Mandell L. Berman Service Award

The Mandell L. Berman Service Award will be 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 scientific study of Jewry. The goal of the award is twofold: First, to honor a member of the Jewish community or an academic whose service shows that the social scientific study of Jews is vital to understanding the community and planning for its future. Second, to increase the visibility of the ASSJ both within and outside academia. Toward this end, the Berman Service Award will be publicized in the ASSJ Newsletter and on the ASSJ, the North American Jewish Data Bank, and Berman Jewish Policy Archive websites, and other venues as deemed fit and feasible, such as in Contemporary Jewry. The ASSJ intends to confer the award at the Association for Jewish Studies conference; however, it may also be awarded at the General Assembly jointly with The Jewish Federations of North America.

Please email your nomination to Keren McGinity, Berman Service Award Coordinator, at kerenm@brandeis.edu. Nominations will be accepted until August 1, 2011.
Thank you once again, Ira, for putting together this very welcome newsletter.

When I wrote my last column, we were awaiting elections, we had not been to AJS, we had not selected the 2011 Marshall Sklare Award honoree. We were in the throes of winter, here in the U.S. at least, and were only dreaming of the warm weather that is now gracing us.

Since then we have welcomed to the Board a new secretary, Ted Sasson, and two new Board members, Bethamie Horowitz and Ari Kelman. Ted is Associate Professor of International Studies at Middlebury College and Senior Research Scientist at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. He is Division Chair for Social Science, Anthropology and Folklore for the Association for Jewish Studies, so you may have recognized his name on the call for papers in these sessions. Bethamie is Senior Research Scientist at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, where she teaches the core doctoral seminar in Education and Jewish Studies. Ari is proudly an "interdisciplinary social scientist," as Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of California at Davis. We have re-elected Sylvia Fishman as Vice-President, Gail Glicksman as Treasurer, Ira Sheskin as Board member (and myself as President). As you may have noticed, last summer we added a new European Representative to the Board, Diana Pinto [see more on her elsewhere in the newsletter], and welcomed David Graham's move to Australia to make him our first international representative from Australia/New Zealand.

At the December meeting at AJS, the Board suggested amending the by-laws so that there will be five elected Board members (instead of the current six), and the Newsletter Editor will become a de facto member of the Board. You'll be receiving notice of this revision in the next couple of weeks, asking you to ratify the change.

We have since welcomed to the Board a new student representative, Moshe Kornfeld, a doctoral candidate in Anthropology at the University of Michigan, where he is affiliated with the Frankel Institute for Jewish Studies. Moshe introduces himself elsewhere in the newsletter, so you can get to know a little about him. We look forward to working with him on the Board.

Moshe is replacing Matthew Boxer, who has served us well since 2005. Matt joined Ben Phillips in successfully handling the online elections last fall. He opened the "igive.com" account for ASSJ, which painlessly allows members to donate to ASSJ when making online purchases at hundreds of stores (including www.amazon.com). He has offered suggestions attractive to the younger members of our field, and his ideas remain with us even as he vacates his post. Matt hopes to complete and defend his dissertation in the next few months. He's currently working at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewry at Brandeis University, where he has been involved in demographic studies, research on Jewish summer camps and young Jewish adults' volunteer commitments, and reporting on Brandeis University’s Summer Institute for Israel Studies. As if that wasn't enough, he is also involved in the evaluation of Taglit-Birthright Israel, the Jewish Futures Project, and occasionally consults with the JData team which is preparing an online database of Jewish educational programming in North America. So Matt keeps himself very busy, and we're happy he has been a part of our team too.
Following our presentation of the lifetime achievement award to Bill Berman at AJS, the Executive Board decided to name a new Mandell L. Berman Service Award for service above and beyond the call of duty in the name of the social scientific study of Jewry, to be awarded on an occasional basis. Keren McGinity discusses the award elsewhere in the newsletter.

Aside from the many sessions at AJS, especially Steven Cohen’s rousing Marshall Sklare Memorial Lecture and its ensuing commentary, ASSJ also co-sponsored an interesting session at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in Philadelphia last February. Entitled "Intersectionalities and complexities related to Jewish Identity," participants were Debra Kaufman, Avi and Gail Glicksman, Rela Mintz Geffen, Samuel Klausner, Ira Sheskin and Harriet Hartman.

