Berman Jewish DataBank Learning Module

Professor Harriet Hartman of Rowan University has created a Learning Module designed to introduce students and scholars to the analysis of Jewish survey data in a relatively easy-to-use format, utilizing some of the local Jewish community study and national Jewish survey data available at the Berman Jewish DataBank.

The module is a self-learning, self-directed activity which focuses on exploring Jewish identity (religious identity and ethnic identity). The module’s exercises invite thinking about Jewish identity and exploring ways in which Jewish identity is expressed. The activities within the Learning Module are designed to help users learn how to read survey data to understand and interpret Jewish identity, to help users explore some of the differences among Jewish persons with different denominational identifications (or none at all), and to compare findings among Jewish communities.

Data exist for 14 local community studies (Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Las Vegas, the Lehigh Valley (PA), New York, Philadelphia, Portland ME, San Antonio, San Francisco, Washington DC, and Westport (CT) and for the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey. All studies are available at the DataBank, with reports from the studies and the data files on which they are based. Students/scholars/users do not need to purchase a software analysis program or do their own data runs. Data are already packaged in tables and charts on an interactive website that learning module users access.

Since the goal of the Learning Module is to introduce the logic and potential of the social scientific analysis of Jewish identity data, key variables from each study have been pre-analyzed and formatted into graphs/pie Charts and (cross-tabulation) tables for each of the 15 studies. The thirteen Jewish identity variables which are available include synagogue attendance, Hanukkah candle and Sabbath candle lighting practices, Seder attendance, Jewish charitable donations, attitudes towards Israel, etc. Five socio-demographic variables are included in the data modules (age, denomination, gender, intermarriage, and secular education).

While not all variables are available for every one of the 15 studies, the vast majority are available - thus, the data used for the Learning Module contain over one thousand comparisons. You can download the learning module at www.jewishdatabank.org/Studies/downloadFile.cfm?FileID=3087

Please send any feedback on the module, and suggestions for additional modules that would be of interest, to Harriet Hartman, hartman@rowan.edu.
Table of Contents

Berman Jewish Data Bank
   Learning Module. 1
Welcome New Members. 2
Secularism and Nonreligion. 3
ASSJ President's Column. 4
Upcoming Conferences. 5
The American Jewish Year Book. 6
Social Scientific Studies of Jewry. 8
American Politics. 9
News from Members. 10
Donors to ASSJ. 19
Obituary - Daniel Levine. 20
ASSJ Sklare Award. 22
ASSJ Berman Award. 23
The ASSJ. 24
ASSJ Book Series. 25
Contemporary Jewry. 25
The Jewish Journal of Sociology. 27
Berman Jewish Data Bank. 28
Berman Jewish Policy Archive. 30
Members in the News. 32
2014 ASR. 33
2014 ASA. 33
Converts, Returnees, and Adherents Conference. 34
Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference. 35
Institute for Israel Studies Conference. 36

Front Row: Avi Glicksman, Sidney Goldstein, Arnie Dashefsky, Sherry Israel
Back Row: Lynn Davidman, Barry Kosmin, Bernie Reisman, Rela Mintz Geffen, Gail Gaisin Glicksman. (Thanks to Rela Mintz Geffen)

Welcome New Members!

Ariel Stein
Arielle Levites
Barbara Kirschenblatt-Gimblett
Celia Rothenberg
David Manchester
Eric Caplan
Ezequiel Erdei
Janet Aronson
Jennifer Thompson
Lars Dencik
Leah Wolff-Pellingra
Matthew Brown
Michael Reibel
Nathan Vaughan
Rachel LeWitt
Rachel S. Bernstein
Raquel Magidin de Kramer
Shira Fishman
The world's first journal dedicated to the investigation of secularism and nonreligion in all forms, commenced publication in January 2012. In September 2013 Ubiquity Press of London, UK became the publishers with ISSSC, Trinity College, Hartford, and the Non-religion and Secularity Research Network (NSRN) of UK as the sponsoring organizations. Secularism and Nonreligion is an on-line, open access interdisciplinary journal published with the aim of advancing research on various aspects of 'the secular.' Articles explore all aspects of what it means to be secular, what the lives of nonreligious individuals are like, and the interactions between secularity and other aspects of the world. Articles also explore the ideology and philosophy of the secular or secularism.

http://www.secularismandnonreligion.org/
In many ways, the social scientific study of Jewry has expanded and diversified its reach and influence in recent decades. More researchers, both inside and outside academia, have undertaken the sustained study of Jewish life as an ongoing career. And they (well, we) have achieved a good measure of recognition and influence. Philanthropists, other investors, and communal leaders, both lay and professional, now routinely expect and demand social scientific evaluations of impact and effectiveness, as well as policy studies to illuminate decision-making. These welcome developments are providing numerous occasions for research, reflection, and informed discourse. Our work is widely featured by journalistic outlets, both in print and online. And, most significantly, the ideas that we develop, the evidence we amass, and the discussions we conduct do in fact penetrate and influence, even if somewhat imprecisely, the thinking of policymakers and practitioners.

If there is one blemish on this upbeat view of the state of the Jewish social sciences in 2014, it lies in the limited expansion in the number of academic positions that sustain social scientists of contemporary Jewry. My impression is that very few ASSJ members under age 40 hold tenure-track jobs at institutions of higher learning, and that most of our younger members (and many not so young) pursue their careers outside of academia, or at least outside of conventional academic career tracks.

