In my family, we like to say she died of laughter.

Page from graphic novel 'Bobetzivye' by student Tomer Cherki. See page 4.
Dear Friends: Anyone passing through rural central Wisconsin in July 2022 ran the risk of unknowingly detouring from the 21st century into the 12th. Just off County Road P in Wild Rose, WI (pop. 792), hundreds of campers, counselors, lifeguards, nurses, and kitchen and maintenance staff spent a month immersed in Jewish life of the Middle Ages: cooking food over hand-dug hearths, depositing papers in a to-scale reconstruction of the Cairo Geniza, addressing halachic questions (in wax-sealed envelopes) to rabbinic decisors, singing medieval Hebrew and Aramaic poems at top volume, training for combat with actual armor and weaponry, and navigating across unlit terrain guided only by the constellations. For a forty year old college professor several decades removed from camp life, it was a jarring, disorienting, sometimes uncomfortable experience. It was also unexpectedly and deliriously fun.

When I was invited to serve as an educator at a Jewish overnight camp, I relished the opportunity to take my academic studies and bring them to life holistically, in ways that would be immersive and exciting for children, young adults, and adult-adults alike. But what began as a kind of gag (“Wouldn’t it be funny if we ran a month-long overnight camp set entirely in the Middle Ages...?”) ended up being far more educationally fulfilling than I had anticipated. Sequestered for a month away from family and (gasp!) screens, participants did not just learn Jewish history but lived it, with vibrancy and immediacy. They also came to realize that the challenges and debates we think of as intrinsically modern have in fact been grappled with for hundreds of years: What promise and what perils emerge from novel technological advances, or from Jewish integration into broader culture? What are costs and the benefits of ideological diversity and disagreement within Jewish communities? How can Jews combat antisemitic sentiment and violence? What is the proper “balance of power” between Jewish communities in the diaspora and those living in the Land of Israel? With 1000 years or so of hindsight, the challenges of the present appear in a dramatically different light.

While the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies does not run its own summer camp (yet!), the notion that scholarship should be shared with the broader community rather than confined to the ivory tower is one of the guiding principles of my colleagues here at Northwestern. Over the course of 2021-22, Danny Cohen and Sarah Cushman continued to build bridges between NU’s experts in Holocaust Studies and an array of secondary school teachers, museum-goers, and theater audiences. Claire Sufrin and Sara Hirschhorn strengthened the link between the University and the Shalom Hartman Institute, a think-tank that channels academic scholarship into communal discussions about Jewish peoplehood, pluralism, and Zionism. Martin Eichenbaum and Shmulik Nili’s work on the economics and politics of the State of Israel promise to yield tangible benefits for anyone committed to productivity, equality, and integrity in Israeli public life. And Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern’s expertise in Eastern European and Ukrainian Jewish history made him a sought after expert on the war in Ukraine; he devoted hundreds of hours to public scholarship, media appearances, and teaching about the roots and implications of the current turmoil on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

Of course, scholarship for the sake of scholarship has an intrinsic value too, and members of our program continue to excel and garner recognition for their teaching, publications, and service to the University and to their academic fields. Over the course of 2022-23, the Crown Family Center will continue to support innovative and important scholarship, and to ensure that the achievements of our students and faculty reverberate outward toward our partners and stakeholders in the Chicago community and throughout the world. Please collaborate with us in the year ahead by attending our programs (in-person and online) and by considering a gift to help support our increasingly vital work.

David Shyovitz
Director

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, contact us at jewish-studies@northwestern.edu
As Covid restrictions waxed and waned over the course of 2021-22, we hosted a mix of in-person, online, and hybrid events. Our on- and off-campus communities appreciated the opportunity to once again learn from and connect with one another face-to-face at in-person gatherings. But we also continued to take advantage of online modalities to host speakers and audience members for whom our events would otherwise have been inaccessible.

New Books in Israel Studies Series

During Winter and Spring quarters, the Crown Family Center hosted a book series featuring scholars whose newly published books make important contributions to the study of modern Israel. During each of the four events, one author presented an overview of their book followed by an engaging discussion with panelists and audience members. Together, these events, organized by Maayan Hilel, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies, shed light on novel and unknown aspects of the complex and fascinating history of Israel and provided a fresh look at new trends in the historiography of Israel/Palestine.

January 26, 2022

**Educating Palestine: Teaching and Learning History under the Mandate**

*Oxford University Press, 2020*

**AUTHOR:** Yoni Furas, University of Haifa

**DISCUSSION:** Yair Wallach, SOAS University of London, and Elizabeth Brownson, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

**MODERATOR:** Maayan Hilel, Northwestern University

February 16, 2022

**The Oldest Guard: Forging the Zionist Settler**

*Stanford University Press, 2021*

**AUTHOR:** Liora R. Halperin, University of Washington

**MODERATOR:** Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, Northwestern University

March 2, 2022

**Dear Palestine: A Social History of the 1948 War**

*Stanford University Press, 2021*

**AUTHOR:** Shay Hazkani, University of Maryland

**DISCUSSION:** Wendy Pearlman, Northwestern University

**MODERATOR:** Scott Abramson, Northwestern University

March 30, 2022

**Judah Magnes: The Prophetic Politics of a Religious Binationalist**

*Jewish Publication Society/University of Nebraska Press, 2021*

**AUTHOR:** David Barak-Gorodetsky, University of Chicago

**MODERATOR:** Claire Sufrin, Northwestern University
Renée and Lester Crown Speaker Series

“A Conversation with Author Joshua Cohen”

Novelist Joshua Cohen opened the program on April 11, 2022, by reading from a recent essay about living during the pandemic and the relationship between sickness and language. He then joined Crown Family Center Professors David Shyovitz and Claire Sufrin for a conversation about Cohen’s 2022 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, The Netanyahu: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family (New York Review Books, 2021), and the two topics sitting at the book’s heart: the meaning of Jewish history and the passions driving Israeli politics.

Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick Lecture in Jewish Civilization

“A Multiracial Jewish Family in Early America”

Laura Arnold Leibman, Professor of English and Humanities, Reed College

Co-sponsored by the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

Professor Laura Arnold Leibman presented this year’s Philip M. and Ethel Klutznick lecture on May 23, 2022. Accompanied by images including detailed maps, photographs of synagogues, and other personal objects, Leibman traced the fascinating history of Sarah Brandon Moses and Isaac Lopez Brandon, siblings born in Barbados to a white Jewish father and a Black mother in the late 18th century. Like their mother, the siblings were enslaved until their father purchased their freedom. From there, their journey included conversion to Judaism, education in London, marriage, and success in business, which ultimately culminated in their acceptance into Jewish society in New York as well as citizenship in the United States. Leibman highlighted how their case challenges how we think of race and religion in early American history.

“A Conversation with Sari Bashi”

Sari Bashi, Israeli-American blogger, author, and human rights lawyer, visited Northwestern’s campus on May 11, 2022. Bashi spoke with students about raising Israeli-Palestinian children in the West Bank, reclaiming the Hebrew language, and her newly published memoir Upside-Down Love, which was awarded the Prize for Best New Authors by the Israeli Ministry of Culture and Sport.
Faculty and graduate student colloquia

“Reframing the Conversation about Israel/Palestine in American Jewish Spaces”
March 10, 2022
Atalia Omer, Professor of Religion, Conflict, and Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

April 27, 2022
Charles A. McDonald, Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judeo-Spanish Studies, Northwestern University

“On the Threshold of Baptism: The Social Dimension of Religious Conversion in the Late Medieval German Lands”
April 28, 2022
Ahuva Liberles, Blaustein Postdoctoral Associate of Medieval History, Judaic Studies Program, Yale University

“To America on Foot’: Romanian Jewish Fusgeyers from 1900 in History and Memory”
May 18, 2022
Dana Mihalescu, 2021-2022 Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor, Northwestern University

Co-sponsored events

“The New Jew” conversation with series creators Guri Alfi and Moshe Samuels
October 29, 2021
The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies and Northwestern Hillel presented a conversation with the creators of “The New Jew”, a four-part miniseries that aired on Israeli network television exploring the growing divide between the two epicenters of world Jewry.
Co-sponsored by Northwestern Hillel

“Race, Medieval Studies, and Medieval Jewish Studies”
December 20, 2021
Panel discussion at the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. The session was organized by David Shyovitz, Northwestern, and Eve Krakowski, Princeton, featuring M. Lindsay Kaplan, Georgetown, David Nirenberg, UChicago, S. J. Pearce, NYU, and Rachel Schine, NYU Abu Dhabi.

“KGB Archives in Ukraine: Collections, Features, and Access”
February 23, 2022
Dr. Andriy Kohut, Director of the State Security Archive of Ukraine
Co-sponsored by Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies
CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATING HEBREW STUDIES MINOR, AUSTIN STEVENSON (WEINBERG ‘22)

I originally took Hebrew I my freshman year to learn more about the language and Israeli culture. After the first year of class, I became fascinated with Professor Hanna Tzuker Seltzer’s style of teaching and wanted to take more of her classes. I decided to pursue a Hebrew Studies minor, and I enrolled in a class with Professor Tzuker Seltzer almost every quarter over the course of four years. She quickly solidified her place as my favorite professor.

JILL STACEY HARRIS PRIZE IN JEWISH STUDIES

This year’s Jill Stacey Harris Prize in Jewish Studies was awarded to TOMER CHERKI (Weinberg ‘23) for his graphic novel “Bobetzivye.” The graphic novel, which Cherki wrote and then illustrated with some help from his sister Yuval Cherki, was a final project for “Jewish Graphic Narratives of the Holocaust,” a course taught by Dana Mihăilescu, Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor.

The selection committee felt that Cherki’s graphic novel, though not a traditional research paper, demonstrated a deep and nuanced understanding of both post-Holocaust Jewish life and the genre of graphic narrative. “Tomer’s work is an extraordinarily perceptive family account—at times surprising and sad, at other times wry and funny—that perfectly encompasses the potential of the graphic narrative medium to compellingly transmit difficult histories, both close and distant in time,” Mihăilescu said.

