

PROGRAM IN JEWISH STUDIES

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

STUDENTS • ALUMNI • FACULTY • EVENTS



University of Colorado **Boulder**

MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR NAN GOODMAN OUTGOING DIRECTOR



To our students, colleagues, program and library staff, College administrators, community members, and donors, I write with a fond farewell. It has been an honor and privilege serving as Director of the Program in Jewish Studies these last four years. My term as Director came to an end on June 30, 2019, and I am stepping down in order to devote more time to my research and writing. There can be no question, however, that my all of my future endeavors, scholarly and pedagogical, will be informed by everything I have learned as Director of this energetic, innovative, and intellectually diverse program.

I am also happy to say, I have added value to this gem of a program. I leave the program in a stronger place, having launched a number of initiatives that have expanded our public education programming and increased our fundraising to unprecedented levels. I have also overseen three new hires for faculty members whose research areas and class offerings have enriched our curriculum, and I have worked diligently on existing faculty retention and support at the same time. I have broadened the interdisciplinary reach of an already interdisciplinary program, bringing English and Dance graduate students as well as a faculty collaboration with Women and Gender Studies into the mix, and I have doubled down on our efforts to recruit more students into our newly user friendly major and minor tracks.

To our wonderful incoming Director, Eli Sacks, whose term officially starts in January 2020, and Interim Director, Beverly Weber, who will lead the Program in Fall 2019, I wish you the best of luck and am so glad you will be at the helm. Finally, I know Beverly and Eli join me in thanking Meghan Perea, whose service to PJS has been incomparable.

CONGRATULATIONS & FAREWELL TO MEGHAN PEREA

The Program in Jewish Studies wishes a fond farewell and congratulations to **Meghan Perea**, outgoing Executive Manager of Jewish Studies, who has received a promotion in the College of Arts and Sciences at CU Boulder. For Meghan, who has been part of the Jewish Studies as both a staff member and a student for nearly a decade, this is a bittersweet moment. She states, "I am comfortable making this transition in my career at this time because I am confident that I am leaving the Program in Jewish Studies in a place of strength. I believe firmly that Jewish Studies is a model for what an academic unit can be at CU. I want to thank the Jewish Studies staff, faculty, students, community and all our friends and partners, for everything you have done to make my time here in this program truly wonderful." She deeply regrets that she won't have the chance to continue to work with Professor Beverly Weber and Professor Elias Sacks as they take over the directorship of the program, as she feels confident they will take the program in new and exciting directions.



We wish Meghan well in her new professional endeavors and look forward to partnering with her in her new capacity in the college. This summer, Jewish Studies will conduct a search to fill this position.



NEW DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce **Professor Elias Sacks** as the next Director of the Program in Jewish Studies. Professor Sacks will begin his directorship in January 2020. He is an Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies. His research and teaching focus on Jewish thought, Jewish-Christian relations, philosophy of religion, religion and politics, and religious ethics, with a particular interest in



the modern period. He is the author of *Moses Mendelssohn's Living Script: Philosophy, Practice, History, Judaism* (Indiana University Press, 2017), as well as articles on medieval and modern thinkers. Professor Sacks is humbled and excited to take over as Director of Jewish Studies because he believes that what the Program does stands at the heart of what a public university can and must do in the twenty-first century.

This Fall 2019, **Professor Beverly Weber** will serve as the Program's Interim Director. She is an Associate Professor of German Studies and Jewish Studies and served as Jewish Studies' Associate Director of Graduate Studies for the past two years. She teaches courses on racisms in Europe after 1970, Holocaust memory, film, and refugee art and activism. She is currently writing a book manuscript, *Decolonizing Hospitality*, on refuge and sanctuary in contemporary German culture. Professor Weber states that this is a wonderful opportunity for her to serve the program that has provided her such an inspiring and supportive intellectual community in the past years.

NEW FACULTY IN JEWISH STUDIES PROFESSOR SAMIRA MEHTA

Professor Samira Mehta will join the CU Boulder faculty this Fall 2019 as an Assistant Professor of Women & Gender Studies and Jewish Studies. Professor Mehta holds degrees from Emory University, Harvard University, and Swarthmore College. Her research and teaching focus on the intersections of religion, culture, and gender, including the politics of family life and reproduction in the United States. She is the co-chair of the Religions and Families in North America Seminar of the American Academy of Religion and serves on the steering committee of the North American Religions Program Unit of the AAR. She is also a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force of the Association for Jewish Studies. This academic year, Professor Mehta will teach "Jewish Feminisms: From Labor Marches to Women's Marches" and "Religion and Reproductive Politics in the United States" among other courses.