Against this generally favorable background of development, recognition and influence, the recently completed Pew Research Center’s *A Portrait of Jewish Americans* has focused even further attention on the social scientific study of Jewry and the matters that many of us regularly investigate. Whatever one thinks of the study and however one interprets the data, there is no doubt that this widely discussed survey - perhaps more widely noted than any other in the history of Jewish social research in the US - has managed to rivet the attention of Jewish communal leaders upon the findings and those of us who interpret them. Given the customary incubation period, as well as the restricted access to the data, only a few of us have yet to produce serious pieces of research drawing upon the Pew data set. However, we can fully expect the tempo to increase sharply in the coming months and to jump once again with the public release of the data set anticipated by the end of 2014.

Our increased research output, the heightened public attention to our work, and what may be a very critical moment in the course of Jewish life in the US all conspire to make the coming 12-18 months a potentially very lively time in social scientific discourse on American Jewry.

My own view (shared by some, rejected by others) is that American Jewry is facing significant declines in what I have called the “Jewish Middle.” These are the types of Jews outside of Orthodoxy who tend to populate JCCs, Conservative synagogues, and Reform temples, and to support conventional Jewish charities such as Jewish Federations. With a fertility rate of approximately 1.7 children per women, and an intermarriage rate exceeding 72%, it is hard to see how coming generations of Jews will numerically match the current cohort of middle-aged Jews who see themselves as fully (rather than partly) Jewish but not as Orthodox. Nevertheless, I do believe that concerted communal action can make a difference - at least some difference - in age at marriage, choice of marriage partner, and effective Jewish fertility. My view (again, not necessarily shared by many others) is that more investment in Jewish educational experiences (Jewish day schools, Jewish camps, Israel trips, Jewish youth groups, etc.), cultural events, and young adult organizing are necessary, feasible, and potentially productive. In addition, American Jewry will need
to ramp up rabbinic conversions, non-formal conversions, and the “culture of welcoming,” such that more non-Jewish spouses, partners, and family members will come to see themselves as part of the Jewish family, community, and people.

I know that others in our field do not entirely share my concerns for the Jewish demographic future, at least not with the same level of anxiety. For example, a forthcoming article in the *American Jewish Year Book* by Leonard Saxe, Theodore Sasson, and Janet Krasner Aronson concludes on this note:

> We are optimistic that American Jewry, comprised of both in-married and intermarried households, will flourish. But there is no historical precedent to consult, and no way to forecast precisely how Jewish identity will evolve in future cohorts. Perhaps the determining factor will be how the Jewish community interprets and responds to the snapshot of Jewish life provided by Pew.

But while we may disagree on forecasts, we may still agree on policy implications. And even if our analytic interpretations and policy inferences may differ, we can certainly agree on the promise and value of this discussion. The coming months and years hold the prospect of an engaging and enlightening discourse on American Jewry - one laden with significant opportunities for social scientists to make valuable contributions to a critical period of fateful communal decision-making in the years ahead.

Steven M. Cohen, July 6, 2014

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**Upcoming Conferences**

- American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 16-19, 2014
- Race, Ethnicity, and Place, Forth Worth, October 22-24, 2014
- Converts, Returnees, and Adherents: New Ways of Joining the Jewish People, Jerusalem, November 3-4, 2014
- ASSJ at the Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, December 14-16, 2014
- Australian Association for Jewish Studies, Sydney, February 15-16, 2014
- Institute for Israel Studies, Montreal, June 1-3, 2015
From 1899-2008, the *American Jewish Year Book (AJYB)*, “The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities” was published by the Jewish Publication Society and the American Jewish Committee (AJC). Starting in 2012, AJYB is published by Springer.

Publication is supported by the Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies at the University of Miami, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Connecticut, the UM College of Arts and Sciences, UConn’s Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life, and the Berman Foundation. ASSJ and the Berman Jewish DataBank have been supportive of this effort. AJYB is edited by Arnold Dashefsky of the University of Connecticut and Ira Sheskin of the University of Miami.

Table of Contents for the 2014 volume due in December 2014

**Part I  Review Articles**

1 Forum on the Pew Survey, A Portrait of Jewish Americans
1A Are you “Pewish”? Multiple Assessments of the Landmark Pew Survey by Arnold Dashefsky and Ira Sheskin
1B Executive Summary by Pew Research Center
1C Rhetoric About the Diverse Jewish Community by Sarah Bunin Benor
1D The Shrinking Jewish Middle by Steven M. Cohen
1E End of Jewish/Non-Jewish Dichotomy? Evidence from the 2013 Pew Survey by Sergio DellaPergola
1F The 2013 Pew Report through a Gender Lens by Harriet Hartman
1G The Americanness of American Jews by Samuel Heilman
1H Assimilation Anxieties and the Case of American Jews by Bethamie Horowitz
1I A Policy of Surveys by Ari Y. Kelman
1J It's the best of times: It's the worst of times, Barry A. Kosmin
1K Jews Who Count: Putting Pew in Historical Perspective by Deborah Dash Moore
1L Pew's Portrait of American Jewry: A Reassessment of the Assimilation Narrative by Leonard Saxe, Theodore Sasson, and Janet Krasner Aronson
1M Response: Pew Research Center, by Alan Cooperman and Gregory A. Smith

2 Gender in American Jewish Life by Sylvia Barack Fishman
3 National Affairs: January 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 by Ethan Felson
4 Jewish Communal Affairs: April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 by Lawrence Grossman
5 Jewish Population in the United States, 2014 by Ira M. Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
6 The Demography of Canadian Jewry, the “Census” of 2011: Challenges and Results by Morton Weinfeld and Randal F. Schnoor
7 World Jewish Population, 2014 by Sergio DellaPergola
Part II  Jewish Lists

