

THE
CROWN
FAMILY
CENTER
FOR
**JEWISH
AND
ISRAEL
STUDIES**

2020-2021
Annual Report



Northwestern

THE CROWN FAMILY CENTER FOR JEWISH AND ISRAEL STUDIES

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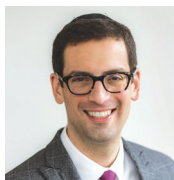
Northwestern

Crown Family Center for
Jewish and Israel Studies

ON THE COVER

Mikvah circa 1260 Friedberg, Germany
Photo credit: Stadtarchiv Friedberg

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends: Just off the *Kaiserstrasse*, the main thoroughfare in the charming historical center of the German town of Friedberg, is an unobtrusive courtyard tucked behind a row of half-timbered buildings. The courtyard's only distinguishing characteristic is the small, round hole at ground level in its center. Peering into the opening from above through its semi-transparent glass cover, one can make out only blurred shapes.

But if one locates and descends the staircase accessible behind an adjacent doorway, it becomes clear that the narrow gap in the pavement opens onto a cavernous subterranean space. At the bottom of a winding set of 72 stairs, more than 80 feet beneath the surface, is a natural spring that flows out of the bedrock and collects in a small pool chiseled out of the ground. Beginning in 1260, Jews in Friedberg used this spring as a *mikvah*, a communal bath meant for ritual immersion and purification. And for centuries, the inner recesses of the underground space were lit only by the single window 80 feet above, which casts its light onto the pool of water below.

I visited Friedberg not long before the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and, standing at the level of the ritual bath itself, it struck me that the glowing circle reflected on the *mikvah's* surface appears almost to be emanating upward out of the bedrock, rather than streaming down upon it from above. As one descends the stairs toward the Friedberg *mikvah* and the bright circle at the bottom comes into focus, it is easy to imagine that one is heading toward, not away from, the source of illumination. Only at the bottom does it become apparent that the ostensible light at the end of the tunnel is deceptive, and has lured the visitor deeper into darkness. And yet, as the Jews of Friedberg themselves would have explained, the descent below ground promises the faithful a different sort of illumination. For the medieval Jewish community, the glowing water at the bottom of the excavated tunnel bestowed purification and renewal. Immersion in the spring deep beneath the ground removed the ritual impurity that was believed to drive a wedge between community members, and was thus a vital step toward connection and reintegration. Although the light at the end of the tunnel was in a certain sense illusory, it was far from a dead-end. Rather, it represented the way in which hope and solidarity can be found even—or especially—in the depths of what might otherwise be considered despair.

For the faculty, students, visiting scholars, and staff of the Crown Family Center, 2020-21 was an exercise in finding light amidst darkness, connection amidst isolation. We spent the entire academic year teaching, meeting, and hosting events remotely, and the effort to constitute a shared community in spite of physical distance, intermittent software glitches, and uncooperative WiFi networks guaranteed a steady stream of challenges and frustrations. And yet, while we desperately missed the camaraderie of face-to-face interaction, I am happy to report that we made the best of the situation—and then some. We hosted even more colloquia, public lectures, and educational and cultural events than normally, and took advantage of remote modalities to engage with scholars, artists, and performers from all over the world. We also reached a far wider swath of the broader public than usual, as our Zoom events attracted crowds in the hundreds from the Chicagoland area and well beyond. And while it is impossible to predict what the 2021-22 year will bring, there is reason for optimism: as the new academic year begins we've already welcomed new colleagues, visitors, and students back to campus; we've returned to in-person teaching (albeit with masking and careful safety protocols); and we are hopeful that we will soon be able to resume in-person public events. (We've also nailed down some phenomenal speakers for our endowed public lectures—stay tuned for details!)

In spite of the ongoing challenges, I am confident that our Jewish and Israel Studies community will emerge from the Covid era more robust and cohesive than ever. I hope you will enjoy learning more in these pages about our accomplishments in 2020-21, and I invite you to learn and partner with us in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Shyovitz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Shyovitz
Director

2020-2021 EVENTS

The 2020-21 academic year was shaped by the reality of the Covid pandemic, and public events organized by the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies were no exception. Our pivot from in-person to online events allowed us to present a wide range of programs featuring scholars, artists, and even chefs from around the world. Zoom also allowed us to welcome more than 1200 attendees, including many located outside the Chicagoland area.