Riv-Ellen Prell, Professor of American Studies at the University of Minnesota, has been selected as the 2011 Marshall Sklare awardee. Riv-Ellen is well-known for some of her larger studies (especially Fighting to Become Americans and Prayer and Community), as well as her many articles and chapters in books, many of which are now standard reading in courses on American Jewish social science. A leading theorist of gender in American Jewish life, and scholar of post-war American Jewish life, including analysis of the havurah movement, summer camping, and the Jewish counterculture, her qualitative work has made a rich contribution to our field. A generous colleague and mentor to a whole generation of younger scholars, we look forward to honoring her in December.

With all that is going on among our members, we would love to expand our membership to include even more of those involved in the social science of Jewry. Bethamie Horowitz has agreed to spearhead an ad-hoc membership committee, and you are all welcome to send her any suggestions to bolster membership (bethamie@gmail.com). If you know of a colleague in the field who is not a member, please send me their names and I will be happy to send them a personal invitation.

With best wishes for an enjoyable and productive summer,

Harriet
(Hartman@rowan.edu)

ASSJ Is on the Move
What are we doing that we did not do 5 years ago?
1) Contemporary Jewry is published by Springer and has moved from an annual to three times per year
2) The Study of Jews in Society Book Series
3) The Current Jewish Population Reports in cooperation with the North American Jewish Data Bank and The Jewish Federations of North America
4) This Newsletter, published 2 times per year.

Thanks to all those who contributed articles and information for this Newsletter

Ira Sheskin
The population articles from the defunct American Jewish Year Book are now being published as part of a new series sponsored by the North American Jewish Data Bank, the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, and The Jewish Federations of North America. The series is called Current Jewish Population Reports. The article by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky (“The Jewish Population of the United States, 2010”) was published as Report 2010-1. The article by Sergio DellaPergola (“World Jewish Population, 2010”) was published as Report 2010-2.

Dashefsky, Sheskin, and DellaPergola are acting as the editors of the new series. We invite others to submit ideas for additional Reports. These should NOT be the types of research that should be submitted to Contemporary Jewry or a like journal and should also not be book length. Ideally, such reports should be descriptive works that can be read by both academics as well as educated lay persons.

All Reports will be published on www.jewishdatabank.org, and the www.assj.org web sites. If you are interested in authoring a Report, please send a one-page proposal to: arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu and isheskin@miami.edu.

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On May 3, after years of planning and production, the JTA Jewish News Archive will finally be live online. JTA is proud to make available -- for free -- more than a quarter-million articles spanning over 90 years and covering firsthand a tumultuous century in Jewish history.
NEWS FROM MEMBERS

ARIELA KEYSAR
Trinity College, Public Policy and Law

Publications:

Presentations:

ARNOLD DASHEFSKY
Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies, Professor, Department of Sociology, Director, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, and Director, Berman Institute-North American Jewish Data Bank, University of Connecticut

Paper Presentations:
● "Interfaith Marriage and Jewish Journeys in the United States." Paper presentation at the University of Miami (Miami, FL, March 2011).
● "Charitable Choices: Decisions of Donors in the American Jewish Community." Paper presentation at the University of Miami (Miami, FL, March 2011).

Grants Received:
● The Berman Institute-North American Jewish Data Bank continues to operate at the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, in cooperation with the Roper Center at the University of Connecticut, through the generous support of the Berman Foundation and The Jewish Federations of North America.

BARRY AND CARMEL CHISWICK
George Washington University, Economics

Our new contact information is:

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Barry R. Chiswick  
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fax: (202) 994-6147  
e-mail: brchis@gwu.edu  
web: www.uic.edu/~brchis

Carmel was interviewed for a podcast on the Economics of Judaism. The entire interview is posted at: www.researchonreligion.org.

Bruce A. Phillips  
Professor of Sociology and Jewish Communal Studies Louchheim School of Judaic Studies Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

- I am currently working with UCSD (and former HUC) anthropologist Tom Levy and his graduate student Sowparnika Baliswaminathan on a study of hereditary icon makers in Tamil Nadu. This study pioneers new methodologies combining survey research with kinship analysis. It is not the first contact between Jews and Tamil icon makers: the Cairo geniza documents show transactions between this group and Egyptian Jews: probably not for icons though.
- I recently gave the joint UCLA-USC Burton Lewis lecture at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles: "Not Quite White: Jewish Residential Patterns in Los Angeles." I was invited to contribute an article comparing mixed-race persons with Jews of mixed ancestry to the journal, Social Compass. I am also interviewing adults who were raised in families with a non-Jewish parent.

