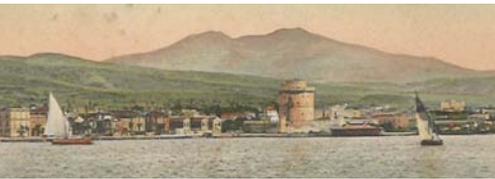


# FRANKELY SPEAKING



# From the Director

We have completed a lively year of research, learning, and community-building at the Frankel Center and Institute. We hosted 14 researchers at the Institute who worked on projects around the theme of “Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity” from a variety of disciplinary and thematic



perspectives. We also had several captivating speakers come to Ann Arbor to share their knowledge and experiences, including Israeli film director Ari Folman and Russian-born writer Gary Shteyngart. At the end of the winter term, the graduating class of 2023 gathered in Weiser Hall to receive their diplomas and certificates.

We warmly congratulate them on their achievements and know that they will make a difference in their future undertakings, drawing on the skills and approaches they have gained in our program.

Our colleague Ruth Tsoffar and NYU professor Ella Shohat served as co-head fellows of the Frankel Institute this year, and my gratitude goes out to both of them for all the thought and effort they put into this year. In March, they hosted the Wieseneck Israel Symposium on “Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection,” which drew to campus scholars from around the world to engage questions of interdisciplinary knowledge-making. In addition to our Frankely Judaic Podcast, featuring the Institute fellows and available on most podcast platforms, we were fortunate to have a filmmaker, Rafael Balulu, participate in this fellowship year and look forward to sharing a short film he has directed featuring the 2022–2023 fellows.

Shachar Pinsker has completed a three-year term as Associate Director of the Frankel Center, where he was responsible for both the undergraduate and graduate certificate programs. During his term, Shachar worked closely with three directors and provided vital continuity and wise stewardship to the Center. Julian Levinson, Samuel Shetzer Professor of American Jewish Studies, will be stepping into the role of Associate Director. We warmly welcome him!

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to our generous donors for enabling the Frankel Center to carry out the important mission of educating U–M students on different aspects of Jewish history, society, and culture. With the support of our donors, we have offered public programming on Jewish–Christian and Jewish–Muslim relations, the Holocaust and antisemitism, and Israeli society and politics. In particular, I am proud that we are able to offer multi-year instruction in both Yiddish and Ladino. We continue to develop and support the instruction of these rarely taught languages that allow students to engage with past and present Jewish cultures.

My first year as director has been an exciting and rewarding one, and I could not have tackled so many different projects without the incredible support of our hard-working Frankel Center staff: Cheri Thompson, Michele Fleming, Sarah Kuljian, and Jillian Luciw. Thank you to our staff, faculty, and students for making the Frankel Center a vibrant place that fosters critical conversations and welcomes differing viewpoints.

My warmest congratulations to everyone in our community and beyond for completing this productive academic year. I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer!

## **Maya Barzilai**

*Director of the Frankel Center  
for Judaic Studies*

*Associate Professor of Hebrew Literature  
and Jewish Culture*

# Gabriel Mordoch and “Ladino: Language and Culture of the Sephardi Jews”



Mordoch

**D**r. Gabriel Mordoch, the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica at the University of Michigan Library, began teaching his Ladino language course, “Ladino: Language and Culture of the Sephardi Jews,” in fall 2020. His dedication to Judaic Studies and Sephardic Studies has made a significant impact on the Frankel Center community. His teaching helps preserve and promote Jewish culture and heritage through this unique opportunity to learn Ladino and explore the rich history of Sephardic Jewry.

Mordoch’s course, “Ladino: Language and Culture of the Sephardi Jews,” is an introduction to modern Ladino in its cultural and historical contexts. Students develop listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills, and the course examines the Ladino language in both the Latin and Rashi (Sephardic semi-cursive) alphabets, using textbooks as well as primary sources in music, film, literature, and newspapers. The course is conducted in both English and Ladino, and it allows students to experience the language in a practical and immersive way.

Ladino, also known as Judeo-Spanish, Judezmo, and Spanyolit, among other names, is a Romance language and the distinctive Jewish language of the Sephardim (like Yiddish is to the Ashkenazim). It originated in the Iberian Peninsula and became more widespread after the Jewish expulsion from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497. Judeo-Spanish is based in an archaic form of Castilian Spanish, but also contains elements of Hebrew, Aramaic, Arabic, Turkish, Greek, French, Portuguese, Bulgarian, and Italian.

Although Judeo-Spanish is in danger of extinction, we are very fortunate to be able to offer it at the University of Michigan, one of the few universities in the world with Ladino courses. Mordoch plays a key role in the recent Ladino revival through his curatorial work at the U-M library and his development of Ladino instruction. Undergraduate and graduate students can now benefit from Mordoch’s expertise and deepen their understanding of Sephardic history and culture.

Baker standing in front of the “American Bakery” which displays signs in Armenian, Ladino (in Hebrew characters), English, Ottoman Turkish, Greek and Russian with samples of bread attached to the mullions, Ortakoy, Istanbul, Turkey / photo by cdm.