The Manfred H. Vogel Lecture in Judaic Studies

“Working Memory: Present Day Uses of the Jewish Past”

Over the course of panel discussions held on January 14 and January 21, 2021, some of today’s leading scholars discussed the ways in which Jewish memory has been crafted, augmented, instrumentalized, and contested. Examples included: debates over how to memorialize antisemitism in pre-modern Europe, Jewish perspectives on Confederate memory in the southern United States, and the rise of nostalgia as a modern Jewish ritual practice.



Clockwise from upper left, Adam Domby, Shari Rabin, Magda Teter, and Shmulik Nili.

Panel one: “Memorialization: Preserving, Performing and Protesting Jewish History”

Adam Domby, College of Charleston
Shmulik Nili, Northwestern University
Shari Rabin, Oberlin College
Magda Teter, Fordham University

Panel two: “Nostalgia: On the Longing for an Imagined Past”

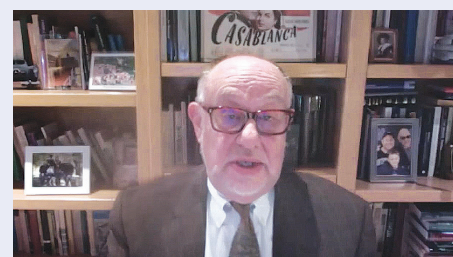
Joshua Friedman, North Carolina State
University
Rachel Gross, San Francisco State University
Charles A. McDonald, Northwestern
University



Renée and Lester Crown Speaker Series

“Jewish and Israeli Cuisine and Culture: A Conversation with Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook”

Award-winning chef Michael Solomonov and his business partner and co-author Steven Cook visited Northwestern via Zoom on March 4, 2021 for a wide-ranging conversation about the historical origins and development of Jewish and Israeli food cultures, as well as the present-day debates over what exactly constitutes “Israeli cuisine.” The discussion was moderated by David Shyovitz, Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies.



Professor Kenneth Seeskin delivering the 2021 Klutznick lecture

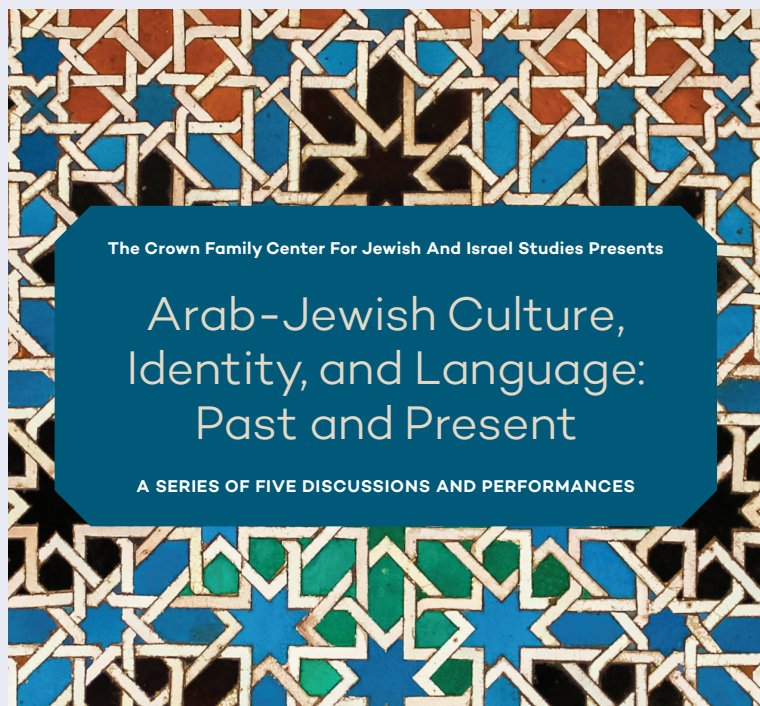
Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Lecture in Jewish Civilization

“Es iz schwer tzu sein a Yid: It is hard to be a Jew”

Professor Kenneth Seeskin, Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Professor of Jewish Civilization Emeritus and Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at Northwestern University

Co-sponsored by the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

Why is it hard to be a Jew? Why is anti-Semitism on the rise? Professor Seeskin sought to address these questions at the Klutznick Lecture on April 29, 2021. He identified a persistent theme in Jewish history: a willingness to challenge authority and dissent from prevailing opinions. Beginning with Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew Prophets, Jews have produced a long line of dissenters, whistle-blowers, and people who insist on justice above all else. It is this feature, Seeskin argued, along with minority status, that has made Jews perennial scapegoats.