8 Jewish Institutions by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
  8A  Jewish Federations
  8B  Jewish Community Centers
  8C  Jewish Social Service Agencies (Jewish Family Services, Jewish Vocational Services, Jewish Free Loans)
  8D  National Jewish Organizations
  8E  Synagogues, College Hillels, and Jewish Day Schools
  8F  Jewish Overnight Camps
  8G  Jewish Museums
  8H  Holocaust Museums, Memorials, and Monuments

9 Jewish Press by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky
  9A  National Jewish Periodicals and Broadcast Media
  9B  Local Jewish Periodicals

10 Academic Resources by Arnold Dashefsky, Ira Sheskin, and Pamela Weathers
  10A  Jewish Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Israel Studies Programs, and Jewish Social Work Programs
  10B  Major Books on the North American Jewish Communities
  10C  Academic Journals Covering the North American Jewish Communities
  10D  Scholarly Articles on the Study of the North American Jewish Communities
  10E  Websites and Organizations for Research on North American Jewish Communities
  10F  Major Judaic Research and Holocaust Research Libraries

11 Transitions by Ira Sheskin, Arnold Dashefsky, and Pamela Weathers
  11A  Major Events in the North American Jewish Communities, July 2013 to May 2014
  11B  Persons Honored by the Jewish and General Communities, June 2013 to May 2014
  11C  Obituaries, June 2013 to May 2014

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Continuing its distinguished tradition of focusing on central political, sociological, and cultural issues of Jewish life in the last century, this latest volume in the annual Studies in Contemporary Jewry series focuses on how Jewry has been studied in the social science disciplines. Its symposium consists of essays that discuss sources, approaches, and debates in the complementary fields of demography, sociology, economics, and geography.

- Jewish Demography: Fundamentals of the Research Field by Sergio DellaPergola
- Characteristics of American Jewry, A New Paradigm to Understand an Ancient People by Leonard Saxe, Elizabeth Tighe, and Matthew Boxer
- U.S. Population Studies: Opportunities and Challenges by David Dutwin, Eran Ben-Porath and Ron Miller
- Studies of Jewish Identity and Continuity: Competing, Complementary, and Comparative Perspectives by Harriet Hartman
- Defining and Measuring the Socioeconomic Status of Jews by Esther Isabelle Wilder
- The Professional Dilemma of Jewish Social Scientists: The Case of ASSJ by Chaim I. Waxman
- Contradictory Constructions of “Jewish” in Britain’s Political and Legal Systems by David J. Graham
- Sources for the Demographic Study of the Jews in the Former Soviet Union by Mark Tolts
- Latin American Jewish Social Studies: The Evolution of a Cross-disciplinary Field by Judit Bokser Liwerant
- Jews in Israel: Effects of Categorization Practice on Research Findings and Research Frameworks by Aliza Khazzoom
- Jewish Majority and Jewish Minority in Israel: The Demographic Debate by Arnon Soffer

Edited by Uzi Rebhun
American Politics and the Jewish Community
(The Jewish Role in American Life)

An Annual Review of the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life. Volume 11, edited by Bruce Zuckerman, Dan Schnur, and Lisa Ansell

- Editorial Introduction by Dan Schnur
- Introduction by Dennis Ross
- The Jewish Contract with American by Steven Windmueller
- Geography, Demography, and the Jewish Vote by Ira M. Sheskin
- American Jews and the Elephant Question by Eric M. Uslaner
- “Boxes for Israel: The Personal Journey of a Jewish Republican by Fred Zeidman
- Why My Party is the Best Choice for Jewish Voters by Matthew Brooks
Sarah Bunin Benor
Hebrew Union College

Sarah Bunin Benor (Hebrew Union College) continued to write and speak about the Pew study, about language and identity, and about her book, *Becoming Frum: How Newcomers Learn the Language and Culture of Orthodox Judaism*. She is hard at work on her next major project, in cooperation with Jonathan Krasner and Sharon Avni, which investigates the use of Hebrew at American Jewish summer camps.

I'd also like to share news from my school: The School of Jewish Nonprofit Management at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (Los Angeles campus) requires masters students to conduct original research and present it, generally in the form of a thesis.

This year students researched post-Birthright engagement, alternative models of supplementary Jewish education, civic engagement among Jews in Los Angeles, and leadership training for Federation board members and for Hillel student leaders. Readers can find these and other theses from the last several years on the Berman Jewish Policy Archive.

Carmel Chiswick
George Washington University

At the core of Judaism stands a body of traditions that have remained consistent over millennia. Yet, the practice of these rituals has varied widely across historical and cultural contexts. In *Judaism in Transition*, Carmel U. Chiswick draws on her Jewish upbringing, her journey as a Jewish parent, and her perspective as an economist to consider how incentives affect the ways that mainstream American Jews have navigated and continue to manage the conflicting demands of everyday life and religious observance.

Arguing that economics is a blind spot in our understanding of religion, Chiswick blends her personal experiences with economic analysis to illustrate the cost of Jewish participation—financially and, more importantly, in terms of time and effort.

The history of American Jews is almost always told as a success story in the secular world. Chiswick recasts this story as one of innovation to maintain a distinctive Jewish culture while keeping pace with the steady march of American life. She shows how tradeoffs, often made on an individual and deeply personal level, produce the brand of Judaism which predominates in America today. Along the way, Chiswick explores...
salient and controversial topics—from intermarriage to immigration and from egalitarianism to connections with Israel.

