



Program in Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

**Kol Mevasser:** The Voice of Jewish Studies at CU-Boulder

October 29, 2014



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## → Graduate Student Highlight

**Nick Underwood**, PhD Candidate in History, comes to CU from South Florida, and is currently completing his dissertation in Napa, CA.

Nick has been highly involved with the Program in Jewish Studies, both working in the Jewish Studies office and being a part of the graduate student programming offered by PJS. In summer 2012, Nick was part of a graduate student think-tank that created the **graduate student colloquium**. The idea was born from a demand for a forum in which graduate students from diverse departments but with interests in Jewish Studies could workshop current projects and learn professional development skills, such as writing a dissertation, conference proposal, journal article, etc. **Nick states, "It has been a wonderful opportunity to create community among grad students and Jewish Studies faculty. Jewish Studies faculty regularly attend and contribute to the colloquium."**



Nick's dissertation, which he plans to finish in 2015, is the first cultural history of the immigrant Jewish community in interwar Paris. Based on archival research in Paris, New York, Amsterdam, Berlin, and Tel Aviv, it focuses on interwar Paris as the hub of a particular French, transnational antifascist, and cosmopolitan Jewish culture, which is evaluated most clearly

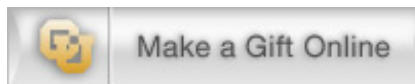
through an analysis of Paris-based Yiddish theater, choruses, newspapers, and cultural institutions. Nick's work engages the social and cultural history of the interwar Jewish experience in Paris to illustrate how culture acted not as a tool for indoctrination, but as a nexus for a community seeking to understand its new Jewish, French, and transnational identities. Specifically, his dissertation provides a more complete understanding of how immigrant Jews in Paris brought together Jewish, French, and leftist cultural norms in order to define their community as nationally French and transnationally Jewish and antifascist. His work questions the presumed monopoly of communist politics over leftist culture in 1939s Popular Front Paris.

In addition to finishing his dissertation, Nick has presented extensively at conferences, most recently giving a paper entitled "Radical Yiddish Culture in Interwar Paris" at UC Davis. This November, he will present a paper entitled "Reviewing The Incomprehensible: Yiddish Theater and the French-Language Press in Interwar Paris" at the Western Society for French History conference. He also currently has two journal articles under review.

Nick is currently teaching World Civilization II at Napa Valley College, and this Spring 2015 will teach Introduction to Jewish Studies as Sonoma State University. From 2013-2014, Nick served as a New York Public Library Short-term Research Fellow. He was also a recipient of a 2014-2015 [Goldberger Fellowship](#) from the Program in Jewish Studies at CU.

Encourage Jewish Studies graduate endeavors like Nick's by contributing to the [Barry and Sue Baer Graduate Fellowship Fund](#), which supports graduate students as they conduct research and attend scholarly gatherings across North America and around the globe.

Donations can be made online at [cufund.org](http://cufund.org) or by contacting Kimberly Bowman, Director of Development at the University of Colorado at 303.541.1446.



Thank you!

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## Faculty and Graduate Student News...

College of Arts and Sciences Honors Program Speaker  
"The Gate of Death: The American Liberation of Nazi  
Concentration Camps"

with [Paul Shankman](#), Professor of Anthropology

Monday, November 3 @ 6PM-9PM

HUMN 250

Pizza served at 6PM

Almost 70 years ago, American soldiers liberated Nazi concentration camps in Western Europe. What they saw shocked and appalled them, as well as the world at large. What was this experience like for the American liberators? And what was it like for the survivors in the camps? This talk discusses some of the surprising stories behind the liberation of the camps in the final months of World War II.

Check out Prof. Shankman's spring course:

[ANTH/JWST4580 The Holocaust: An Anthropological Perspective](#) T/R 2-3:15PM.





**Brian Catlos**, Professor of Religious Studies, recently published an article entitled ""[Accursed, Superior Men](#)": [Political Power and Ethno-Religious Minorities in the Medieval Mediterranean](#)" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. The article was the winner of the 47th Annual Walter Prescott Webb Essay Competition. His recent book, [In fidel Kings and Unholy Warriors](#) was recently reviewed in [The New Yorker](#).

**Elias Sacks**, Assistant Professor in Religious Studies and Director of Graduate Studies for the Program in Jewish Studies, recently spoke at the Yale Judaic Studies Program's [Early Modern/Modern Jewish History Colloquium](#). His presentation focused on theories of language and history developed by the eighteenth-century philosopher Moses Mendelssohn.



**Robin Schen**, PhD Candidate in German Studies, will be attending a DAAD sponsored teaching conference at the University of California, Berkeley, entitled "Methods and Didactic of Instruction," October 31-November 2. During this hands-on workshop, Robin will be developing and presenting a teaching unit.

