors,” Contemporary Jewry, 29:1, 21-47.

Steve Gold
Department of Sociology
Michigan State University

Steve Gold, “From Nationality to Peoplehood: Adaptation and Identity Formation in the Israeli Diaspora” Diaspora 13, 2/3 (Fall/Winter 2004): 331-358 (Published 2008)


Marlena Schmool
"Connection, Continuity and Community: British Jewish Women Speak Out" was just published by the Board of Deputies of British Jews (Marlena was project manager of the study). In the report, the voices of spiritual and lay leaders, professionals, community activists and academics as well as hundreds of women from across the religious spectrum with diverse religious outlooks articulate their hopes and concerns about the future well-being of the British Jewish community, illustrating the perceived gulf between women’s achievements and aspirations in secular life and their Jewish communal and spiritual experience. Access the whole report at http://www.bod.org.uk/.


Matt Boxer opened up an igive.com account for ASSJ. This is an easy way to donate to ASSJ. Next time you go to order on line, check out igive.com and give ASSJ’s name. A small percentage will be donated to our cause for every purchase made.
Ira M. Sheskin

Recent publications include:


Sheskin also appeared on the topic of the Jewish vote in Florida on BBC Radio, Al Aribiya TV (Dubai, Untied Arab Emirates), and WCBS (Ch 2, NYC).

He is currently working on a project on the impacts of Jewish camping on Jewish identity for the *Foundation for Jewish Camp* using NJPS 2000 and the local Jewish community studies at the Mandell L. Berman North American Jewish Data Bank.
The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry

Volume 1 Number 1

Barry Kosmin


Secularism, Women and The State: The Mediterranean World in the 21st Century
Edited by Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar.

Published by the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College, Hartford, CT.

Featured Countries: Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, and Turkey.

The book, which is divided into two sections—Secularism and the State and Women and Society—can be downloaded free of charge at www.trincoll.edu/secularisminstitute. The paperback can be purchased for $10. Call Kara Ledger: 860-297-2381.

Upcoming Conferences

The Jewish Woman and her Body
Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio, March 7-9, 2010

Call for Papers deadline: October 1, 2009

Since Eve, the woman and her body have had a central position in Jewish tradition. Experiences such as childbirth, violence, sexuality, hunger, infertility, and aging have preoccupied Jewish life. Representations of the female body in Jewish texts include idealization, restriction, and objectification. This interdisciplinary conference will explore real and imagined constructions of the Jewish woman and her body.

Proposals from all disciplinary approaches, historical periods and geographical locations...
Proposals should be sent electronically to:
Dr. Helene J. Sinnreich, Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, Youngstown State University, hjsinnreich@ysu.edu

Jewish Culture and Identity
Call for Papers for Summer Workshop for Young Researchers on Jewish Culture and Identity

Contemporary Jewish "Lamdanut" (Scholarship)

The image of the Lamdan (scholar) and the emphasis placed on erudition have played a central role in Jewish culture over the generations. There were many issues on which there has never been consensus, such as: Who is a Lamdan? What constitutes scholarship? The perception of these issues has varied from place to place and from one period to another. The relationship between scholars and society at large has also undergone changes and was not always one of admiration and acceptance of scholarly authority but was at times characterized by confrontations and crises which reached a pinnacle during the Middle Ages and at the beginning of the Modern Era.

Lamdanut has once again become the focus of research in all fields of Judaic Studies in a variety of contexts such as: the relationship between Lamdanut and the Haskala (Enlightenment) movement; the effect of the Zionist enterprise on the status of Lamdanut; the role of scholarship in the establishment of new Jewish communities in the free world; the transformations Jewish Lamdanut has undergone since the Emancipation; secularism and Jewish learning; the perception of Lamdanut in modern thought.

The topic selected for the Summer Workshop is Contemporary Jewish Lamdanut. This is an issue which touches on a wide and diverse range of studies in Jewish Culture and Identity. These include research on: various Jewish groups which examine the interaction between the groups and the various elements of Lamdanut studies of political and social processes which sometimes hone in on influential scholarly figures. Jewish Lamdanut is likely to constitute an important element in textual and hermeneutical studies as well as in cultural research.