Top: Tair Haim with accompanist Michael Meital; Above: Clockwise from left, Lital Levy, Louis Fishman, Yuval Evri, Maayan Hilel, and Abigail Jacobson

Arab-Jewish Culture, Identity, and Language: Past and Present

During the Spring quarter, the Crown Family Center hosted five events centered on the history, culture, politics, languages, and daily experiences of Arab-Jews, shedding new light on the diverse social and intellectual connections between Arab and Jewish societies in the Arab world and in Israel in the past and the present.

By looking at this category from historical, contemporary, political, and cultural perspectives, these events illuminated the fluidity of Arab-Jewish identity and its importance for understanding the complex experiences of Mizrahim in Israel.

The series, organized by Maayan Hilel, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies, included musical performances by two Israeli-Jewish artists whose work explores and expands their ongoing sense of affinity with the Arabic language and culture.

“In-Between’: Arab-Jews in Palestine/Eretz Israel at the Turn of the 20th Century” Sunday, April 18, 2021

Abigail Jacobson, Hebrew University
Yuval Evri, King’s College London
Lital Levy, Princeton University
Louis Fishman, Brooklyn College-
City University of New York

“Arab-Jewish Culture in Israel Today: Producers, Consumers and Gatekeepers” Sunday, May 2, 2021

Almog Behar, Tel Aviv University
Yigal Shalom Nizri, University of Toronto
Netta Amar-Shiff, Attorney specializing in human rights and international humanitarian law
Wendy Pearlman, Northwestern University

“Performance and Conversation with Tair Haim, Acclaimed Soloist of the Band A-WA” Sunday, May 23, 2021

Maayan Hilel, Moderator,
Northwestern University

“Arab-Jewish Intersecting Identities: Gender, Protest, and Politics” Sunday, May 30, 2021

Henriette Dahan Kalev, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Heba Nabil Iskandarani, Birmingham City University, UK
Shir Alon, University of Minnesota

“Performance and Conversation with Ziv Yehezkel, Renowned Israeli Singer and Composer” Sunday, June 13, 2021

Eness Elias, Moderator, Culture researcher and *Haaretz* columnist



For several years, I have attended lectures and programs sponsored by the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies. The quality of the speakers befitted the Northwestern University environment and kept me up-to-date on a wide range of Jewish issues... When the pandemic started, I was afraid that I would lose this lifeline of Jewish intellectual engagement. However, the virtual programs such as the series on Arab-Jewish Culture, Identity, and Language kept my mind active as it fed my community connection. The availability of these programs brightened this long period of communal isolation and left me wanting more. I will continue to engage virtually if I must while I anticipate the opportunity to be face-to-face with the speakers and the community as they teach me and challenge me.”

Larry Marks

Faculty and graduate student colloquia

“Julius and Ethel and Jewish Ghosting in the Polish People’s Republic”

January 29, 2021

Rachel Merrill Moss, PhD candidate, Interdisciplinary Program in Theatre and Drama

“Research in Times of Crisis: Accessing Data during the Pandemic”

March 5, 2021

Jewish Studies Graduate Cluster Roundtable

“Breaching the National Boundaries: Jews and Arabs in the Mandate Palestine Leisure Scene”

April 9, 2021

Maayan Hilel, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies, Northwestern University

“The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex”

May 14, 2021

Lila Corwin Berman, Professor of History, Temple University

Co-sponsored events

“Rabbi Jonathan Sacks on Morality”

September 11, 2020

Presented by the Chicago Humanities Festival

“I am an Arab Jew,” Sami Chetrit

November 8, 2020

Co-sponsored by MENA Languages

“Bilingualism in Jerusalem, A Discussion with Dr. Maya de Vries-Kedem”

November 22, 2020

Co-sponsored by MENA Languages

“A Conversation with Yotam Ottolenghi, Chef, Restaurateur and Author”

March 17, 2021

Presented by the Chicago Humanities Festival

“Performance and Conversation with the Poetry Slam Artist Yonatan Blumenfeld”

May 14, 2021

Co-sponsored by MENA Languages

PLEASE JOIN US ON
FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2 PM CT FOR A

**PERFORMANCE AND
CONVERSATION WITH THE
POETRY SLAM ARTIST
YONATAN BLUMENFELD**

Yonatan represented Israel in the international Poetry Slam championship in Paris in 2017. He is also a playwright and a director, an actor, and a singer.