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

Graduate Student News

LIZA BERNSTEIN (Religious Studies) completed her coursework and wrote a second year paper on the topic of illicit sex in the Talmud. She investigated the questions of sex, identity, and social taboo through the question of the mamzer. After completing her coursework, Liza looks forward to beginning year three of her PhD.

SAVOY CURRY (History) is a rising fourth-year PhD student who studies interfaith relationships in 13th and 14th century Ashkenaz as a way to understand how both Christian and Jewish communities built religious boundaries in the late Middle Ages. She is particularly interested in how marginalized people affected and were affected by the increasing desire to define communal difference. Curry has spent the past year working on her qualifying exams and narrowing her research topic. Over the course of the next year, she will conduct archival research.

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) is entering her third year of PhD studies. Her main research focus has centered on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the insights it can lend to scholarship on international organizations. Davis presented papers on Martin Buber’s political thought at the 2021 Association for Jewish Studies conference and the University of Virginia’s “State as Experiment” conference. She also received support from the Weinberg College Center for International and Area Studies to visit the Center for Jewish History archives in New York City, and she served as a teaching assistant for international relations courses in the Political Science department.
PAUL FELLER (Musicology) passed his qualifying exams and earned an M.A. degree in musicology. In 2022, he published his research on Dutch-Jewish cosmopolitanism and the presence of opera contrasts at the Amsterdam Esnoga and was awarded the Irene Alm Memorial Prize of the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music for his work on the representation of Jewish masculinity in early-modern Italian musical comedies. This summer, Paul started teaching music history as Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Illinois Chicago.

ANASTASIYA NOVATORSKAYA (History) is a third-year PhD student. Her work grapples with representations of femininity in ultra-nationalist movements in twentieth-century Eastern Europe. Novatorskaya was a teaching assistant for various courses in the History department, including “Jews in Poland, Ukraine, and Russia, 1917–1991,” and “Jewish History 1492–1789.” She will finish her qualifying exams and defend her prospectus in Fall 2022.

IDIL OZKAN (Anthropology) is concluding her fifth year in the PhD program of linguistic and cultural anthropology. Funded by the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research Dissertation Fieldwork, she spent the last year doing ethnographic and archival research in Istanbul, Turkey. Ozkan is investigating Spain’s citizenship offer to Sephardi Jews and, specifically, examining the ways in which Sephardic identity and ancestry have been created, contested, and performed with a specific focus on the role of language. She virtually attended several conferences, including the Semiotic Anthropology Conference (University of Pennsylvania), Society for Linguistic Anthropology Annual Conference, and Keyman Turkish Studies Annual Conference. Her dissertation project has been supported by an SSRC-DPD grant, the Buffet Institute - Keyman Studies Research Fund, and a Fan Foster Grant.

BOGDAN PAVLISH (History) specializes in the history of early modern Eastern Europe with a focus on Poland-Lithuania. His current research project deals with the Armenian diaspora of Poland-Lithuania and its role in mediating between Europe and the Middle East. Focusing on trans-regional networks of Armenian merchants, clerics, and interpreters based in southeast Poland-Lithuania, Pavlish examines their social and religious dynamic across shifting political and confessional boundaries in the second half of the 17th century. He has worked with archival collections in Ukraine, Poland, Armenia, and the Vatican, and his research has been supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. His other areas of interest include the history of global Catholic missions, European Jewry, the Ottoman Empire, the history and philosophy of knowledge, material culture, and art history. Pavlish studied social sciences at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in Ukraine and comparative history at Central European University in Hungary.

VANDA RAJCAN (History) defended her dissertation titled “Unpopular Justice: Holocaust Trials in the Slovak People’s Court, 1945-1948” in July 2021. Rajcan has been the Chabraja Center for Historical Studies Teaching Postdoc this year, teaching seminars titled “Propaganda: The Power of Lies” and “Historians in Trouble.”

ANASTASIA SIMFEROVSKA (Slavic Languages and Literatures) a fifth year PhD student, is working on the prospectus of her dissertation, which is tentatively titled “The Holocaust Text: Contested Narratives and Reclaimed Memory in East Europe.” During the 2021-2022 academic year, she gave several conference presentations both at Northwestern and at other international universities. Simferovska’s article “Plagiariized Testimony? Authorship, Legacy, and the Holocaust Art of Henryk Beck and Zinovii Tolkachev” is forthcoming in The Journal of Holocaust Research (formerly Dapim). In February 2022, she received a teaching grant from the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University for her course “Document-Image-Text; Holocaust in East European Art and Literatures,” which she is scheduled to teach at the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine) in Fall 2022. In May 2022, Simferovska received the Crown Graduate Fellowship for the academic year 2022-2023.

OMRI TUBI (Sociology) is a PhD candidate finishing his dissertation project titled “We Shall Centralize or We Shall Die: Building Health Institutions in Palestine and Israel.” This year, Tubi published an article in Social Science and Medicine titled “Infrastructural Capital in the Israeli Vaccination Campaign Against COVID-19,” which interrogated Israel’s acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines from the pharmaceutical company Pfizer. Specifically, Tubi focused the article on the importance of health data collection and digitization by the Israeli state and how this data was used as a form of currency for securing the doses. In addition, Tubi presented a paper on the relationship between malaria morbidity, Israeli state-formation, and the development of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association.