Chaim I. Waxman  
Senior Fellow at the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem

- "American Orthodox Jewry at the Mid-Twentieth Century" (Hebrew), in Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, Ish al Ha'Eda (Community, Covenant and Commitment: Selected Letters and Communications). Tel Aviv: Yediot Sefarim, 2011.
- "Frustrating-But the Best of Times," Conversations (Journal of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals), No. 10, Spring 2011/5771 (Personal reflections on my aliya).
Harriet Hartman
Rowan University, Sociology

- Harriet Hartman and Ira Sheskin completed a report for the NAJDB, "The Influence of Community Context and Individual Characteristics on Jewish Identity: A 21-Community Study." [It will be posted on their website in the near future.] The Report was supported by a Berman Summer Research Fellowship of the North American Jewish Data Bank awarded to Harriet as well as the Jacquet Research Award from the Religious Research Association also awarded to Harriet.

Helena Miller, Lisa D Grant and Alex Pomson
These three researchers edited The International Handbook of Jewish Education, which has been published (April 2011) by Springer. This two volume work comprises 69 chapters by significant scholars of Jewish education worldwide. The chapters explore the state of Jewish education and educational research in a wide variety of contexts and fields.

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

- The Jewish Community Study of Greater New Haven (June, 2011) (Woodbridge, CT: The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven).

Papers Presented
- “A Data-Based Approach to Examining the Future of American Jews,” (Keynote Presentation) Association for Jewish Studies, Boston (2010).

Media appearances
- WPLG (Ch 10, Miami) on the civil unrest in Egypt (2011).
- WPLG (Ch 10, Miami) on the fall of Mubarak (2011).
Keren McGinity
Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University and Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan

McGinity has been appointed a Scholar-in-Residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute for the fall 2011 to continue working on my second book project, The Jewish Masculine Mystique: Intermarriage and Fatherhood as Cultural Prism. Also, a paperback edition of Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage, ideal for course adoption, is forthcoming in January 2012. Reviews are available to read at http://stilljewish.nyupress.org

Samuel Heilman
Distinguished Chair of Sociology and Holder of the Harold Proshansky Chair in Jewish Studies, Queens College

Shawn Landres
Jumpstart (http://jewishjumpstart.org), The Natan Fund (http://natan.org), and The Samuel Bronfman Foundation (http://thesbf.org) have released "The Jewish Innovation Economy: An Emerging Market for Knowledge and Social Capital" (http://innovation.jewisheconomy.org), based on the 2010 Survey of New Jewish Initiatives in North America. The report estimates that there are approximately 600 Jewish startups currently operating in North America, reaching around 630,000 people and accounting for a combined budget of $190-200 million per year.

Are you interested in research on Jewish philanthropy, organizations and/or organizational development, innovation, and Jewish and/or faith-based social entrepreneurship? Jumpstart is interested in identifying quantitative and qualitative researchers (located anywhere in the world) who are or would like to be in conversation about these issues. All welcome, from senior faculty to advanced graduate students to independent scholars. Please contact Shawn Landres at Jumpstart shawn@jewishjumpstart.org.

Shirah Hecht
Independent Research Consultant

Shirah presented at four conferences in 2010, including at the Association for Israel Studies in Toronto, two presentations on program evaluation in Jewish education at Boston-area conferences, and a presentation on Jewish texts related to fertility at the first ever LimmudBoston.

Current research projects include a program evaluation for the Boston Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) Teaching and Technology Fellowship for Jewish educators. A second project with CJP maps the landscape for Jewish education across
multiple synagogues in the area south of Boston, including surveys of parents and teachers, interviews, and other data collection with 12 synagogue-based Jewish schools. Both projects offer the possibility of learning more about collaboration across institutions in Jewish education and creating frameworks for new educational models and pedagogy.

In 2010-11, Shirah also conducted pro bono research consulting for two programs, the first NewCAJE conference, held in Boston, and Artsbridge, a program designed to bridge divides in Israel through the arts for children; collaborated to teach an on-line course in Jewish Civilization at Penn State University; and advised on two M.A. degree projects in Jewish education at Hebrew College.

To have some "down time" this researcher is also currently covering for teachers on long-term leaves at an independent (non-synagogue based) afternoon Hebrew school, an accomplishment of which she is particularly proud. In addition to future teaching, she is looking forward to developing further research related to old and new forms in congregational life, Jewish education, and Israel-Diaspora connections in the Jewish community. Shirah can be reached through her LinkedIn profile to connect on additional professional projects related to the contemporary Jewish community.

