Mandell L. Berman Service Award to Irene and Eddie Kaplan

The Mandell L. Berman Service Award is given occasionally by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry to a civic or business leader or an academic for a career of distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jews through service and/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.

This year’s award goes to Edward and Irene Kaplan of the Charles I. and Mary Kaplan Foundation in Rockville, Maryland.

Eddie and Irene Kaplan, through their Foundation, provided major support for the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey. Eddie, with Bill Berman, co-chaired NJPS. The Foundation made a major grant to help fund the study. Their Foundation also provided almost all the funding for the 2003 Jewish Community Study of Greater Washington. Irene chaired the Demographic Study Committee for that study.

Both have served as former presidents of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and are major donors to many Jewish causes. Eddie is a past president of the United Jewish Endowment Fund in Washington.

The Kaplan Foundation also supports the Kaplan Seminar for Emerging Professionals at the Fisher-Bernstein Institute for Jewish Philanthropy & Leadership. They are also supporters of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

(Thanks to Harriet Hartman, Keren McGinity, and Ira M. Sheskin who served on the Berman Service Award Committee.)
President’s Column

Congratulations to Lila Berwin Corwin, Steven Cohen, and Len Saxe on their (re)election to the ASSJ Board! Lila brings with her an interdisciplinary approach and a historical perspective on the impact that social science frameworks have had on the wider Jewish community which will be sure to be helpful in our contemporary endeavors; Steven bridges to the world of policy and the wonderful resource in the Berman Jewish Policy Archive (BJPA), as well as his own wealth of research and ideas; Len, Director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies and the Steinhardt Social Research Institute, organizer of the recent Socio-Demographic Conference that has generated enormous dialogue, brings experience and ideas for furthering the social scientific study of Jewry. Their collective strengths will empower our Board and organization and I look forward to working with them this year, as well as our continuing Board members. A very special thank you to Matt Boxer, who volunteered multiple hours to get the elections running smoothly and to all members.

Another new Board member is Bruce Phillips, who will be taking over for Gail Glicksman as Treasurer until the end of her term. Besides his willingness to pour over our financial treasures, Bruce brings a long legacy of research and policy involvement which will enrich ASSJ.

With that, I must thank Gail Glicksman, Keren McGinity and Randall Schnoor for their service on the Board, which has been exemplary. I know we will be able to count on their continued involvement to bring new perspectives and input to what we do.

Keren was very active in advocating, promoting, and bringing to fruition our new Berman Service Award, named after Mandel "Bill" Berman, and intended to honor those who contribute either philanthropically and/or through their dedicated service to the promotion of the social scientific study of Jewry. Our inaugural recipients are Edward and Irene Kaplan of Washington, D.C., whose contributions on both national and local levels are well known (see preceding story).

We are very fortunate to have Riv-Ellen Prell as our 2011 Sklare Award honoree. Many of you know her work, her invaluable insights on gender and on post-war American Jewry, as well as her generous mentoring and support of peers and younger colleagues. Join us at the Sklare Memorial Lecture on Sunday, Dec. 18, 4:15, to hear her address, and stay for the reception following immediately upon the close of that session (see announcements elsewhere in the newsletter).

ASSJ was very pleased to co-sponsor an unusual and fruitful conference on the Socio-Demography of American Jewry, spearheaded by the Steinhardt Social Research Institute at Brandeis, especially Len Saxe and his staff. Bringing together major scholars and advocates of this topic. Many of the topics will be discussed in a forthcoming issue(s) of Contemporary Jewry. We hope to contribute to more venues of this type, to facilitate progress in our field.

We are also planning to co-sponsor sessions at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in February, 2012 (New York) and the Association for Sociology of Religion in August, 2012 (Denver). Look for announcements on the ASSJ listserv.

Speaking of sessions, check out the list of social-science related sessions at AJS compiled by the BJPA (with some input by ASSJ) and attached to this newsletter. Thanks to Steven Cohen, Seth Chalmer, and Ira Sheskin for their good work on compiling this list and making it available.
As you’ll read in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter, the newly sponsored ASSJ book series, Studies of Jews in Society, has moved its publisher to the University of Nebraska Press, in order to make its publications more accessible and affordable to all readers. Please consider submitting your manuscripts and manuscript ideas to the General Series Editor (myself), and encourage colleagues and friends to do likewise.

Thank you for ratifying the by-law changes suggested by the Executive Board. The new Board configuration will be the 4 officers, 5 at-large Board members, the newsletter editor, international and student representatives, and immediate past president. Next year’s elections will be completed by December 1st. Other changes bring the by-laws into sync with actual practices for the past few years.

Welcome to our new members, and let me remind each of you to be on the lookout for potential members. If you send me names and contact information, I’ll be happy to invite them personally to become members of ASSJ and enrich our conversations and ideas.

This year’s Board meeting will be held Sunday, from 1-2 PM at the Grand Hyatt Washington DC, in the Farragut room. An additional meeting time has been scheduled for Monday 1-2 (same room) if needed. All members are welcome to attend.

Finally, I can’t close without thanking Ira Sheskin profusely for his diligence in producing a full and news-filled newsletter. Many hours go into soliciting and arranging this information, and he never fails to give us plenty to think about. Thank you to all contributors, and especially to Ira.

I hope to see many of you at AJS,

Harriet (Hartman@rowan.edu)
The American Jewish Year Book Is Returning!

In 2008, the American Jewish Committee ceased publication of the American Jewish Year Book after 108 years, a victim of the current economic recession and changing technology. With a new publishing model, AJYB will resume publication with the 2012 Year Book in December 2012.

The project is being generously supported by funds from:
1) The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami (Haim Shaked, Director);
2) The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut (Jeremy Teitelbaum, Dean); and
3) Springer, a major scientific publisher.

The editors of the AJYB are:
1) Arnold Dashefsky (Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies, Professor of Sociology, the Director of the Center of Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, and the Director of the Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank, all at the University of Connecticut)
2) Ira M. Sheskin (Professor of Geography and Director of the Jewish Demography Project of the Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami)
3) Sergio DellaPergola (The Shlomo Argov Chair in Israel-Diaspora Relations and the Head of the Division of Jewish Demography and Statistics at the Avraham Institute of Contemporary Jewry, both at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem).

Three organizations are sponsoring this effort:
1) The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ)
2) The Berman Institute - North American Jewish Data Bank (NAJDB)
3) The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

The Year Book will be available in three forms:
1) Hard copy to be purchased by libraries and to be distributed to libraries with subscriptions to Springer products
2) E-copies downloaded from Springer at $25
3) Soft cover copies to be ordered from Springer at $25

The Year Book will consist of articles reviewing events in the American Jewish community, long review articles on topics of general interest, the article by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky on the Jewish Population of the United States, the article by Sergio DellaPergola on world Jewish population, a list of Jewish organizations, a list of Jewish publications and web sites, and obituaries. The two population articles will continue to be published on www.jewishdatabank.org, www.bjpa.org, and the www.assj.org web sites.

Thanks to the American Jewish Committee for their cooperation in this transition.
Call for Long Review Articles for the American Jewish Year Book

For decades, the *American Jewish Year Book* has been the premiere place to publish long review articles on topics of interest to the American Jewish community.

Recent and possible future topics include: Jewish Education, Philanthropy in the Jewish Community, Israel/Diaspora Relations, Jewish Demography, American Jewish History, Conservative Judaism in the US, Reform Judaism in the US, Jewish Involvement in the Labor Movement, Perspectives in American Jewish Sociology, Recent Trends in American Judaism, Impact of Feminism on American Jewish Life, and American Jewish Museums.

The editors (Arnold Dashefsky, Ira M. Sheskin, and Sergio DellaPergola) invite proposals from researchers to produce long review articles for future issues of the *Year Book*. Final drafts of articles for the 2012 volume would be due June 1, 2012, but we are accepting proposals now for future volumes as well. One or two such articles will be published in each issue.

For more information about the *American Jewish Year Book*, please see the previous page.

Honoraria of $2,000 will be paid to authors of long (generally 50-100 pages) articles. If you are interested in authoring such an article, please send a one-page proposal to: arnold.dashefsky@uconn.edu, isheskin@miami.edu, and sergioa@mscc.huji.ac.il.

ASSJ Book Series Moves to the U of Nebraska

ASSJ now has a contract with the University of Nebraska for the *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* series. The University of Nebraska marketing policy is attractive; they will issue paperbacks and more reasonably priced hard covers, and will market through Amazon, B&N and more conventional venues. They have just taken over the marketing of Jewish Publication Society manuscripts as well, so they see Jewish studies as a developing field for them. The contract is with ASSJ, who is responsible for appointing a General Series Editor and Editorial Board. The initial term of contract is 5 years.

ASSJ appoints the General Series Editor, and Harriet Hartman will serve as the first Editor, as determined by the ASSJ Executive Board. The editorial board includes:

Sarah Abramson, London School of Economics, Board of Deputies of British Jews, UK  
Judith Bokser Liwerant, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico  
Samuel Heilman, Queens College NY, USA  
Debra Kaufman, Northeastern University, USA  
Bruce Phillips, Hebrew Union College, USA  
Uzi Rebhun, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel  
Leonard Saxe, Brandeis University, USA
NEWS FROM MEMBERS

ARIELA KEYSAR  
Trinity College, Public Policy and Law


BARRY CHISWICK  
George Washington University, Economics

Barry R. Chiswick received the 2011 Prize in Labor Economics from the Institute for the Study of Labor, at the prize ceremony that coincided with the European Economics Association Annual Meeting in Oslo in August. (See the later in this Newsletter.)

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

● Research Consultation: Consultation on Philanthropy at Lake Institute on Faith and Giving, Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis (Indianapolis, IN, September 2011).
● Grants Received: 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.

SERGIO DELLAPEGOLLA  
Professor Emeritus, The A. Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem


The full volume can be downloaded for free at:  

A paperback copy can be obtained by writing to:  
ita@jppi.org.il

Sergio currently teaches courses on: Introduction to Demography of the Jews; and: Italy, France and Argentina: Jews in Comparative Perspective. In 2011 he also lectured on the demography of World,
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European, Latin American, and North American Jewry, Israel and Palestine, at several conferences and guest events:

- Knesset Committee on Immigration, Absorption and Diaspora, The Knesset, Jerusalem;
- The Israel Sociological Society, Tel Aviv-Yafo Academic College; Presentation of the Book Pertenencia y Alteridad: Judios en/de America Latina - 40 años de cambios, ed. Haim Avni, Judit Bokser Liwerant, Sergio DellaPergola, Margalit Bejarano, Leo Senkman, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem;
- The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, Tel Aviv University;
- The European Jewish Congress, Budapest;
- Conference on Displacement, Migration and Social Integration: A Comparative Approach to Jewish Migrants and Refugees in the Post-War Period (1945-1967), Tel Aviv University;
- Conference on Italy-Israel: The last 150 years, Van Leer Institute and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem;
- Conference on 20 Years of Ethiopian Aliyah, Truman Institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem;
- Presentation of the book Jewish Demographic Policies: Population Trends and Options in Israel and in the Diaspora, by Sergio DellaPergola, The Jewish People Policy Institute, Jerusalem;
- Conference on Judaism à la carte, JOINT Europe, Paris; Limmud, Werbellinsee, Germany;
- The Latin American Jewish Studies Association, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ;
- The Association of Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.; Conference on Anusim and New Jews, Netanya Academic College;
- The Central Bureau of Statistics, Jerusalem;
- Yad Vashem, Jerusalem;
- Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Programa de Posgrado en Ciencias Politicas, Mexico City;
- El Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City;
- Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City;
- Universidad Hebraica, Mexico City;
- Museo Nacional de Antropología, Mexico City;
- The Forum on International Migration, Barnard College and Columbia University, New York;
- Anti-Defamation League, New York;
- Conference on American Jewish Demography, Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.;
- The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, University of Miami, Miami, FL;
- American Friends of the Hebrew University and Beth Torah, North Miami Beach, FL;
- The European Friends of the Hebrew University, Venice;
- The Department of Law Studies, University of Trento;
- The Fondazione Campostrini, Verona;
- Yad Ben Zvi, Haifa; The Institute for National Security Studies INSS, Tel Aviv;
- Presentation of the book The Arab Society in Israel (4), ed. Rassem Khamaisi and Ramses Gharrah, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem;
- Conference The Emergence of Brazil as a Global Player, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Abstract:
For centuries, fervently observant Jewish communities have produced thousands of works of Jewish law, thought, and spirituality. But in recent decades, the literature of America’s Haredi [ultra-Orthodox] community has taken on brand-new forms: self-help books, cookbooks, monthly magazines, parenting guides, biographies, picture books, even adventure stories and spy novels -- all produced by Haredi men and women, for the Haredi reader. What’s changed? Why did these works appear, and what do they mean to the community that produces and consumes them? How has the Haredi world, as it seeks fidelity to unchanging tradition, so radically changed what it writes and what it reads? In answering these questions, Strictly Kosher Reading points to a central paradox in contemporary Haredi life. Haredi Jewry sets itself apart, claiming to reject modern secular culture as dangerous and as threatening to everything Torah stands for. But in practice, Haredi popular literature reveals a community thoroughly embedded in contemporary values. Popular literature plays a critical role in helping Haredi Jews to understand themselves as different, even as it shows them to be very much the same.

