

PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES
2021-2022
ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

STUDENTS • ALUMNI • FACULTY • EVENTS

Virtual Schmooze-A-Palooza 2021



Program in Jewish Studies
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR ELIAS SACKS

DIRECTOR



This summer, I was asked by a friend at another university how I had dealt with the isolation with which so many of us have struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic. As I thought about how to answer, I realized that a key part of what has sustained me has been the privilege of being part of a community with all of you—the privilege of being part of a space where individuals from diverse backgrounds can join with one another to think, learn, and grow together.

As I look back over the past year and forward to the next one, I am awed and humbled by everything that members of this community have accomplished. Faculty and students continue to gather with one another for courses on topics from Jewish music to the history of Jerusalem to American-Jewish life, producing our strongest enrollments in years. Individuals and civic organizations across Colorado and beyond continue to come together for public programs such as our new Peak to Peak

webinar concerts, Israel/Palestine film series, and annual Bender Scholar visit, opening up conversations on topics from global Jewish music to Middle Eastern politics to angels and demons in Judaism and Christianity. Passionate community members such as Richard and Eileen Greenberg, Joseph Goldhammer and Elizabeth Block, and many others continue to imagine and generously support new ways of “doing Jewish Studies differently,” from new forms of public scholarship to new mentorship opportunities for students. And scholars, activists, and members of the public from across the globe continue to join with one another to honor the memory of our beloved friend and colleague, Professor David Shneer, who passed away in November 2020.

You can find more information on all of this in the pages that follow. Amid the challenges that we continue to face, I’m so very grateful to all of you for the opportunity to pursue our mission of educating the global citizens and community leaders of tomorrow through the critical examination of Jewish thought, culture, and religion. I look forward to learning together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elias Sacks'.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINDA PARK & WELCOME TO MAGGIE ROSENAU

The Program in Jewish Studies wishes congratulations to **Linda Park**, our outgoing Program Manager. In Fall 2021, she moved to a senior leadership position in the Department of Linguistics here at CU Boulder. Linda joined the Jewish Studies team in 2019 and, during her time as Program Manager, played a crucial role in building and expanding our student outreach and public programming. We are deeply grateful to her for her tireless work on behalf of the Program, and we wish her all the best in the next chapter of her career at CU. Our community is stronger because of her contributions.



We also want to welcome **Maggie Rosenau**, who joined us this August as part-time Communication and Project Administrator. She holds a PhD in German Studies and professional certification in Museum Studies, and is a member of the DDGC (Diversity, Decolonization, and the German Curriculum) Mutual Aid Network. Maggie has previously served as Bilingual Assistant and Guest Curator at the Middlebury Language German School. Additional positions she currently holds in the CU system include Adjunct Lecturer of German and Instructor and Program Design Lead at ALTEC. She is very excited to now also be a part of the Program in Jewish Studies.



HONORING THE LEGACY OF DAVID SHNEER



In November 2020, a beloved member of our Jewish Studies community, Professor David Shneer, passed away after a long battle with cancer. To honor his legacy, the Program in Jewish Studies has launched two new initiatives. First, with a generous gift from longstanding supporters Eileen and Richard Greenberg, we have inaugurated the David Shneer Fund for Community Programming, Public Scholarship, and the Arts. Celebrating David's commitment to the importance of building connections between the academy and the broader world, this fund supports all aspects of Jewish Studies public programming, bringing academics and artists to Boulder for lectures, workshops, symposia, performances, and other offerings. Second, with the generous support of the Shneer Family Endowed Fellowship Fund, we will recognize a student as a David Shneer Archival Scholar. Carrying forward David's vision of our Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections becoming

a hub of interdisciplinary research and creative work, this student will pursue an original project based on materials from those collections and share that project with the broader public. We are humbled to play a role in honoring David and his vision of what it means to be a community of scholarship, learning, and civic responsibility at a public university in the twenty-first century.

LAUNCHING THE FRIENDS OF JEWISH STUDIES

In Fall 2021, we launched a new initiative: the Friends of Jewish Studies. In this new program, individuals can become "Friends" of the Program with a \$36 annual donation, with all funds directly supporting students, including scholarships, mentoring and research opportunities, and other programs and events. Friends will have the opportunity to participate in smaller, exclusive programs—beyond events open to the broader public—and build a community of learning, dialogue, and exploration. This year's Friends programs include:



- **Fall 2021 (Zoom) – Israel, Palestine, and the United States: An Evening of Learning and Conversation with the Jewish Studies Faculty (October 2021):** Friends joined three CU faculty members for a panel discussion and small group "mini-seminars" about America and the contemporary Middle East, getting a taste of what it's like to earn a degree in Hebrew/Israel Studies or Jewish Studies at CU.
- **Spring 2022 (In-Person and Zoom) – Jewish Studies Student Research Showcase (Late April 2022):** Friends will celebrate the work of CU Boulder students pursuing research and creative projects in Jewish Studies, from artistic and musical compositions to original scholarship produced under the mentorship of Jewish Studies faculty.