Steve Gold

Michigan State University


Stuart Schoenfeld

Chair, Sociology, Glendon College, York University

- "Environmental Peacebuilding Strategies in the Middle East: The Case of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies," Peace and Conflict Review 5(1), 2010 (with Asaf Zohar and Ilan Alleson).

Theodore Sasson

Ted Sasson is Associate Professor of International Studies at Middlebury College and Senior Research Scientist at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University

This book is a scientific and comprehensive analysis of Israelis who live in the United States. Using different complementary sources of data, and through cutting-edge approaches in the social sciences, this volume examines the settlement patterns of the Israeli immigrants, their social profile, their economic achievements, their Americanization processes, as well as the nature and rhythm of their Jewish identification including changes in attachment to the homeland. The characteristics of the immigrants shed light on Israeli society. At the same time they also have important implications for the Jewish community in the host country and on Jewish continuity in America.

Books:
• (with Felipe Pozo and Gilda Waldman (eds.). Pesar la Globalización, la democracia y la diversidad [Thinking Globalization, Democracy and Diversity], México, UNAM, 2009. 358 p.

Articles:
• (with S. DellaPergola, H. Avni, M. Bejarano, L. Senkman) Cuarenta años de cambio: transiciones y paradigmas, [40 Years of Change: Transitions and Paradigms] in H. Avni, J. Bokser-Liwerant, S. DellaPergola,


**Papers at International Conferences**

- "Building Identity: inclusion or exclusion?" International Conference on Memory and Archives. Center of Documentation-World Memory UNESCO-Faculty of Social Sciences Acatlan, March 9-11, 2010.
"History and Moral in Judaism." International Colloquium Values for Contemporary Society, Mexico, UNAM. August 23-27.


**Institutional Research Projects:**

- (with Sergio DellaPergola and Leonardo Senkman), 2010. Latin American Jews in a Transnational World. Redefining and relocating Jewish experiences and identities on four continents, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2010-.


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**Sergio DellaPergola**


**Articles:**


13 The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry Volume 3 Number 1

- Iran and Iraq: Demography beyond the Jewish Past. *AJS Perspectives - The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies*, Fall 2010, 6-7.
- Israel-Diaspora: Demographic, Socioeconomic and Identificational Convergences and Divergences. Boston, 42nd Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies, 2010.


Ethiopian Aliyah: Data and Outlook, Twenty Years since the Immigration of Ethiopian Jews. Jerusalem, The Hebrew University, Truman Institute, 2011.

From the New ASSJ Student Representative, Moshe Kornfeld

Greetings from New Orleans! My name is Moshe Kornfeld and I am a doctoral candidate in cultural anthropology at the University of Michigan. I am also affiliated with the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. My dissertation research frames ethnographic data on Jewish philanthropic activities in New Orleans in relation to: (1) a historical account of the rise of the Jewish social justice movement; (2) the anthropology of Jews and Judaism; (3) anthropological theories of gift and exchange; and (4) anthropological discussions of the relationship between religion, secularity, and modernity. By applying anthropological method and theory to the project of understanding the establishment, growth, and influence of the Jewish social justice movement, my research seeks to present a deeply nuanced and ethnographically informed commentary on the politics and practices of contemporary American Jewish philanthropy networks. On a more personal level, my research emerges from a passion for Judaic studies, professional experience in the Jewish non-profit world, and an ongoing interest in cultural transformations in a global era. It is an honor for me to serve as the student representative to the ASSJ Board and I thank the association for this opportunity.
Diana Pinto, our European Representative

Dr. Diana Pinto is an independent scholar and policy analyst living in Paris. She obtained her B.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard University where she was a Visiting Scholar at the Center for European Studies in 2009.

She has been the founder and director of a Ford Foundation project housed inside the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, London, "Voices for the Res Publica." This pan-European project sought to establish new bases of common belonging for Europe’s various religious and ethnic majorities and minorities, with the aim of respecting different identities while also transcending them in the name of a higher 'common good.'

After the fall of the Berlin Wall, she was editor in chief of a French pan-European review for the general public, Bélvèdère, and subsequently a consultant from 1993 to 2000 to the Political Directorate of the Council of Europe for its civil society and democratic projects in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Dr. Pinto has spent the last decades reflecting on and advocating democracy and pluralism in a post-1989 Europe. It is within this pursuit that she has lectured and written widely on the new Jewish presence across the Continent to both Jewish and non-Jewish audiences. As a policy analyst, her papers have been used by many Jewish institutions: the Joint Distribution Committee, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, l’Alliance Israélite Universelle, the JPPI, various Limmuds, etc., as well as in academic contexts.