"Yoel Finkelman presents a penetrating and fascinating analysis of the ways in which American "haredi" ("ultraorthodox") writers and educators use the broader culture to create and maintain clear boundaries between themselves and the outside society and culture. With acute observations and a very effective writing style, this book is for anyone interested in the areas of American Orthodox Judaism, Jewish education, religion and media, as well as the broader social scientific area of culture and cognition."
--Chaim I. Waxman, Rutgers University

Yoel Finkelman
Bar-Ilan University


Yoel Finkelman presents a penetrating and fascinating analysis of the ways in which American "haredi" ("ultraorthodox") writers and educators use the broader culture to create and maintain clear boundaries between themselves and the outside society and culture. With acute observations and a very effective writing style, this book is for anyone interested in the areas of American Orthodox Judaism, Jewish education, religion and media, as well as the broader social scientific area of culture and cognition."
--Chaim I. Waxman, Rutgers University

Rela Geffen
Gratz College

In The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture, edited by Judith Baskin, 2011. Rela served as the Subeditor for Jewish Life and Practice and also contributed ten entries.

Rela was named editor of Jewish Political Studies Review, a peer reviewed journal appearing twice a year under the auspices of the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs. (Members of the ASSJ who are interested in submitting articles for the journal or want more information about it should be in touch with me at RMGeffen@JCPA.org. If you have recently published a book related to Jewish Public Affairs or the Jewish polity and would like it to be considered for review in the JPSR, write to me or to Joel Fishman, Book Review Editor at Joel.fishman@gmail.com.)


**Allen Glicksman**  
*Philadelphia Corporation for Aging and Drexel University*

- Received $315,000 grant from National Institutes of Health to study the impact of the social and physical environments on the health of older adults.

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**Gail Glicksman**  
*Temple University*

- Doctor of Divinity degree, Honoris Causa, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, June, 2011.
- Invited to offer the first "Last Lecture" at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, May, 2010. This is an annual "last lecture" in which a respected teacher offers insights into her accumulated wisdom. I discussed insights from my academic and applied work in the experience of illness and the connections between health and religious experience, highlighting the ways that religion can play multiple types of roles in the context of illness.

This book tells the life story of an extremely engaging and charming Polish Jew, Shmuel Braw (1906-1992), who lived through the traumatic historical events that shaped Jewish experiences in the twentieth century. The story is told largely in Shmuel's own Yiddish-inflected Australian English to two avid listeners: Calvin Goldscheider, a social scientist, and Jeffrey M. Green, a writer and translator. Both the Holocaust and Shmuel's harrowing experience as a prisoner in a Soviet labor camp in Siberia figure prominently in this book, but Shmuel also describes his community of Tarnow, a town in southeastern Poland, in rich detail.

After World War II, Shmuel settled in Melbourne, Australia before eventually immigrating to Israel. The book is true to Shmuel's spirit and shares the life of a man whom everyone fondly remembers as a typical extraordinary Jew.

Sidney Goldstein
Brown University, Sociology

On October 23, Sidney Goldstein was honored for his contributions to Jewish demography at a dinner at Brandeis University. The event, part of a Conference on the Socio-Demography of American Jewry, was sponsored by the Steinhardt Social Research Institute of Brandeis. The Lifetime Achievement Award was jointly presented by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and the Steinhardt Institute.

Goldstein is recognized as the Dean of American Jewish demographers. His 1963 research on the Jewish population of Greater Providence, sponsored by the General Jewish Committee of Providence, was among the first to apply rigorous scientific methods of sampling and analysis to the study of a Jewish community. It served as a model for a number of subsequent studies in other Jewish communities. In 1984, Goldstein was invited by the Council of Jewish Federations to become chair of its newly formed National Technical Advisory Committee on Population (NTAC). Under Goldstein's chairmanship, NTAC was responsible for initiating and implementing the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey (NJPS), which provided the first reliable body of information on the US Jewish population. The 1990 Survey results were widely used by the local and national federations as the basis for evaluating their current programs and planning for the future.

It resulted in a large number of scientific articles and books, of which Goldstein, with his wife, Alice, co-authored the monograph Jews on the Move. Goldstein has been involved with a number of other community surveys, including one in Springfield, MA; he also co-directed with Calvin Goldscheider, the second survey of the RI Jewish population in 1987, and, with Alice, a survey of the Jewish community of Lithuania in 1993.
Since coming to RI in 1955, Goldstein has served as an active volunteer within the RI Jewish community, including membership on the boards of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, the Bureau of Jewish Education, the RI Jewish Historical Association, the Jewish Seniors Agency, Lincoln Park Cemetery Association, Brown/RISD Hillel, and Temple Am David.

He is GH Crooker Professor (Emeritus) and Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Population Studies at Brown University, from which he retired in 2001. In addition to his work on the Jewish population, Goldstein has done extensive research on the relation between population change and development in Denmark, Thailand, China, Guatemala, Vietnam, and several African nations. He has authored many books and articles in his field of expertise. In recognition of the excellence of both his international and Jewish work, he was named the 2005 Laureate of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, the world’s association of scholars of demography.

Shirah Hecht
Independent Research Consultant

The title below was released 11/22/11 and may be of interest to this group. It includes an analysis of how the American musical was developed as an art form very much by Jews and ultimately to process the assimilation experience, for Jews and subsequently for other social groups in America. Full disclosure is that this is (obviously) a book by my husband, not by me.

Transposing Broadway: Jews, Assimilation, and the American Musical (Palgrave Studies in Theatre and Performance History), by Stuart J. Hecht (Palgrave Macmillan)


Harold Himmelfarb
After 22 years of public service, working to improve the quality of education research, Harold Himmelfarb will be retiring from the U.S. Department of Education to pursue consulting, writing, and other activities. After December 31, 2011, he can be reached at haroldhimmelfarb@gmail.com.

Bethamie Horowitz
NYU

After many years of work in the Jewish communal-organizational world I have shifted my base to the university. I now have a faculty appointment at the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development where I teach the core seminar in the doctoral program in Education and Jewish Studies, and continue to conduct research.

Ari Y. Kelman
Stanford University, School of Education

The Stanford School of Education and the Jim Joseph Foundation are proud to announce the appointment of Professor Ari Y. Kelman as the inaugural Jim Joseph Chair in Education and Jewish Studies. Kelman will lead the new academic Concentration in Education and Jewish Studies.

Kelman comes to Stanford from the University of California at Davis, where he established himself as a leading scholar of contemporary Jewish life, with an emphasis on media, ethnic identity, and American religious culture. Kelman has authored three books about American Jewish life and culture. Sociologist Steven M. Cohen praised Kelman, saying, “We live in a time of fluid and hybrid identities, Jewish and otherwise. And we live in a time with equally fluid understandings of the character and methods of education,
Jewish and otherwise. No one studies these issues as well, as insightfully, and as imaginatively as Ari Y. Kelman.”

Charles E. Ducommun Professor Emeritus of Education Lee Shulman observed, “The study of how personal and social identity develops and how it affects civic engagement, educational aspirations and group membership has become a central topic of educational research. Kelman’s appointment strengthens ongoing work at Stanford on the interactions of religion, ethnicity, identity and education, and may well prefigure future growth in this area.

Dr. Kelman will design and direct the Concentration, which is integrated with existing programs for the preparation of education scholars. He will also facilitate collaborations between the School of Education and the Taube Center for Jewish Studies. Professor Steven Weitzman, Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies said, “Dr. Kelman's research places him on the cutting edge of Jewish thought today, and my colleagues and I are thrilled to be able to collaborate with him. We are excited by what it means to have one of the world's leading schools of education addressing such issues.”

The Chair and the Concentration are the result of a $12 million gift from the Jim Joseph Foundation. The gift, the largest in the history of the School of Education, endowed the Chair and will provide fellowships for graduate students.

**Shaul Kelner**

*Vanderbilt University, Sociology*


**Barry Kosmin**

*Trinity University, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society & Culture*

Co-Editor of a new open access, on line academic journal starting January 2012 entitled Secularism & Nonreligion [www.secularismandnonreligion.org](http://www.secularismandnonreligion.org)

- "Conclusion: The sacred, the secular and the sovereign," *The Sacred and the Sovereign: a compendium of pieces from e-IR on Religion and International Relations, e-International Relations*, May 2011

**Papers Presented**

- "Attachment and Identification in the USA," Association for Canadian Studies Conference on Governance, Attachment and Identities in Federal States: Comparing Canada, the United States, Germany and Spain, Ottawa, Canada, April 6, 2011
- Secularism and Secularity among India's Scientific Elite: Balancing the Political, the Professional and the Personal in the 21st Century, Second Annual Conference of the Centre for Area Studies Multiple Secularities
and Global Interconnectedness, University of Leipzig, Germany, 13 - 15 October 2011.
● A flexible classification system for American Jews in the 21st Century: Meeting the challenge of ideological and sociological diversity at the Socio-Demography of the American Jewish Community Brandeis University, October 23-24, 2011.

Judit Bokser Liwerant
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Articles and Chapters in Books
● Los desafíos de la educación judía en América Latina (Challenges Facing Jewish Education in Latin America), Memoria del Encuentro de Educadores en América Latina, México, Universidad Hebraica, (2011)

Papers at International Conferences

Lectures
● "Political Science meets Political Cartographies", International Conference, Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, UNAM, September 29.
● Lecture with Sergio DellaPergola and Margalit Bejarano, moderated by Ira Sheskin, on our book Belonging and Otherness, Jews in/of Latin America: Forty Years of Change, at the Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, University of Miami, October 26.
● "Processes of Delegitimization: continuity and change", American Jewish Committee, Miami, October 27.
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


Papers Presented


Media appearances

● WIOD (610 AM) on the pending withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan (2011).

● WIOD (610 AM) on the death of Osama bin Laden (2011).

Community Presentations

● Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

● Tampa Jewish Federation

● Meyer Jewish Academy (West Palm Beach)

● Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit

● Jewish Federation of Greater Houston

● Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

● Embassy of Israel (Washington, DC)

● American Jewish Committee

● Israel on Campus Coalition

Ria Van Ryn
Yeshiva University

I finished a PhD in Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My dissertation, entitled "Inspiring Isaac and Ishmael: Religious, Cultural, and Ethnic Identity Formation in Jewish and Islamic Middle Schools" and supervised by Dr. Lisa Pearce, was a qualitative study of negotiations of difference in Jewish and Islamic day schools in the American South. I am thrilled to have accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of Sociology at Yeshiva University this fall and hope to tap into the ASSJ community here in New York.
Chaim I. Waxman  
Senior Fellow, Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem

- Appointed Research Fellow jointly with Uzi Rebhun, Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt. Scopus, for a project entitled, "American Jews and the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process: A Study of Diaspora in International Affairs"
The Marshall Sklare Award is an annual honor of the Association for the Social 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 Della Pergola (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)
2011 Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota, Anthropology)
iv-Ellen Prell is everything great about our profession. She is a brilliant scholar, a generous teacher, a supportive colleague and a keen-eyed researcher of American Jews. There is nobody else in our field who approaches the complex configurations of American Jewish life with as rigorous and nuanced a perspective than Riv-Ellen. She is soft-spoken, sharply insightful, and I cannot count the number of times that I've thought "someone should write about that," only to find that Riv-Ellen already had done so, brilliantly.

For interdisciplinary scholars like me, who work on the qualitative end of the social sciences and the "scientific" end of the humanities, Riv-Ellen has been a guiding light, an inspiration, and a valuable mentor. She is one of the very few Jewish Studies scholars in my field of American Studies, and her presence reminded me that it is possible to do interdisciplinary work within Jewish social science, and to study Jews in American Studies. For these reasons, among others, I am very pleased that the ASSJ has chosen to recognize Riv-Ellen's contributions to our field by awarding her the 2011 Sklare Memorial Award.

Riv-Ellen's scholarship is clear, focused, insightful and written to be read by scholars, students, and lay people alike. She asks potent questions, offers rigorous, richly detailed accounts of her subjects, and cogently explains why these things matter. Grounded in carefully collected ethnographic data, Riv-Ellen is not shy about offering broader frameworks that might help American Jews to better understand themselves, yet she also avoids getting caught in the stories she tells. Her influence extends far beyond her own classroom, and into all those who are fortunate enough to work with her, to teach her material, and to continue to learn from her, as well. Her work has entered into the canon (if such a thing could be said) of Jewish social scientific literature, alongside all those who have earned this award before her, as well as the scholar whose name it bears.

Although she's best known for her books (especially Fighting to Become Americans and Prayer and Community), she's had an equal impact through her many articles—not only in journals like Contemporary Jewry and Jewish Social Studies but especially articles in edited volumes, responses, and reviews. Essays like "Developmental Judaism: Challenging the Study of American Jewish Identity in the Social Sciences," which argues for the importance of not only measuring what Jews do, but how Jews understand what they do and why they do it, have become standard reading in courses on American Jewish life, and have played integral roles in the development of the next generation of scholars.