At once a portrait of American Jewish culture and a work that outlines how economic decisions affect religion, *Judaism in Transition* shows how changes in our economic environment will affect the Jewish community for decades to come.

- "Immigrants and Religion" in the *Handbook of the Economics of International Migration*, Volume 1, Elsevier (forthcoming).

**Steven M. Cohen**  
*Hebrew Union College*

Report”  
Steven M. Cohen, Jack Ukeles, and Ron Miller, "Partly Jewish Jews."  

**Arnold Dashefsky**  
*University of Connecticut*

Publications:  

Panel Chair/Organizer/Presenter:  

**Proposal submitted:**  
"Assuring the continuity of the American Jewish Year Book: From National Treasure to Local Asset." Proposal submitted to Jewish Community Foundation, May 2014.

**David Graham**  
*University of Sydney*

This report is the product of a collaborative research partnership between the JCA in Sydney and the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University in Melbourne.
Sergio DellaPergola
The Shlomo Argov Professor Emeritus in Israel-Diaspora Relations, The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Publications:

Forthcoming publications:
- Diversity and Convergence: Contemporary Jewish Demography and Identification, International Conference How Much Pluralism Can Judaism Sustain? University of Zurich, Faculty of Theology, and Basel University, 2013.
Selected conference papers and public lectures:

- Jewish Peoplehood Continuity and Change: What We Do Know and What We Do Not Know. Tel Aviv, Bet Hatefutzot, 2013.
- Continuity ad Change among World Jews: Is All known and agreed? Seminar Jews and Race, History and Culture. Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv University, 2014.
- Demography in 2040: Why not to Be Shunned. Tel Aviv, Escolot, 2014.
- Mondialisation, localisation et identités: géographies des juifs contemporains. Touluse, Université de Toulouse 2 le Mirail, Socio-anthropologie des judaïsmes (SAJ), 2014.

Other activities:

- Member of Yad Vashem Committee on the Righteous of the Nations.
- Acting chair, Academic Committee, The Liiwrent Center for the study of Latin America, Spain, Portugal and their Jewish communities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- Member of advisory committee, FRA survey of antisemitism in 9 European Union countries, 2012.
- Member of advisory committee, Pew survey of Jewish Americans, 2013.
- Member of advisory committee. Pew survey of Israelis, 2014.

Steve Gold
Michigan State University

Edited Book:

Journal Article:
Harriet Hartman
Rowan University

Publications:

Ariela Keysar
Trinity College, Public Policy and Law

Publications:

Conference Papers/Presentations:
Barry A. Kosmin  
Trinity University, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society & Culture

Demographic Survey of Jewish College Students 2014
This online national survey of Jewish university and college students was administered from Trinity College during March-May 2014. The sample consists of 1,159 self-defined Jewish students from 55 universities and four-year colleges. The survey is a follow-up to the ARIS 2013 National College Student Survey, an online national survey of worldviews and opinions of all American college students. The 2014 respondents reported on their Jewish identity, college experiences, family background and opinions on social, religious and political issues. The findings will enrich our understanding of trends and patterns and assess how globalization, social media and inter-group mixing reshape the identity and connections of young people today. The topics allow for comparison with other ethnic and religious groups in the U.S. and internationally, with Jewish students in the United Kingdom.

Survey of Szarvas Summer Camp (Hungary) Alumni 2014
This on-line bi-lingual (Hungarian-English) survey of 2,000 alumni from across Central Europe is being carried out on behalf of the JDC-International Centre for Community Development, Paris, France.

Publications:
- American Secular Identity, Twenty-First-Century Style: Secular College Students in 2013

Shawn Landres  
Brandeis University

Jumpstart's publication Connected to Give: Community Circles, by Evelyn Dean-Olmsted, Sarah Bunin Benor, and Jim Gerstein. http://connectedtogive.org
The urban origins of American Judaism began with daily experiences of Jews, their responses to opportunities for social and physical mobility as well as constraints of discrimination and prejudice. Deborah Dash Moore explores Jewish participation in American cities and considers the implications of urban living for American Jews across three centuries. Looking at synagogues, streets, and snapshots, she contends that key features of American Judaism can be understood as an imaginative product grounded in urban potentials.

Jews signaled their collective urban presence through synagogue construction, which represented Judaism on the civic stage. Synagogues housed Judaism in action, its
rituals, liturgies, and community, while simultaneously demonstrating how Jews Judaized other aspects of their collective life, including study, education, recreation, sociability, and politics. Synagogues expressed aesthetic aspirations and translated Jewish spiritual desires into brick and mortar. Their changing architecture reflects shifting values among American Jews.

Concentrations of Jews in cities also allowed for development of public religious practices that ranged from weekly shopping for the Sabbath to exuberant dancing in the streets with Torah scrolls on the holiday of Simhat Torah. Jewish engagement with city streets also reflected Jewish responses to Catholic religious practices that temporarily transformed streets into sacred spaces. This activity amplified an urban Jewish presence and provided vital contexts for synagogue life, as seen in the captivating photographs Moore analyzes.

Uzi Rebhun
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Publications:

Randal F. Schnoor
Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, York University

Presentations:
- "New approaches to the study of growth and change in Jewish families: A snapshot of a decade of research" Randal Schnoor. Presented at Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, May 25, 2014.
- "Jewish Life of Cape Breton Island." Randal Schnoor Speaker on round table at panel sponsored by Canadian Anthropology Society / Centre for Imaginative Ethnography. York University, Toronto, May 1, 2014

Award:
- Awarded the John O'Neill Award for Teaching Excellence (2013-14) from the Sociology Department of York University.