# The Abrahamic Sensorium

Rebecca Wollenberg (Judaic Studies) and Yasmin Moll (Anthropology)

Judaic Studies faculty member Rebecca Sarbach Wollenberg and Anthropology's Yasmin Moll received the 2023 Provost's Teaching Innovation Prize for *The Abrahamic Sensorium*, an Mcubed funded student-facing sensory pedagogy series that combines sounds, scents, tastes, sights, and tactile experiences with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions to create an immersive and embodied learning experience. By engaging with the sensory manifestations of these traditions, students are provided with an opportunity to understand the lived complexities of religious traditions that they typically would not experience in a classroom setting.

The sensorium has been integrated into various courses by Wollenberg and Moll and is a unique approach to learning about the entanglements of religious traditions across different contexts. By engaging students in sensory experiences, this approach not only helps students learn about unfamiliar religious traditions, but also fosters a more inclusive and respectful classroom climate. Wollenberg and Moll plan to apply for funding to continue developing and scaling their innovative pedagogical approach.

Below: See and Tell: Abrahamic Hair with Andrea Herzog  
Below, left: Touch and Tell: The Stuff of Scripture with Clay Works Studio



# Joyful Jewish Jams

*Frankel Speaker Series with the  
Jewish Communal Leadership Program*



The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and the second-year, graduating cohort of the Jewish Communal Leadership Program (JCLP) held the 2023 Communal Concert and Conversation: “Joyful Jewish Jams” on March 27 at The Ark in downtown Ann Arbor. This event was part of the Frankel Speaker Series, which provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to invite a guest speaker or performer of their choice and host them for an event.

The JCLP used this opportunity to bring together musical artists who weave Jewish tradition into their music, in celebration of Jewish ritual, culture, and community. “Joyful Jewish Jams” featured musicians Aly Halpert, Batya Levine (an Ann Arbor native), and Sam Weisenberg.

Halpert is a singer-songwriter, pianist, and guitar player who writes songs for building community, and visioning different worlds. She and Levine are part of a growing Jewish queer music scene, which draws on Hebrew liturgy and participates in rituals and communal events.

The concert was well advertised in the Jewish community of Ann Arbor and beyond, and it drew over 200 attendees for an evening filled with joy and singing. The artists interacted with the audience and the concert allowed for participation and meditation. After it ended, they remained on stage and answered questions about the process of composing the music and working together. The emphasis of the evening and their choice of lyrics was on spiritual connection and healing after the pandemic.



# Where is Anne Frank Film Screening with Ari Folman

Maya Barzilai, Judaic Studies Director



On November 10, 2022, the Frankel Center hosted Israeli director Ari Folman for a screening of his animated film, *Where is Anne Frank*, at the Rackham Amphitheatre. *Where is Anne Frank* follows Anne’s imaginary friend, Kitty, after she surreally appears in modern-day Amsterdam at the house where Anne and her family have taken refuge. Kitty embarks on a journey to find Anne, whom she believes is still alive. The search for Anne Frank in this film is also a reflection on how we remember the Holocaust and what we do with this memory. Dr. Annemarie Toebosch, who teaches “Anne Frank in Context” as part of the Dutch Program at UM, facilitated the post-film discussion with Folman.

Director Ari Folman was born and raised in Haifa, Israel, and studied film at Tel Aviv University. His independent directorial debut was the 2001 film *Made in Israel*. His career took a fascinating turn when he decided to direct an animated documentary based on his experiences as an Israeli soldier in the 1982 Lebanon war. Folman’s family history—he is the son of Polish Holocaust survivors—plays a role in the film: it explains his repression of the massacre of Palestinians that took place in the refugee camps during the war. *Waltz with Bashir* was nominated for an Oscar and won a Golden Globe award. Folman next collaborated with artist David Polonsky on the graphic novel *Anne Frank*. *Where is Anne Frank* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2021 and has been screened on campuses across the United States.



*Where is Anne Frank follows Anne's imaginary friend, Kitty, after she surreally appears in modern-day Amsterdam at the house where Anne and her family have taken refuge.*



The screening drew a large crowd of students, faculty, and community members. Also in attendance was Irene Butter, a German American Professor Emerita in Economic Sciences at the University of Michigan. Butter, a Holocaust survivor and educator, moved to the Netherlands from Germany in the late 1930s, as did the Frank Family. She knew Anne Frank in Amsterdam and later met her and assisted Anne and her sister at Bergen-Belsen. Butter survived Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen and discussed her experiences with Folman in an encounter that took place prior to the screening. The film *Where is Anne Frank* engages the present refugee crisis in Europe and it speaks to Butter's lifelong mission to educate about the past and promote tolerance in the present and future.