Her influence, however, sometimes takes a while to be felt, and her book, Prayer and Community, is a perfect example of this. An ethnography of a havurah, the book has experienced something of a renaissance with the new "independent minyan" phenomenon. Through published more than 20 years ago, the book remains a crucial resource for navigating the shifting terrain of American religious communities and practices. Everyone from policy-makers interested in funding new worship communities to denominational bodies are paying attention to her research. Younger people are discovering the book, reading and citing it, as they try to figure out the significance of independent spiritual communities in the American Jewish community. Riv-Ellen understood the importance of this some years ago. The rest of us just had to catch up.
This is the case for much of her scholarship, and her impact can be identified across fields and disciplines. For the ASSJ, in particular, Riv-Ellen has been among the leading contributors to a critical conversation about the implications of social scientific research, challenging our field with larger theoretical questions about our work and how we undertake it. Riv-Ellen’s work on gender has been formative for a whole generation of younger scholars, as it emphasized the centrality of gender as a category in American Jewish life, and not only as lived experience. Her recent work on post-war American Jewish life makes crucial interventions into our understanding of the recent past and has helped frame so many important questions about contemporary Jewish life. Riv-Ellen was asking these questions before many of the rest of us, and our field benefits greatly from her prescience and her insight.

This is clearly a product of her training as an ethnographer. She brings a keen sense for the rich details of Jewish life, and she brings her well-trained eye to all of her research, regardless of the subject. The sensitivity and insight of her qualitative insights offer a powerful complement to quantitative social science. Her ability to move back and forth between complicated data and sophisticated theory models precisely the kind of interdisciplinary work that characterizes the best of social science.

Yet, her commitment to high levels of scholarship does not come at the expense of working as a public intellectual or being a patient and encouraging mentor to younger scholars. I can speak personally about this, as I am one who has benefitted a great deal from her candor, insight, encouragement, guidance and presence. I did not study with her as her graduate student, but in every context in which I have learned with her—at conferences, workshops, lectures, and in informal conversations—she has never been anything but helpful, accessible, and generous, while also offering just the right measure of criticism. Her criticisms, too, echo her commitment to Jewish social scientific research, as she has encouraged me to work a little more, think a little smarter, and look a little more critically at arguments and data I thought I knew.

Through her articles, books, insights, and scholarly contributions, she challenges her colleagues to think harder, work better, and approach our research with a greater sense of curiosity and openness. Through her work collaborating with colleagues and mentoring younger scholars, she models the deeply human side of our work as social scientists. People like that are rare and are worthy of much, much more than awards. Of course, Riv-Ellen has known this for a long time, doing these things all along, and just waiting for the rest of us to catch up.

Ari Y. Kelman
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 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](http://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, 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 200 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, geography, history, politics, population, social history, social psychology, 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
- “Attachment of American Jews to Israel: Perspectives from Local Jewish Community Studies,” Ira M. Sheskin
- “Erratum to: Recent Developments in the Social Scientific Study of Canadian Jews,” David S. Hoffman and Morton Weinfeld
- “Jewish Modern Orthodox Women, Active Resistance and Synagogue Ritual,” Yael Israel-Cohen
- “Recent Developments in the Social Scientific Study of Canadian Jews,” David S. Hoffman and Morton Weinfeld
- “Post-Jewish? Theorizing the Emergence of Jewishness in Canadian Television,” Michele Byers

The most downloaded articles from Contemporary Jewry:
- “Actual, Intended, and Appropriate Family Size Among Jews in Israel,” Sergio DellaPergola
- “Accounting for Jewish Secularism, Is a New Cultural Identity Emerging?,” Bruce A. Phillips
- “Social Networks and Jews,” Charles Kadushin
Table of Contents for Contemporary Jewry, Volume 31, Number 2 (July 2011).

- "Editor's Introduction," **Samuel Heilman**
- "The Political Use of the Teshuva Cassette Culture in Israel," **Nissim Leon**
- "The Jewish Renewal Movement in Israeli Secular Society," **Rachel Werczberger** and **Na'ama Azulay**
- "Jewish Nonprofit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey," **Paul Burstein**
- "Erratum to: Jewish Nonprofit Organizations in the U.S.: A Preliminary Survey," **Paul Burstein**
The Mandell L. Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank (NAJDB) is the central repository of social scientific studies of North American Jewry.

The NAJDB’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.
3. Aid in understanding North American Jewish communities, and to improve the quality and utilization of research conducted about North American Jewry.

From January 1, 2011 - June 30, 2011, 35,562 PDF files were downloaded from the NAJDB. This is a 21% increase over the 27,382 files downloaded during the previous six months. Of the 2,500 regular users, about 2,000 persons subscribe to the Data Bank Briefs.

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

1. The Western North Carolina 2010 Jewish Demographic Study sponsored by the Asheville Jewish Leadership Collaborative by Matthew Boxer and Benjamin Philips.
2. The reports from the 2011 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Synovate.
3. The 2010 Metropolitan Chicago Jewish Community Study sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago by Jacob B. Ukeles and Ron Miller.
4. The 2001 Chicago Jewish Population Study sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago by Peter Friedman.
6. The Detroit 2010 Update Study by Ira M. Sheskin.
7. The Tampa Bay 2010 Update Study by Ira M. Sheskin.

Current Jewish Population Reports

The new Data Bank series, Current Jewish Population Reports, debuted with two volumes, cosponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry:


From October 2010 until July 1 2011, these reports were downloaded more than 16,000 times.
Publicity Materials Posted for Many Studies
Local Jewish community studies are generally accompanied by publicity to inform the community of the study and to encourage potential respondents to cooperate. The NAJDB historically did not post this publicity. Ira M. Sheskin and Ron Miller have provided some examples of publicity that they saved from their studies over the years. These include flyers, post cards, posters, newspaper articles, and other items about the studies. Researchers can now see an important part of the scientific record of the study and Jewish communities undertaking studies now have examples of previous publicity readily available.

The Influence of Community Context and Individual Characteristics on Jewish Identity: A 21-Community Study
This 85-page report by Harriet Hartman and Ira M. Sheskin is now available. It results from the Berman Summer Research Award of 2010 given to Harriet Hartman by the NAJDB and the Religious Research Association Jacquet Research Award to Harriet.

From the introduction to the Report: First, this Report briefly reviews some of the literature on Jewish identity. Second, the Decade 2000 Data Set used for the analysis is described and some of the methodological considerations involved in its use are presented. Third, the Report presents a factor analysis of 17 Jewish identity indicators which yields four Jewish Identity Factors: a Communal Religious Factor, a Private Religious Factor, a Communal Ethnic Factor, and a Local Ethnic Factor. Fourth, the Report presents 44 hypotheses related to the relationships between the Jewish Identity Factors and, at the community level, to both Jewish community infrastructure and context and to the broader community context; and, at the individual level, to Jewish background/connection, family status, socioeconomic status, and demography/geography variables. Considerable time is spent developing these hypotheses, grounded in the available literature as well as our own reasoning. Hypotheses are laid out in detail, so that the results can be compared to what would be expected based on prior studies, both among American Jews and the broader population. Because indicators of community context are introduced, the extent to which individual-level characteristics retain their previously-found relationship with the various factors of Jewish Identity can be tested, even when community context is controlled. And because individual-level indicators are controlled, the net effect of community-level characteristics on individual Jewish identity can be discerned. Fifth, a multiple regression model is used to test the hypotheses. Sixth, the Report concludes with a discussion of the implications of the findings and plans and suggestions for future research and data needs.

Ten most accessed files from January 1, 2011 - June 1, 2011:

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<tr>
<td>Young Adults in US</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>Council of Jewish Organizations of Boro Park</td>
<td>165</td>
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</tbody>
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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 13,000 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 Volunteering + Values: A Repair the World Report on Jewish Young Adults) as well as the latest academic research and analysis (such as JTS Rabbis and Israel, Then and Now: The 2011 Survey of JTS Ordained Rabbis and Current Students) 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 Jewish Service, Jewish Poverty, Jews and the Labor Movement, 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.
ASSJ at the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington

Starting this year, ASSJ will be holding a research session for the staff of the local Jewish Federation and its agencies timed with the AJS meeting. This year, obviously, the session will be held for the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. The purpose is for ASSJ to interact with Jewish community workers and provide them with evidence that research in the academic world can impact their work in the Jewish community. This should also raise the profile of the organization in the Jewish community.

Because of timing issues with the Federation, the session had to be held on Wednesday after AJS. Because of this, only Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz and Ira Sheskin could participate. Laurence will present his recent work on the impact of the recent economic turndown on the Jewish community and will introduce participants to the North American Jewish Data Bank website. Ira will present some highlights from the 2002 Washington Jewish demographic study, putting them in current perspective, and will present his AJS paper (co-authored with Steven Cohen, Ron Miller, and Berna Torr) on the impact of Jewish camping.

As of this writing, more than 20 participants are expected.

From AJS News

Shaul Kelner wins American Sociological Association Culture Section Award
Shaul Kelner’s Tours That Bind: Diaspora, Pilgrimage and Israeli Birthright Tourism (NYU Press, 2010) won an Honorable Mention for the American Sociological Association Culture Section’s 2011 Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book

AJS Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Sarna
Brandeis University professor and AJS Executive Committee member Jonathan Sarna honored at the recent Annual Meeting as the recipient of the 2011 Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion. See press release:

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.
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](http://www.ajsnet.org/berman.htm).

The two winners this year are

**Moshe Kornfeld**, University of Michigan

Rebuilding Houses, Rebuilding Judaism: Post-Katrina New Orleans and the Rise of the Jewish Social Justice Movement

Rebuilding Houses, Rebuilding Judaism: Post-Katrina New Orleans and the Rise of the Jewish Social Justice Movement integrates ethnographic data on Jewish philanthropy, activism, and service in New Orleans into a historically situated and theoretically informed dissertation on the establishment, growth, and influence of the Jewish social justice movement. In particular, this project frames qualitative social scientific data on Jewish social justice activities in New Orleans in relation to the anthropology of Jews and Judaism, anthropological theories of gift and exchange, and anthropological discussions of the relationship between religion, secularity, and modernity. Ultimately, this anthropological consideration of contemporary American Jewish philanthropy applies ethnographic methodologies to generate an understanding of how American Jews as individuals and as members of a faith/ethnic community perceive their ethical responsibilities in a society that has afforded them unprecedented wealth, comfort, and security. Primary questions to be addressed include the following. What accounts for the rise of Jewish social justice movement? What influence does the Jewish social justice movement have on American Jews and American Judaism? Finally, what does the rise of the Jewish social justice movement say about the position of Jews in American society?
**Patricia Munro**, University of California, Berkeley
What If I Drop the Torah? Tensions and Resolutions in Creating B’nai Mitzvah

B’nai Mitzvah is the central life-cycle event for American Jews. As a result, all concerned invest great effort in managing the intrinsic challenges of preparation and enactment. These challenges are not problems with simple solutions, but ongoing tensions that affect the structure of the ritual, of the congregations, and of the lives of individual Jews. My research over the past several years, which includes observation at five congregations and interviews with over two hundred individuals, has led me to identify five key challenges in the B’nai Mitzvah ritual. These are: creating and communicating authenticity, setting limits to participation, routinizing or individualizing the process, assuring competence in enactment, and negotiating public and private space. In the dissertation, I explore different approaches to managing each challenge as well as the characteristics that determining these different approaches. However, while the dissertation looks at a specific ritual, these five issues have broader relevance for American Jewish life. Jews wrestle with what makes Judaism and Jews authentic, with the individualized or routinized nature of community, with what is sufficient competence in Jewish practice, and with the nature of resource distribution. My hope is that this work will contribute to both a specific and a general understanding of the sociology of American Jewish life.

The following projects received honorable mentions:

**Becka Alper**, Purdue University
Does Religious Geography Affect Identity? The Impact of Local Size Characteristics on Religious Networks, Behavior, and Salience

**Shaina Hammerman**, Graduate Theological Union
The Fantastic Hasid: A History of Modern Jewish Imagination

**Jennifer Roskies**, Bar-Ilan University
In Their Own Voices: The Multiple Identities of Jewish Academic Women

**Inga Veksler**, Rutgers University

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**USE PayPal or Check!**
The Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is pleased to announce the 2012 Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar for college/university faculty who are teaching or preparing to teach Holocaust or Holocaust-related courses. Utilizing the latest geographical information systems (GIS) technology, key readings, unique primary sources, and a hands-on mapping/visualization project, this year’s Hess Seminar introduces participants to the concepts and approaches to teaching about the Holocaust through geography in a variety of classroom contexts.

Designed for faculty of all disciplines, the Seminar will be held at the Museum from January 4–10, 2012, and will be co-led by Tim Cole, Department of History, University of Bristol, United Kingdom; and Anne Kelly Knowles, Department of Geography, Middlebury College, Vermont.

For more information, see: http://www.ushmm.org/research/center/seminars/announcement.php?content=hess&year=2012

Ruth Diskin Films

Ruth Diskin Files is among the leading distributors of Israeli and Jewish documentaries from around the world. Jewish institutes of learning have our films in their collections and we wanted to make sure that members of your association were aware of our films as well. Documentary film is a wonderful and instructive means of transmitting information.