**David Shneer**, Director of the Program in Jewish Studies, [Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History](#), and Professor of History and Religious Studies, recently published "Eberhard Rebling, Lin Jaldati, and Yiddish Music in East Germany, 1949-1962," in Tina Frühauf and Lily Hirsch, eds., [Dislocated Memories: Jews, Music, and Postwar Germany](#). This article comes from his larger book project about the Dutch Jewish Yiddish art song singer and Holocaust survivor, Lin Jaldati, and Yiddish music between fascism and Communism. He is also publishing a short biography of Jaldati called [Trümmerfrau der Seele](#) to appear with Hentrich&Hentrich as part of its series of important Jewish figures in German history called Jüdische Miniaturen, later this fall.



In addition, he presented his work on Soviet Jewish photography to the Colorado Russian-speaking community in Russian at Kavod Senior Living on October 23 and will be presenting it on Tuesday, November 4 at 5pm when he serves as [Washington University's 2014 Holocaust Memorial Lecturer](#). Finally, from November 7-9, he will be giving a mini-course at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst MA titled "[The Romance and Tragedy of Soviet Yiddish Culture](#)," which will become an online course in Spring 2015. Stay tuned for more details.

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➔ **"Apartheid and the Role of South African Jews" with Professor Zilla Goodman...**

CU at the Boulder JCC  
["Apartheid and the Role of South African Jews"](#)  
 With Professor Zilla Goodman  
 Thursday, November 6 at 7PM  
 Boulder JCC, 3800 Kalmia Ave.

Join the Boulder Jewish Community Center's [Menorah: Arts, Culture, and Education](#) for a



fascinating presentation by [Zilla Goodman](#), Senior Lecturer, Coordinator of the Hebrew Language and Literature Program, and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Program in Jewish Studies.

In this talk, Professor Goodman will discuss South Africa, Apartheid and the role of South African Jews in the struggle against Apartheid. A co-founder of the Program in Jewish Studies in 2006, Professor Goodman received her doctorate in modern Hebrew literature from the University of Cape Town, South Africa, where she grew up.

Throughout the year, Menorah is hosting a lecture series highlighting the faculty of the Program in Jewish Studies. Tickets are available online for \$12: \$15 at the door. Series package \$80 (\$10 per program). **Students with valid student IDs are free of charge.**

Learn more about this series at [www.boulderjcc.org](http://www.boulderjcc.org).



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➔ **"Sibling Rivalries, Scriptural Communities" with David Nirenberg...**

**["Sibling Rivalries, Scriptural Communities: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam"](#)**

Lecture with David Nirenberg

Monday, November 10 @ 6:00PM  
Reception prior begins at 5:30PM  
Norlin Library, British Studies Room  
Free and Open to the Public

University of Colorado [Department of Religious Studies](#) in collaboration with the [CU Mediterranean Studies Group](#) and the [Program in Jewish Studies](#) presents the 2014

Annual Lester Lecture featuring [Professor David Nirenberg](#), History and the Committee on Social Thought, University of Chicago.



Inter-religious conflict - and, with it, many questions about the role of scripture in that conflict - is once again at center stage in our geopolitical consciousness. Do the claims of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic holy texts contribute to the violence between the various communities that read them? Or do they provide a basis for solidarity between these three religions? This talk will examine how the Torah, New Testament and Qur'an have been read at different moments in history to consider the politics of conflict and community among the "peoples of the Book."

The Lester Lecture Series is made possible by the generous support of the Lester Family. This years lecture is dedicated to the memory of Robert C. Lester, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado Boulder Religious Studies Department (1933-2013).

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➔ **Scholarships and Resources for Students...**

PLEASE VISIT THE SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS SECTION OF OUR [WEBSITE](#) FOR



The [Center for Jewish History](#) is offering multiple fellowships for faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to conduct original research in the humanities. Click [here](#) for more details (pdf).

The [UCLA Center for Jewish Studies](#) has a call out for proposals for a conference [Thinking Beyond the Canon: New Themes and Approaches in Jewish Studies](#), March 8-9, 2015. Abstracts are due **Friday, October 31, 2014**.

The Saul Kagan Claims Conference is offering [Fellowships for Advanced Shoah Studies](#) for PhD and post-doctoral candidates. Applications are due **January 5, 2015**.

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 **On Campus and Around Town...**

Join the Resonance Women's Chorus of Boulder for a free concert, "[We Who Believe in Freedom](#)," **Saturday, November 15 @ 7PM**. Eve Ilsen, spouse of the late Rabbi Zalman Schachter Shalomi, will be performing.

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For questions or to have information about your campus or community event included in our newsletter, please contact Steve Glickman at [Steven.Glickman@colorado.edu](mailto:Steven.Glickman@colorado.edu).