Marcia Texler Segal
Indiana University Southeast


The chapters in the two-parts of volume 18A&B in the *Advances in Gender Research* series contribute to an emerging global discourse on the relationship between violence and gender. Of special interest to ASSJ members will be "Belong to the Jewish Nation: Life Stories of Israeli Female Combat Soldiers," by Channa Zaccai (pp. 137-164 in Part A), and "Is Religiosity Related to Reduced Abuse in Childhood: A Community

Publications:

Presentations:
• "Jewish Education: How Does Miami Compare to Other Jewish Communities," The Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, Miami (2014).
• “The Jewish Community of Miami: The Impact of Migration on a "Retirement Community," Race, Ethnicity, and Place VI, Fort Worth (2014).

Chaim I. Waxman
Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University

Publication:

Herb Weisberg
Ohio State University

Publication:
• Tradition! Tradition? Jewish Voting in the 2012 Election" in P.S. Political Science and Politics Volume 47, Number 3.

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Canadian Association for Jewish Studies, Sklare Award
Obituary - Daniel Levine

Daniel "Danny" Levine, passed away April 29th at the age of 88. Danny served as a statistician on the National Technical Advisory Committee to both the 1990 and 2000 National Jewish Population Surveys. In addition to his long-term involvement in Jewish research he had a long career improving government and private sector data collection.

Danny served in the Naval Air Corps in World War II then used his GI benefits to get a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and then a master's from Columbia University. Danny began his career as a summer intern at the Census Bureau in 1948. By the time he retired in 1982 he was the Bureau's Deputy Director (1979-82) and had been Acting Director. He was responsible for greatly expanding the range of demographic surveys conducted by the Bureau.

The Census Bureau possessed one of the first UNIVAC computers; as a result, from 1952-54 Danny was one of the first computer programmers in the world! He helped switch the Current Population Survey to the computer.

After retiring from the Census Bureau Danny worked at the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences. In that role he organized a major review of the National Center for Education Statistics that led to major improvements in that important agency.
In 1986 he joined Westat, where he worked until the time of his death. I have had the pleasure of working with Danny for the last 28 years, both at Westat and on the NTAC for the 2000 NJPS. He was a wonderful mentor, mensch, gentleman, and co-worker. He was very supportive of me in everything we did together. He was someone who cared very much about the statistical work, but not for the sake of statistics, rather for the good that it could, and should, do for society.

Danny's initial reaction was often "that won't work" or "that won't happen" but then he'd be happy to work with you on making sure it would. An interesting combination of initial negativity followed by optimism. Some of this may be related to his having been a Redskin's fan since the days of Sammy Baugh. (Danny arrived in DC in 1935, within a year of when the Redskins did.)

Danny is survived by his wife of 64 years, Faiga, two children and five grandchildren, all of whom spoke lovingly about their zeidi at his funeral. Tributes to Danny came in from many of his past co-workers. The most common word used by everyone was mensch.

In a 1996 interview with the Census Bureau's History Staff he nicely summarized his approach to work and life. "I had very strong feelings that no matter what job I held, and I must have learned this very early, was that the more authority or responsibility you got, you were much better off if you did not think of it as authority but as responsibility to help people-the people below you as much as the people above you. So I think my greatest contribution was trying to convince people that I was there to see that they had the resources and tools to do the jobs that we foisted upon them, and that we were understanding, open, sympathetic, and willing to help."

He will be missed.

Submitted by David Marker, Westat
ASSJ Sklare Award

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 DellaPergola (Hebrew University, demography)
2000 Charles Liebman (Bar Ilan, political science)
2001 Calvin Goldscheider (Brown, sociology and demography)
2002 Jonathan Sarna (Brandeis, history)
2003 Samuel Heilman (CUNY, sociology)
2004 Egon Mayer (Brooklyn College, sociology)
2005 Elihu Katz (University of Pennsylvania and Hebrew University, communications)
2006 Deborah Dash Moore (University of Michigan, history)
2007 Barry Chiswick (University of Illinois at Chicago, economics)
2008 Paul Ritterband (Haifa University, sociology)
2009 Charles Kadushin (Brandeis, sociology)
2010 Steven M. Cohen (Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion)
2011 Riv-Ellen Prell (University of Minnesota, anthropology)
2012 Leonard Saxe (Brandeis University, social psychology)
2013 Morton Weinfeld (McGill University, Sociology)
2014 Sylvia Barack Fishman
The Mandell L. Berman Service Award is given periodically to a civic or business leader or an academic for a career of distinguished commitment to the social scientific study of Jews either through service or financial support of such research. Named for a great philanthropist and supporter of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and various other research entities, the Berman Service Award recognizes the work of leaders in many sectors of the Jewish community whose efforts have advanced the social science of Jewry.

ASSJ Berman Award

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

Berman Award Winners

2010 Mandell "Bill" Berman Lifetime Achievement Award
2011 Irene and Eddie Kaplan (Washington, DC)
2012 Arnold Dashefsky (University of Connecticut, Storrs, Sociology)
2013 Rela Mintz Geffen, Gratz College
The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry is a cross-disciplinary organization whose research concerns the Jewish people throughout the world.