Among our films you will find:
The Fire Within-the Jews of the Amazonian Rain Forest http://www.ruthfilms.com/the-fire-within.html
Kafka’s Last Story http://www.ruthfilms.com/kafkas-last-story.html
Iraqn’roll http://www.ruthfilms.com/iraq-n-roll.html
Homecoming http://www.ruthfilms.com/homecoming.html


Work and Family Researchers Network

The Work and Family Researchers Network is organizing an inaugural conference to be held in NYC June 14-16, 2012. More details about the conference can be found at http://workfamily.sas.upenn.edu/conference.html Or contact Harriet Hartman.
Taglit-Birthright Israel Research Grants

Taglit-Birthright Israel and Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS) announce the availability of up to three research grants (including a stipend) for investigators interested in utilizing existing Taglit-Birthright Israel data sets. Since 1999, Taglit-Birthright Israel has offered fully subsidized educational trips to Israel for college and post-college age Diaspora young adults. Data sets include surveys of applicants to the program as well as follow-up surveys of program alumni and applicants who did not go on a trip. Survey questions examine demographic and Jewish background, feelings about the trip, current Jewish behaviors and attitudes on issues pertaining to Israel and contemporary Jewish life. The awards are designed to enable graduate students and early career social scientists (up to 10 years post-Ph.D.) to utilize existing data sets to investigate original questions regarding Taglit-Birthright Israel, young adult Jewish identity and related issues.

In addition to stipends, funds are available for travel (to Brandeis for consultation) and for research expenses. Faculty and staff of the Cohen Center will be available for consultation on use of the data sets. Award recipients will be required to complete an original research monograph based on their analyses and assistance will be provided in publishing the material.

Data

The Cohen Center currently has datasets of pre-trip and post-trip surveys of Taglit applicants and participants. Pre-trip surveys were conducted approximately three months prior to the trip and post-trip surveys were conducted three months to one year after the trips. The datasets are available for trip cohorts 2000-2009. Mid-term (2-4 years) follow-up surveys exist for the 2001-2005 cohorts (these also include pre-trip and post-trip data for respondents). Datasets available for analysis are those associated with published reports by CMJS. For a list of publications please see: www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/researchareas/taglit-publications.html.

A total of 10 data files are currently available for secondary analysis. The data files can be provided either in SPSS or Stata format. Some information about individual respondents is not included to comply with human subject protection guidelines. Methodological background about the instruments and data collection procedures is provided in the above publications (and further detail will be available through consultation with CMJS).

Grant Details

Stipend: $2,500 (graduate student)
$5,000 (established investigator)

Additional Expenses: Up to $2,500 for travel and research assistance
Duration: 4-12 months
Letters of Inquiry

Interested researchers are encouraged to submit a brief statement of inquiry that describes the question(s) to be investigated and the data needed to answer the question. Feedback will be provided, principally in terms of the availability of data and structure of the data set.

Applications

To submit a request for an award, please submit a curriculum vita and a 1-2 page statement describing your research question and how it can be examined using existing data sets. In addition, include a budget with justification for any additional expenses. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts including American and Israeli social scientists, along with CMJS and Taglit researchers. Evaluation of proposals will focus on the scientific merit of the project and the utility of the proposed analyses for understanding Taglit and Jewish young adults.

Please direct inquiries and submit materials to Shahar Hecht (shecht@brandeis.edu), coordinator of the Taglit-Birthright Israel evaluation at CMJS.
Members in the News

Steve Gold on Israelis in the US (JTA story from January 3, 2011).

Samuel Heilman on mourning after the murder of a Hasidic boy in Brooklyn.

Riv-Ellen Prell on havurot
http://www.forward.com/articles/139829/

Sergio DellaPergola on fertility among Haredi and Muslim women
http://www.forward.com/articles/139391/

Sergio DellaPergola on Israelis abroad

Chaim I. Waxman: Cited several times recently in Ha’aretz and other Israeli newspapers with respect to aliya patterns, especially American aliya, as well as on Americans in the administered territories/Judea and Samaria.


Commissioned by Repair the World and conducted as a collaborative effort between researchers at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies (CMJS) at Brandeis University and Gerstein | Agne Strategic Communications, the goal of this landmark study was to develop a comprehensive portrait of the volunteer habits, attitudes and preferences of contemporary Jewish young adults. The research showed that although a majority of Jewish young adults are politically and civically involved, their participation may be only episodic, occurring when it takes little investment of time or resources and when the opportunity is congruent with their regular routine. Further, although they want to make a difference in the world, they perceive this goal in universal terms and not as a potential expression of their Jewish identity. The full report, technical report, and executive summary are available from CMJS.

The report was covered in a wide variety of publications, including CNN's Belief Blog, The Chronicle of Philanthropy, Religion News Service (picked up by The Huffington Post), eJewish Philanthropy, JTA, Rosner's Domain (The Jerusalem Post), Hadassah Magazine, Ha'aretz, Aish, The Jewish Daily Forward (and its associated blog), The Jewish Week, and The Christian Century.
How Many Russian Jews Are in U.S.?
Barry Chiswick, Sergio DellaPergola, Uzi Rebhun, Leonard Saxe, and Ira Sheskin are all cited in the December 2, 2011 issue of the Forward.

GUESS WHAT! (WE DID NOT ALL AGREE!)
http://forward.com/articles/146812/?p=all

Chaim I. Waxman: Interviewed about findings of article, "Sliding to the Left? Contemporary American Modern Orthodoxy" (co-authored with Yehuda Turetsky, Modern Judaism, Vol. 31, No. 2, May 2011) -- Ha’aretz, Aug. 19, 2011, pp. 5-6, and the Orthodox Union web radio program. The article was also discussed and debated in numerous blogs.

Allen Glicksman. Quoted about Jewish topics in the following publications:
- Jewish Exponent article on financial assistance to seniors (11/24/10)
- Jewish Exponent on Philadelphia Jewish community study (1/14/10)
- The Forward on serving non-kosher food in Jewish nursing homes. (2/5/10)
- Allen was interviewed on TV and radio and quoted in newspaper articles picked up across the country and in blog entries regarding age friendly cities, demographic trends in elders, including baby boomers, and urban issues (zoning, etc.).


Ira Sheskin was quoted in:
- St. Louis Jewish Light The changing St. Louis Jewish community and Jewish demographics: Numbers prove elusive on the need for demographic data
- JTA In world of 7 billion, demographers struggle to ascertain the ... on number of Jews in the US
- New Jersey Jewish Standard on Jews in Bergen County, NJ
- Miami Herald New Jewish prayer book makes its debut at Rosh Hashana services on the number of Reform Jews in South Florida
- Globe and Mail Result leaves Democrats uneasy about Jewish vote on the GOP win in a Jewish NY election district
- JTA New approach in effort to bring Russian-speaking US Jews into the fold on involving Russian Jews
- The Forward Last One Out, Turn Off the Lights on Jewish media.
- JTA Is era of national surveys of American Jews at an end? on the absence of a new NJPS
- JTA With flurry of new local studies, Jewish communities seeing trends ... on the continuation of local studies in an era with no national study
- Sun Sentinel Republicans seek new support among Jewish voters on Republican attempts to gain Jewish votes
- Chabad Lubavitch Headquarters News A Community of Jewish Teenagers Grows in the US on the need to involve Jewish teenagers
- New Haven Independent Survey: Region Has 23000 Jews on the New Haven Jewish Community study
- Mishpachah magazine on “Jewish population growth lags America's
- Jerusalem Post Jewish continuity? Visit Israel on US Jewish demographics
- The Jewish Week Battle Of The Beanie Counters on the number of US Jews
Keren McGinity Here's a list of recent (2009-2011) citations about Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America by Keren McGinity, including her views on intermarriage and gender.

New York Jewish Week (November 8, 2011)
www.thejewishweek.com/editorial_opinion/letters/focus_gender_issues

Religious Studies Review, Vol. 34, No. 4, December 2010 (pp. 263-266)

USA Today (October 14, 2010)

Jewish Political Studies Review, Volume 22, Numbers 1 & 2 (Spring 5770/2010)
http://www.jcpa.org/JCPA/Templates/ShowPage.asp?DRIT=5&DBID=1&LNGID=1&TMID=111&FID=625&PID=0
&IID=3711&TTL=Chaim_I._Waxman_on_Still_Jewish:_A_History_of_Women_and_Intermarriage_in_America

New Jersey Jewish News (January 6, 2010)
http://njjewishnews.com/article/lifetimes/women-and-intermarriage

Lilith (Winter 2009-2010)

Forward (October 23, 2009)
http://www.forward.com/articles/116715/

American Jewish History - Volume 95, Number 2, June 2009, pp. 189-191
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_jewish_history/toc/ajh.95.2.html

Jerusalem Post (May 27, 2009)
http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1243346486634&pagename=JPArticle%2FShowFull

InterfaithFamily.Com (May 5, 2009)
http://www.interfaithfamily.com/arts_and_entertainment/popular_culture/To_Understand_Interfaith_Marriage_Ask_Jewish_Women.shtml

Moment (March/April 2009)

JOI.org (March 4, 2009)
http://joi.org/blog/?p=1728

Rutgers Magazine (Winter 2010) Class Notes (p. 79)
http://ur.rutgers.edu/magazine/ebook-win2010/#/1/
Brown Alumni Magazine (March/April 2009) Fresh Ink
http://www.brownalumnimagazine.com/the_arts/fresh_ink_2198.html
Harvard Magazine (March/April 2009) Books: Off the Shelf
http://harvardmagazine.com/2009/03/the-shelf

MyJewishLearning.com (August 7, 2009)
http://www.myjewishlearning.com/blog/culture/still-jewish-with-keren-r-mcginity-phd/

Jewish Women's Archive (July 14, 2009)
http://jwablog.jwa.org/Still_Jewish
One only feels pride or shame, embarrassment or jubilation as a result of the actions of another if there is a familial relationship. That is why, in his groundbreaking studies of Jewish identity, the late social psychologist Simon Herman of Hebrew University used the following types of questions to test the connection between American and Israeli Jewish teenagers and the Jewish people: "When a Jew suffers in Moscow, I feel ..." and "Do you feel like a survivor of the Shoah?"

How many times have you listened for the Nobel Prize winners to see if any might be Jewish? Did you cringe during the Madoff scandal?

This feeling of familial interdependence, historically called Arevut by the rabbis and being a MOT (member of the tribe) by many American Jews, is a critical measure of the strength of Jewish peoplehood.
Sometimes this feeling can grow uncomfortable. When powerful figures in the United States and France evoke embarrassment, we flinch and hope it will go away. But whether it's in a Tweet or in a Jewish newspaper, encountering the news of Dominique Strauss-Kahn or Anthony Weiner proves unavoidable.

In the case of U.S. Rep Weiner (D-N.Y.), it cut particularly close because so many Jews considered him a hero fighting for the underprivileged. The case of Strauss-Kahn, a possible French presidential candidate who allegedly engaged in brutish behavior with a chambermaid, is horrifying, though it didn't hit as close to home.

But does the behavior of such individuals have anything to do with the fact that they both had a brit milah? Just a few months ago, we yearned to attribute their success to their being Jewish. Does this mean that we have to do the same when they embarrass us?

Are Weiner and Eliot Spitzer equal to Arnold Schwarzenegger, John Edwards, John Ensign and Mark Foley? Jews, especially Jewish men, are over represented in government, given that we are less than 2 percent of the American population. So it would be strange if none of the recent miscreants was Jewish. Still, many of us wish that our public leaders who happen to be Jewish would reflect the best of our tradition.

Unless, of course, this issue has more to do with gender than religion. Setting DSK aside, since his alleged deeds are not foibles but felonies and he's from Europe, a question comes to mind: What is it about the way we are raising American sons, in many cases our best and brightest, that imbues some of them with a sense that power carries the right to take advantage of others, particularly, but not only, women? Are the consequences of their behavior exaggerated because of the 24-hour news cycle, the spectacular antics portrayed on reality TV and the increasingly invasive quality of social media?

In earlier eras, the standards of public behavior for leaders was to be above suspicion. Today, as the separation between public and private has been eroded, we know about their foibles as well as their misguided and often pathetic attempts to cover them up.

Citizens of other countries often accuse Americans of being puritanical, unable to separate out the public and private lives of leaders, especially as it regards sex. I don't agree. Perhaps we're too hard on public figures. Certainly, they're allowed to be human, to apologize, to do teshuvah and regain the respect they earlier took for granted.

Still, many times it is behavior outside of the spotlight that illuminates a person's true character. I don't know what has caused the misbehavior that has burgeoned during the last few years, but I'm certain Jewish identity is not at its root. One can't know these things for sure, but perhaps the omnipresent cult of celebrity and tolerance of -- even admiration for -- the kind of anti-social and immoral behavior that pervades our culture requires a rejoinder from us.

An effective response would entail more deliberate cultivation and focus on positive role models in our homes, schools and, distinctly, in the public square.

From the Jewish Exponent
THE ASSOCIATION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF JEWRY (ASSJ) ANNOUNCES

THE 2011 MARSHALL SKLARE AWARD TO RIV-ELLEN PRELL

The Sklare Award is given annually to a senior scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry. This year’s award goes to Riv-Ellen Prell, Professor of American Studies at University of Minnesota, author of Fighting to Become American and Prayer and Community as well as numerous articles and book chapters, responses and reviews. Join us at the Marshall Sklare Memorial Lecture on Sunday, 4:15-6:00, to hear her talk on "Boundaries, Margins and Norms: The Intellectual Stakes in the Study of American Jewish Culture(s)," and the following reception, co-sponsored by ASSJ, and the University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts, American Studies Program, and Center for Jewish Studies. The Sklare address will be published in a forthcoming issue of ASSJ’s journal, Contemporary Jewry.