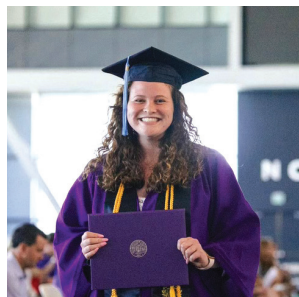
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Northwestern | Middle East and North African Languages

Undergraduate Student News

2021 JEWISH/HEBREW STUDIES MINORS

ADINA BARG

Going to college, I never expected to become a Jewish Studies minor, but every quarter when I would look at all of the class options for the upcoming quarter, I always felt drawn to the Jewish Studies classes. They were the classes that I was interested in, the ones that I actually wanted to take. So eventually in my second year I decided to just do it, and after the first class I knew that the



Jewish Studies program was the one for me! I loved that Jewish Studies is a relatively small program, and I really had the chance to get to know my professors when I took their courses, and I knew that they would be there to support me even after their time as my professor was over. While I do not have any plans to pursue a career in the Jewish world, I am thankful for the professors that I got to know and the courses that I was able to take through the Jewish Studies program!

DAVID KAPLAN

I first took Hebrew at Northwestern to satisfy my language requirement. However, I soon realized that the variety of Hebrew Studies courses spanned disciplines from language, to economics, to literature and were among the most interesting that Northwestern had to offer. This led me to take more Hebrew and Jewish Studies courses and eventually to declare a Hebrew Studies minor. I loved learning from Hebrew language professor Hanna Tzucker Seltzer, and I am glad that I was able to incorporate Hebrew into my Northwestern experience.



JILL STACEY HARRIS PRIZE IN JEWISH STUDIES



The 2021 Jill Stacey Harris Prize in Jewish Studies was awarded to Weinberg College junior **LAUREN COLLINS**. In their comments, the Jill Stacey Harris Prize committee commended Collins' paper, "In Defense of 'Antisemitism,'" noting that it was "exceptionally well-argued, thought-provoking, and theoretically profound. Lauren's argument for the category of antisemitism as a useful concept for historical analysis was written with energy and verve and showcased independent and

sophisticated thinking." The paper was written for Professor David Shyovitz's winter course "What is Antisemitism?"

The Jill Stacey Harris Prize has been awarded annually since 1991 for the best undergraduate essay in Jewish Studies.

CROWN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP



The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies awards the Crown Graduate Fellowship annually to one Northwestern graduate student whose dissertation research bears on an aspect of Jewish history, culture, or religion. **Omri Tubi**, a doctoral candidate in Sociology, is the recipient of the Crown Graduate Fellowship for 2021-2022.

Tubi's dissertation, "'We Shall Centralize or We Shall Die': Building Health Institutions in Palestine and Israel," examines the organizations maintained by Hadassah and the JDC and working in Palestine and Israel between 1920-1960, and their effect on the development of Israeli state institutions in the field of public health. Specifically, Tubi focuses on issues of elite relations and models of institutional development. His research shows that American Jewish and Zionist elites were divided along cultural and political lines and fiercely fought each other over the centralization and control of national health institutions. He argues that the main cause for establishing cooperation was actually elite conflict itself because it endangered the existence of all groups involved. Conflict forced elites to facilitate a truce, paving the way for institutional development. In the absence of elite conflict, institutional development was short-lived, and critical medical services remained underdeveloped.

Graduate Student News

LIZA BERNSTEIN (Religious Studies) finished her first year of coursework while also spending the year focusing on the fourth chapter of the Talmud tractate Kiddushin. Liza has focused her research in this chapter on questions of lineage, masculinity, and hierarchical relationships in the Talmud. She hopes to continue this project as she begins her second year.

TOMASZ CEBRAT (History) is a doctoral student focusing on modern East Central Europe and Israel. He studies the shared cultural and intellectual origins of the State of Israel and East Central European nation states as well as the distinct ways people living in these nation states negotiated the relationship between their religious and national attachments in the second half of the twentieth century.

SAVOY CURRY (History), a third-year PhD student, specializes in the history of marginalized people living in 11th-14th century Europe. In particular, her work seeks out sites of interaction between marginalized Jewish and Christian women in order to understand how community boundaries were shaped, reformed, and regulated during the High Middle Ages. She spent the past year building a historiographical base for her studies, and she is currently working on her dissertation prospectus.

LEV DASCHKO (History) is a doctoral candidate studying modern Eastern European history, with a focus on Bukowina in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century.