The Turkish Association for the History of Religions

The Turkish Association for the History of Religions has organized international and national symposia biannually since its founding in 1994. So far, seven scholarly meetings on various subjects have taken place. One of the subjects of these meetings was Christianity. This time we would like to dedicate our international symposium to "Judaism in all its Aspects: Past, Present and Future." We are planning to discuss and share our research on other major religions such as Islam or Buddhism in the near future.

Schedule:

2. First application deadline: 15 April 2011.
3. Announcement of accepted names and the conference program: 15 July 2011.
4. The conference is going to take place 1-3 December 2011 in Ankara/Turkey.

Contact:

Ali Isra Güngör
Secretary General of Turkish Association for the History of Religions
Email: Ali.I.Gungor@divinity.ankara.edu.tr
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, sociology)
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)

WWW.JTA.ORG

One web site that should be of significant interest to all members is www.jta.org. This is the web site of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which is basically an Associated Press for Jewish news. In particular, you can sign up for an e-mail that comes each weekday that provides headlines from the Jewish world and links to stories in other publications.

WWW.JEWISHIDEASDAILY.COM

This web site will also send you a daily e-mail with links to stories. While JTA tends to carry many news items, this web site tends to link to, and write some of their own stories, that include more in-depth analysis. In early December, they covered Sergio DellaPergola’s World Jewish Population, 2010 Report!
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

ASSJ Institutional Members

- Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (Brandeis University)
- Frankel Center for Advanced Jewish Studies (University of Michigan)
- Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life and North American Jewish Data Bank (University of Connecticut)

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Student representative
Moshe Kornfeld, University of Michigan
Contemporary Jewry

Contemporary Jewry, the journal of the ASSJ, 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 175 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, secular Jewry, the distancing hypothesis, 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
You can access the journal on-line at the “Journal” tab at www.assj.org.

Available Now Via On-Line First
● Post-Jewish?: Theorizing the Emergence of Jewishness in Canadian Television, Michele Byers.
● The Jewish Renewal Movement in Israeli Secular Society, Rachel Werczberger and Na’ama Azulay
● Erratum to: Jewish Non-Profit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey, Paul Burstein
● Jewish Nonprofit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey, Paul Burstein

The most downloaded article from Contemporary Jewry:

Distancing from Israel: Evidence on Jews of No Religion by Ariela Keysar

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Table of Contents for Contemporary Jewry, Volume 31, Number 1 (April 2011).

Maya Balakirsky Katz, "A Rabbi, a Priest, and a Psychoanalyst: Religion in the Early Psychoanalytic Case History"

Adam S. Ferziger, "Holocaust, Hurban, and Haredization: Pilgrimages to Eastern Europe and the Realignment of American Orthodoxy"

Charles Kadushin’s Marshall Sklare Memorial Lecture, "Social Networks and Jews"

Paul Burstein’s response to the Sklare lecture, "Comments on Kadushin, Social Networks and Jews"

Bruce Phillips response to the Sklare lecture, "Making the Case for Social Network Questions in Jewish Population Surveys"
The Mandell L. Berman Institute 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:

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

2. 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.

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

1. The results of the Howard County MD Jewish Community Study sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Howard County by Ukeles Associates

2. The BJPA Poll on the Egyptian Uprising sponsored by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive, by Steven M. Cohen and Samuel Abrams


4. The results of the New Haven Jewish Community Study sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven by Ira Sheskin.

5. The results of the Baltimore Jewish Community Study sponsored by The ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore by Ukeles Associates.

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner (www.bjpa.org) offers a vast digital collection of policy-relevant research and analysis on Jewish life to the public, free of charge, with holdings of over 11,000 publications spanning from 1900 until today. BJPA’s powerful search functionality allows students, researchers, educators, professionals, and others to access the most relevant content with ease. Prominent within the archive is the entire collection of two journals: The Journal of Jewish Communal Service and Sh’ma: a Journal of Jewish Responsibility. Both provide insightful records of Jewish communal trends and debates over the past century.

You will find the latest research from the Jewish professional field on BJPA (such as JESNA’s Making Jewish Education Work: Jewish Service Learning) as well as the latest academic research and analysis (such as “Toward a Renewed Ethic of Jewish Philanthropy,” a collection of papers from Yeshiva University’s Orthodox Forum) along with publications in social science, demography, program evaluations, best practices, and many other areas of Jewish communal policy. BJPA hosts a large collection of material by Charles Liebman z"l and Daniel Elazar z"l.