THE 2011 BERMAN SERVICE AWARD TO EDWARD AND IRENE KAPLAN

The ASSJ is also proud to announce the inaugural recipients of the Berman Service Award. Named for a great philanthropist and supporter of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and various other research entities (Mandel “Bill” Berman), the Berman Service Award recognizes the work of leaders in many sectors of the Jewish community whose efforts have advanced the social science of Jewry. This year's award goes to Edward and Irene Kaplan of Washington, D.C. in recognition of their distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jews through both service and financial support on the national and local levels.

The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is an international, cross-disciplinary organization of individuals whose research and interests concern the Jewish people throughout the world. For more information on ASSJ or to join, visit the website www.assj.org or contact exec@assj.org.
Obituaries

Dr. Bernard Reisman died on Nov. 21, 2011 at the Bedford, MA VA Hospital after many years of coping with Alzheimer's Disease. The list of attributes is long: Brandeis University professor, Director of the Benjamin Hornstein Program, one of the country's first graduate programs to educate, train, and prepare professional leaders to serve the Jewish community. Husband of Elaine Reisman. Father of Joel and Debby Reisman, Sharon and Stephen Conway, Eric and Sheryl Cooper Reisman, Robin and Richard Maltz. Grandfather of eight. (Picture shows Bernard with Natalie Greene, longtime Hornstein Program Administrator)

Here's what lies between these lines:

Bernie Reisman was a supreme mensch of a man, a gentle “giant” in the eyes of hundreds of students fortunate enough to be mentored by him decades after Graduate School.

Bernie Reisman was brilliant, curious and genuine. Touching base every few months always began with his sincere concern for one's whole person—not just the professional dimension; he openly shared with those who knew him his love for family, welcoming class after class to his home to meet his beloved Elaine, to see his tennis trophies, to hear about his kids. He was a terrific role model for so many of us, showing us by his actions what was truly important.

Always sensitive and thoughtful in his approach, Bernie had the ability to cut to the chase, to make you realize that you could be smarter, better, more open to possibilities and always more prepared. His gentleness and kindness never allowed us to forget his quiet but firm leadership built on a sterling reputation.

Bernie taught us what it meant to care so deeply about the Jewish community, he helped us acknowledge that there was so much still to learn and most of all that we did not have to go it alone. Bernie taught us what it meant to aspire to be the kinds of professionals he and the University would be proud of.

I am conscious of what a role model Bernie Reisman was, what he taught me and hundreds of my colleagues and fellow alumni, and ever aware that I, like so many others, aspire to be a bit more like Bernie every day in the way we teach, involve people, mentor and open ourselves.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Cindy Chazan

(Cindy Chazan is Vice President of the Wexner Foundation. She first met Bernard Reisman in 1972, when she entered the third class of the Hornstein Jewish Professional Leadership Program at Brandeis University.) See also, http://www.brandeis.edu/now/2011/november/reisman.html for the Brandeis obituary.
The Jewish Journal of Sociology

(formerly published by Maurice Freedman Research Trust Ltd), and the launch of the website www.jewishjournalofsociology.co.uk in October 2011

The Jewish Journal of Sociology has disseminated original research of the highest quality - on historical, philosophical, economic and theological subjects, and indeed on virtually every aspect of Jewish social affairs among Jews, both of the Diaspora and of Israel - since first publication in 1959.

A truly inter-disciplinary venture, the JJS addresses itself to historians, social demographers, anthropologists, philosophers, students of comparative religion and to social scientists in general. Since the deaths of its founding Editors, Morris Ginsberg and Maurice Freedman, Dr Judith Freedman was its Managing Editor until her death in December 2009. The 2011 volume, edited by Marlena Schmool and Geoffrey Alderman, is currently being compiled and will be published in the autumn. All articles and research notes published in the JJS are peer-reviewed.

The University of Buckingham Press now secures the future of this August Journal in print but also in electronic format and will make it available for the first time on-line with launch of the website www.jewishjournalofsociology.org in October 2011. Starting with the 2012 issue, the JJS will henceforward be published by the University of Buckingham Press.

It is anticipated that the Journal will remain the leading one of its kind in this country yet also be of renewed interest internationally to the Jewish diaspora.

Intending contributors are invited to submit papers to: jewishjournalofsociology@gmail.com

Marlena Schmool

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Editor's Note: Reflections on British Jewry

Enumerating Britain's Jewish population: reassessing the 2001 census in the context of one hundred years of indirect estimates by David Graham

Jews in the British Isles in 1851: birthplaces, residence and migrations by Petra Laidlaw

The Plurality of Pluralism: Youth Movements and the Communal Discourse of Jewish Diversity by Sara Abramson

The Jews of Boston, Lincolnshire: Addendum by Harold Pollins


Keren McGinity, who is the Mandell L. Berman Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Contemporary American Jewish Life at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, examined changes in what she sees as patterns of Jewish intermarriage - specifically, Jewish women who married non-Jewish men - in the United States in the course of the twentieth century. Her sample consisted of three women no longer alive but whose writings she culled, and qualitative interviews with forty-three women in the Greater Boston area.

McGinity well illustrates the growing rate of intermarriage, from about 2 percent during the early, 1900-1930, years to 50 percent and more by the end of the century. This was accompanied by changes in attitudes toward intermarriage, from its being portrayed in the Jewish media as dangerous and staunchly condemned by the majority of Jewish religious leadership, to its acceptance by the majority of America’s Jews and even being welcomed by some.

The growing rate of intermarriage was accompanied by changes in the identification patterns of the women who intermarried. In contrast to those in the early part of the century, such as her three subjects - writer Mary Antin and socialist activists Rose Pastor and Anna Strunsky - who had very weak Jewish identification, during the second half of the century increasing numbers of Jewish intermarried women have become more Jewishly identified and involved, and are raising their children as Jews. In other words, the increasing intermarriage rates have been accompanied by increasing numbers of Jewish women who identify as Jews. In large part, the shift is the result of the growing ethnic openness; significant changes in the status of women in American society, with
increasing gender equality in education and occupation, among others; increasing numbers of Jews who are unaffiliated religiously and communally; and the almost complete "at homeness" of America's Jews since the 1960s.

One annoying aspect of the study is that, at times, McGinity seems to forget that her research is qualitative rather than quantitative. In the most basic terms, that means the research is exploratory. In this case, for example, it might seek to understand why the women intermarried and how they dealt with it. But the sample is not representative. Clearly, forty-six intermarried Jewish women, forty-three of whom are from the Boston area, do not represent all Jewish intermarried women in the United States. The presence of tables of numbers and percentages relating to the forty-six women is, therefore, somewhat misleading. There is little sense in providing percentages of a sample of forty-six people. To do so appears as an attempt to give the impression of quantitative representativeness where none exists.

On the whole, though, McGinity's book is well argued. It is an informative and well-presented social history of Jewish women and intermarriage in the United States. Where it runs into trouble is when the author switches roles from social historian to policy advocate. She wants the organized Jewish community, including its leaders, to adopt a new approach to intermarriage, especially the intermarriage of Jewish women to non-Jewish men. Throughout the book, McGinity is unhappy, either explicitly or implicitly, with traditional Jewish notions of Jewishness, such as matrilineal descent and an aversion to intermarriage, that is, mixed marriage. In her conclusion, she has issues with those who advocate "inreach" rather than "outreach," and she clearly supports the approach of the late Egon Mayer and the Jewish Outreach Institute, which is receptive to mixed marriage.

At the core, what is at issue is a conception of Jewishness. McGinity's is a postmodern conception of Jewish identity that has no essentialist nature; rather, it views it as created entirely by the subjective thoughts and feelings of the individual. Ironically, there is increasing evidence that there are essentialist differences between children of intermarried and intramarried Jews in terms of their identificational patterns, especially in terms of their sense of belonging to and involvement with a collectivity perceived as the Jewish people. Evidence suggests that it is not enough to "feel Jewish" to "be Jewish." Leaving aside serious issues of Halakhah, the empirical evidence - including McGinity's sample of forty-six - indicates that the intermarried may feel "still Jewish" but typically do not operationalize that feeling in ways that are likely to promote Jewish identification in their offspring.

McGinity's strength is her argument that there is at least as much, if not more, reason to anticipate Jewish identification where the mother is Jewish and, therefore, the traditional greater rejection of Jewish women who intermarried as compared to Jewish men who intermarried, is untenable and unproductive. In other words, she makes a strong case for gender equality.

* * *

PROF. CHAIM I. WAXMAN is professor emeritus of sociology and Jewish studies at Rutgers University and senior fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.
Fourteen ASSJ members have more than 30 entries in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture* (Judith R. Baskin, editor) (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

**Jerome A. Chanes** (Brandeis University) Organizations: North America

**Carmel U. Chiswick** (University of Illinois at Chicago, Emerita) United States: Economic Life

**Sergio DellaPergola** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute) Demography

**Sylvia Barack Fishman** (Brandeis University) Film: United States

**Rela Mintz Geffen** (Baltimore Hebrew Institute, Towson University, Emeriti) Bar Mitzvah; Bat Mitzvah; Circumcision; Confirmation; Consecration; Custom (Minhag); Judaism: Conservative; Judaism: Masorti; Kittel: Life-Cycle Rituals; Philanthropy; Synagogue Sisterhoods; United States: Community Center Movement

**Lisa D. Grant** (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York) Education, North America: Adult

**Ari Kelman** (University of California, Davis) Radio: United States

**Keren McGinty** (University of Michigan) Intermarriage: Historical Perspectives; Intermarriage: Twenty-First-Century United States

**Deborah Dash Moore** (University of Michigan) New York City; World War II: Impact on American Jews

**Uzi Rebhun** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) United States: Demography

**Jonathan Sarna** (Brandeis University) Columbus, Christopher; Jewish Publication Society; United States: Civil War

**Diane Tickton Schuster** (Claremont Graduate University) Education, North America: Adult

**Ira M. Sheskin** (University of Miami) United States: South Florida

**Gerald Tulchinsky** (Queens University, Kingston, Ontario) Canada
International MA in

MIGRATION STUDIES

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For any questions, contact migrate@post.tau.ac.il
A recent survey in Britain has delivered a wealth of data about Jewish student life on campus. It reveals that the majority of students are openly Jewish at university, are fully engaged in Jewish life while living away from home, and, like all other students, are mostly worried about passing their exams and finding a job. Though it also found many had personally experienced anti-Israel sentiment and/or antisemitism at university, the vast majority were not particularly concerned about this, suggesting these incidents were isolated and 'low-level.'

Key findings from the study have been recently been published in a report by David Graham and Jonathan Boyd entitled Home and away: Jewish journeys towards independence (http://www.jpr.org.uk/downloads/NJSS_report%20final.pdf). Carried out by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR), the 2011 National Jewish Student Survey is the first national study of Jewish university students in Britain.

Delivered online by pollsters Ipsos MORI and supported by the Pears Foundation, the survey produced a sample of 925 respondents (median age 21), which represents 11% of the approximately 8,500 Jewish university students nationally. In addition, 43 students took part in focus groups to provide qualitative insights to the quantitative data. A parallel quantitative study was also carried out among the general student population, eliciting 761 responses.

Though not strictly random, the survey aimed to elicit new data on a cohort in whom Britain's Jewish community has invested so much and yet about which precious little was known. Inevitably, the data oversampled students who are more Jewishly engaged, so some of the results may have overstated 'true' levels of Jewish attachment.

The themes of the survey were deliberately wide-ranging but the following provides a brief taste of the key initial findings.

**Upbringing:** More than half the sample (57%) had attended a Jewish day school for at least part of their education. And most (82%) had participated in an Israel Experience summer program as a teenager. Two out of five (40%) had been on a year long program in Israel between high school and university.

**Current Jewish identity:** Virtually all (94%) respondents Agreed/Strongly Agreed that being Jewish was about 'Feeling part of the Jewish People.' By contrast, far fewer felt being Jewish was about 'Observing the Sabbath' (65%) or 'Believing in God' (56%). And although 85% agreed that being Jewish was about having 'Strong moral and ethical behavior,' only 65% agreed it was about 'Volunteering to support a charity' or 'Supporting social justice causes' (64%).

**Dating:** A majority (72%) agreed that being Jewish was about 'marrying another Jew', although 50% of those who had experienced a relationship had had a non-Jewish partner.

**Geographical concentration:** The sample was highly concentrated spatially; half of all respondents attended just eight out of 113 academic institutions. Most (82%) lived away from their parental homes while at university.
Israel: The majority (92%) of respondents had visited Israel. Over half (51%) said they were 'very positive' about Israel and a further 38% were 'fairly positive.' The topic of Israel arises fairly often on campus and concern has been expressed by some in the wider Jewish community about anti-Israel sentiment at British universities. However, the survey found that relatively few respondents were 'very worried' (8%) or 'fairly worried' (30%) about this; by contrast, 32% were 'very worried' and 44% 'fairly worried' about passing their exams (see graph).

Antisemitism: Just over two out of five (42%) respondents had experienced an antisemitic incident during the current academic year, which was similar to results obtained by JPR in 2010 for this age group. Nevertheless, just 4% of respondents were 'very worried' about antisemitism at university.