KALIA VOGELMAN-NATAN (Media, Technology and Society Program) is a doctoral student exploring the role of media in the lives of children and their parents, with a focus on online video content. She is completing her qualifying exams—including a literature review on the intersection of children, religion, and media—as well as working on her dissertation prospectus.

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.
A fter 12 years as Selector for the Jewish Studies collection at Northwestern University Library, Shoshanah Seidman is retiring.

Seidman’s successful career is the result of serendipity more than calculated planning. “I almost fell into it,” said Seidman, who moved to the Chicago area in 1985, when her husband, David, landed a teaching position at Northwestern’s McCormick School of Engineering.

Seidman took a part-time position in library acquisitions, where her responsibility was to order books for the University Library. Eventually, Seidman wanted to pursue library cataloging, which includes creating descriptions for library materials. While earning a master’s degree in Library and Information Science from Dominican University, Seidman began working in cataloging at the University of Chicago.

When a cataloging position opened up for the African Studies collection at the Northwestern Library in 2001, Seidman returned to Northwestern and spent almost a decade developing that collection before being hired as the Jewish Studies Selector when a colleague retired in 2013.

Seidman had previously lived in Egypt, France, and Israel and her fluency in Hebrew, Arabic, French, and German languages proved helpful in her career and with Northwestern’s Jewish Studies community.

Seidman considers herself fortunate to have been involved with the Jewish Studies Program and the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, where she found gifted students and dedicated faculty. “It has been a pleasure,” Seidman said.

Over two decades at Northwestern’s Library, Seidman witnessed the University’s adoption to modern times/technology, including a rising interest in e-books and online databases. Still, Seidman believes print materials retain an important role in academic libraries.

“Things are changing, but print copy is still very, very much in use,” Seidman said.

Seidman also saw increasing diversity among University staff, faculty, and students, which increased/enhanced the understanding of different experiences and cultures within the community.

“I think the whole world and all of higher education have changed,” Seidman said. “People are traveling more and getting to know each other more.”

In retirement, Seidman hopes to do more traveling herself. She plans to visit her three children across the country as well as family in France and Israel. Seidman also plans to devote more time to social engagements, book clubs, and volunteering with Hadassah.

“Everyone says they find themselves busier in retirement than when they were working,” Seidman said. “Maybe it will be the same for me.”

SHOSHANAH SEIDMAN RETIRES AS SELECTOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY’S JEWISH STUDIES COLLECTION

In her dissertation, Simferovska introduces the concept of the Holocaust text as a larger cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary discourse in post-WWII Eastern Europe with its specific tropes, images, and motifs. Simferovska’s project embarks on comparative research into visual and verbal texts ranging from sketches to canvases, from testimonies to testaments, from notes to novels. She traces how the earliest Holocaust motifs and images migrated between genres, media, and languages, and how they became part of different yet parallel and competing narratives. By doing so, Simferovska challenges the existing divide in cultural memory of the Holocaust among Poles, Ukrainians, Russians, and Jews.

Setting her research within the historical bloodlands, Simferovska investigates how the Holocaust texts emerged and functioned in the most charged historical and political context where every author, listener, and viewer was either a victim of or a witness to the Holocaust. She approaches each Holocaust text not only as an object of art history or comparative literature, but also as an object and artifact of material culture, with its own life and fate. She argues that the Holocaust text emerged as a form of poetic, literary, and artistic resistance to the class-based, xenophobic, and antisemitic political agenda that sought to create a Jew-free literary discourse entirely obliterating Jewish references. By juxtaposing the word and the image, Simferovska questions the correlation between the documentary and the imagined, between personal reflection and collective memory.
MARCUS MOSELEY ENDS 17-YEAR RUN TEACHING NORTHWESTERN STUDENTS

Hebrew and Yiddish Literature Professor Marcus Moseley is known among Northwestern students for all the things he does to make his classes unique. He teaches students new, uncommon words and phrases like “lucubrate” and “verisimilitude” and has been known to enliven his classes with stories and photos of his cherished dog, Fletcher. Now, after 17 years of teaching at Northwestern, Moseley is retiring.

Moseley began his career at Northwestern after many years of teaching various Hebrew and Yiddish Literature courses at New York, Harvard, Oxford, and Johns Hopkins universities. While at Northwestern, Moseley’s courses ranged from “Messianism, Mysticism, and Magic in Modern Jewish Literature” to “The Rise and Fall of Modern Yiddish Culture.”

Current Weinberg junior Hannah Nemeth took two of Moseley’s classes, “Modern Hebrew Literature: Eros and Isolation” and “Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl.” She was drawn to Moseley’s courses because of how different they seemed.

“I was initially drawn to Eros and Isolation because of the specificity of the course and how niche the topic seemed to be,” Nemeth said. “I thought, ‘Where else would I be able to learn something like this?’ Everyone—students and non-students—I told about the class were equally as shocked and impressed by the uniqueness of the course.”

Nemeth was also impressed by the energy and passion Moseley brought into the classroom. She noticed how much care he put into designing the contents of each course and interacting with students in meaningful, thought-provoking ways.