EMMA DAVIS (Political Science) completed first-year coursework this year, focusing on political theology, the role of religion in contemporary politics, and political economy. In May, she presented a paper on the Zionist organization Brit Shalom at the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies Conference. She received a Crown Family Center Israel Studies Research

Grant for the summer of 2021 to attend the Hebrew Immersion Program at the Middlebury College Language Schools.

RACHEL MERRILL MOSS (Interdisciplinary PhD in Theatre and Drama) Rachel defended her dissertation “Chosen Peoples: Performances of Jewishness in Poland, 1918-2018,” and will be joining the faculty of the School of Theatre at Boston University in the fall. In December 2020, Rachel co-produced an online and in-person celebration for the 100th anniversary of S. Anski’s *The Dybbuk* in partnership with the Theatre Institute of Warsaw, featuring a scholarly symposium, discussion, and two performances. Additionally, her essay, “Skrypyek as Jewish Stand-in: Fiddler on the Roof in Poland,” was awarded the 2020 Luckens International Prize in Jewish Thought and Culture for best unpublished essay.

ANASTASIYA NOVATORSKAYA (History) is an incoming third-year history PhD student. Her work grapples with representations of femininity in ultra-nationalist movements in twentieth-century Eastern Europe. In 2020-21, Anastasiya was a teaching assistant for various courses in the history department, including “Jews in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia, 1917-1991.”

MAHMURE IDIL OZKAN (Anthropology) recently finished her fourth year in the linguistic and cultural anthropology PhD program. Her research investigates Spain’s citizenship offer to Sephardi Jews from ethnographic, historical, and legal lenses. More specifically, she examines the ways in which Sephardic identity and ancestry have been created, contested, and performed with a specific focus on the role of language. In 2021, she presented her work in several workshops and conferences, including the CES International Conference of Europeanists and the online workshop entitled “Public Jewishness,” organized by Naomi Leite. She is currently doing fieldwork in Istanbul with the support of a Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork Grant.

BOGDAN PAVLISH (History) studies the early modern history of Eastern Europe with a focus on Poland, Ukraine, and Russia. He is particularly interested in the cultural, religious, and intellectual history of the region. His current research project explores different modes of negotiating and managing religious diversity in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16-17th centuries.

VANDA RAJCAN (History) studies modern European history, specializing in Central and East Europe, Holocaust history, comparative genocide, and the history of minorities. Her dissertation, “Unpopular Justice: Holocaust-related Crimes in Slovak People’s Courts, 1945-1947,” investigates how the Slovak government used the retributive courts, a legal system established in 1945 to address crimes committed during World War II, to promote and legitimize postwar political, religious, and national programs.

ANASTASIIA SIMFEROVSKA (Slavic Languages and Literatures) passed her qualifying exams. The exams included designing a course entitled, “The Holocaust Text,” which explores key literary and artistic texts on the Holocaust created in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia during and immediately after WWII. The course introduces visual and verbal Holocaust texts against a broader cultural backdrop of post-WWII Europe, demonstrating how the representations of the Holocaust created by Polish, Ukrainian, Russian, and Jewish authors created a new type of a testimony challenging memory, cultural continuity, and humanistic traditions. Her research focuses on the Holocaust in the arts; she has completed a paper on an allegedly plagiarized artwork by Soviet military artist Zinovii Tolkachev, and one tracing the artistic oeuvre of Holocaust survivor and artist Henryk Beck.

FACULTY NEWS

Graduate Student News, continued

AMANDA RUPPENTHAL STEIN (Musicology) defended her dissertation “Sounding Judentum: Assimilation, Art Music, and Being Jewish Musically in 19th century German-Speaking Europe” in December 2020 and graduated in 2021. She teaches at Carroll University in Milwaukee, WI.

OMRI TUBI (Sociology) studies development, medicine and health, and state-formation. His dissertation, “‘We Shall Centralize or We Shall Die’: Building Health Institutions in Palestine and Israel,” is a comparative-historical account that examines the contribution of American Jewish organizations working in Palestine and Israel between 1920-1960 to the development of Israeli state institutions in the field of public health. In 2020-2021, Omri was a Global Impacts fellow at the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs. His work appeared in the journal *Theory and Society* and won two Best Graduate Student Paper awards from the American Sociological Association. He is also the recipient of the 2021-2022 Crown Graduate Fellowship. More details on page 4.

KALIA VOGELMAN-NATAN (Media, Technology and Society Program) is a third-year PhD student working in the Center on Media and Human Development. Her studies focus on the role of media in the lives of children and their parents. Kalia is particularly interested in the intersection of children, religion, and media, as well as the impact of children’s religious media on families, communities, and institutions.