BJPA also produces monthly newsletters on topics such as Jews and the Labor Movement, the Changing Jewish Workplace, American Jewish Immigration, and Sexual Abuse in the Jewish Community. It also has a J-Vault series highlighting some gems from its historical collection. You can register at http://www.bjpa.org/Login/register.cfm to create a bookshelf of BJPA material and to upload your own work. We invite you to register and/or send any material that you would like to include on BJPA to Mordecai Walfish at mwalfish@nyu.edu.
The Association for Jewish Studies is pleased to announce the Berman Foundation Dissertation Fellowships in Support of Research in the Social Scientific Study of the Contemporary American Jewish Community. The Berman Fellowships—two awards of $16,000 each—will support dissertations in the social scientific study of the North American Jewish community. Applicants must be Ph.D. candidates at accredited higher educational institutions who have completed their comprehensive exams and received approval for their dissertation proposals (ABD). Fellowships will be awarded for one academic year, with the possibility of renewal, upon submission of an application, for a second year. The Berman Fellowships aim to support the development and expansion of the field of the social scientific study of the North American Jewish community; enhance funding opportunities for up-and-coming scholars in the midst of institutional cutbacks in the social sciences and humanities; encourage graduate students in sociology, social psychology, social anthropology, demography, contemporary history, social work, political science, and Jewish education to expand their research to include study of the North American Jewish community; and nurture a new generation of scholars in this critical area of research. Support for this project is generously provided by the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation. Information about the program can be found on the AJS website: www.ajsnet.org/berman.htm.

JEWISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY

Following the death of Dr Judith Freedman in December 2009 we, as Trustees of the Maurice Freedman Research Trust Ltd, seek to appoint an editor of the Jewish Journal of Sociology (JJS).

The JJS was brought into being in 1959 to provide an international vehicle for serious writing on Jewish social affairs; it was sponsored by the Cultural Department of the World Jewish Congress until the end of 1980. Since then the JJS has been supported by the Trust, which is registered as an educational charity by the Charity Commission of England and Wales. Academically the JJS addresses itself to social scientists in general—to historians, social demographers, anthropologists, philosophers, and students of comparative religion. The JJS is editorially independent and the opinions expressed by authors are their own responsibility.

Starting with the 2012 issue, the JJS will be published by the University of Buckingham Press. The 2011 volume is currently being compiled and will be published in autumn. The University of Buckingham will launch the website www.jewishjournalofsociology.co.uk later this year. All articles and research notes published in the JJS are peer-reviewed.

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Marlena Schmool Geoffrey Alderman
During the late 1990s, an Israeli company seeking to move into newspaper and press digitization approached a Tel Aviv University researcher for archival assistance. Together, they digitized The Palestine Post. This achievement proved to be a breakthrough, as it both preserved the original form of the paper and enabled a free-text search of its contents.

In [season] 2004, the project fell into the hands of Yaron Tsur, a professor of History at Tel Aviv University (and a 2010-2011 fellow at the Frankel Institute). Fueled by graduate-school memories of archives disintegrating to dust, as well as a desire to have centrally located archives, Tsur brought the Historical Jewish Press archive (www.jpress.org.il/view-english.asp) live. Today, it is a Joint initiative of Tel Aviv University and National Library of Israel.

Six years after its inception, the website includes more than 400,000 pages; during the next three years, it will pass the million-page mark. The Historical Jewish Press houses 20 newspapers from 11 countries: Israel, France, Morocco, Prussia, Poland, Austria, England, Egypt, Russia, Hungary, and Germany. The site also enables free-text search in an impressive five languages: English, Hebrew, French, Hungarian, and Judæo-Arabic.

Among the collection’s highlights are Davar, the Histadrut newspaper founded in Tel Aviv in 1925 by Berl Katznelson and published until 1996; Hatzvi, founded by Eliezer Ben-Yehuda; Hamagid, a weekly published in a number of European cities between the mid-19th century and the early 20th century; and Hamelitz, the first Jewish weekly in Czarist Russia.

While the Historical Jewish Press is not the first website dedicated to the Jewish press, it is the first website dedicated to the press of the Jewish communities as a whole, which necessitates that it be multilingual (previous websites were monolingual). "We decided to build a website of a different kind," explains Tsur, "one whose aim is to reflect the variegated cultural character of the Jewish minorities. Later, however, we started to discuss the gap between the Jewish worldwide lingual and journalistic profile and the website's three facets and found the gap too wide."