“There was never a point where I thought, ‘He’s just going through the motions of teaching this class,’” Nemeth said of Moseley. “He was always eager to share the history and intricacies of the texts we read and make cross-cultural comparisons I never would have come up with on my own.”

“Even beyond the classroom, Professor Moseley has always been incredibly kind,” Nemeth said. “He was understanding when the quarters got hectic and encouraging when topics seemed to get complicated.”


Though entering retirement, Moseley continues working on his next book, From People of the Book to Literary Nation: On the Emergence of Literature in Jewish Eastern Europe. This book investigates how Jewish writers and readers began to shape modern Jewish identity in Eastern Europe.

Moseley’s enthusiastic and compassionate style will be missed, though he intends to remain engaged with students. During his Spring 2022 “Introduction to Yiddish Culture” class, he urged students to launch a book club to continue their learning journey and Moseley himself pledged to participate.

“Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl!”

2021-2022 COURSES

- Hebrew I, Hebrew II
- Hebrew III: The Four-Dimensional Jerusalem; Current Events in Israeli Society through Online News Media; Parents and Children in Israeli Society
- Tales of Love and Darkness: Eros and Isolation in Modern Hebrew Literature
- Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl!
- Modern Jewish American Literature: Ethnicity, Assimilation, Performance
- Conscience & Counterculture: The American Jewish 1960’s
- Jews and Muslims in Contemporary Spain
- Jewish History 1492-1789
- Jewish History 1789–1948
- Gender, Race, and the Holocaust
- History of the Holocaust
- 1948: History and Memory - First Arab/Israeli War
- Jews and Arabs in Palestine/The Land of Israel, 1880–1948
- Leisure and Popular Culture in 20th Century Palestine/Israel
- Modern Israel: History, Politics, and Society, 1882-Present
- Water in Arid Lands: Israel and the Middle East
- Zionism and its Critics
- Introduction to Hebrew Bible
- Introduction to Judaism
- Holocaust Restorative Justice
- Searching, Finding, Losing, and Living: Spiritual Memoirs
- Jewish Graphic Narratives on the Holocaust
- Modern Judaism, Race, and Racism
- Introducing the Talmud
- God after the Holocaust
- Jewish Argentina
- Economic History of Israel
- Shattered History: Representation after the Shoah
- Holocaust Trials
- Between History & Memory: Jewish Autobiography as a Historical Source
- Non-Jews in the Jewish State: Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Israel
- Transfiguration and Subversion: Christian Symbols in Jewish Literature
- The Holocaust: Psychological Themes and Perspectives
- Jewish Revolutionaries
- Religion and Literature
- Pedagogies for History and Injustices: Holocaust Education Design
Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, the Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Department of History, led a teach-in on February 28 to discuss Russia’s recent invasion of Ukraine. Open to the Northwestern community, room 108 in Harris Hall overflowed with students and faculty eager to learn from Petrovsky-Shtern’s extensive historical and personal knowledge of Eastern Europe.

“I need to do something. I am a doer;” the Ukrainian-born Petrovsky-Shtern said of his decision to host the teach-in.

Petrovsky-Shtern hasn’t always felt such a strong affinity for his native country.

“I did not associate myself with the country or its people until probably the early 1990s,” he said. “The collapse of the Soviet Union and what happened later compelled me to revisit who I am and what I do.”

Very familiar with Eastern Europe and Russian culture, he grew up in Kyiv reading Russian Literature and has a doctorate in comparative literature from Moscow State University. He brings this cultural fluency to bear on his understanding of current events.

“These Russian soldiers do not seem to be raised on Pushkin, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy,” he said, referring to the famous 19th century Russian writers known for discussing the human experience thoughtfully and realistically.

They have been raised on different Russian literary sources—ultra-conservative and xenophobic. “How this ultra-conservative, xenophobic Russian literature and ideology shapes [Russian President Vladimir] Putin and many of the anchors of Russian TV, nobody in any Slavic Studies department at any university in the United States would teach you.”

The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 compelled Petrovsky-Shtern to shift his academic focus from comparative literature to Jewish history, with an emphasis on the former Soviet Union. In 2010, Petrovsky-Shtern published Lenin’s Jewish Question, a book exploring why Lenin’s Jewish roots were not discussed in the Soviet Union.