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

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

Our members are primarily academics, but also policy analysts, communal professionals and activists, and are engaged in a wide range of scholarly activity, applied research, and the links between them. [www.assj.org](http://www.assj.org)

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ASSJ Book Series

The first book of the series will appear within the year, and several others are currently in preparation. The first four books will be published by the University of Nebraska; all others by Springer. Send all proposals to Harriet Hartman, Series editor (hartman@rowan.edu).

The editorial board includes:

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Contemporary Jewry

Contemporary Jewry, the journal of the ASSJ since 1975, serves as the single source for the social scientific consideration of world Jewry, its institutions, trends, character, and concerns. In its pages can be found work by leading scholars and important new researchers from around the world. While much relevant scholarship about Jewry is published in general social science journals, as well as more narrowly focused periodicals, no other single scholarly journal focuses primarily on the social scientific study of Jewry. The distinguished editorial board reflects the multi-disciplinary nature of the journal. [www.springer.com/humanities/religious+studies/journal/12397](http://www.springer.com/humanities/religious+studies/journal/12397)

Table of Contents for Contemporary Jewry, Volume 34, Issue 1 (April 2014).

- Editor's Introduction, Samuel Heilman
- Empiricism vs. Polemics: Response to the Sklare Lecture by Matthew Boxer
- A (Multi)Disciplined Approach: Response to the Sklare Lecture by Daniel Parmer
- “Good For The Jews:” Response to the Sklare Lecture by Michelle Shain
- The Impact of Communal Intervention Programs on Jewish Identity: An Analysis of Jewish Students in Britain by David J. Graham
The Jewish Journal of Sociology was sponsored by the Cultural Department of the World Jewish Congress from its inception in 1959 until the end of 1980. Thereafter, from the first issue of 1981 (volume 23, no. 1), the Journal has been sponsored by Maurice Freedman Research Trust Limited. It has as its main purpose the encouragement of research in the sociology of the Jews. The objects of the Journal remain as stated in the Editorial of the first issue in 1959: ‘This Journal has been brought into being in order to provide an international vehicle for serious writing on Jewish social affairs. Academically we address ourselves not only to sociologists, but to social scientists in general, to historians, to philosophers, and to students of comparative religion.

The founding Editor of the Jewish Journal of Sociology was Morris Ginsberg, and the founding Managing Editor was Maurice Freedman. Morris Ginsberg, who had been Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, died in 1970. Maurice Freedman, who had been Professor of Social Anthropology at The London School of Economics and later at the University of Oxford, succeeded to the title of Editor in 1971, when Dr Judith Freedman (who had been Assistant Editor since 1963) became Managing Editor. Maurice Freedman died in 1975; from then until her death in December 2009 the Journal was edited by Dr Judith Freedman.

Vol 55, No 1 (2013) Table of Contents

- Editorial Introduction by Keith Kahn-Harris
- DIY Judaism: How Contemporary Jewish Young Adults Express their Jewish Identity PDF Restricted Access by Michelle Shain, Shira Fishman, Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, and Leonard Saxe.
- Education for Jewish Peoplehood in Australia by David Mittelberg.
- In the Islands of the Sea: Geography in the Religious History of the Jews of Britain by Benjamin James Elton.
- Internalized Homophobia and Distress among Participants in Support Groups for Homosexuals: Secular versus Ultra-Orthodox Participants by Liat Kulik.
- The Elections to the 19th Knesset, 2013: Some Thoughts by Stanley Waterman.

www.jewishjournalofsociology.org/index.php/jjs/index
In recent months, the Berman Jewish DataBank @ The Jewish Federations of North America has added numerous items to its collection as part of its continuing effort to serve and inform a wide range of stakeholders, including Jewish Federations and other communal organizations, researchers, educators and students, foundations and philanthropists, social change agents, the media and interested individuals.

The DataBank’s new holdings include:

- Jewish Maps of the United States by Congressional District, produced by Joshua Comenetz, containing estimates of the Jewish population and the percent of the total population that is Jewish in each of the 435 Congressional districts and Washington, D.C.
- The Jewish Identity Learning Module, a self-directed, interactive learning activity that utilizes data and other resources from the DataBank, designed by Professor Harriet Hartman
- New materials from the Jewish Community Study of New York, including reports on poverty, geography and “partly Jewish” Jews, Jewish Households with LGBT Individuals and nonwhite, Hispanic and multiracial Jewish households.
- A 2013 survey of American rabbis commissioned by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs
- Jewish Population in the United States, 2013, written by Ira Sheskin and Arnold Dashefsky, providing estimates of the U.S. Jewish population at local, metropolitan, state and regional levels.
- World Jewish Population, 2013, authored by Sergio DellaPergola, presenting Jewish population estimates for more than 90 countries around the world.
- Materials from the 2013 Jewish Community Study of Columbus, Ohio, conducted by Jewish Policy and Action Research and commissioned by the Jewish Federation of Columbus, the Columbus Jewish Foundation, and the Wexner Foundation
- A report on the effects of the Great Recession in the Baltimore, Chicago and Cleveland Jewish communities, written by DataBank Director Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz
The first 12 reports in a multi-stage report series on the Canadian Jewish community, based on the 2011 Canadian National Household Survey, written by Charles Shahar and commissioned by the Jewish Federations of Canada –UIA in conjunction with individual Canadian Jewish Federations.


In addition to adding materials to its collection, the DataBank continues to organize and sponsor sessions at academic conference under the direction of DataBank Director Emeritus Arnold Dashefsky:

In February, the DataBank co-sponsored a session with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (Harriet Hartman, co-organizer) at the Eastern Sociological Society meetings in Baltimore. Entitled “Jewish Identity, American Jews and Israel,” the session was chaired by Carmel Chiswick and included presentations by Stuart Schoenfeld, Uzi Rehun, Nadia Beider, Chaim I. Waxman, Robert Cherry, and Jonathan Zisook and a response from Harold Himmelfarb.