To learn more about honoring David Shneer's legacy or become a Friend of Jewish Studies, you can contact Elias Sacks, Director of the Program in Jewish Studies, at elias.sacks@colorado.edu or visit www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/giving.



SPRING 2022 EVENTS

Programs are free and open to the public. To learn more and view recordings of past events, visit www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/events.

JANUARY 27

2022 International Holocaust Remembrance Day Speaker



Dr. Willa Johnson (University of Mississippi)

“Through an Artist’s Eyes: The Dehumanization and Racialization of Jews and Political Dissidents During the Third Reich”

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT) | Thursday, January 27, 2022 | In-Person in the Norlin Library British & Irish Studies Room and Streaming via Zoom

FEBRUARY 24

2022 Sondra & Howard Bender Visiting Scholar



Dr. Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York University)

Author of *Demons, Angels, and Writing in Ancient Judaism*

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (MT) | Thursday, February 24, 2022 | In-Person in the Norlin Library British & Irish Studies Room and Streaming via Zoom

STAY TUNED FOR MORE 2022 EVENT DETAILS

Annual Hebrew Schmooze-A-Palooza | March 9, 2022

Holocaust, Genocide, and Contemporary Bioethics | Week of April 25, 2022 | Dr. Aletha Maybank, MD (American Medical Association) | In Partnership with CU Anschutz’s Center for Bioethics and Humanities

PEAK TO PEAK SERIES

From food and social justice to Holocaust memory and American history, the University of Colorado Boulder Peak to Peak series brings CU Boulder scholars into conversation with audiences and communities across Colorado and beyond. Exploring influential historical figures and events and enduring human questions, these online learning opportunities are offered through the CU Boulder Program in Jewish Studies in partnership with the Office for Outreach and Engagement Arts and Humanities Initiative and communities and organizations across Colorado: Corazón de Trinidad Creative District, Garfield Public Library District, Trinidad Carnegie Public Library, Western Colorado University, Aspen Jewish Congregation, Boulder JCC, Kavod on the Road, and Temple Aaron in Trinidad.

For more details about the Peak to Peak Series
and to view recordings of past webinars, visit www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/peak-peak.

SPRING 2021

Better Widowed than Married: *Conversa* Women in Early Modern Europe

Monday, May 24, 2021 | Professor Rebecca Wartell



FALL 2021 WEBINAR CONCERT SERIES

Contemporary Klezmer Music & Yiddish Song with Zoë Aqua and Adah Hetko

Monday, September 20, 2021 | in conversation with Professor Yonatan Malin

Traditional Klezmer Music with Cookie Segelstein and Josh Horowitz

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 | in conversation with Professor Yonatan Malin

Middle Eastern/North African Jewish Poetic Songs (Piyyutim)—From Pulpit to Pop Chart with Dr. Galeet Dardashti

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | in conversation with Professor Yonatan Malin



This concert series is made possible by funding from the Roser Visiting Artist Program in the College of Music and the David Shneer Fund for Community Programming, Public Scholarship, and the Arts.



ISRAEL/PALESTINE WEBINAR SERIES

The Promised Lands? A Film Series on Israel/Palestine & the United States

Monday, October 18, 2021 | Professor Hilary Falb Kalisman in conversation with film director Ahmed Mansour and scholar Dan Chyutin

WEEK OF JEWISH PHILOSOPHY

Since 2014, the Program in Jewish Studies at CU Boulder and Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver have partnered to host the Week of Jewish Philosophy, which promotes new work in Jewish thought by bringing leading scholars to the Rocky Mountain region for seminars with students, faculty, and the broader public. In June 2021, CU and DU joined with the Political Theology Network, an interdisciplinary group devoted to the study of religion and politics, to host **Rosenzweig for the Contemporary Moment**, a webinar marking the 100th anniversary of the publication of one of modern Judaism's classic texts: *The Star of Redemption*, written by the German-Jewish philosopher Franz Rosenzweig. Presentations included:

Can Political Action be Redemptive? Martin Kavka (Florida State University)

Prophetic Politics and Political Resistance in *The Star of Redemption*
Randi Rashkover (College of William and Mary)