The Workshop will concentrate on: the contemporary perception of the Lamdan; the content elements that constitute contemporary Jewish Lamdanut; the relationship between learning and culture; Lamdanim, society, and politics; the status of the Lamdan in modern times; the impact of Lamdanim; the elitist aspect of Lamdanut.

Participants in the Summer Workshop will be doctoral and post-doctoral students from a variety of disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences whose focus is contemporary Jewish Culture and Identity.

Potential participants are encouraged to submit proposals for a presentation at the Summer Workshop. These should be limited to two pages and should be sent together with a CV no later than July 1st, 2009 to: dafnas@vanleer.org.il.
Researchers whose papers are accepted will be invited to present the full article at the Workshop.

The Workshop will be held at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute on Tuesday - Thursday 25-27 August 2009. Please note that the language of the Workshop will be Hebrew.


The Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies

Hebrew University, Mt. Scopus Campus, Jerusalem, August 2-6, 2009

Twenty-First-Century American Jews: Social and Demographic Aspects
Thursday (August 6) 15:00 - 17:00
Bruce Phillips, Mobility and Jewish Attachment
Ariela Keysar, Secular Jews and Other Secular Americans: New Findings
Allen Glicksman, Issues of Religious and Ethnic Identity among Older American Jews

Changing Jewish Communities
Monday (August 3) 15:00 - 17:00
Simon Erlangen, The Real, Imaginary, and Symbolic Role of Jews in Swiss Society
Rela Geffen, At the Margins or at the Center? Exploring the Roles of Jewish American Grandparents
Ira M. Sheskin, The Aging of American Jewry: Perspectives from Jewish Demographic Studies

The Changing Jewish Communities session is co-sponsored by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Contemporary Jewry: Social Aspects
Tuesday (August 4) 11:30 - 13:30
Sergio DellaPergola, Demographic Changes among World Jewry: The Last Sixty Years
Mervin Verbit, American Jews’ Attachment to Israel: Age Effect or Social Change?
Carmel Chiswick, Egalitarianism and Economics: American Jewish Families
Barry Chiswick, The Earnings of American Jewish Men: Human Capital, Denomination and Religiosity
Contemporary Worldwide Jewish Education (Plenary Session)
Tuesday (August 4) 17:30 - 19:30
Jack Wertheimer, The Changing Field of Jewish Supplementary Education in the United States
Alex Pomson, The Jewish Day School: Singular Challenges and Opportunities

The Anthological Imagination: The Posen Library of Jewish Culture & Civilization in Theory and in Practice
Tuesday (August 4) 17:30-19:30
James E. Young, Introducing the Posen Library of Jewish Culture & Civilization
David G. Roskies, The Anthological Imagination and the “Posen Method”
Yosef Kaplan, Anthologizing the Early Modern Period in the Current Era
Deborah Dash Moore, The Explosion of Jewish Culture in an Age of Mass Media

American Sociological Association
Harriet Hartman & Moshe Hartman are presenting a paper at ASA: Jewish Identity and Secular Achievements of American Jewish Men and Women, in the Section on Sociology of Religion: Religion Doing, Religion Being (Monday August 10 at 2:30pm- 4:10pm in the Hilton San Francisco).

Association for Jewish Studies
December 20-22, 2009, Los Angeles, CA.


Association for the Sociology of Religion, August 8-10, 2009, San Francisco, CA.

Session J2: American Jews’ Politics and the Politics of American Jewry
Co-sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) and the Mandell Berman Institute- North American Jewish Data Bank (Monday, August 10, 2009, 10:30-12:15 in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel, San Francisco, CA)

Organizers and co-conveners: Harriet Hartman, Rowan University, and Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut
Sklare Award

The Marshall Sklare Award is given annually by the ASSJ to a senior scholar who has made a significant contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry. Charles Kadushin of Brandeis University will receive the award at the 2009 Association for Jewish Studies meeting in Los Angeles.