Ari Folman and Irene Butter



33rd David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs

# Gary Shteyngart



*Shteyngart engaged the audience through a Q&A, and discussed topics ranging from his grandparents' immigration experiences, his literary inspirations, and his connections to the global post-Soviet literary community.*



**T**he *New York Times* bestselling author Gary Shteyngart delivered the 33rd David W. Belin Lecture in American Jewish Affairs on March 16, 2023, at Weiser Hall. Shteyngart's collection of works include *Super Sad True Love Story* (winner of the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize), *Absurdistan*, and *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (winner of the Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction and the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction). He also published a memoir, *Little Failure*, and, most recently, the novel *Our Country Friends*. Literati Bookstore participated in the event, and a book signing followed the lectures, where guests mingled with the author.

Shteyngart began the evening by reading excerpts from *Little Failure*, and his latest work, *Our Country Friends*. He used these readings to explore what it means to be an immigrant, a son, an American, a grownup, and a writer. Shteyngart was born in the Soviet Union in 1972 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1979, growing up in Queens, New York. He shares his American immigrant experience in *Little Failure*, and tells a story about family and friendship during the pandemic in *Our Country Friends*. Shteyngart read an essay composed for

the occasion of the Belin Lecture, which describes how his botched circumcision experience shaped the writing of *Our Country Friends*. The essay, which will appear in our Belin Lecture Publication Series, is a poignant account of the crucial connections between Jewish American identity, pain, and disability. Following the reading and lecture, Shteyngart engaged the audience through a Q&A, and discussed topics ranging from his grandparents' immigration experiences, his literary inspirations, and his connections to the global post-Soviet literary community. Overall, it was a thought-provoking and entertaining evening that showcased Shteyngart's talents as writer and speaker.

The Belin lecture series was established in 1991 through a generous gift from the late David W. Belin of Des Moines and New York to provide an academic forum for the discussion of contemporary Jewish life in the United States. Previous scholars to hold this honor include Deborah Lipstadt, Samuel Freedman, Ruth Messinger, Jim Loeffler, Beth Wenger, and Lila Corwin Berman, among others. Each year, the lecture is also published in written form in collaboration with Michigan Publishing.



Year in Review

# “Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection”

*Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Concludes Theme Year with the Wieseneck Symposium*



The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies' has completed its landmark fellowship year devoted to "Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity," led by Co-Head Fellows Ruth Tsoffar, U-M Professor of Comparative Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, and Judaic Studies; and Ella Shohat, Professor of Cultural Studies at New York University. At the end of March, the Institute held a two-day Wieseneck Symposium titled "Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection." The symposium offered a unique opportunity within the North American academy to dedicate a forum to the subject of Mizrahim. The presentations and discussions brought together new perspectives

across academic disciplines, from sociology, geography, history, and anthropology, to literature, cinema/media, and visual culture.

"Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection" was the second symposium held on the subject this academic year. The first symposium in the fall, a one-day conference, featured the Frankel Institute fellows, accompanied by guest speakers Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber (Suffolk University), Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli (Ben-Gurion University), and Raz Yosef (Tel Aviv University.) For the Spring Symposium, the head fellows invited guests from Israel, Morocco, and across the United States.

Top Row: Erez Tzefadia, Shachar Pinsker, Rafael Balulu, Gal Levy, Moti Gigi, Avner Ofraht

Middle Row: Shirly Bahar, Noa Hazan, Sivan Rajuan Shtang, Aziza Khazzoum, Claris Harbon, Ella Shohat, Ruth Tsoffar, Tomi Drucker, Yigal Nizri, Maya Barzilai, Neta Elkayam

Bottom Row: Yali Hashash, Liron Mor, Keren Dotan, Reut Reina Bendrihem, Gil Andijar, Amit Hai Cohen



## Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection Symposium

### Guest Presenters

**Reut Reina Bendrihem**

*Israel Institute of Technology;  
The Open University of Israel;  
Sapir College*

**Keren Dotan**

*Independent Scholar*

**Yuval Evri**

*Brandeis University*

**Moti Gigi**

*Sapir Academic College*

**Claris Harbon**

*Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane*

**Noa Hazan**

*Independent Scholar*

**Mostafa Hussein**

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*

**Aziza Khazzoom**

*Indiana University, Bloomington*

**Yigal Nizri**

*University of Toronto*

**Sivan Rajuan Shtang**

*Brandeis University; Sapir College*

### Frankel Institute Fellow Presenters

**Gil Anidjar**

*Columbia University*

**Shirly Bahar**

*Columbia University*

**Rafael Balulu**

*Israel Institute of Technology*

**Yali Hashash**

*Or Yehuda College*

**Gal Levy**

*The Open University of Israel*

**Liron Mor**

*University of California, Irvine*

**Avner Ofrath**

*University of Bremen*

**Erez Tzfadia**

*Sapir College*



Ruth Tsoffar and Ella Shohat have reflected on the symposium and its place in their theme year. Tsoffar writes:

*Participants in the symposium, like the fellows, expressed the idea that this meeting is an unprecedented historic event, a timely privilege to engage the topic of ethnicity together, in a community with other Mizrahi scholars. However, while discussing Mizrahim from the very core of multiple intersections, it became clear that studying one's culture is never a privilege. It is a categorical imperative that is especially owed to the many underrepresented minorities who have suffered from over-simplification, exclusion, homogenization, stereotypes, and other forms of racism and oppression.*