Between 1840 and 1880, English, French, and Hebrew were the dominant languages of Jewish journalism, but they did not represent the linguistic portrait of world Jewry. Until 1880, Hebrew did not serve as a spoken language for any Jewish population. It did, however, serve as a language of prayer and communication, and at that point started to function as the national language as well. English and French, on the other hand, belonged to a group of European languages that did serve Jews, albeit only fairly small portion of them.

By 1880, European languages were spoken by only 18 to 20 percent of the Jews in the world. Sixty percent of Jews worldwide were speaking Yiddish. Ottoman Jews, who constituted approximately 5 percent of the world's Jewish population, were speaking Ladino. Another 10 to 12 percent, mostly Arabic Jews, were speaking Judeo-Arabic.

"Indeed, until 1880," says Tsur, "the group of European languages and Hebrew, which represented the minority, dominated the field of Jewish journalism in all aspects. However, after 1880, the picture changes. After 1880, Jewish newspapers came into their own."
The history of printed Jewish papers presented Tsur and his colleagues with a unique set of challenges. While scanning and displaying the newspapers was a simple task, creating searchable content requires a sophisticated programming known as "optical character recognition" (OCR). Until recently, only the Latin alphabet was searchable with OCR. This meant, of course, that all newspapers printed in Hebrew, Yiddish (more complicated due to diacritization), and Judeo-Spanish (which uses the Rashi script) would not be searchable.

"Every set of letters requires the development of special OCR tools, but the companies investing in OCR rank an alphabet highly only if there is a promising market for their product," Tsur says. "There was, therefore, a threat-and it has still not entirely disappeared-that a technological barrier would be created that would strengthen the old hierarchy between the European languages and the Jewish languages and dialects. Furthermore, in the new technological revolution, there was even the danger that Hebrew would join the Jewish languages and dialects and experience a lag. Indeed, our website reflected this situation, which explains why it commenced with a newspaper in Latin letters."

Fortunately, the project leaders garnered financial support from external sources, and OCR for the Hebrew alphabet, as well as the Rashi script, were developed. Still, there is no OCR for Yiddish, the most common language in the Jewish world prior to the Holocaust. But there is hope.

"Right now, the website is dominated by Hebrew, but we hope soon to change it, and to open portals for Yiddish journalism, Jewish German, American Jewish, and Ladino. It seems to me," Tsur continues, "that only a multi-lingual website can reflect the 'Jewish situation' during what we may term the classic era of printed Jewish journalism between 1880 and 1980."

Naturally, missions of this sort require the enlistment of forces from various sources; they are not usually a matter for one individual or one institution. "Our policy is to enlist the best specialists for these aims, wherever they are found, in Israel, Europe or the USA. The website, then, is not planned to be a project of one or two institutions, but rather one of international cooperation for the benefit of the whole Internet community."

Has Tsur's time as a fellow at the Frankel Institute helped his project? "I have found Ann Arbor and at the Frankel Institute to be an ideal place for these connections. The committee for the Yiddish portal has been established here, and its chairman, Professor Abraham Novershtern, is also a fellow at the Institute. Forverts, the longest-running Yiddish newspaper, is also represented here indirectly. I have been able to discuss concerns about the Judæo-Arabic section with fellow Benjamin Hary (Emory), and Todd Endelman is trying to help bring the Jewish Chronicle to the website. Finally, Frankel Center Director Deborah Dash Moore is encouraging all of this. To all, I am grateful."

By

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Obituaries

Charles Silberman

Author of A Certain People, Dies at 86

by Steven M. Cohen, Berman Jewish Policy Archive @ NYU Wagner

Charles E. Silberman, known best to today's social scientists of contemporary Jewry for his widely selling monograph, A Certain People: American Jews and Their Lives Today, died on February 5, 2011 at the age of 86.

His highly lucid and somewhat counter-conventional volume on American Jewry followed publication of three earlier works that solidified his reputation as a courageous and ambitious analyst of some of the most compelling social issues of his time. Crisis in Black and White (1964) addressed America's racial divide; Crisis in the Classroom (1970) provided a blistering critique of public education; and Criminal Violence, Criminal Justice (1978) delineated the racial biases pervading America's justice system. Other works included The Open Classroom Reader (1973) and The Myths of Automation (1966).