Jewish openness on campus: A majority (59%) of respondents were 'Always open' about their Jewish identity on campus; 35% were 'Sometimes open.'

The following graph compares the worries and concerns of Jewish respondents with those of respondents in the general student population. There are some striking differences!

JPR, with the support of the Pears Foundation, is planning to carry out further analyses which will explore the relationship between current Jewish identity and Jewish upbringing.

Dr David Graham

Proportion of respondents who are ‘Very worried’ or ‘Fairly worried’ about each item: Jewish sample (NJSS) compared with general student sample (NSBS) (%)
While the debate about filling the void of a national Jewish population study is certainly worthwhile (“How Many U.S. Jews, And Who Cares?” Nov. 4), the disconcerting silence about gender at the Brandeis socio-demography of American Jewry conference also merits attention. By gender I mean the socially constructed roles of men and women, and the power dynamics between the sexes.

Whether the Jewish population numbers 5.2 million or 6.4 million is of less significance than the direction either of those numbers goes. Some demographers argued that low Jewish fertility and high rates of intermarriage would lead to a decline. However this view does not take into account the gender of the intermarried Jewish parent or changing gender roles over time. Both quantitative and qualitative studies have found that if the intermarried Jew is a woman, the children will more likely be raised Jewish. Further, intermarried Jewish men stand a greater chance of raising children to identify as Jews if the organized Jewish community will count those children as Jews.

Rather than squabbling over methodological approaches or lamenting the demise of the National Jewish Population Survey, researchers and policy makers alike would benefit from focusing their attention on determining which programs promote practical outcomes designed to increase egalitarian parenting. Intermarried Jewish men can raise Jewish children as effectively as intermarried Jewish women provided they are able to integrate work and family, currently a national challenge evident by President Barack Obama urging “Take time to be a dad, today.” Increasing the contemporary understanding of the relationship between gender, religion and culture will be what determines how Jewish is the Jewish population in the future.

The 3-to-1 ratio of male-to-female speakers at the conference and the scarcity of positions held by women in the field of Jewish social science suggest a disinclination on the part of academic leadership and donors to grapple with the gender imbalance. Hopefully “this, too, shall pass.”

The writer is the author of “Still Jewish: A History of Women and Intermarriage in America” and scholar-in-residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute.

See Debra Kaufman’s Response on the next page.
Dear Friends and Colleagues;

While I wholeheartedly agree with Keren McGinity’s sharp and pointed reminder of how few women there are in the leadership and field of demography (and as but one reflection, the paucity of women speakers at the socio-demographic conference held at Brandeis several weeks ago), I’d like to support, but then tweak her take a bit.

Her gendered dismay is at least a consequence of two interrelated issues: Quantitative research remains the more valued approach in the social sciences over a qualitative/interpretive approach (perhaps even more so today than a few decades ago) and in general women are more likely than men to be found in the latter, rather than the former. As a feminist researcher trained in both sides of that qualitative/quantitative coin (a dichotomous breach I’d like to see bridged and a disparity I’d like to see rectified), I tried to raise issues at the very heart of a feminist critique which are inclusive of, but then move beyond only gender in their reach. The issues I raised are the following: Whose narrative voice guides the kinds of research we do, the kinds of questions we ask (and neglect to ask), and whose experiences and interpretive tradition define what we mean by Jewish. These questions are not only critical to any gender analysis, but to the intersection of gender with class, race, sexualities, nation and socio-historic moment. Whose experiences, whose lives, whose ³Judaism² serve as the yardstick from which we measure decline, intensity, strength of identity, religiosity, ethnicity, symbolic or not, and secularity? Such questions are meant to guide gender research and address the very power issues so critical in the construction of gender roles and an intersectional analysis that rest just beneath Keren McGinity’s very important cautions about the state of contemporary demographic research.

Although not center stage, many of the themes raised in that first plenary were discussed and debated in various ways throughout the duration of the Conference. I see this as just the beginning of a host of conversations to come. To that end, I invite as many of you as possible to attend our upcoming roundtable at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference entitled: Demographic Narratives and Identity Research and, should it be accepted, our scheduled session for the Eastern Sociological Society organized by Harriet Hartman.

Debra Kaufman, Professor of Sociology and Matthews Distinguished University Professor, Northeastern University

This conversation will be continued at AJS:

at the AJS Women's Caucus breakfast

and at the “Demographic Narratives and Identity Research Session” (Monday at 8:30 AM)
Announcing Summer Fellowship Competition

The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University announces its annual summer fellowship to support research in the American Jewish experience. The grant of up to $3,000 is available to predoctoral and postdoctoral scholars. The Feinstein Center welcomes applicants researching any area of American Jewish life. Fellows may be asked to participate in Center workshops or offer a public lecture for the 2012-2013 year.

Applications should include a proposal of no more than five pages, a letter of recommendation, and a CV. Materials are due to March 23, 2012 to: Dr. Lila Corwin Berman, Director, Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University, 916 Gladfelter Hall (025-24), 1115 W. Berks Street, Philadelphia, PA 19122-6089.
Email submissions are preferred: feinsteincenter@temple.edu
Announcement of the awards will be made in June.
Any questions: email feinsteincenter@temple.edu

2011 Feinstein Center Summer Fellowship Winners

Ronit Stahl, University of Michigan, is the first Kevy Kaiserman Memorial Summer Fellow for her work entitled "God, War, and Politics: The American Military Chaplaincy and the Making of Modern American Religion." Additional fellowship awards were given to: Garret Eisler, Graduate Center, CUNY, for his work "This Theatre is a Battlefield." Political Performance and Jewish-American Identity, 1933-1948"; Rachel Feinmark, University of Chicago, for her work "Look for the Union Label: The American Federation of Labor and the Jewish Labor Committee's Partnership for Economic Justice and International Human Rights, 1933-1955," and Pearl Gluck, City College of New York for her film in progress, "Where is Joel Baum: The Gender Dynamics and Community Politics of Post Holocaust Williamsburg."

Feinstein Center Spring Conference, The Art of Being Jewish in the City, March 15, 2012, Temple University

The Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University is sponsoring a conference on "The Art of Being Jewish in the City" on March 15, 2012 at Temple University's main campus. The day-long conference will explore the investment of Jews-as funders, producers, planners, and consumers-in the urban art and culture scene and ask how the landscape of urban arts reflects historical, sociological, or cultural elements of Jewish experience. Practitioners from the fields of urban policy, real estate development, arts funding, tourism and marketing, and museum and curatorial services will speak about arts-led urban development, private investment in urban art and culture, and Jewish institutions in the urban arts scene. Critics and scholars will offer comments and facilitate discussion. The event is free and open to the public.

For more details, please go to www.temple.edu/feinsteinctr
We invite papers for a one-day symposium that will explore the intersections between Jewishness and gender in comics and graphic narratives. Key questions will include:

✔️ What are the unique characteristics common to Jewish women cartoonists' representations of themselves and others on the page?
✔️ How might this particular literary genre be contextualized within the various modes of Jewish literature?
✔️ How might sequential art constitute a unique approach for investigations of identity?
✔️ What are some helpful theoretical modes for reading these works individually and collectively?

This interdisciplinary conference will put academics and cartoonists in dialogue with one another to discuss comics by and about Jewish women. The day of panel presentations will conclude with a cartoonist roundtable open to the public. Confirmed participants include cartoonists Miriam Katin and Leela Corman, photographic artist Professor Joanne Leonard (University of Michigan), Dr. Heike Bauer (Birkbeck College, University of London), Dr. David Brauner (University of Reading), and Professor Laurence Roth (Susquehanna University). The symposium is being presented in conjunction with Yeshiva University Museum's exhibition, Graphic Details: Confessional Comics by Jewish Women, which is on display from September 25, 2011-April 8, 2012. For more information, go to www.forward.com/graphic-details/

Proposals for papers or panel presentations should be emailed by Sunday, October 23, 2011 to GraphicDetailsSymposium@gmail.com. Please include up to a 500-word proposal, as well as a short bio of the presenter. Images are welcome to supplement submissions. Here are some suggested paper or panel topics:

- The "Jewish Body" and its transformations in comics
- Jewish comic storytelling and the traditions of Jewish literature
- Confession, memoir, and autobiographical literature
- Gender identification in changing social and artistic discourses
- Comic book writing about Israel and Palestine
- Depictions of marriage, partnerships, and interfaith relationships
- Portraying Judaism and religion in graphic detail
- Mothers, daughters, and other family dynamics reflected in graphic storytelling
- Heroes and villains

This conference is being organized by Sarah Lightman (University of Glasgow), Tahneer Oksman (CUNY Graduate Center), and Amy Feinstein, Ph.D. (Independent Scholar). Our sponsors include the Yeshiva University Museum, the Jewish Daily Forward, McFarland, the Stirling Maxwell Center at University of Glasgow, and the Center for Jewish Studies and the PhD Program in English at CUNY's Graduate Center. Please visit our symposium website for registration and other details. Unfortunately, no grants are available:

https://sites.google.com/site/graphicdetailssymposium
The University of Nebraska Press presents:

Studies of Jews in Society
In collaboration with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry
Harriet Hartman, Series Editor

This series will focus on social scientific studies of Jewry, taking a broad perspective on “social science,” to include anthropology, communications, demography, economics, education, ethnography, geography, history, politics, population, social psychology, and sociology, as well as interdisciplinary studies among these fields or between these fields and a related field. The series is especially interested in publishing works that contribute to the understanding of Jews in society and/or bridge diversities within Jewry or between Jewry and non-Jewry.

For more information about the series please contact:

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Hartman@rowan.edu
Over the last century, American Jews married outside their religion at increasing rates. By closely examining the intersection of intermarriage and gender across the twentieth century, Keren R. McGinity describes the lives of Jewish women who intermarried while placing their decisions in historical context. The first comprehensive history of these intermarried women, *Still Jewish* is a multigenerational study combining in-depth personal interviews and an astute analysis of how interfaith relationships and intermarriage were portrayed in the mass media, advice manuals, and religious community-generated literature.

Still Jewish dismantles assumptions that once a Jew intermarries, she becomes fully assimilated into the majority Christian population, religion, and culture. Rather than becoming “lost” to the Jewish community, women who intermarried later in the century were more likely to raise their children with strong ties to Judaism than women who intermarried earlier in the century. Bringing perennially controversial questions of Jewish identity, continuity, and survival to the forefront of the discussion, *Still Jewish* addresses topics of great resonance in a diverse America.

Keren R. McGinity, Ph.D. is Associate Research Scientist at the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University, Scholar-in-Residence at the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, and Visiting Scholar at the University of Michigan’s Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.

---

**Still Jewish** is a fascinating read for those interested in Jewish history or women’s history as well as for those concerned about the future of the Jewish community.”
—— JERUSALEM POST

“Throughout her analysis, McGinity shows how the lives of Jewish women who intermarried demonstrate the complexity of Jewish identity in the United States.”
—— RELIGIOUS STUDIES REVIEW

“McGinity’s story has great poignancy. *Still Jewish* demonstrates how, from insular beginnings surrounded by anti-Semitism to a world of inevitable intermarriage, Jewish women with gentile partners negotiated a new way to be Jewish in America.”
—— MOMENT

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<tr>
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<td>Transcending Trauma</td>
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<td>$49.95</td>
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<td>$39.96</td>
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Resource Guide
to the 2011 AJS Conference

December 18-20, 2011 | The Grand Hyatt, Washington, DC

Essential readings for conference sessions of special interest to ASSJ members
### Challenge and Crisis in West Bank Settlements

**Chair: Ilan Troen** (Brandeis)  
**Sunday, Dec. 18, 11:15 am | Burnam**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Motti Inbari</strong> (UNC, Pembroke)</td>
<td><em>When Prophecy Fails: Settler Rabbis Confront Israeli Territorial Compromises</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michael Feige</strong> (Ben-Gurion U. of the Negev)</td>
<td><em>The Concept of “Home” in Settler Ideology</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joseph Ringel</strong> (Brandeis)</td>
<td><em>Beyond Land: Varieties of Religiosity in the Settlements</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eric Fleisch</strong> (Brandeis)</td>
<td><em>The Development of American Jewish Philanthropic Involvement in the Settlement Debate</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** The ideological settlement movement in the West Bank is an important segment of the Israeli society; its centrality lies in the role it fulfills in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yet, this movement is under-studied. Whereas much of the media and the academic attentions are focused on the direct dimensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the everyday life is much neglected.

### Readings from BJPA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Jews and Fundamentalism</em></td>
<td>Samuel Heilman</td>
<td>2005</td>
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</table>
# Unraveling Discourses about Intermarriage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair &amp; Respondent: Sherry Israel (Brandeis)</th>
<th>Sunday, Dec. 18, 11:15 am</th>
<th>Penn B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jennifer Thompson</strong> (Drake)</td>
<td><em>Complex Consequences: How Discourses Shape Intermarried Couples' Family Lives</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Peter Kaufman Gluck</strong></td>
<td><em>Narratives of Interfaith Parents Raising Their Children With Jewish Identities</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bruce A. Phillips</strong> (HUC-JIR)</td>
<td><em>Methodological And Theoretical Narratives About Intermarriage-A Quantitative Perspective</em></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** This panel examines gaps between lived experience among intermarried couples and the discourses about intermarriage perpetuated in “official” sources such as Jewish media and policy literature. It further proposes that scholars should attend to less widely recognized narratives in order to understand intermarriage in a way that corresponds more closely to intermarried couples’ own experiences and that serves the goal of “Jewish continuity” more effectively.