The DataBank will co-sponsor with the ASSJ a session at the August meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in San Francisco. The session, “Portrait of Jewish Americans: Religious or Ethnic Factor?,” will include an opening presentation from Alan Cooperman and responses from Nancy Ammerman, Paul Burstein, Claude S. Fischer and Bruce Phillips.

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

The Berman Jewish DataBank @ The Jewish Federations of North America is the central online address for quantitative studies of North American Jewry and information about world Jewish populations. We proudly partner with the Berman Jewish Policy Archive and the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life at the University of Connecticut in offering open access to more than 375 national, local and topical studies, reports, and resources. The DataBank is funded through a generous endowment from the Berman Foundation.

From

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz
Director
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 20,000 publications spanning from the year 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 Ideas. Many documents from the American Jewish Committee (AJC) are also archived, including materials from the American Jewish Year Book. BJPA hosts large collections of material by Daniel Elazar z"l, Leonard Fein, and Charles Liebman z"l.

BJPA also hosts the Jewish Survey Question Bank (JSQB) at www.jewishquestions.bjpa.org, a database of survey questions used in Jewish social research, program evaluations, community studies, and other Jewish communal surveys. Open access to the questions used in this research will increase both quality and comparability of future studies, allowing and encouraging researchers to make use of each other's work.

BJPA produces monthly Reader's Guides on topics such as Immersive & Experiential Education; Shoah Survivors; Conversion; Before Pew: Debating the Future of US Jews in Earlier Times; and more. Sign up for our mailing list at www.bjpa.org, and register for a free user account. Registration is not required to use the archive, but registered users can create a "Bookshelf" of BJPA materials to be saved and shared, or to gather bibliographical information easily, as well as save customized user preferences and upload documents for submission to the archive. We further invite you to submit materials for inclusion on BJPA to www.bjpa.wagner@nyu.edu. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/bjparchive and on Facebook at facebook.com/bjparchive.

Please Submit Your Materials to BJPA

The Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner (BJPA) is the central electronic address for Jewish communal policy. Let colleagues find your work on www.bjpa.org by sending us your materials. We want to archive any publications that meet both of two criteria: (1) They are relevant to Jewish communal policy, and (2) We can have permission from the publisher to allow our readers to view the materials. (Thus: most books and academic journal articles are out due to strict copyright; relevant work published by nonprofit organizations, online publications without paywalls, or released by author only, etc., is more often fine. If in doubt, ask us.)

To check which of your materials we already have, go to bjpa.org/Publications/author.cfm and click your name. Send us your work at bjpa.wagner@nyu.edu.

From Steven M. Cohen, Director.
Most Viewed Publications at the Berman Jewish Policy Archive

2. Rupture and Reconstruction: The Transformation of Contemporary Orthodoxy by Haym Soloveitchik
3. Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and Their Alienation from Israel by Steven M. Cohen, Ari Y. Kelman
4. Case Work Objectives, Methods, and Scope by Fanny Houtz
5. The Torah View of Mental Illness: Sin or Sickness? by Marvin Wikler
6. Hameyvin Yavin: Language and Super Jews by Sarah Bunin Benor
9. From Pearl Harbor to Partition, Leonard Fein
10. Matrilineal Ascent/Patrilineal Descent: The Gender Imbalance in American Jewish Life by Sylvia Barack Fishman, Daniel Parmer
11. You Can't Wrap Herring in an iPad: Digitization of Sacred Jewish Books, the Stripping of Embodied Ritual, and Implications for Jewish Education by Owen Gottlieb
12. The Haredim In Israel: Who Are They and What Do They Want? by Samuel C. Heilman, Menachem Friedman
13. Why Orthodox Jews Walk in the Street on Saturdays by Avi Rockoff
20. Do American Jews Speak a "Jewish Language"? A Model of Jewish Linguistic Distinctiveness by Sarah Bunin Benor

Overall Most Viewed, 2009 through 2013

World Jewish Population, 2010 by Sergio DellaPergola
Members in the News

Robert Cherry
http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/jodi-rudoren-mouthpiece-for-palestinian-nationalists/

Steven M. Cohen, Theodore Sasson, Leonard Saxe, and Sarah Bunin Benor
http://forward.com/articles/198206/does-interrmarriage-drive-young-jews-away-from-isra/?p=1

www.thejewishweek.com/editorial-opinion/opinion/good-Jews

Samuel Heilman
https://twitter.com/haaretzcom/status/478933840908394496

Barry A. Kosmin
NPR Interview
Topic: The Decline of Christianity and Rise of Secularism Wisconsin Public Radio. Thursday May 29th from 2-3pmCDT/3-4pmEDT K.P. Whaley | Producer/Director |
The Kathleen Dunn Show

Keren McGinity
"What Kind of Jewish Name Is O'Donnell?" Forward, 14 May 2014
"Should I Let My Bisexuality Get In the Way of Conversion?" Forward, 7 May 2014
"Jewish Woman Is New Face of Intermarriage" Forward, 13 February 2014
"If We Can Intermarry -- Why Not Inter-Bury?" Forward, 11 June 2014

Theodore Sasson
www.thejewishweek.com/editorial-opinion/opinion/why-pressure-chief-rabbinate-will-only-increase-0
SESSION AT
THE 2014 ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION (ASR)

At a session is co-sponsored by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and the Berman Jewish DataBank entitled Portrait of Jewish Americans: The Religious or Ethnic Factor?