"Both Lawful and Coercive": Reading Western Political Rationality Like an Abolitionist Would Larisa Reznik (Pomona College)



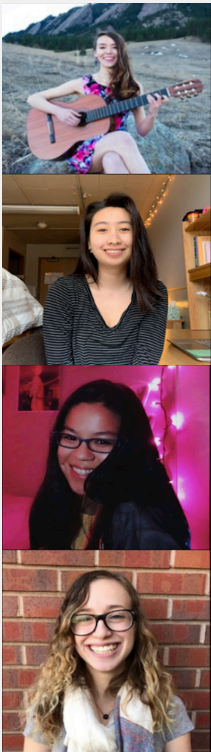
Versions of the presentations will appear in the journal *Political Theology*, curated by Sarah Pessin (DU) & Elias Sacks (CU).



FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

Samuel Boyd has forthcoming articles in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and *Biblical Research*. **Gregg Drinkwater** served as the inaugural speaker in a new colloquium series at Tulane University, presenting on “Larry Kramer’s Holocaust: AIDS, Hannah Arendt, and the Moral Imperative of Political Action.” His article “Queer Healing: AIDS, Gay Synagogues, Lesbian Feminists, and the Jewish Healing Movement” in *American Jewish History* was awarded the Wasserman Prize of the American Jewish Historical Society. **Nan Goodman** had articles published in the *Journal of the Early Republic* and *Early American Literature*. She became Editor-in-Chief

of *English Language Notes* and was awarded the honor “College of Arts and Sciences Professor of Distinction.” **Hilary Falb Kalisman** published the article “A World of Tomorrow”: Diaspora Intellectuals and Liberal Thought in the 1950s” in the *Journal of Palestine*, and gave a talk at Stanford University’s “Across Borders: Transnational/Comparative Approaches to the History of Jewish Education” conference. **Yonatan Malin** published a chapter in *The Songs of Fanny Hensel* and curated the Fall 2021 Peak to Peak concert series. He is working on a book tentatively titled *Vessels of Song: Idiom and Expression in Klezmer Music*. **Samira Mehta** joined the academic advisory board of the Jewish Women’s Archive and the board of *eFeminist Studies in Religion*, and serves as a judge for the Women’s Studies Category of the National Jewish Book Award. She also published an article in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, and became a Creative Editor for *American Religion*. **Eyal Rivlin’s** *Nonbinary Hebrew Project* was recognized by the Union of Reform Judaism as one of “7 Jewish Endeavors making 5782 a Sweet New Year.” The project was also cited in the *New York Times*, *Tablet Magazine*, and numerous online language fora. Eyal will serve as an editorial consultant for the *Routledge Handbook of LGBTQ Identity in Organizations and Society*. **Maggie Rosenau** co-presented papers and workshops on visual literacy and digital media in the language classroom. She also organized and co-led the Feminism-in-Action session at the Women in German annual conference. **Elias Sacks** published articles in the *Harvard Theological Review* and *Rosenzweig Jahrbuch*, and became Modern Judaism Co-Editor for *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. **Rebecca Wartell** presented at the Western Jewish Studies Association and gave a public talk on *conversa* women in early modern Europe. She also joined the advisory board of the CU Mediterranean Studies Group, published a review in *Mediterranean Historical Review*, and is working on her first monograph, which explores Iberian Jewish refugees and rabbis in the early modern period. **Beverly Weber** was promoted to full professor, published the co-authored article “Decolonial Queer Futures” in *Contemporary European Cinema*, and was elected chair of Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures. She is also the incoming co-editor of *Feminist German Studies* and serves in several capacities with Diversity, Decolonization, and the German Curriculum.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Through our Undergraduate Research Assistant program, the Program in Jewish Studies provides University of Colorado Boulder undergraduate students with opportunities to collaborate with faculty on cutting-edge research projects by asking new questions, producing new knowledge, and sharing their findings with diverse audiences.

Spring 2021 research projects included:

Klezmer Archives - Izzy Fischer, with Professor Yonatan Malin

Conspiracy Theories & Sabbateanism - Sophia Stout, with Professor Nan Goodman

Education in the Middle East - Julia Leone, with Professor Hilary Falb Kalisman

Jews & Race in the U.S. - Sarah Schleifer, with Professor Samira Mehta

We’re honored to announce a generous gift from Joseph Goldhammer and Elizabeth Block that will transform this initiative into a yearly program, supporting a range of undergraduate research positions and a student research showcase event each spring. We’re deeply grateful to Joseph and Elizabeth for this opportunity to support and empower CU students as they cultivate diverse skills, build mentorship relationships, and share their work with the broader community.