*This profound sense of belonging was manifested in the incredible energy and deep commitment that everyone brought to the event. We kept the event in person in order to provide an intimate, less formal space. More than in a typical conference, the questions that we addressed felt real and relevant, helping to crystallize and advance the discourse on Mizrahi Studies. Being out of Israel allowed important and productive distance for our dialogues. Overall, it was a fantastic success.*

Her Co-Head Fellow Ella Shohat adds to this:

*One notable current was the wide range of references and dialogue with fields of knowledge that emerged out of the U.S. context, particularly those we associate with the intellectual transformation that has taken place since the '60s: Ethnic studies; Women and Gender studies; Postcolonial, Diasporic, and Transnational studies. Attempting to offer a multi-spatio-temporal*



*framework, the symposium linked the history and culture of the Mizrahim in Israel to the Jewish past in Arab/Muslim countries, with some papers touching also on the relationship between the Mizrahi and Palestinian issues.*

*The symposium culminated in a moving musical performance by Neta Elkayam and Amit Hai Cohen, multimedia artists who have worked across Israel, Palestine, Morocco, and France. In their work they look to past musicians and artists, not simply through a nostalgic lens but also through an eye toward new cultural directions... Their performance was received with enthusiasm, where we all came together, even singing and dancing.*

*Throughout the symposium, we felt a warm atmosphere of conviviality, precisely because it was a rather unusual moment where we were not in the position of a Mizrahi minority in the American academia. While usually Mizrahi presenters tend to be on the margins of Jewish, studies, Israel studies, or Middle East studies conferences, sometimes also as lone voices, this symposium generated a space where concerns, dilemmas, problems, and even arguments were articulated within a broadly shared epistemological quest.*

*This event was co-sponsored by the departments of Comparative Literature, Middle East Studies, Women's Studies and Gender, Institute for Research on Women & Gender, and Anthropology.*

*The Gayle & Larry Wieseneck Israel Symposium fund was established to explore various topics related to Israel and look at Israel in multiple contexts. These might range from politics to culture, from social changes to religious struggles.*



## Faculty



**Gabriele Boccaccini** published “Torah and Apocalypticism in the Second Temple Period,” in *Torah: Functions, Meanings, and Diverse Manifestations in Early Judaism and Christianity* (2022) and “Italian Scholarship on Second Temple Judaism and Christian Origins, from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century / Fountains of Wisdom: In Conversation with James H. Charlesworth,” (T&T Clark, 2022).



**Deborah Dash Moore** received the Mentoring Award from the Gender and Justice Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies.



**Gabriel Mordoch** participated in the Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians at Harvard University (July 24–29, 2022).



**Rafe Neis** was promoted to Full Professor as the Jean and Samuel Frankel Chair in Rabbinic Literature and became the Director of the Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Ancient History (IPAH).



**Rebecca Wollenberg** received the A.R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship from the Society of Biblical Literature and a 2023 Provost’s Teaching Innovation Prize from the University of Michigan.

## Graduate Students



**Pavel Brunssen** published the book chapters: “Zwischen Anfeindungen und Bildungsprojekten: Antisemitismus und Gegenstrategien im deutschen Fußball” in

*Heulen mit den Wölfen* and “Antisemitic Metaphors in German Soccer Fan Culture Directed at RB Leipzig” in *Football Nation: The Playing Fields of German Culture, History, and Society*. He was also the 2023 recipient of the Marshall Weinberg Prize.



**Maggie Carlton** received an AJS Scholars of Color Fellowship as part of the first cohort of this fellowship, and has also received an AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2023–2024 academic year.

## Alumni



**Beth Dwoskin** published “Let’s not wait!: Introducing preschoolers to Yiddish through Leah Hoffman’s Alefbeyts” in *In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (2022) and “Osherowitch and Rumshinsky on the Piety of Regina Prager” in *Digital Yiddish Theatre Project* (2023).

**J.H. (Yossi/Jeffrey) Chajes** published “Visual Kabbalah in the Italian Renaissance: The Booklet of Kabbalistic Forms,” in *The Vatican Library Review* with Eliezer Baumgarten (2022).

**Greg M. Epstein** continues to serve as humanist chaplain at both Harvard University and MIT, and he recently completed a term as the president of Harvard’s 50+ chaplains. He is working on a new book, entitled *Tech Agnostic: How Technology Became the World’s Most Powerful Religion, and Why it Desperately Needs a Reformation*, for MIT Press.



**Anne Kreps** published “Ancient Anatomy, Embryology, and the Gestation of Early Christian Heresy” in the *Journal of Christian History* (2023). She also began a new tenured position with the University of California Santa Cruz.



**Sam Shuman** received a 2023 National Humanities Center Summer Residency.



**Joshua Logan Wall** has a forthcoming article in summer 2023, “Teaching THE WASTE LAND, Teaching THE WASTE LAND, Teaching Composition,” in *T.S. Eliot Studies*.