ARIEL WEINER (Comparative Literary Studies) focuses her research on the work of Walter Benjamin, continental philosophy, media and communications theory, psychoanalysis, hermeneutics, and 20th century Jewish thought, particularly regarding questions of language, mediation, and perception.

RONIT ALEXANDER, Lecturer, MENA Languages

Ronit Alexander joined the faculty in September 2020 as the first-year Hebrew instructor. In addition to adapting the curriculum for online teaching, she presented at Northwestern’s TEACHx 2021 on teaching a non-Roman script online to novice learners. She is also working on a doctorate on language acquisition at Middlebury College.

DANNY M. COHEN, Associate Professor of Instruction in the School of Education and Social Policy

Danny M. Cohen taught a new Northwestern course: “Magic, Monsters, and the Holocaust” on Holocaust film and fiction as vehicles for public learning and memory. He also facilitated Unsilence distance learning youth workshops and teacher trainings on Holocaust education and memorialization, reaching some 1,150 people, including 525 educators. In addition, Danny was appointed co-chair of the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission, a diverse team of scholars, educators, and practitioners focused on the future of Holocaust, genocide, and social justice education and commemoration across the state.

SARAH CUSHMAN, Director of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU) and Lecturer in the Department of History

While the HEFNU Lessons & Legacies Conference was postponed again until November 2022, other programs, including the Foundation’s two annual lectures — with Erin McGlothlin and Eva Hoffman — went virtual, attracting large international audiences. HEFNU also held its Summer Institute remotely with an intentionally smaller cohort than usual. Finally, HEFNU developed two new programs that spoke to the specific context of the pandemic, but which will continue for the foreseeable future: a Virtual Speakers Bureau and a Virtual Mentoring program. This past spring, Cushman taught “Gender, Race, and the Holocaust.” She also gave several virtual lectures, including one at the United Nations in January and for the Rutgers

University Littman Holocaust Resource Center, Master Teacher Institute on Holocaust Education in June.

MARTIN EICHENBAUM, Charles Moskos Professor of Economics

PETER FENVES, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Professor of Literature, Professor of German, Comparative Literary Studies, Jewish Studies, and Asian Languages and Cultures

Peter Fenves’ volume dedicated to Werner Hamacher’s writings on Friedrich Hölderlin, co-edited with Julia Ng, was published by Stanford University Press. A dozen of Fenves’ essays appeared in various venues, including some older items recently translated into Italian, Greek, Chinese, and Spanish. Finally, he wrote a foreword for Anthony Adler’s new book, *Politics and Truth in Hölderlin* (Camden House Press).

BENJAMIN FROMMER, Associate Professor in the Department of History

Benjamin Frommer completed a chapter on the Holocaust for the forthcoming *Prague and Beyond: Jews in the Bohemian Lands* edited by Kateřina Čapková and Hillel J. Kieval. The volume will also be published in Czech and Hebrew. In Spring 2021, he offered a new first-year seminar on “Holocaust Testimonies” in addition to a lecture course on the history of the Second World War.

MAAYAN HILEL, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies

Maayan Hilel spent the past academic year at work on her book project tentatively titled *Leisure, Pleasure, and Fun in Mandatory Palestine*. She won the 2020 Early Career Article Award from the Association of Middle East Children and Youth Studies for her article “Changing Texture of Childhood: Palestinian Children as New Leisure Consumers in Mandatory Haifa,” and she published “Making Waves – Arabs and Jews on the Beaches of Mandate Haifa” in *Revue d’histoire Culturelle*. At the Crown Center, Maayan organized the Arab-Jewish Culture, Identity, and Language: Past and Present series; delivered a graduate student colloquium; and taught courses about the social and cultural history of Palestine and Israel throughout the 20th century.

SARA HIRSCHHORN, Visiting Assistant Professor in Israel Studies

Sara Hirschhorn continued to work on a second book project entitled *New Day in Babylon and Jerusalem: Zionism, Jewish Power, and Identity Politics Since 1967* as well as shorter articles on Israel education, the pandemic in Israel, and the challenges of the “new” antisemitism. She taught “Conscience and Counterculture: The American Jewish 1960’s,” “1948: History and Memory of the First Arab-Israeli War,” “Modern Israel: History, Politics and Society, 1882-present,” and “Zionism and its Critics.” Hirschhorn continues to maintain a robust profile in public engagement with academic, the foreign policy community, and lay audiences.