## Readings from BJPA:

- *Seeking a Third Way to Respond to the Challenge of Intermarriage*  
  Steven M. Cohen, 2008

- *Assimilation, Transformation, and the Long Range Impact of Intermarriage*  
  Bruce Phillips, 2005

- *A Tale of Two Jewries: The "Inconvenient Truth" for American Jews*  
  Steven M. Cohen, 2006

- *Jewish Identity Among the Adult Children of Intermarriage: Event Horizon or Navigable Horizon?*  
  Bruce Phillips, Fern Chertok, 2004

- *Mixed Marriage in Cultural Contexts*  
  Joyce Antler, 2004

- *Living Mixed Traditions*  
  Bruce Phillips, Sherry Israel, Arnold Dashefsky, Zachary Heller, Christopher Winship, 2004
# North American Jewish Demography: Methods and Trends

**Chair:** Ira M. Sheskin (U. of Miami)  
**Sunday, Dec. 18, 2:00 pm | Independence G**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew E. Boxer (Brandeis)</td>
<td><em>Cross-Survey Analysis and Projections of the Future of the US Jewish Community</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theodore Sasson (Middlebury), Leonard Saxe (Brandeis)</td>
<td><em>The Jewish Future is Now</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mervin F. Verbit (Touro)</td>
<td><em>The Construction, Content, and Consequences of Jewishness: Thoughts on Measuring Jewish Identity</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacques Berlinerblau (Georgetown)</td>
<td><em>Why Do So Many American Jews Refer to Themselves as Secular?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Readings from BJPA:

- **Jewish Futures Project: The Impact of Taglit-Birthright Israel: 2010 Update**  

- **The Usefulness of Local Jewish Community Studies in Examining the American Jewish Future**  
  Ira Sheskin, 2010

- **Jewish Population in the United States, 2010**  
  Ira Sheskin, Arnold Dashefsky, 2010

  Leonard Saxe, 2010

- **Four Questions about American Jewish Demography**  
  Ira Sheskin, 2008

- **Community Size and Identity**  
  Matthew Boxer, 2007

- **Qualitative Research on American Jewry**  
  Theodore Sasson, 2006

- **Children of the Movements: Differences Among American Jewish University Students Raised in Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Homes**  
  Mervin Verbit, 1985
Marshall Sklare Memorial Award Lecture

Chair: Harriet Hartman (Rowan)  Sunday, Dec. 18, 4:15 pm | Independence G

Riv-Ellen Prell  Boundaries, Margins and Norms: The Intellectual Stakes in the Study of American Jewish Culture(s)
(U. of MN)

Ari Y. Kelman (U. of CA, Davis)  Respondent
Shaul Kelner (Vanderbilt)  Respondent
Deborah Dash Moore (U. of MI)  Respondent

Abstract: The Marshall Sklare Award is given annually by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ) to a scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry, primarily through the publication of a body of research in books and articles or of published work related to public policy. The Sklare Memorial Lecture is delivered by our honoree of the year at the Sklare Memorial Lecture session. This year, the Award goes to Dr. Riv-Ellen Prell, Professor and Chair of American Studies, University of Minnesota, leading scholar of post-war American Jewish life as well as of gender among American Jews. Author of 4 major books, over 40 chapters, articles and encyclopedia entries as well as numerous public essays and professional presentations, she is recognized not only as a star interdisciplinary pedagogue and intellectual role model, but also for her dedicated mentoring and contributions to policy research.

Readings from BJPA:

Jewish Summer Camping and Civil Rights: How Summer Camps Launched a Transformation in American Jewish Culture
Riv-Ellen Prell, 2009

Place, Space, and the Shaping of American Judaism
Riv-Ellen Prell, 2007

The Place of Cultural Production
Shaul Kelner, 2007

Cultural Events and Jewish Identities: Young Adult Jews in New York
Steven M. Cohen, Ari Y. Kelman, 2005

Jews and the Academy: A Complicated Romance
Riv-Ellen Prell, 2002

The Jew Within: Self, Family, and Community in America
Riv-Ellen Prell, 2001

Inventing Jewish Identity in California: Schlomo Bardin, Zionism and the Brandeis Camp Institute
Deborah Dash Moore, 1999
## Demographic Narratives and Identity Research

**Moderator:** Debra Renee Kaufman  
(Northeastern)  

**Monday, Dec. 19, 8:30 am | Constitution C**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussant</th>
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</table>
| Harriet Hartman  
(Rowan) | Discussant |
| Leonard Saxe  
(Brandeis) | Discussant |
| Bruce A. Phillips  
(HUC-JIR) | Discussant |
| Barry A Kosmin  
(Trinity) | Discussant |

**Abstract:** Two competing paradigms or grand narratives dominate much of current identity research: Jewish assimilation/erosion and Jewish resilience/revival. In this roundtable, some of our leading demographic researchers will describe: a) some of their own personal biography; b) what attracted them to their fields, who their mentors were, and what methodologies and theories guide them; c) their work environment (academic and/or social policy oriented); d) what pleases/disturbs them the most and what they understand to be their field’s future and their mission within it. By explaining their choices (why some things matter and others do not and how they formulate their theoretical questions and methodological practices) these demographers help make explicit the narratives which are critical to any demographic set of discoveries.

### Readings from BJPA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Jewish Peoplehood: Greater Than the Sum of its Parts</em></td>
<td>Leonard Saxe, Benjamin Phillips</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>American Judaism in the 21st Century</em></td>
<td>Bruce Phillips</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dimensions of Jewish Identity Among American Jews</em></td>
<td>Harriet Hartman</td>
<td>1997</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Using Social Media Tools to Further Jewish Studies

**Moderator:** Ari Y. Kelman (U. of CA, Davis)  **Monday, Dec. 19, 8:30 am**  | Independence I

**Discussants:**
- Noam F. Pianko (U. of Washington)
- Ken Koltun-Fromm (Haverford)
- Jen Rajchel (Bryn Mawr)

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## Readings from BJPA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Studies “Born Digital”</td>
<td>Heidi Lerner</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Ethnic, But Not Post-Peoplehood</td>
<td>Noam Pianko</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews/Media/Religion: Mapping a Field, Building a Resource</td>
<td>Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Jeffrey Shandler</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Arthur Kiron</td>
<td>2003</td>
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</table>
# Jews, Race, Caste, and the Global Politics of Knowledge Production

**Chair & Respondent:**
Jonathan Schorsch (Columbia)  
Monday, Dec. 19, 8:30 am | Wilson

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara C. Johnson</td>
<td>Misrepresentation of “Cochin” Jewish Social Organization in Kerala, India, through Models of Race, Caste and Slavery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noah Miralaine Tamarkin</td>
<td>Genetic Jewishness and the Politics of Authority: Lemba “Black Jews” and Their Interlocutors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marla Brettschneider</td>
<td>Power and Privilege: Western Jewish Studies’ Encounters with African and African Heritage Communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** This panel re-frames conversations regarding “who is a Jew” with a focus on Jewish-identified groups and people whose Jewishness has not always been taken as self-evident within western academic and Jewish institutional discourse. We call into question the framework of authenticity and proof that accompanies encounters between westerners and Jews of color.

## Readings from BJPA:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African and African Heritage Jews: Western Perspectives</td>
<td>Marla Brettschneider</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neoconservativism: Tragedy and Farce</td>
<td>Jonathan Schorsch</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Discourse and American Jewish Identity</td>
<td>Lynn Davidman, Shelly Tenenbaum</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Every Tongue: The Racial &amp; Ethnic Diversity of the Jewish People</td>
<td>Gary A. Tobin, Diane Tobin, Scott Rubin, Lewis Gordon</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Changing Face of Jewish Identity: Inside, Outside, and Other</td>
<td>Yavilah McCoy</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimchee on the Seder Plate</td>
<td>Angela Warnick-Buchdahl</td>
<td>2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black and Jewish -- And Unaccepted</td>
<td>Robert T. Coleman</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Investigations into Non-Orthodox Religious Authority in American Jewish Life

**Chair:** Lila Corwin Berman *(Temple)*  
**Monday, Dec. 19, 8:30 am | Constitutuion B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</table>
| **Shaul Magid**  
*IN U., Bloomington* | *From Sainthood to Self-Hood in American Judaism: Artscroll’s Jewish Hero and Jewish Renewal’s Functional Rebbe* |
| **Rebecca Alpert**  
*Temple* | *Religious Authority and Jewish Identity: The Case of Jewish Baseball Players* |
| **Deborah Waxman**  
*Reconstructionist Rabbinical* | *Reconstructing Religious Authority in a Democratic Context: Early Reconstructionist Approaches and Their Contemporary Resonance* |
| **Deborah J. Glanzberg-Krainin**  
*Reconstructionist Rabbinical* | *Shifting the Textual Center: The Internet and its Challenge to Traditional Constructs of Jewish Authority* |

**Abstract:** Since the advent of modernity, Jewish life has been deeply affected by the shattering of religious authority that was bolstered by a compelling narrative of supernatural revelation and supported by communal institutions. This cross-disciplinary panel will consider various efforts by non-Orthodox Jews to define Jews, Judaism and Jewishness in twentieth and twenty-first century Judaism. The panel will reflect on diverse strategies for articulating non-Orthodox religious authority in American Jewish life.

## Readings from BJPA:

- *Be the Jew You Make: Jews, Judaism, and Jewishness in Post-Ethnic America*  
  *Shaul Magid*, 2011

- *Authority in Contemporary Times*  
  *David Ellenson, Sharon Brous*, 2010

- *New Prayerbooks: Balancing Innovation and Tradition*  
  *Deborah Glanzberg-Krainin*, 2005

- *The Business of Being A Rabbi*  
  *Lawrence Troster*, 2004

- *In the Driver’s Seat: Rabbinic Authority in Post-War America*  
  *Jenna Weissman-Joselit*, 2004

- *On Being a Rabbi at the Margins*  
  *Rebecca Alpert*, 1999

**Moderator:** Bethamie Horowitz (NYU)  |  **Monday, Dec. 19, 11:00 am** |  **Constitution E**

**Jerome A. Chanes** (Brandeis)  |  Discussant

**Shaul Kelner** (Vanderbilt)  |  Discussant

**Lila Corwin Berman** (Temple)  |  Discussant

**Samuel Freedman** (Columbia)  |  Discussant

**Abstract:** The twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of Charles Silberman’s controversial and influential 1986 book *A Certain People*, coupled with his own passing in early 2011 occasion this roundtable proposal for the 2011 AJS to revisit Silberman’s final work from a number of vantage points.

**Readings from BJPA:**

- *Identity Making: Its Historical Roots*  
  Lila Corwin Berman, 2011

- *The Practice of Peoplehood*  
  Shaul Kelner, 2010

- *A Primer on the American Jewish Community*  
  Jerome A. Chanes, 2008

- *Wanted: A Critical Engagement With Our Own Heritage*  
  Samuel G. Freedman, 2005

- *An Uncertain People*  
  Arnold Jacob Wolf, 1986

- *A Response to One Review*  
  Charles E. Silberman, 1986

- *The Jewish Community in Change: Challenge to Professional Practice*  
  Charles E. Silberman, 1981
## Gender, Spirituality and Embodiment

**Chair:** Sylvia Barack Fishman (Brandeis)  
**Monday, Dec. 19, 11:00 am | Lafayette Park**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roberta G. Sands</td>
<td>Narratives of Baalei Teshuvah who are Second-Generation Survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Kadushin</td>
<td>Why Jewish Women are More Spiritual than Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn R. Davidman</td>
<td>Religious Defection and Transformation of Bodily Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayala Fader</td>
<td>Women’s Embodied Listening and the Public Sphere</td>
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### Readings from BJPA:

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secularizing (Jewish) Sex</td>
<td>Naomi Seidman</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choosing Limits, Limiting Choices: Women’s Status and Religious Life</td>
<td>Sylvia Barack Fishman, Tamar Ross, Blu Greenberg</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminist Scholarship and Jewish Studies</td>
<td>Lynn Davidman, Shelly Tenenbaum</td>
<td>2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brit Taharah: Woman As Covenantal Body</td>
<td>David Seidenberg</td>
<td>1995</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# The “Political Economy” of Social Science Research in Jewish Studies

**Moderator:** Caryn Aviv  
(U. of CO, Boulder)  
**Monday, Dec. 19, 2:00 pm | Independence G**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discussant</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Steven M. Cohen</strong> (HUC-JIR)</td>
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<td><strong>Bethamie Horowitz</strong> (NYU)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sarah Bunin Benor</strong> (HUC-JIR)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Leonard Saxe</strong> (Brandeis)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ari Y. Kelman</strong> (U. of CA, Davis)</td>
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</table>

**Abstract:** Funding (from philanthropists, foundations, and communal organizations) drives much social research about contemporary Jewish life. This roundtable tackles questions of “political economy” of social science in Jewish Studies: the complex relationships between philanthropists, community organizations, and scholars. These relationships offer enticing opportunities, pose questions of academic freedom and sometimes create serious constraints.