2019-2020 EVENTS CALENDAR

2019 EVENTS

SEPT 16

A Night of Klezmer with Veretski Pass – Concert
7:30 PM | Monday, September 16, 2019

OCT 17

Panel on Israel/Palestine
7:00 PM | Thursday, October 17, 2019 | Featuring Orit Bashkin, Ilana Feldman, and Hilary Kalisman

NOV 7

Jews Out West – 4th Biannual Embodied Judaism Symposium
5:00 PM | Thursday, November 7, 2019
Part of the Community Talks Series

2020 EVENTS

JAN 23

Hitler's Ostkrieg and the Indian Wars – Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture
7:00 PM | Thursday, January 23, 2020 | Featuring Professor Edward Westermann
Part of the Community Talks Series

FEB 6

Toward a History of Jewish-Native American Relations – 2020 Bender Visiting Scholar
7:00 PM | Thursday, February 6, 2020 | Featuring Professor David Koffman
Part of the Community Talks Series

MAR 2-6

In Residence: Jessica Cooperman
March 2-6, 2020 | 2019 James & Diane Shneer Fellow in Post-Holocaust American Judaism

MAR 4

6th Annual Hebrew Schmooze-A-Palooza Concert
6:00 PM | Wednesday, March 4, 2020 | Featuring Performances from CU Boulder Hebrew Students

APR

Annual Bioethics Lecture
April 2020 | In Partnership with CU Anschutz's Center for Bioethics and Humanities

APR

Annual CU-DU Week of Jewish Philosophy
April 2020 | In Partnership with DU's Center for Judaic Studies

All events are free and open to the public.

Learn more at colorado.edu/jewishstudies/events.

Event details are subject to change. Please visit our website for information and locations.

COMMUNITY TALKS 2019-2020 JEWS IN THE AMERICAN WEST



Each year the Program in Jewish Studies hosts events that feature nationally and internationally renowned scholars, authors, artists, and performers with the goal of enriching community learning and expanding access to academic programming on Jewish culture and history. This year's theme for our ongoing Community Talks Series is "Jews in the American West," featuring a number of fascinating visitors from musicians to scholars. The Program is excited to share these events with our Boulder and Denver community.

These events are made possible in part by a grant from Rose Community Foundation and donations from participants like you.



Photo: JCC Ranch Camp

JEW'S OUT WEST

4TH BIENNIAL EMBODIED JUDAISM SYMPOSIUM AND EXHIBIT

November 7, 2019 | 5 PM - 7 PM
Fiske Planetarium, CU Boulder
Part of the Community Talks Series

Space is limited. RSVP online at colorado.edu/jewishstudies/upcoming-events#embodied

Confronted by the aftermath of the Holocaust and the establishment of a Jewish State after WWII, Jews found new ways to think of themselves as Jewish Americans in the American West. Summer camps founded in the post-war years played a significant role in this expression – shaping children’s identities through outdoor western-themed activities such as horse riding, archery and shooting practice, and arts and crafts.

In Colorado, the founding of the Maurice B. Shwayder Camp of Temple Emanuel in 1948 and the J Bar Double C Ranch in 1953 embodied the response of Denver’s Jewish communities to the new popularization of American camping. As in many American summer camps, appropriation of Native American cultures played a role.

This same generation would come of age in the cultural revolutions of the 1960s to organize Jewish retreats in the American West to seek their own revolutionary sense of identity, solidarity, and spiritual expression. Movements such as Jewish Renewal and the Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Club are part of this continuum of experiential Judaism as it manifested in the natural beauty of Western landscapes.

Drawing on archival materials housed in the Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections and featuring presentations by scholars and practitioners, the **Jews Out West Embodied Judaism Symposium and Exhibit** explores the historical and contemporary ways in which Jews have married their religious identities with their sense of belonging to the independent spirit and physical beauty of the American West.



FACULTY & STAFF UPDATES

The Program in Jewish Studies is proud of its award-winning, interdisciplinary faculty. This year our faculty accomplished a considerable amount both in and out of the classroom. The Program also has a team of dedicated and accomplished staff members who work to expand Jewish Studies' presence at CU and in the community.

Vanessa Frye will pursue a masters in Strategic Communication Design through CU's College of Media, Communication and Information this year while maintaining her position at PJS. **Nan Goodman** will be a Kingdon Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this year, where she will work on her new book. **Hilary Kalisman** received an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship and a National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral

Fellowship to work on a new book project. **Yonatan Malin** presented *The Beregovski Archives: Klezmer Stories from Soviet Ukraine to Boulder* at the 2019 Archive Transformed with Alicia Svigals and Uli Geissendoerfer.