## Class of 2023

### Graduate Certificate

Pavel Brunssen  
Hannah Roussel  
Omri Senderowicz  
Shai Zamir

### Major

Elizabeth Goldman  
Joseph Gordon  
Alana Wilck

### Minor

Brandon Brooks  
Lennon Gelbsman  
Alexandra Glickman  
Jeremy Jesselson  
Dahvi Lupovich  
Yonit Robin

The Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is celebrating the Class of 2023, consisting of six minors, three majors, and four graduate certificate students. Several graduates will be continuing their education, teaching abroad, or seeking jobs in law, finance, medicine, veterinary school, and nonprofit management.

**Elizabeth Goldman** is the recipient of the Judaic Studies Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award in recognition of her exceptional academic performance and significant contribution to Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. **Alana Wilck** was selected as the first runner-up for the award.

Devi Mays and Alana Wilck



Brunssen

This year's Marshall Weinberg prize, given annually to an outstanding graduate student who is engaged in writing a dissertation, was awarded to **Pavel Brunssen** for his dissertation project, "The Making of 'Jew Clubs': Performing Jewishness and Antisemitism in

European Soccer and Fan Cultures." The Frankel Center was especially impressed with the breadth, depth, and sophistication of Brunssen's research and writing, alongside his excellent publication record, with peer-reviewed articles and chapters, as well as books that he has authored and/or co-edited. Brunssen is an

## *The 2023 graduates join a distinguished group of Frankel Center alumni. We wish them the best of luck!*

important contributor to the field of antisemitism studies, as well as to the study of Roma in film. The Marshall Weinberg Prize, established in 1995, provides support for students engaged in dissertation research that stands to make a significant impact on the field.



Fox

**Dory Fox** was awarded the Frankel Center’s Michael S. Bernstein Dissertation Award for her original dissertation, “The Biological Imagination in Twentieth-Century Jewish American Culture.” This compelling project explores the shifting biological theories of

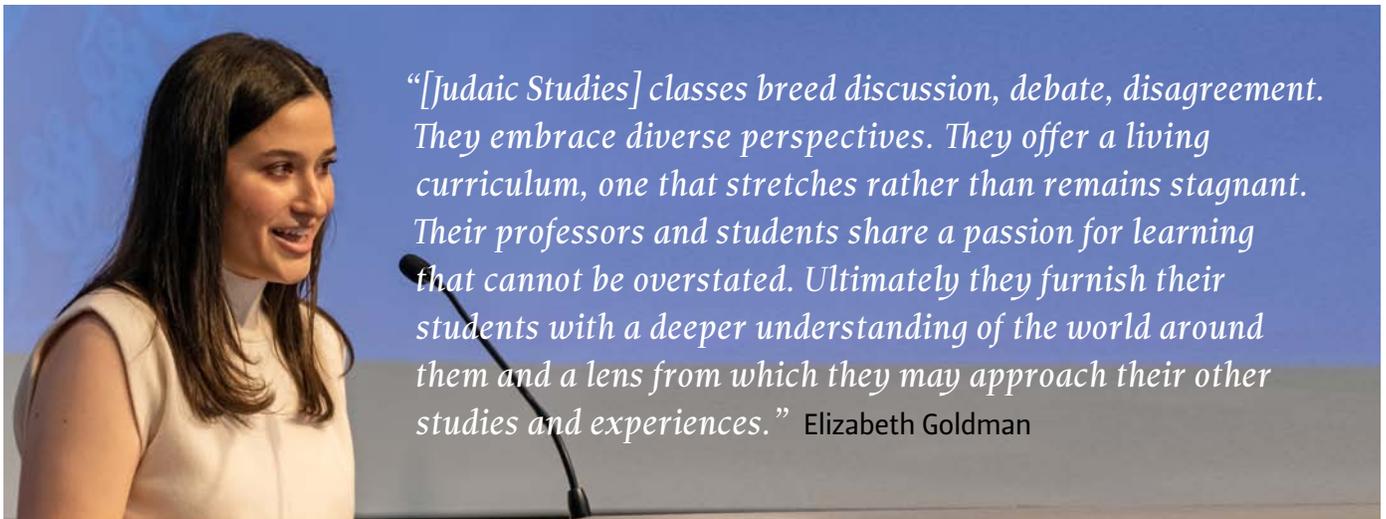
inheritance that have informed Jewish cultural production throughout the 20th century. Fox draws on American fiction, photography by Jewish artists, Yiddish poetry, and scientific discourse to reveal how the “biological imagination” has shaped interpretations of Jewishness, locating them in the body rather than in religious or scholarly sources. The committee was deeply impressed with Fox’s interdisciplinary study of writers and artists who engaged with biological

theories of inheritance, even in the post-Holocaust period. The Bernstein award, which comes with a \$4,000 cash prize, was established to honor the memory of Michael Bernstein, a distinguished graduate of the University of Michigan.