ȘTEFAN CRISTIAN IONESCU,

Theodore Zev and Alice R. Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Visiting Associate Professor in Holocaust Studies in the Department of History

Ștefan Ionescu continued to work on several projects examining the history of the Romanian Jewish community during the twentieth century. He published several book chapters and journal articles: “Perceptions of Legality during the Antonescu Regime, 1940-1944,” in *Journal of Romanian Studies*; “Legal Resistance through Petitions During the Holocaust: The Strategies of Romanian Jewish Leader Wilhelm Filderman, 1940-44,” in Wolf Gruner and Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (eds.), *Resisting Persecution: Jews and their Petitions during the Holocaust*; and “On the Uses and Abuses of Oral History as a Method of Historical Investigation” in *Revista de Istorie a Evreilor din Romania*.

LUCILLE KERR, Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Lucille Kerr’s teaching, research, and mentoring of students at the graduate and undergraduate levels focuses on Latin American fiction, testimonial texts, and films, which include Jewish-Latin American cultural production. Her ongoing focus on Jewish-Argentine literature and culture in both research and teaching has expanded the scope of the web-based Latin American literature and film archive she founded years ago and whose development continues to the present.

CHARLES A. McDONALD, Sava Ranisvljevic Post-Doctoral Fellow in Judeo-Spanish Studies

Charles A. McDonald published “Rancor: Sephardic Jews, Spanish Citizenship, and the Politics of Sentiment,” in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. He also completed “Sephardic Citizenship and the Ethics of Refusal” for *Reparative Citizenship in Spain and Portugal: Sephardi Jews, Reconciliation, and Return*, edited by Dalia Kandiyoti and Rina Benmayor. In the spring, he published a public-facing essay in the journal *American Ethnologist*, “Marking Time and Being Remade,” for their “Pandemic Diaries” series. He received a Faculty Research Grant from The Sexualities Project at Northwestern for his second book project on underground queer nightlife in the age of COVID. He taught two undergraduate seminars, “Jews and Muslims in Contemporary Spain” and “Global Im/Mobilities: Borders, Migration, and Citizenship.”

MARCUS MOSELEY, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Yiddish Literature

Marcus Moseley taught two courses on Hebrew and Yiddish Literature: “Eros and Isolation in Modern Hebrew Literature” and “Versions of the Shtetl: Introduction to Yiddish Culture.” He is currently working on a collection of his essays on Hebrew and Yiddish Literature.

SHMULIK NILI, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science

Shmulik Nili published his second book, *Integrity: Personal and Political* in December 2020 with Oxford University Press. The book deals with, among other themes, integrity and its absence in Israeli, American, and Italian politics. A symposium on Shmulik’s first book, *The People’s Duty* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), appeared in *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*. Nili is currently at work on two other book manuscripts, one of which is supported by a Crown Family Center Israel Studies Research Grant. He also runs the Northwestern Global Theory workshop.

ANNA PARKINSON, Associate Professor in the Department of German

In Fall 2020, Anna Parkinson taught an interdisciplinary graduate course titled “Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory,”

the culmination of her involvement in a three-year collaboration with WiSER (Wits Institute for Social and Economic Research), University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. Parkinson has two forthcoming peer-reviewed essays in edited volumes, both of which are drawn from her scholarship on the fiction and psychoanalytic writing of Jewish-German survivor and exile Hans Keilson. Tentatively titled “Hearts and Bones,” Parkinson’s second project examines the influence of narratives of forensic evidence in the politicization of transnational cultures of memory in the wake of genocide.

YOHANAN PETROVSKY-SHTERN, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Department of History

In the 2020-2021 academic year, Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern taught two new undergraduate courses, “Life under Communism,” and “History of Jewish Material Culture,” and a new graduate course on Ukrainian history and culture. He delivered the Petryshyn Memorial Lecture at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, “A Paradigm-Changing Day: Jews, Ukrainians, and the 25th Anniversary of the Babyn Yar.” Petrovsky-Shtern also spoke at the Moscow-based “Memorial” Society at which he presented “The Babyn Yar: from the Ravine below to those above,” in which he spoke about Russia’s hybrid war against Ukraine in the realm of the Holocaust memorialization, and lectured about Jewish material culture in Ukraine at the National University at Chernivtsi and at the National University “Ostroh Academy.” Petrovsky-Shtern completed “The Ukrainian Odessa of Vladimir Jabotinsky” for Efraim Sicher and Mirja Lecke, eds., *Cosmopolitan Odessa* as well as articles for the *Journal of Israel Studies*, the *Journal of Migrations*, and *Studi Slavici*.