At a time when many analysts and the Jewish policy-making public held mixed to gloomy views about the future of American Jewry, Silberman's book made two related and insightful arguments. One is that, "American society has broken open to Jews, as well as to members of other ethnic and religious groups, in ways that were not expected - indeed, in ways that could not even have been imagined - a generation ago." In this, Silberman was delivering a message that members of his own generation (he was born in 1925) would find novel, and one that succeeding generations have come to see as unremarkable.

His companion argument anticipated, provoked and framed the major matters of debate within our profession over the past quarter century. Among the highlights: "A lachrymose view of American Jewish life is unfounded. … Young Jews are comfortable with their Jewishness, whether they express it in religious or secular terms. … For all the talk about intermarriage and assimilation, Judaism is not about to disappear in the United States. … New forms [of Judaism] are emerging and old ones are reviving. … We are, in fact, in the early stages of a major revitalization of Jewish religious, intellectual, and cultural life - one that is likely to transform as well as strengthen American Judaism."

On a personal note, Charles was a true mentor and friend in my early years as an emerging scholar. I had the privilege of providing analysis of extant survey data and the pleasure of commenting upon his chapters. He returned the favor, not only with overly kind expressions of friendship, but in writing a very thoughtful and graciously constructed foreword to American Modernity and Jewish Identity (1983).

I recall asking him, in 1985, why it took him four years to publish the book that seemed - to me, at least -- largely completed in 1981. Charles' answer stuck with me ever since: It took him an additional three years to amass the incidents and illustrative material to vividly communicate his analysis and findings. His years as writer and editor at Fortune magazine honed his capacity and commitment to produce not only excellence in
thought, but to attend expertly to the quality of expression.

Combining endearing personal qualities of caring, patience, and gentleness with a profound commitment to combating social ills and contributing to his people, Charles E. Silberman leaves an rich legacy to his family, friends, students, and readers. He leaves four sons and six grandchildren. May his memory be for a blessing.

Paul Ritterband was a man of many parts. His eclectic interests in the world around him were partially shaped by his formal education. He was educated at the Bronx High School of Science, Yeshiva College and ordained a rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America before completing a PhD in sociology at Columbia University. At JTS, he became engaged with the philosophy of his teacher Mordecai Kaplan and subsequently both he and his good friend from Yeshiva College and JTS, the late Rabbi David Mogilner joined the religious school faculty at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism (SAJ) where Dr. Kaplan was the senior rabbi. I was lucky enough to have Paul as a teacher in kitah gimel at the age of 9 and David the following year.

By the time that Paul had finished up at JTS, had completed his course work at the Graduate Faculties of Columbia, and was writing his dissertation on the brain drain (then called the non-return) of Israeli academics to the United States, I was majoring in sociology as an undergraduate in the Joint Program of Columbia and JTS. My academic advisor and methodology professor was Charles Kadushin, who was also the supervisor for Paul's dissertation. The surveys had been written in Hebrew and the coding numbers (yes we used to tally them by hand) were on the "wrong" side of the page. Hence, the need for a coder who knew Hebrew. And that is how I came to spend many hours in a small room in Fayerweather Hall at Columbia University adjacent to where Ritterband and Kadushin worked, coding hundreds of surveys and listening in on their interesting conversations. Kadushin and Ritterband both became professors in the CUNY system, Paul, at CCNY. At his retirement Paul was
named Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Paul was interested in the big picture of what was happening to American Jews and Judaism. He always based his contemporary studies on a thorough analysis of the history underlying current issues and his deep knowledge of classical Judaism. He studied Jewish philanthropy and Jewish participation in American academic life but he always came back to religion and, in particular, synagogue membership and participation as the single best predictor of strong Jewish identity in America.

Paul has authored or edited or co-edited six books including:


The ASA Rose Monograph and first book resulted from his dissertation.

Of great interest is the range and reach of his research, from important works on intermarriage and Jewish philanthropy to the more recent analysis (edited with Noah-Lewis Epstein and Yaakov Ro’I) on Soviet Jews, He always returned to the subject of American Jewish demography and never minced words when he thought other researchers were looking at the American Jewish situation through rose colored glasses. At his death, he was working on an analysis of the Jewish community of New York in the twentieth century. History, demography, education, economy, and the community's effort to maintain itself as a religio-ethnic community within the larger American society, all came together in his last work.

He was a dedicated Zionist and eventually made Aliya, living in Haifa with his wife Mimi Halkin. He also left a son, Oren. Sadly, a lingering illness marred the last of those years. The ASSJ was fortunate to be able bring him to the US in 2008 to receive the Marshall Sklare Award. Yehi Zichro Baruch - May his memory serve as a blessing and inspiration to us all.