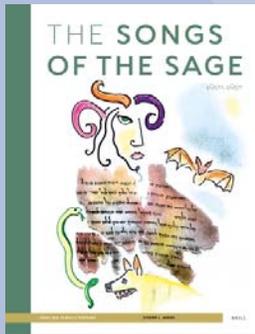
In recognition of his exceptional contribution in his Yiddish classes, **Ari Leflein** is this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award. Each year the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies presents the Outstanding Yiddish Student Award to a student enrolled in first- or second-year Yiddish whose classwork and commitment to Yiddish stands out.



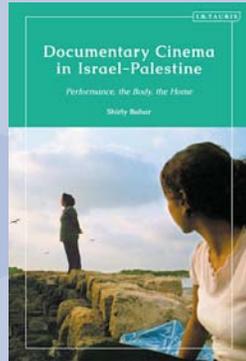
Ari Leflein and Elena Luchina



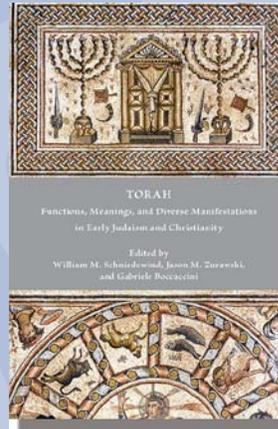
*“[Judaic Studies] classes breed discussion, debate, disagreement. They embrace diverse perspectives. They offer a living curriculum, one that stretches rather than remains stagnant. Their professors and students share a passion for learning that cannot be overstated. Ultimately they furnish their students with a deeper understanding of the world around them and a lens from which they may approach their other studies and experiences.”* Elizabeth Goldman



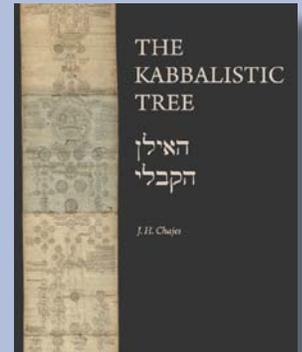
Joseph Angel, Past Institute Fellow, *The Songs of the Sage* (4Q510, 4Q511) (Brill 2022)



Shirly Bahar, Institute Fellow, *Documentary Cinema in Israel-Palestine: Performance, The Body, The Home* (Bloomsbury/IB Tauris 2021)



Gabriele Boccaccini, Faculty, *Torah: Functions, Meanings, and Diverse Manifestations in Early Judaism and Christianity* (SBL Press 2022)



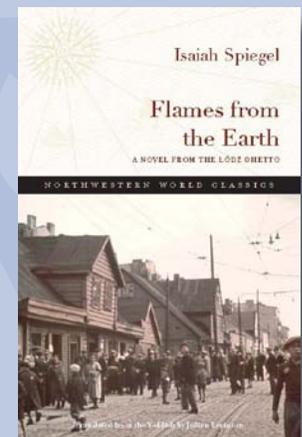
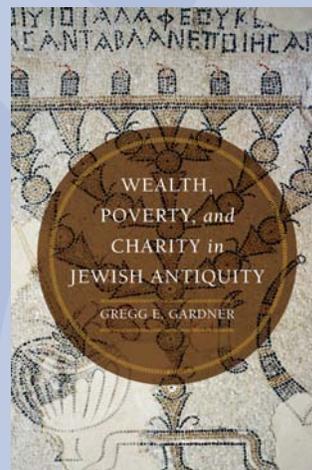
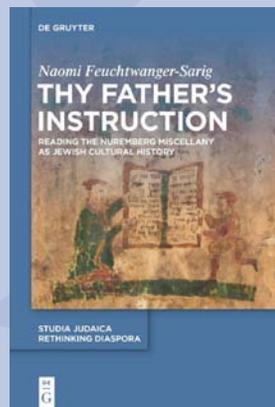
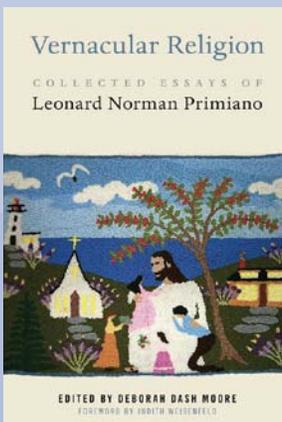
J. H. (Yossi/Jeffrey) Chajes, Past Undergraduate Student, Past Graduate Student, *The Kabbalistic Tree* (Penn State University Press 2022)

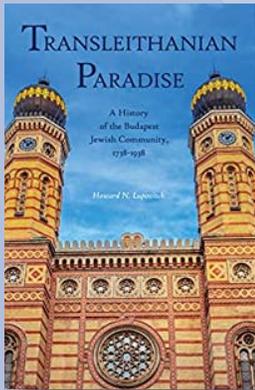
Gregg E. Gardner, Past Institute Fellow, *Wealth, Poverty, and Charity in Jewish Antiquity* (University of California Press 2022)