August 13-15, 2014
Marriott Hotel, San Francisco, CA
Session Time: Thursday, August 14, 2014, 10:00 - 11:30 am

Convener and Chair: Arnold Dashefsky, University of Connecticut

Keynote Presentation: “Overview of the Pew Survey on Jewish Americans, Alan Cooperman, Pew Research Center”

Panel of Respondents:
Nancy Ammerman, Professor of Sociology of Religion, Boston University
Paul Burstein, Professor of Sociology, University of Washington
Claude S. Fischer, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
Bruce A. Philips, Professor of Sociology and Jewish Communal Studies, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles

SESSION AT
THE 2014 AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ASA)

August 16-19, 2014
Hilton Union Square, 333 O'Farrell St, San Francisco, CA 94102
Session Time: Saturday, August 16, 2014, 6:30-8:15 pm

Informal Meeting: Sociology and Anti-Semitism
Organizer / Convener: Arnold Dashefsky, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Judaic Studies and Director Emeritus, Berman Jewish Databank, University of Connecticut

Topic: "Contemporary Forms of Anti-Semitism"
Lead Discussant: Charles Asher Small, Koret Distinguished Scholar at Stanford University and Founding Director of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy.
In recent decades we have witnessed a new global phenomenon: Tens of thousands of individuals have chosen to become part of the Jewish people, most of them not through religious conversion of any kind. Some children of intermarried families in the United States are adopting the Jewish way of life of their families; in Eastern Europe, individuals of Jewish descent are returning to the roots they have hidden since World War II; in Asia there are groups that see themselves as the descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes and are seeking a path to Judaism; in Latin America, Spain, and Portugal, thousands now openly express the formerly hidden traditions of families that were forced to convert to Catholicism (anusim); in Israel, immigrants who are not halakhic Jews are becoming part of Jewish society and gradually becoming Israeli Jews. This phenomenon marks a fascinating change in the history of the Jewish people. For thousands of years people who were not Jews had no interest in becoming part of the Jewish people, whereas since the end of the twentieth century the trend toward joining has increased.

The aim of this research workshop is to examine the phenomenon in both global and local terms. Among the issues to be explored are the following:

- Are there cultural and genetic-historical connections, as well as connections of identity, between the phenomena or is this simply a group of unconnected local events, each standing on its own?
- Does the motivation of these “joiners” depend on the changing image of Jews in the world, or does it derive from extra-Jewish global factors?
- How are the Jewish institutions—abroad and in the State of Israel—responding to these phenomena? How are non-Jewish governmental bodies relating to them?
- What role does traditional conversion have in the process and is it correct to say that the waves of joiners have created new points of entry to the Jewish people?
- In light of this phenomenon, is it still possible to speak of one Jewish people, or are we witnessing the creation of different Jewish peoples, each with its own definition?

Researchers from all knowledge areas are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation at the workshop. The proposal should be no more than two pages long and should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, both in WORD files. Proposals must be submitted by Friday, 6 June 2014, to Dafna Schreiber at: dafnas@vanleer.org.il

Academic Committee: Prof. Sylvia Barack Fishman, Prof. Steven Cohen, Dr. Susanne Cohen-Weisz, Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, Dr. Netanel Fisher, Prof. Abraham Gross, Prof. Tudor Parfitt, Rabbi Prof. Naftali Rothenberg, Dafna Schreiber
Call for Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies

The 27th AAJS Conference, 15-16 February 2015

The University of New South Wales and the Shalom Institute, Kensington, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Neighbours: Relations between Jews and non-Jews throughout History

Since antiquity the Jews have lived side by side with other peoples. With the geographic dispersion of the Jews after the destruction of the Second Temple and their gradual settlement in Europe, Asia, Africa and later in the ‘New World’, the interactions between the Jews and other communities invariably increased. The purpose of the conference is to convene scholars who are involved in academic research of Jewish/non-Jewish (however defined) relations throughout the centuries. We intend to offer a multifaceted perspective on the lives of the Jews and their rich interactions with their neighbours all over the world.

We welcome papers that address the issue of Jewish coexistence with other peoples from diverse perspectives, including:

- Interactions between the Jews and non-Jews throughout centuries
- Ancient Israel and its neighbours
- Cultural and spiritual interactions between the Jews and other communities
- Influence of other communities on Jewish languages
- Impact of Jews and Judaism on other communities
- Impact of other communities on Jews and Judaism
- Jewish communities and their neighbours in the modern era
- Modern Israel and its neighbours
- Representation of Jews and their neighbours in film and literature
- Proposals for special sessions (roundtables, film screenings or discussions of new book releases) will also be considered.

Papers on other topics will be considered but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the conference theme.

Please submit your paper proposal (abstracts of no more than 250 words and a short bio) by 1 September 2014 to Dr Jan Láníček, via email J.Lanicek@unsw.edu.au. The subject of the message should be ‘AAJS UNSW 2015 Proposal’ (All applicants will be informed about the decision by 31 October 2014). Visit www.aajs.org.au for details.
SAVE THE DATE

SUSTAINABLE ISRAEL:
A Changing Society in the 21st Century

June 1-3, 2015

Join us for the 31st annual meeting of the Association of Israel Studies (AIS), hosted by the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec.

For further details contact: azrieliinstitute@concordia.ca or 514-848-2424 ext. 8721

azrieli-institute.concordia.ca