ELIE REKHESS, Crown Visiting Professor in Israel Studies and Director of the Northwestern Israel Innovation Project (IIP)

Elie Rekhess headed the launch of the IIP website and a biweekly newsletter featuring scientific and technological breakthroughs from Israel. In addition, he moderated a series of events on the 2021 Israeli elections, “Israeli Elections 2021: Decision at Last?” in January and “Divided We Stand,” co-hosted with the Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) in April. Together with McCormick Global Initiatives and the Center for Combatting

2020-2021 COURSES

**Jews and Germans:
An Intercultural History II**

Hebrew I, Hebrew II

**Hebrew III: Current Events in Israel:
Israeli Society through online
News Media**

**Hebrew III: The Four-Dimensional
Jerusalem**

**Tales of Love and Darkness: Eros and
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The Land of Israel, 1880-1948**

**Leisure and Popular Culture
in 20th Century Palestine/Israel**

**Modern Israel: History, Politics
and Society, 1882-present**

Politics in the Middle East

**Water in Israel and the Middle East:
Resilience, Sustainability, Security**

Zionism and its Critics

**A Rabbi and a Priest Walk into a Bar...
to Talk about God**

Gender and Sexuality in Judaism

Introduction to Hebrew Bible

Introduction to Judaism

Jewishness in Performance

FACULTY NEWS

Pandemics at Tel Aviv University, Rekhess oversaw a call for proposals solving COVID-19 problems through collaborative research between faculty from Tel Aviv University and Northwestern. In April, Rekhess participated in a round table on "Israel's 'Post-Covid' 2021 Elections," organized by the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel at Michigan State University. He co-taught "Water in Israel and the Middle East: Resilience, Sustainability, Security" in Spring 2021 as part of the ongoing partnership with the Northwestern Center for Water Research, and co-organized and moderated a session at the Fifth Annual Symposium on Water in Israel and the Middle East.

LILAH SHAPIRO, Assistant Professor of Instruction, School of Education and Social Policy

DAVID SHYOVITZ, Associate Professor in the Department of History and Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies

David Shyovitz developed and taught a new undergraduate course, "What is Anti-Semitism?", and a new course for the Alumnae of Northwestern University Continuing Education Program, "The History of Heaven." He also continued work on his book manuscript and delivered invited lectures at the University of Toronto, Penn State, and Rutgers University. David's book *A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz* was awarded the 2021 John Nicholas Brown Prize for best first book by the Medieval Academy of America.

CLAIRE SUFRIN, Associate Professor of Instruction in the Jewish Studies Program and Assistant Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies
Claire Sufrin's book *The New Jewish Canon*, co-edited with Yehuda Kurtzer, was published in Summer 2020 and later named a finalist for the National Jewish Book Awards in the category of Modern Jewish Thought and Experience. During the 2020-21 academic year, she taught "Introduction to Judaism" as well as courses in gender,

sexuality and Judaism, and interfaith dialogue, and continued her research on Jewish religion and literature.

HANNA TZUKER SELTZER, Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Jewish Studies and the Middle East and North African (MENA) Languages Programs

Hanna Tzucker Seltzer taught two new courses for advanced Hebrew students: "The Four-Dimensional Jerusalem" and "Current Events in Israel: Current Events through Online News Media." Tzucker Seltzer presented the innovative methods she used in these courses at the Middle East National Resource Centers' Virtual Language Workshop, and at Northwestern's TEACHx 2021. Tzucker Seltzer hosted three Israeli speakers for the MENA Languages program and together with Arabic professor Fatima Khan, initiated the event "Building Bridges Creating Connections." This webinar gave current and former Arabic and Hebrew students an opportunity to talk about their experiences learning these languages and how doing so enriched their perspectives.

BARRY WIMPFHEIMER, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and the Pritzker School of Law
Barry Wimpfheimer successfully completed his first year as chair of the Religious Studies department. He also taught a new graduate seminar on religion and narrative.

İPEK K. YOSMAOĞLU, Associate Professor in the Department of History
İpek Yosmaoğlu completed her second year as the director of the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, overseeing new initiatives including an ongoing virtual "article workshop" series supporting junior scholars, and a new talk series on "Reflections on Blackness, Whiteness and Race in the Ottoman Empire and the Turkish Republic." Her edited volume *Turkish Jews and their Diasporas: Entanglements and Separations* is in production.

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