Deborah Dash Moore, Faculty, *Vernacular Religion: Essays by Leonard Norman Primiano* (New York University Press 2022)

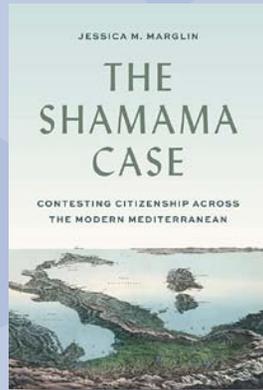
Julian Levinson, Faculty, *Flames from the Earth: A Novel from the Łódź Ghetto* (Northwestern University Press 2023)

Naomi Feuchtwanger-Sarig, Past Institute Fellow, *Thy Father's Instruction: Reading the Nuremberg Miscellany as Jewish Cultural History* (Based on 8\* Hs. 7058 of the Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nuremberg) (Rethinking Diaspora 2) (Berlin: De Gruyter 2022)

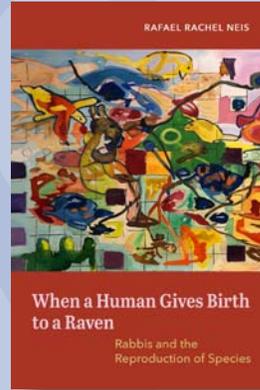




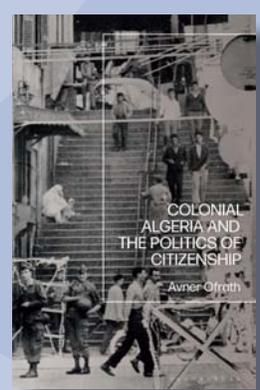
Howard Lupovitch, Past Institute Fellow, *Transleithanian Paradise: a History of the Budapest Jewish Community, 1738-1938* (Purdue University Press 2022)



Jessica Marglin, Past Institute Fellow, *The Shamama Case: Contesting Citizenship across the Modern Mediterranean* (Princeton University Press 2022)



Rafael Neis, Faculty, *When a Human Gives Birth to a Raven: Rabbis and the Reproduction of Species* (University of California Press 2023)



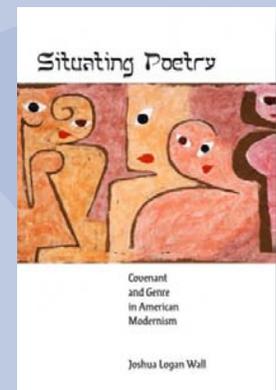
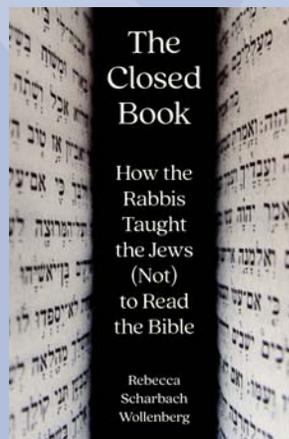
Avner Ofrath, Institute Fellow, *Colonial Algeria and the Politics of Citizenship* (Bloomsbury 2023)

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg, Faculty, *The Closed Book: How the Rabbis Taught the Jews (Not) To Read the Bible* (Princeton University Press 2023)

Ranen Omer-Sherman, Past Institute Fellow, *Amos Oz: The Legacy of a Writer in Israel and Beyond* (SUNY University Press 2023)

Joshua Logan Wall, Past Graduate Student, *Situating Poetry: Covenant and Genre in American Modernism* (Johns Hopkins University Press 2022)

Ella Shohat, Institute Fellow, *Colonialité et ruptures: Ecrits sur les figures juives arabes* (Lux Éditeur 2021)



Coming Up

# Here's Lookin' At You

Deborah Dash Moore



The theme of Jewish Visual Cultures informs the coming year of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, which I am leading together with Professor Richard I. Cohen of The Hebrew University. That theme also forms an important subject guiding several weeks of my course on Sources of Jewish History, as well as my forthcoming book, *Walkers in the City: Jewish Street Photographers of Midcentury New York* (Three Hills Press, September 2023).