Through this book, Petrovsky-Shtern said he sought to convey that the Soviet Union was not only antisemitic but also racist, and this racism continues into contemporary times.
We see this racism that focuses not on the Jews but on a different Slavic people known as the Ukrainians,” he said. Petrovsky-Shtern’s personal connection to the land strengthens his knowledge, especially given that his mother was, until recently, still living in Kyiv. “My mother saw and heard the bombers of Nazi Germany bombing Kyiv in late June 1941,” he said. “Now she sees and hears the Russian bombers.” Petrovsky-Shtern and his sister convinced their mother to leave Kyiv and go to Berlin after she spent one month between her home and a bomb shelter. On his mother’s way to Berlin, she took care of Ukrainian refugees in Budapest and Vienna and now cooks for her refugee neighbors in Berlin. While various journalists have quoted Petrovsky-Shtern as an expert on the Russia-Ukraine War, notably in The New Yorker and NBC News, his work spans more than quotations: he’s acting publicly. Petrovsky-Shtern is preparing an interdisciplinary class for next fall entitled Ukraine’s Long Fight for Independence, which he will co-teach alongside Faculty Director of the Russian Eurasian and East European Studies Program Jordan Gans-Morse and Ambassador-in-Residence Ian Kelly. Petrovsky-Shtern is “one of the area’s foremost experts on Eastern Europe,” Gans-Morse said. “His span of knowledge, even by the standards of a typical Northwestern professor, never ceases to amaze me.” His students are not only at Northwestern, though. Some are in bomb shelters beneath Lviv, Ukraine. Last spring, a group of students from Ukrainian Catholic University asked Petrovsky-Shtern to teach a course on Ukrainian-Jewish relations in the 19th and 20th centuries, though 21st century realities often hindered the class. “We sometimes had to interrupt our Zoom sessions because my students needed to run to the bomb shelter,” Petrovsky-Shtern said. While Petrovsky-Shtern continues to guest lecture at other universities, such as the University of Cambridge, Loyola University and the University of Illinois in Chicago, he is also writing a non-academic book—his first—about the current war. “I dedicate all my time to monitoring what is going on at different levels in Ukraine,” he said. “I realized that I’d better write a book about that.” David Shyovitz, Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, said Petrovsky-Shtern brings his expertise outside of the classroom to change hearts and minds in the public sphere. “It’s hard to think of a better person to be going out into the world to try and bring academic scholarship into current events,” he said.
SCOTT ABRAMSON, Crown Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Abramson continued research for his in-progress book, provisionally titled *Friends Behind Enemy Lines: The History of Israel’s Secret Alliance with the Kurds of Iraq*. He also contributed articles to several popular and scholarly publications, including *Contemporary Jewry* and *Tablet*. In Spring 2022, he taught the course “Non Jews in the Jewish State: Ethnic and Religious Minorities in Israel”.

RONIT ALEXANDER, Lecturer in Middle East and North African Languages Program

Alexander teaches first-year Hebrew at Northwestern and is working on a doctorate on language acquisition at Middlebury College.

DANNY M. COHEN, Associate Professor of Instruction School of Education & Social Policy, Charles Deering McCormick Distinguished Professor of Instruction

With a specialization in education design and marginalized narratives of the Holocaust, Cohen has continued to develop new classes at Northwestern and taken his work to communities around the country. In the last year, his “Unsilence” Holocaust education programs have reached theatre communities on the East and West Coasts, and teenagers across Chicago and in many states, including Alabama, Georgia, and Michigan. Earlier in 2022, he led a six-week residency on Holocaust resistance and resilience for sixth-graders at Bell School in Chicago. At Northwestern, he is working to develop and reframe his newest course “Public Learning through the Arts: Magic, Monsters, & The Holocaust”, which asks: How can works of fiction and film both drive and distort collective memory?

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

Cushman continued her role leading HEFNU and taught “Gender, Race, and the Holocaust.” She is co-editor with Joanne Pettitt and Dominic Williams of the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook on Auschwitz-Birkenau* (2023), to which she will also contribute a chapter about the women’s camp. Cushman participated in three conferences during the past academic year, the German Studies Conference, the Association of Jewish Studies Conference, and the American Historical Association Conference, where she presented a paper about prisoner femininities on a panel titled, “Auschwitz: Prisoner Masculinities and Femininities Reconsidered.”

**Martin Eichenbaum**, Charles Moskos Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Center of International Economics at Northwestern University

In addition to his research in macro-economics and the economic impact of Covid-19, Eichenbaum continued his ongoing work studying different aspects of the Israeli economy. He attended and participated in numerous conferences hosted by the Aharon Institute for Public Policy at Reichman University. These conferences focused on the high-tech and Arab sectors of the Israeli economy and measures to raise productivity in Israel. He also participated in conferences hosted by the Bank of Israel and discussed work by its research department on exchange rate policy. Finally, Eichenbaum presented a new paper, co-authored with Federico Puglisi, on Israel’s fiscal prospects in the post-Covid era that is slated to appear in a book published by the Bank of Israel.

**Peter Fenves**, Joan and Sarepta Harrison Professor of Literature, Professor of German, Comparative Literary Studies, Jewish Studies, and Asian Languages and Cultures


Over the last year, Fenves also published a contribution to a Festschrift for Rochelle Tobias and four entries in the recent *Cambridge Kant Lexicon*. He also participated in an online colloquium on Walter Benjamin hosted by Universidad Andrés Bello (Santiago).

**Benjamin Frommer**, Associate Professor in the Department of History

Frommer won a grant from the Nicholas D. Chabraja Center for Historical Studies to develop a new course, “A Global History of Prisons and Camps,” which he then taught during the Spring 2022 quarter. He served as the faculty sponsor for a Ukrainian scholar in Kyiv who received a Virtual Visitor Grant from the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs and also chaired a successful search to hire a historian of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and their successors. Frommer published a chapter-length history of the Holocaust in Bohemia and Moravia in *Prague and Beyond: The Jews of the Bohemian Lands* (University of Pennsylvania Press), which also appeared in Czech translation (Nákladatelství lidové noviny).