Previous Sklare Award winners:

- 1992 Sidney Goldstein (demography)
- 1993 Seymour Martin Lipset (sociology)
- 1994 Celia Heller (history)
- 1995 Daniel Elazar (political science)
- 1996 Samuel Klausner (sociology)
- 1997 Walter Zenner (anthropology)
- 1998 Bernard Reisman (communal service)
- 1999 Sergio DellaPergola (demography)
- 2000 Charles Liebman (sociology)
- 2001 Calvin Goldscheider (sociology and demography)
- 2002 Jonathan Sarna (history)
- 2003 Samuel Heilman (sociology)
- 2004 Egon Mayer (sociology)
- 2005 Elihu Katz (communications)
- 2006 Deborah Dash Moore (history)
- 2007 Barry Chiswick (economics)
- 2008 Paul Ritterband (sociology)

First-Ever Webinar


With 66 participants from around the world, a lively Q&A ensued following her talk. The Jewish Women's Archive provided the venue for the broadcast. To hear the webinar, go to: http://www.screencast.com/t/BA3SSktVU
If you have ideas about future webinars, contact Harriet Hartman (hartman@rowan.edu) or Steven M. Cohen (Steve34nyc@aol.com).
By this year of research we propose to examine phenomena of conversion from antiquity to the present in order to understand how social groups identify themselves-testing long-standing historiographical assumptions about communal and conceptual boundary-crossings. Conversion forces both the convert and the religion to define their outermost boundaries and formalize criteria for membership and exclusion. The act of conversion is at the same time a ritualized, often public, transformation not only of interior religious and psychological consciousness, but of cultural and social affiliation. For the history of Judaism, conversion is doubly freighted—it can mark a break with one's birth community, but it has often also marked the impossibility of such a break. Examples of this ambivalence are legion. What then does it mean to be fully Christian, fully Muslim, or fully Jewish? Are these categories essential and stable, or are they themselves transformed or redefined by conversion? How do Muslim or Christian understandings of conversion compare to or illuminate the Jewish experience? We hope to bring several arenas of inquiry and debate into a single conversation so that methodological, social scientific, and historical studies may be mutually instructive, enriching our broader understanding, not only of Jews in their world but of the religious experience itself.

Project proposals could address such questions as:

1. How do formal vs. informal models of affiliation to Judaism help to explicate conversion phenomena?
2. How have Jews sought converts to their faith both from among non-Jews and Jews.
3. What roles have autobiographies played as conversion narratives to and from Judaism since medieval times?
4. How has conversion changed the content of Judaic scholarship, for example in the work of Christian Hebraists who were born Jewish?
5. How have the experiences of conversos differed from those of other converts with respect to historical circumstances, population size, duration, and repercussions?
6. Can a nation, culture, or art form become "Jewish"?
7. How does ethnicity complicate a Jewish conceptualization of conversion?
8. In the modern world, does the move of secular Jews to religious life, or the experience of leaving the culture of orthodoxy for the secular world, constitute conversion?

The Katz Center invites applications from scholars in the humanities and social sciences at all levels, as well as outstanding graduate students in the final stage of writing their dissertations. Stipend amounts are based on a fellow's academic standing and financial need with a maximum of $40,000 for the academic year. The application deadline is November 10, 2009. Awards will be announced by February 1, 2010.

Applications are available on our website: www.cajs.upenn.edu
For questions contact: Sheila Allen: allenshe@sas.upenn.edu
Our Journal

Contemporary Jewry 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 North America, Europe, Australasia and Israel. 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.

Over 150 articles have been published in Contemporary Jewry since its inception. Each issue includes articles or review essays across a variety of social science disciplines, including anthropology, demography, economics, education, ethnography, history, politics, population, social psychology, social history, geography, and sociology. In addition, many issues include research notes or important work originally published in Hebrew but translated and made available to the English language reader. Special issues have focused on such topics as the National Jewish Population Survey, Jewish community surveys, Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Women in the Holocaust, economic frameworks for understanding Jewry, and Jewry in Israel. Individual articles have ranged from Jewish identity in Syria, the Ukraine, New Zealand and Israel; from an analysis of rabbis' salaries to a historical study of Jewish women physicians in Central Europe; from survey research to ethnography to historical analysis.