## Readings from BJPA:

| Title | Author | Year |
|---------------------------------------------|
| *Bad Things Happen to Good Numbers* | Steven M. Cohen | 2010 |
| *Counting American Jewry* | Leonard Saxe | 2010 |
| *The Reality of the Virtual: Looking for Jewish Leadership Online* | Ari Y. Kelman | 2010 |
| *Do American Jews Speak a “Jewish Language”? A Model of Jewish Linguistic Distinctiveness* | Sarah Bunin Benor | 2009 |
| *From Data to Knowledge: A Strategy to Decipher Trends in American Jewish Life* | Bethamie Horowitz | 2006 |
Tuesday, December 20

How Powerful Are Extra-Familial Factors in Shaping Jewish Identity? Methodological Challenges and Policy Implications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair: Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (JFNA)</th>
<th>Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8:30 am</th>
<th>Independence G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harriet Hartman (Rowan), Ira M. Sheskin (U. of Miami)</td>
<td>The Influence of Community Context on Jewish Identity: A 21-Community Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira M. Sheskin (U. of Miami), Steven M. Cohen (HUC-JIR), Ron Miller (NAJDB), Berna Torr (CA State, Fullerton)</td>
<td>The Long-Term Impact of Jewish Overnight Camp</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven M. Cohen (HUC-JIR)</td>
<td>The Contribution of Long-Term Trips to Israel to Jewish Commitment and Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fern Chertok (Brandeis), Joshua Tobias (Brandeis), David Mittelberg (Oranim), Annette Koren (Brandeis)</td>
<td>Jewish Peoplehood: Beyond the Buzz to Definition, Measurement and Intervention</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Abstract: The session will address a variety of aspects of the effects of extra-familial factors (e.g., community context, Israel trips, and overnight camps) on Jewish identity. Co-sponsored by the Berman Institute – North American Jewish Data Bank @ UConn and BJPA @ NYU Wagner.

Readings from BJPA:

| The Influence of Community Context and Individual Characteristics on Jewish Identity: A 21-Community Study | Harriet Hartman, Ira Sheskin, 2011 (online at jewishdatabank.org) |
| Volunteering + Values: A Repair the World Report on Jewish Young Adults | Fern Chertok, Matthew Boxer, Josh Tobias, Jim Gerstein, Shirah Rosin, 2011 |
| The Impact of Childhood Jewish Education on Adults’ Jewish Identity: Schooling, Israel Travel, Camping and Youth Groups | Steven M. Cohen, Laurence A. Kotler-Berkowitz, 2004 |
## Modern Jewish Politics in the College Classroom

**Moderator:** Shelly Tenenbaum (Clark)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8:30 am | Constitution B**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Heilman</td>
<td>Queens College, CUNY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth R. Wisse</td>
<td>Harvard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Sinkoff</td>
<td>Rutgers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malachi Hacohen</td>
<td>Duke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan Karp</td>
<td>AJHS</td>
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</table>

**Discussant**

**Abstract:** Sponsored by the Pedagogy Working Group, this proposal addresses the challenges of teaching about contemporary Jewish political controversies, including fundamentalism, the ideologies of far right and left, and conflicts surrounding Zionism. The overarching question is how to open up the classroom to divergent viewpoints on current issues in the Jewish world while fostering an atmosphere of civility and respect.

### Readings from BJPA:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facing up to Evil: A Conversation</td>
<td>Ruth Wisse, Seth Lipsky</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish Studies at Rutgers University</td>
<td>Nancy Sinkoff</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jews and Fundamentalism</td>
<td>Samuel Heilman</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying and Teaching Jewish Political Studies in the University</td>
<td>Daniel Elazar</td>
<td>1989</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Defining Jewish Interests and Concerns: Between Community and State

**Chair:** Theodore Sasson (Middlebury)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8:30 am | Penn A**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Morton Weinfeld (McGill)</td>
<td><em>Defining Jewish Interests and Concerns: Canadian and British Jews</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Burstein (U. of Washington)</td>
<td><em>Congressional Committee Hearings and the Framing of Debates about Israel</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judit Bokser Liwerant (Unam Mexico)</td>
<td><em>Changing Patterns of Latin American Jews in the National/Transnational Public Sphere</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** Like all diaspora groups, Jews must negotiate diverse commitments to “host country” and “homeland.” How do Jewish perceptions of host country and homeland interests vary within and between national contexts? What national, cultural and demographic forces shape the political commitments and behavior of contemporary diaspora Jews? How do diaspora Jews enact their political commitments and with what result? This panel examines diaspora Jewish politics in a comparative perspective drawing on studies of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Venezuela and Mexico. The themes of identity, issue framing, representation, dual loyalties and transnationalism will be explored.

**Readings from BJPA:**

- *Latin American Jews: A Transnational Diaspora*  
  Judit Bokser Liwerant, 2009
- *Latin American Jewish Identities: Past and Present Challenges, The Mexican Case in a Comparative Perspective*  
  Judit Bokser Liwerant, 2008
- *Jews and Ukrainians in Canada: A Comparative Study of Diaspora-Homeland Relations*  
  Morton Weinfeld, Harold Troper, 1990
- *Pluralism, Jews, and Equal Employment Opportunity*  
  Paul Burstein, 1989
## Jewish Political Behavior in Israel and the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair: Ariela Keysar (Trinity)</th>
<th>Tuesday, Dec. 20, 10:45 am</th>
<th>Penn B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samuel J. Abrams</strong> (Sarah Lawrence /NYU), <strong>Steven M. Cohen</strong> (HUC-JIR)</td>
<td>Are Jews Really That Liberal? Untangling American Jewish Ideology and Partisanship in the Twenty-First Century</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ephraim Tabory</strong> (Bar Ilan)</td>
<td>The Framing of Rejection: Israeli Conversion Requirements and the Management of Conflict over Religious Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Menachem Mautner</strong> (Tel Aviv)</td>
<td>Law, Kulturkampf, and the Crisis of Republicanism in Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Shaul Kelner</strong> (Vanderbilt)</td>
<td>What Does It Mean to be Green? Debating the Boundaries of Green Politics in an Environmentalist Party in Israel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Readings from BJPA:

| **A Snapshot of the American Jewish Electorate: 2011 Political Survey** | Steven Windmueller, 2011 |
| **2010: The Triangular Relationship between Washington, Jerusalem, and the Jewish Community** | Jewish People Policy Planning Institute, 2011 |
| **Israel Off Their Minds: The Diminished Place of Israel in the Political Thinking of Young Jews** | Steven M. Cohen, Sam Abrams, 2008 |
| **American Jews and the 2008 Presidential Election: As Democratic and Liberal as Ever?** | Steven M. Cohen, Sam Abrams, Judith Veinstein, 2008 |
| **A Global People** | Shaul Kelner, 2004 |
# New Perspectives on Eating and Identity in Jewish Studies

**Chair:** Matt Goldish (OSU)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1:45 pm | Independence G**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jordan D. Rosenblum</td>
<td>In Defense of Kosher Food: Ancient Apologies for Kashrut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(U. of WI, Madison)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jody Myers</td>
<td>Purity and Community: Dimensions of Kashrut in an Orthodox Jewish Neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(CA State U., Northridge)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Saul Gross</td>
<td>Contemporary Liberal Judaism, Meat, and Identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(U. of San Diego)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nora L Rubel</td>
<td>The Feast at the End of the Fast: Yom Kippur’s Break Fast Rituals and American Judaism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(U. of Rochester)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abstract:** The papers in this session build upon various anthropological approaches to food practices; these start from the central point that food practices correspond to the individual or group’s “map” of the cosmos, that is, the place of the individual/group in relation to God, humanity, and nature. Presenters also integrate insights from animal studies, ethics, and sociology to explore how food creates community among Jews and fissures between them.

**Readings from BJPA:**

- *Keeping Kosher: Now What?*  
  Nigel Savage, 2010

- *Kashrut and Community*  
  Ruth Abusch-Magder, 2010

- *Food and Cultural Change*  
  Hasia Diner, 2003

- *On the Current Renaissance in Jewish Spirituality*  
  Jody Myers, 2000

- *Assimilation and Digestion: An Anthropology of Kashrut in Postmodern America*  
  Eleni Zatz Litt, 1996
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Jewish Families and Institutions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Chair:** Fern Chertok (Brandeis)  | **Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1:45 pm | Penn A **
| **Patricia K. Munro**<br>(U. of CA, Berkeley) | Inclusion or Exclusion: Placing Boundaries around B’nai Mitzvah Participation |
| **Randal F. Schnoor**<br>(York) | Jewish Families and School Choice: Does High School Make a Difference? |
| **Sylvia Barack Fishman**<br>(Brandeis) | Spousal Negotiations of Parenthood and Professions in Contemporary American Jewish Households |
| **Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz**<br>(JFNA) | The Effects of the Great Recession on American Jews: Evidence from the Baltimore and Chicago Jewish Communities |

**Readings from BJPA:**

- *The New Jewish Family: Reproductive Choices and Opportunities in Contemporary U.S. Society*<br>Sylvia Barack Fishman, Shulamit Reinharz, Deborah Skolnick Einhorn, Loraine Obler, 2005
- *Where Do New York’s Jewish Kids Go to School? Public, Private or Jewish*<br>David M. Pollock, 2004
- *Jewish Identity Among the Adult Children of Intermarriage: Event Horizon or Navigable Horizon?*<br>Benjamin Phillips, Fern Chertok, 2004
# Folklore and Ethnography of Jewish Women

**Chair:** Andrea Beth Lieber  
(Dickinson)  

**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 1:45 pm | Roosevelt**

**Amy Milligan**  
(Penn State)  

*Wearing Many Hats: Head-Covering Practices by Orthodox Jewish Women in a Small-Town Congregation*

**Simon Josef Bronner**  
(Penn State)  

*Jewish Naming Ceremonies for Girls: A Study in the Discourse of Tradition*

**Haya Bar-Itzhak**  
(U. of Haifa/Indiana U.)  

*Degenderized Heroines in Jewish Legends in Times of Persecution*

**Dan Ben-Amos**  
(UPenn)  

*Respondent*

## Abstract:
The analysis of roles held by Jewish women in folk societies has been a special problem in folklore and ethnological studies. Whereas men’s roles and expressive expectations are often designated, and therefore more frequently documented, women’s positions have frequently been viewed as ambiguous or flexible if they have been analyzed at all. In the last two decades, more collections and observations have specifically focused on women’s functions within different societies and a comparative ethnological project has arisen, not just between men and women within a single society, but also among different cultures. In this panel, folklorists and ethnologists locate patterns of tradition maintained or constructed by women in different locations or cultural frames. All the papers serve to address the empowerment of women through expressive traditions in response to mass cultural modernity and localized Jewish community.

## Readings from BJPA:

*Women’s Transformations of Public Judaism: Religiosity, Egalitarianism, and the Symbolic Power of Changing Gender Roles*  
Sylvia Barack Fishman, 2001

*The Status of Jewish Women’s Studies in the United States and Canada: A Survey of University and College Courses As of 1999*  
Sylvia Barack Fishman, Tobin Belzer, Shulamit Reinharz, Susan Kahn, 1999
Service Learning and Community Engagement

**Moderator:** Sarah Bunin Benor (HUC-JIR)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 20, 4:00 pm | Renwick**

**Noam F. Pianko** (U. of Washington)  
Discussant

**Will Berkovitz** (Repair the World)  
Discussant

**Vanessa Ochs** (U. of Virginia)  
Discussant

**Abstract:** College campuses around the country are increasingly embracing civic engagement as an integral part of their core educational mission. Many students arrive on campus with a history of intensive community service involvement and a passion for integrating their learning objectives with real world experiences. As a result, the practice of service learning has expanded dramatically to meet student, faculty, and university interests. Yet, there are very few Jewish studies programs that have explored the possibilities of integrating service learning designed to meet Jewish and/or non-Jewish communal needs into Jewish Studies course offerings.

Over the last few years, a number of scholars in the field of Jewish studies have begun to explore the theoretical, practical, and institutional possibilities of Jewish studies service learning. This panel will bring together several leaders in the emerging field of Jewish studies service learning. Our goal is to share a variety of ways that service learning pedagogy can enhance learning objectives in Jewish studies courses, expand the potential reach of Jewish studies courses, and strengthen communal ties through building relationships with communal organizations.

**Readings from BJPA:**

- **Volunteering + Values: A Repair the World Report on Jewish Young Adults**  
  Fern Chertok, Matthew Boxer, Josh Tobias, Jim Gerstein, Shirah Rosin, 2011

- **Making Jewish Education Work: Jewish Service Learning**  
  JESNA, 2011

- **Post-Ethnic, But Not Post-Peoplehood**  
  Noam Pianko, 2011

- **The Worth of What They Do: The Impact of Short-term Immersive Jewish Service-Learning on Host Communities**  
  Ellen Irie, 2010

- **Jewish Service Learning: An Analysis of Participant Jewish Identity and Program Characteristics**  
  Jennifer Abzug Zaligson, Sarah Jane Rehnborg, Jinwoo Lee, Rachel Veron, 2008

- **Ten Jewish Sensibilities**  
  Vanessa L. Ochs, 2003

- **Service Learning in the Jewish Community: Connecting the Community and Jewish Studies**  
  Jody Myers, Terry Hatkoff, 2002
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