**Maayan Hilel**, Postdoctoral Fellow in Israel Studies

Hilel is completing her dissertation-based book manuscript, *Leisure, Pleasure, and Fun: Cultural Transformation in Mandate Palestine*. The work examines the emergence of a modern leisure culture in Mandate Palestine’s urban centers during the formative years of British rule (1918-1948). During the current academic year, Hilel also started a new research project on children and childhood in Jewish and Arab societies in late Ottoman and Mandatory Palestine. She presented preliminary findings from her research at the “Imperial Youths in the 19th and 20th Centuries” conference in Germany, at the Greater Washington Jewish History Colloquium, and at the 53rd Biennial Convention of German Historians. Hilel published an article titled “Making Waves – Arabs and Jews on the Beaches of Mandate Haifa” in *Revue d’histoire culturelle* (XVIIIe-XXe siècles).

SARA YAE HIRSCHHORN, Visiting Assistant Professor in Israel Studies

Hirschhorn made further progress on her second book project, titled New Day in Babylon and Jerusalem: Zionism, Jewish Power, and Identity Politics, while also publishing shorter journal articles and book reviews in publications such as the Journal of Middle East and South Asian Studies, Contemporary Jewry, Sources, The Jewish Review of Books, and the Routledge Handbook of Judaism in the 21st Century. She delivered the keynote Goodspeed Lecture at Denison University; offered lectures at the University of Nebraska and the University of Cincinnati, presented at academic conferences, including the Association for Israel Studies, the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, Tel Aviv University-Fulbright American Studies.

Hirschhorn taught four courses at Northwestern this year. “Zionism and Its Critics,” “The 1948 War,” “Modern Israel,” and “The American Jewish 1960s.” She also taught a summer course in Israel Studies at Gratz University and contributes as a member of the teaching faculty at the Shalom Hartman Institute.

Apart from her academic work, Hirschhorn is an active public speaker and works closely with Jewish communities as a featured speaker and educator across the USA and the world.

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

Ionescu taught two new Northwestern courses: “Holocaust Reparatory Justice” (Fall 2021) and “History of the Balkans” (Spring 2022). He continued to work on his book project examining the restitution of Jewish property in post-Holocaust Romania. During the last academic year, Ionescu also published a book chapter entitled “Jewish Humanitarian Aid for Transnistrian Deportees, 1941-44,” in More than Parcels: Wartime Aid for Jews in Nazi-Era Camps and Ghettos (Wayne State University, 2022). He participated in public history events, including the “Virtual Panel Discussion: Examining Reparations” hosted by the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in February 2022.

LUCILLE KERR, Professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Kerr continues teaching, researching, and mentoring students at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Her work focuses on Latin American fiction, testimonial texts, and films, which include Jewish-Latin American cultural production. Meanwhile, her ongoing focus on Jewish-Argentine literature and culture in both research and teaching continues to enrich the scope of the web-based Latin American literature and film archive she founded and expanded to engage with Jewish-Latin American materials. Her courses on Jewish Argentina and Discovering Jewish Latin America are serving majors and minors in several departments and programs.

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

McDonald completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the close of the 2021-2022 academic year. On campus, he gave several presentations of his research and taught “Jews and Muslims in Contemporary Spain” and “Global Im/Mobilities: Borders, Migration, and Citizenship.”

His article “Sephardic Citizenship and the Ethics of Refusal” will appear later this year in Dalia Kandiyoti’s and Rina Benmayor’s edited volume, Reparative Citizenship in Spain and Portugal: Sephardi Jews, Reconciliation, and Return (Berghahn Books).

McDonald gave talks at New York University, the City University of New York, University of California, Los Angeles, and the American Anthropological Association Meeting. In 2022-23, he will be a Scholar-in-Residence at NYU’s King Juan Carlos Center as well as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish in Spring 2023.

DANA MIHĂILESCU, Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor

Mihăilescu taught “Jewish Graphic Narratives on the Holocaust” and “Modern Jewish American Literature: Ethnicity, Assimilation, Performance” as well as an independent study course on humor and the Holocaust. She presented on the Holocaust and American culture in Emil Ferris’s graphic narrative My Favorite Thing Is Monsters at the American Literature Association Conference, and on her book-in-progress project focusing on the Jewish “fusgeyer” emigration movement from 1900s Romania for the Crown Family Center.

Mihăilescu published “Struggles between Nationalism and Ethnicity in Eastern Europe and the United States, 1890s-1910s: The Life Writings of M.E. Ravage and Michael Gold,” in the journal Quest, Issues in Contemporary Jewish History. She also completed “Representations of the ‘Aliens Within’: Romanian Jews and Roma in Radu Jude’s Cinema” for The Aliens Within: Danger, Disease, and Displacement in Representations of the Racialized Poor (De Gruyter, 2022). Her article “Early Postwar Accounts on Jewish Orphans from Transnistria” was accepted for publication in Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

MARCUS MOSELEY, Associate Professor of Hebrew and Yiddish Literature

Moseley taught two undergraduate courses, “Yiddish Literature: Tales of Love and Darkness: Eros and Isolation in Modern Hebrew Literature” and “Introduction to Yiddish Culture: Images of the Shtetl.” Moseley is continuing work on his large archive of unpublished writings on Hebrew and Yiddish Literature for publication as a thematic group of essays.