Each year Contemporary Jewry includes the Marshall Sklare Award lecture, delivered at the Association of Jewish Studies conference in co-sponsorship with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, the founding association of the journal, by distinguished scholars chosen to receive the award because of their contributions to the field of the social scientific study of Jewry. The distinguished editorial board reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal.

www.springer.com/humanities/religious+studies/journal/12397

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Editor’s Introduction, Samuel Heilman
Preface, Sergio DellaPergola and Uzi Rebhun
A Demographic Profile of Brazilian Jewry by René Daniel Decol
Migration Patterns to and from Israel, by Yinon Cohen
Actual, Intended, and Appropriate Family Size Among Jews in Israel by Sergio DellaPergola
Trends in Jewish Identity in Israeli Society: Effects of Former Soviet Union Immigration by Shlomit Levy
Particularistic Education, Endogamy, and Educational Tourism to Homeland: An Exploratory Multi-dimensional Analysis of Jewish Diaspora Social Indicators by Erik H. Cohen
The following five papers are already on-line and will be part of the next issue of *Contemporary Jewry*.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Selectivity in Jewish Internal Migration in the United States
by Uzi Rebhun and Sidney Goldstein

Who Are Connected to the Pittsburgh Jewish Community?
by Eloise E. Kaizer, Stephen E. Fienberg, Howard Seltman and Sharon Stern

Some Observations on Chinese Jewish Studies by Lihong Song

Holy Amnesia: Remembering Religious Sages as Super Humans or as Simply Human
by Yohai Hakak

Does Being "Included" Preclude Being "Inclusive"? Constructing a Contested Organizational Identity in a Nascent Jewish Communal Group by Marianne Cutler

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Debra Kaufman, Northeastern University, Shaul Kelner, Vanderbilt University  
Ariela Keysar, Trinity College  
Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, NYU  
Barry Kosmin, Trinity College  
Deborah Dash Moore, University of Michigan  
Bruce Phillips, Hebrew Union College, LA  
Uzi Rebhun, Hebrew University  
Jonathan Sarna, Brandeis University  
Theodore Sasson, Middlebury College  
Leonard Saxe, Brandeis University  
William Shaffir, McMaster University  
Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University  
Ira Sheskin, University of Miami  
Chaim Waxman, Rutgers University  
Robert Wuthnow  
Yaacov Yadgar, Bar-Ilan University

**News from Universities**

**Temple University**
Dr. Lila Corwin Berman has accepted the position of the Murray Friedman professorship and the director of the Feinstein Center of American Jewish History at Temple University. Dr. Berman, graduated from Yale University with a PhD in American Religious History. Her first book, *Speaking of Jews: Rabbis, Intellectuals, and the Creation of an American Public Identity* will be published by the University of California Press in the near future. 😊
The North American Jewish Data Bank is the central repository of social scientific studies of North American Jewry.

The Data Bank’s primary functions are to:

Acquire, archive, and disseminate quantitative data sets and reports, both contemporary and historical and

Encourage utilization of the archive through training and provide information about methods for studying Jewish communities.

Our goal is to aid in understanding North American Jewish communities, and to improve the quality and utilization of research conducted about North American Jewry.

If you have not checked out the Data Bank lately, three significant changes have occurred:

1. You no longer need to login! No more Username and Password!
2. A search engine is now available for the site, making it possible to much more easily find things. If, for example, you were interested in Jews and politics you can now quickly find out which of the approximately 200 local Jewish community studies asked a question about political party.
3. PDFs of reports and slide sets present the results of almost all studies, making the site a significant resource even for those researches not quantitatively inclined.

What’s new at the Data Bank (www.jewishdatabank.org.)

1. Data, Reports, and Slide Sets from the 2008 Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County Jewish Community Study by Ira M. Sheskin.
2. A slide set from the Welcoming Synagogues Project showing preliminary results from the 2009 Synagogue Survey on Diversity and LGBT Inclusion by Caryn Aviv, Steven M. Cohen, and Judith Veinstein.
5. Comparison tables on the Number of Jews and the Intermarriage rate in all Jewish communities completing local Jewish community studies in the past 20 years by Arnold Dashefsky, Ira M. Sheskin, and Ron Miller.
7. The Report from Intermarriage and Jewish Journeys in the United States by Arnold Dashefsky in collaboration with Zachary I. Heller.
Please submit items for the November issue to: iSheskin@miami.edu

The deadline for submissions is October 15, 2009.

Thank you to all who sent submissions for this issue of the Newsletter and to Harriet Hartman for her proofreading.

Ira