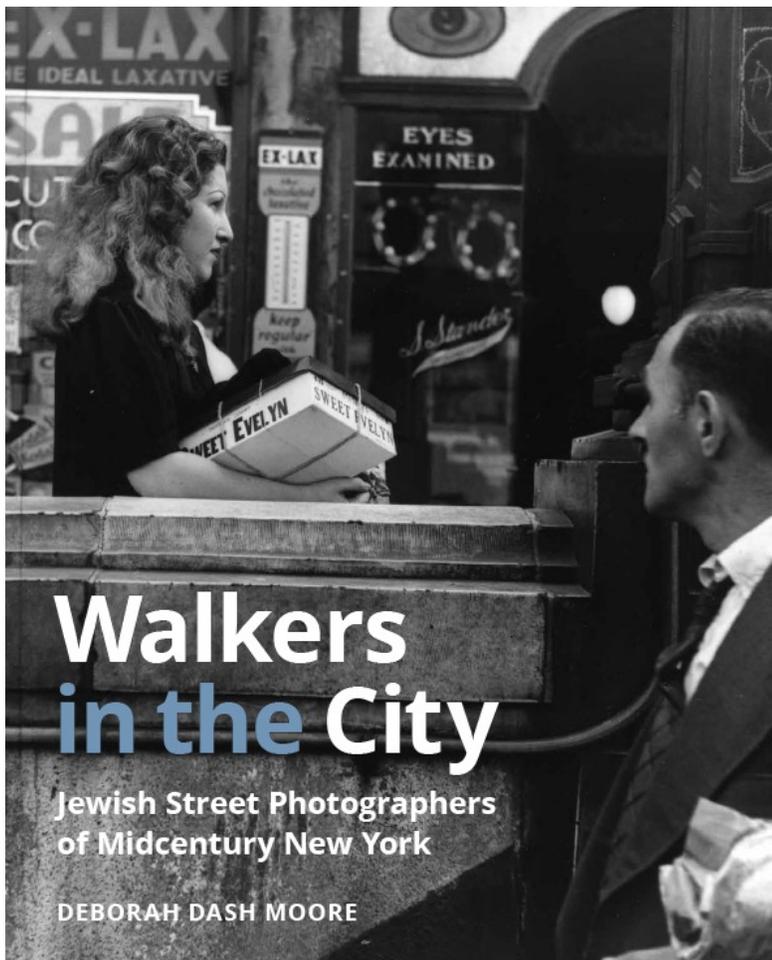
While we could probably agree that Jewish religious rituals and articles are inherently Jewish, how can we understand secular practices and objects as Jewish, that is, aside from stereotypes? By popular poll, bagels have become American, with no hyphen. But bagels with lox and cream cheese probably still qualify as Jewish. In my book, I argue that street photographs taken by New York Jews constitute a photographic genre that is Jewish in some respects.

*Walkers in the City* examines the vibrant street life of New York City through the eyes of young, second-generation Jews. These children of immigrants grew up in the city. They worked to document New York and thereby contribute to mutual recognition and understanding. Through their photographs, we can learn something about how they interacted with a range of working-class New Yorkers. The photos evidence complex reciprocities that include the photographer among those who notice and are noticed. "Photography," writes John Berger, "is the process of rendering observation self-conscious."

When I show slides to my class on the Sources of Jewish History, I ask students what, why, and how they see. For example, what connects and distinguishes a painting of "Jacob's Ladder" by the American Jewish artist Helen Frankenthaler and one by the Israeli artist Mikhail Grobman? How do Henryk Ross's challenging photographs of the Łódź Ghetto picture both privation and privilege?

This coming academic year, 14 scholars will gather at the Frankel Institute to explore multiple dimensions of Jewish visual cultures. We will analyze a range of objects and practices—photographs, architecture, exhibits, parades, fashion, and iconography—that invite our attention with respect to their Jewishness.

So, stay tuned. Here's lookin' at you!



# 2024–2025 Fellowship Opportunity

## Jewish/Queer/Trans

In this theme year, we aim to explore in the broadest possible ways how queer/trans studies intersect with studies of Jews, Jewishness, Judaism, and indeed Jewish Studies itself, from the full range of humanistic, artistic, activist, and social science perspectives. We thus intend to assemble a group of scholars, writers, and artists that will allow us to explore this set of fundamental issues across the temporal gamut of ancient to the present and in Middle Eastern, African, Asian, European, and American societal contexts.

*How might non-Ashkenazi or non-contemporary forms of Jewish ritual, theology, textuality, domesticity, kinship, or musical arts decenter Eurocentric defaults in queer and trans studies?*

ments and structures, knowledge paradigms, and communal boundaries: all key elements in the history of studies of Jews and Judaism. That is, how can insights from queer and trans studies enrich and complicate our understanding of the dispersed, diverse, and shifting histories of Jewish sexual cultures and gender systems, as well as social, cultural, and racialized formations of Jewishness more broadly. We are particularly interested in approaches that create dialogue among the sub-fields of Jewish Studies, queer

*What happens to Jewish Studies methods and archives when Queer of Color critiques are deployed to its sources and subjects?*

and trans studies that go beyond merely applying theoretical models to Jewish Studies.

The “Jewish/Queer/Trans” fellowship year will promote a tighter integration of queer/trans perspectives and methodologies into Jewish Studies, and contribute to the ongoing softening of boundaries between analyses focused on racial, sexual, or gendered difference.

The cohort will place an emphasis on collaborative projects and outputs; building support and mentoring networks; and public-facing scholarship.

*What forms of analysis might queer and trans theory enable in the study of Jewish texts, cultures, and history?*

*How might queering and trans-ing our understandings of key concepts like “archive,” temporality, historiography, and data allow for expanded inquiries within Social Science-based and Humanities-attuned subfields within Jewish studies?*

Applications are due by **November 6, 2023**  
For more information, and complete application materials go to [www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/institute](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/institute)



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