SHMULIK NILI, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science

Nili was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in September of 2021. His third Crown-supported book project, Philosophizing the Indefensible: Strategic Political Theory, is now under contract with Oxford University Press. During the last year, funding from the Crown Family Center enabled Nili to spend more than two months visiting Israel’s Reichman University to lay groundwork for a possible collaboration between Reichman’s School of Government and Northwestern’s Political Science Department. He also presented on multiple issues in international ethics in Israel, Hungary, and Washington, D.C. At the undergraduate level at Northwestern, Nili taught both “Introduction to Political Theory and Integrity” and “Politics of Corruption.”
ANNA PARKINSON, Associate Professor in the Department of German
As a Faculty Fellow (2021-2022) at the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Parkinson presented work from her book project, Contrapuntal Humanism, on Holocaust writing and humanism at the Kaplan Conversation presentation series. Among other presentations, she delivered the keynote address in Spring 2022 at the graduate conference “Non-Identity” at New York University. Her recent publications include essays on trauma in Holocaust literature and psychoanalysis — “Untimely Tales, Canny Remainders: The Fiction of Hans Keilson” — for a peer-reviewed volume on post-1945 literature and culture in honor of Leslie Adelson (De Gruyter; Interdisciplinary German Cultural Studies, 2022) and “Keeping Time: Trauma as a Mode of Intimate Alienation,” in Germany from the Outside (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2022). She was also a recipient in 2022 of a Provost Grant for Research in Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts at Northwestern University.

YOHANAN PETROVSKY-SHTERN, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor in the Department of History
This academic year, Petrovsky-Shtern was promoted to honorary positions nationally and internationally. The “Tkuma” Holocaust Research Institute in Dnipro (Ukraine) appointed him chief editor of the peer-reviewed, bilingual journal Holocaust Studies: A Ukrainian Focus; he was elected Learned Secretary of the Shevchenko Scientific Society of America; the International Karl Immanuel Franzos Prize committee coopted him as its board member; and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) re-appointed him an Associate Fellow while also announcing him a member of the steering board of the HURI-managed KRYTYKA Institute and Publishing House in Kyiv, Ukraine.

In September 2021, Petrovsky-Shtern received the Encounter award of the Canadian NGO Jewish Ukrainian Encounter for the Ukrainian version of his book The Anti-Holocaust writing and humanism at the University of Pennsylvania, Fordham University, and Youngstown State University, where he was given an Emerging Scholars Lecture Series Award for his research on Surinamese Jewish culture following the abolition of slavery. Rosenblatt will be departing Northwestern to begin his appointment as the Wallerstein Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Jewish Studies Program at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

DAVID SHYOVITZ, Associate Professor in the Department of History and Director, Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies
In Fall 2021, Shyovitz added a new course to his roster: “The History of Heaven,” a first-year seminar exploring Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and other conceptions of the afterlife from antiquity through the present. He co-organized a panel on “Race, Medieval Studies, and Medieval Jewish Studies” for the Association for Jewish Studies’ Annual Conference and also delivered invited lectures at UCLA, UCSD, and Brandeis University (all on his book in-progress on medieval Jews and animality) and at the University of Pittsburgh (on a new research project on medieval Jewish zombies). He also co-chaired the “Jewish Thought” division for the 2022 World Congress of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, where he delivered a lecture in August. In 2022-23, Shyovitz will be on leave as a faculty fellow of the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities at Northwestern.

CLAIRE SUFRIN, Associate Professor in the Jewish Studies Program and Assistant Director of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies
Sufrin taught “Religion and Literature” and “Introduction to Judaism” as well as courses in spiritual autobiography and Jewish and Christian theology after the Holocaust. Her article, “A Judaism of Ethics in a Post-Holocaust World: The Interplay of Literature and Theology in Cynthia Ozick’s Messiah of Stockholm,” appeared in AJR Review in November 2021. She presented a second piece of her work on literature and religion,
“Novelist Nicole Krauss: Negotiating between Memory and History of the Holocaust,” at the Association for Jewish Studies’ Annual Conference last December in Chicago.

In 2022-23, Sufrin will be on leave from Northwestern as she takes up a position as Senior Editor at the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.

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

Tzuker Seltzer taught second-year Hebrew as well as a new course for advanced Hebrew students, “on Parents and Children in Israeli Society.” She organized a series of Israeli movie screenings and she initiated and hosted the visit of Sari Bashi, an American Israeli human rights lawyer and author whose heralded book *Upside-Down Love* recounts her marriage to a Palestinian man and raising children in the West Bank.

BARRY WIMPFHEIMER, Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies and the Pritzker School of Law


İPEK K. YOSMAOĞLU, Associate Professor in the Department of History

As director of the Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Program, Yosmaoğlu organized several talk series and events, including an international conference in Evanston last June titled “Sites of Memory, Sites of Loss: Politics of Archaeology and Heritage in Turkey and post-Ottoman Lands.” Her book, *Turkish Jews and Their Diasporas: Entanglements and Separations*, co-edited with Kerem Öktem, was published in April 2022 by Springer.