Learn more about Undergraduate Student Research Projects:
colorado.edu/jewishstudies/undergraduate/UROP

ANNOUNCING TWO MAJOR GIFTS



The Program in Jewish Studies is honored to announce two major gifts from Richard and Eileen Greenberg and the Bender West Foundation:

A gift in Spring 2021 inaugurated the David Shneer Fund for Community Programming, Public Scholarship and the Arts, honoring the memory of our beloved friend and colleague, Professor David Shneer, who passed away in November 2020. This fund supports all aspects of Jewish Studies public programming.

A second, multi-year gift in Fall 2021 launched a new fund to ensure that Jewish Studies at CU Boulder will shape the future of academia, and public life more broadly, by becoming an interdisciplinary hub for “doing Jewish Studies differently”—by incubating new forms of knowledge and new directions in scholarship and teaching; by empowering new forms of collaboration between academics, artists, and members of the public; and by ensuring that these programs, forms of knowledge, and models of collaboration are accessible across Colorado and around the globe.

Eileen, Richard, and their family are longstanding supporters of the Program in Jewish Studies, including the Sondra and Howard Bender Visiting Scholar series honoring Eileen’s parents. We’re deeply grateful for their generosity and vision. It’s a privilege to count them as partners in honoring David’s memory and ensuring that Jewish Studies at CU continues to grow, flourish, and shape scholarship and public life within Colorado and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!

MAJOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

Natania Bloch

BA in Jewish Studies, BA in History,
Minor in Communication

Kelly Lolly

BA in Jewish Studies
BA in History

Jenna Rae Solomon

BA in Jewish Studies,
BA in Political Science,
Certificate in Public Health

MINOR IN HEBREW & ISRAEL STUDIES

Jacob Bokor

BA in International Affairs,
Minor in Hebrew and Israel Studies

MINOR IN JEWISH STUDIES

Madeleine Alexis Bendalin

BS in Strategic Communications & Public Relations,
Minor in Media Studies, Minor in Jewish Studies

Marnina Rose Goldberg

BA in Communication, Minor in Sports Media, Minor in Jewish Studies

Michaela Hascall

BA in History, Minor in Jewish Studies, Minor in Religious Studies

Davi Simone Sher

BS in Strategic Communication - Advertising, Minor in Jewish Studies

Sarah Schleifer

BA in English, Minor in Jewish Studies,
Certificate in Peace, Conflict, and Security

Alexa Jordan Schwartz

BA in Psychology, Minor in Jewish Studies, Minor in Sociology

GRADUATE ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Nick Underwood (PhD, 2016), Berger-Neilsen Chair of Judaic Studies at the College of Idaho, will publish his first book, *Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France* (Indiana University Press), in Spring 2022. **Emily Frazier-Rath** (PhD, 2019), joined the Women in German Steering Committee, produced the free, asynchronous online edX course “Unpacking Activism,” and became Executive Director at the BGHRA (Black German Heritage Research Association). **Adi Nester** (PhD, 2020), Assistant Professor of German and Jewish Studies at UNC Chapel Hill, is completing her first book *Unsettling Difference: Musical Dramas and the Critique of German-Jewish Identity*. **Jacob Flaws** (PhD, 2020) has been appointed Lecturer in World War II Studies at Arizona State University, and published an article in the *Journal of Holocaust Research*.



Program in Jewish Studies

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Alumni, donors, friends and community supporters bring the Program in Jewish Studies to life! Because of your commitment to PJS, we are able to provide students with the critical thinking and communication skills they need to navigate a diverse world and become leaders in their communities. Your gifts also help foster community education, support faculty research and staff professional development, and cultivate archival resources.

Thank you for your commitment to expanding the boundaries of academic learning.

Please support Jewish Studies by making a donation through the enclosed envelope or online at:
www.colorado.edu/jewishstudies/giving

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Program in Jewish Studies Advisory Board is comprised of strong supporters of Jewish Studies. The mission of the board is to help the Program obtain resources for maintenance and growth, enhance the Program's reputation within CU and beyond, and help the Program facilitate community engagement and development within Colorado. We are grateful for the board's dedicated work to expand the reach of Jewish Studies on campus and in the wider community. Thank you for all you do.

Barry Baer, Chair
Larry Cohn
Jim Edelman
Sandy Friedman

Jonathan Lev
Peter Ornstein
Douglas Sparks
Kristin White
Jack Zable

Elias Sacks, Director
Michelle Gaffga, Advancement