Meghan Perea was promoted in the College of Arts and Sciences, appointed to CU Staff Council, and elected co-chair of the A&S Staff Advisory Committee. **Eyal Rivlin** received the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Gender & Sexuality award for his work in nonbinary Hebrew and served as musical director for Yom Hazikaron at the Boulder JCC. **Elias Sacks** published an article on the role of Jewish philosophy in public life and translations of Jewish responses to the heretic Baruch Spinoza. After stepping down as chair of Religious Studies, **David Shneer** accompanied a group as the faculty-in-residence for Helix, an on-site Yiddish cultural history tour. He is also finishing up his book, *Grief: The Biography of a Holocaust Photograph*. **Beverly Weber** published several articles and co-edited a journal special issue on precarity and notions of home; her co-authored book with Maria Stehle was submitted for forthcoming publication. **Rebecca Wartell** gave a talk in Ridgway, CO as part of the Peak to Peak Lecture Series and presented at the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies Annual Conference.

MEET PROFESSOR YONATAN MALIN

Yonatan Malin is an Associate Professor of Music Theory and Jewish Studies at CU Boulder. His research areas include klezmer, Jewish liturgical music, cantillation, and German Lieder. He is currently working with material from the pre-eminent Soviet Jewish ethnomusicologist Moshe Beregovski (1892-1961) along with contemporary arrangements and adaptations to write a book on klezmer music.

Professor Malin's upcoming Fall 2019 course, "Music in Jewish Culture," introduces students to a wide range of musical styles, traditions, composers, and events that are part of Jewish culture. Professor Malin enjoys this course because it allows him to explore music and culture with students from all backgrounds. He is also in a unique position in that he is rostered in two colleges – the College of Music and the College of Arts and Sciences. This encourages a highly interdisciplinary collaboration for him to learn terminologies, ask new questions, and incorporate different ways of thinking into his work.

This fall, the Program in Jewish Studies and College of Music will host a concert featuring two members of the klezmer band Veretski Pass. Professor Malin originally met the band in 2017 at Yiddish New York. Their current project draws on material from Sofia Magid, a Soviet Jewish ethnomusicologist, and on Romanian, Turkish, Greek, and Hutsul traditions. "There is fearless joy in their playing. You just never quite know what is going to happen and they don't either," says Professor Malin.



Learn more about Professor Yonatan Malin:
colorado.edu/jewishstudies/faculty

Learn more about the concert with Veretski Pass:
colorado.edu/jewishstudies/events



The Program in Jewish Studies offers two Major concentrations (a Culture Intensive track and a Foreign Language Intensive track) as well as a Minor in Jewish Studies, a Minor in Hebrew & Israel Studies, and a Graduate Certificate. Each of these avenues provides students of all backgrounds with the skills needed to succeed in today's job market and diverse, globalized world.

JEWISH STUDIES STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Abigail Mendel is a Major in Psychology and a Minor in Hebrew & Israel Studies. In recognition of her academic work in Jewish Studies, Abigail was a recipient of a 2019 Katherine Jacob Lamont Scholarship. After graduation, Abigail aspires to work as a leader in a non-profit organization in order to help resolve social conflict on a global scale within Jewish and non-Jewish communities. Her dedication to interdisciplinary studies in the humanities makes her an outstanding addition to the Program in Jewish Studies community.



Tiffany Beebe is a PhD Candidate in Modern European and British History and is pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Jewish Studies. Her dissertation explores German-Jewish refugees from the Third Reich who moved to rural areas of Britain and opened new businesses under a “refugee industrialist” scheme. Tiffany received the 2019 History-Jewish Studies Summer Archives Graduate Fellowship and will focus her research in the PHAJ collections on Jewish settlement in the British Mandate of Palestine. This fall, Tiffany will complete her dissertation research in the UK.

JEWISH STUDIES ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Jewish Studies alumni are passionate, driven leaders who are changing communities across the world. **Scott Meyers**, Graduate Endorsement '17, is pursuing a PhD at the University of Virginia Charlottesville. Next year, he will teach courses on Yiddish literature and the history of American counterculture at the Technical University of Dortmund in Germany. “None of this would be possible without the training I received while a student in Jewish Studies. The professors, instructors, and staff mentored me in countless ways,” says Scott. **Nick Underwood**, PhD '16, recently accepted a fellowship at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan after serving as a fellow at the German Historical Institute's Pacific Regional Office and Institute of European Studies at the University of California Berkeley. Nick also continues his work with the journals *East European Jewish Affairs* and *American Jewish History* and the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project.



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. Thanks to the generosity of the Bender Foundation, which supports Jewish learning and educational programs, we have been awarded a five-year matching grant that will **match your gift dollar-to-dollar up to \$50,000.**

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:
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*
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