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JEAN & SAMUEL FRANKEL
CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

FALL 2022

FRANKELY SPEAKING



An Exciting Year Ahead

I am thrilled and honored to begin a three-year term as the Director of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Over the past 13 years, I have witnessed the center develop in exciting new directions as our faculty bring innovative methodological and theoretical insights to the study of Jewish societies and cultures across the globe.



I want to express my sincere gratitude to Scott Spector, the Rudolf Mrazek Collegiate Professor of History and German Studies, for his service as interim director during the 2021–2022 academic year. Scott accomplished a great deal this past year, including new appointments and promotions highlighted in this issue. His wise

stewardship of the Frankel Center enabled a smooth process of reopening and cautiously resuming in-person activities. My sincere thanks also go out to Shachar Pinsker, our continuing Associate Director, for his support of the center's pedagogical mission to reach a broad and diverse student body.

As the Frankel Center continues to grow, we are delighted to welcome a new faculty member this fall: **Yanay Israeli**, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and History. Yanay is an expert on late medieval and early modern Iberian social, legal, and cultural history. He researches the practice of petitioning to the Royal Council in late medieval Castile, and his new project concerns Jews and Muslims in 15th-century Castilian courts. We will feature his work in a future issue of *Frankely Speaking*, so keep an eye out for it. Welcome, Yanay!

I also wish to congratulate **Bryan Roby**, who has been promoted to associate professor with tenure. Roby's comparative research explores notions of race and blackness in Israeli society, focusing on the history of Mizrahi Jews. **Rachel Rafael Neis** returns from leave as a newly minted full professor of rabbinic literature with a forthcoming book on rabbinical notions of reproduction, species categorization, and animal-human hybridity. Mazal tov! Finally, **Deborah Forger**, spotlighted in this issue, has recently begun her teaching appointment at the Frankel Center and the department of Middle East Studies. She spent the past year as a research fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic

Studies, contributing to our discussions of diversity in Second Temple Judaism. We are so fortunate to have these accomplished colleagues in our midst.

The Frankel Institute has recently embarked on a yearlong exploration of "Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity." Our co-head fellows, professors Ruth Tsoffar (U-M) and Ella Shohat (NYU), have convened an international group of scholars, filmmakers, and artists, working at the intersection of Mizrahi history, politics, society, and culture. Tsoffar and Shohat will use this year to critically explore different methodologies and approaches to the study of the histories and struggles of Mizrahim (Middle Eastern and North African Jews). They seek to recenter this relatively marginalized group within Jewish studies and ask what would it mean to "open the house to the East," in the words of the poet Shelley Elkayam. We welcome the Institute fellows to Ann Arbor and hope that they find here a rich intellectual environment in which the most crucial questions of their fields can be articulated and addressed.

Over the past year, the Frankel Center has responded to the devastating war taking place in Ukraine by initiating conversations with Ukrainian scholars of Jewish studies and engaging, on a more theoretical level, with Jewish studies perspectives on Russian-Ukrainian relations. Featured on the cover of this issue is a photograph, taken by Lars Berg for the German Magazine *Bild*, of a father and son, Ascher and David Tscherkasskij. Both enlisted as soldiers in the defense of Ukraine against the Russian invasion. What makes them a newsworthy item in Germany is the fact they are practicing religious Jews. They defy Russian propaganda concerning the need to "denazify" Ukraine. During the Frankel Center's virtual event "Jewish Issues in Wartime Ukraine," featuring the Ukrainian scholar Vitaly Chernovianenko on April 27, 2022, we had the opportunity to discuss how different Jewish communities and their leaders have responded to the war. Our goal, in this event, as in the Frankel Summer Institute devoted to the study of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, was to explore the range of different Jewish responses to the war and reflect on the recycling of terms such as genocide, fascism, and Nazism. As part of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia initiative to assist Ukrainian scholars at risk, we welcome to the Frankel Center and the History department,

Continued on the next page

At the End of the Post-Soviet Epoch? Jews, Russia, Ukraine

By Professor Mikhail Krutikov

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24 has deeply upset the international order far beyond Eastern Europe. As the war continues with no end in sight, we as scholars are trying to comprehend its scope and assess possible consequences and repercussions. A small group of U-M faculty and graduate students, which also included a colleague from Moscow, gathered at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies for three meetings in May to share our views on the unfolding tragedy. Naturally, our discussions were informed by our different areas of expertise in Jewish Studies and Eastern European history, as well as by our respective disciplinary training in sociology, history, political science, and literature. We discussed the triad of Russians, Ukrainians, and Jews and reflected on the topics of history and memory, political and social identities, trauma, restitution, reconciliation, and representation.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 had a profound impact on Soviet Jews. Economic difficulties and political turmoil triggered the largest wave of Jewish emigration since the

early 20th century. Today, the overwhelming majority of Russian-speaking Jews live outside the borders of the Russian Federation. At the same time, the end of the communist regime opened many new opportunities for Jewish life in Russia and other former Soviet republics, first of all in Ukraine. Political and economic freedom enabled Jewish activists to create a vibrant network of religious, cultural, educational, and philanthropic organizations that were generously supported by local and international sponsors. As one of our colleagues noted, prior to the recent invasion, Jews had never had it so good in the Russian Empire or the Soviet Union.

Now it looks like this "gilded age" of post-Soviet Jewry has come to an end. The devastation of Ukraine, the tightening of Putin's regime in Russia and its increasing international isolation, and the Western economic sanctions that have already affected many sponsors of Jewish activities in Russia have triggered a new wave of emigration and made the operations of Jewish institutions increasingly difficult. Of course, this is just one—and by far not the most significant—

From the Director, continued

visiting scholar **Yurii Kaparulin**, Associate Professor of History at Kherson State University in Ukraine. Kaparulin's current research focuses on the Jewish agrarian settlements of Southern Ukraine in the first half of the 20th century. Frankel Center faculty and students will benefit from his deep knowledge of Jewish history in the region.

An exciting new year awaits us at the Frankel Center and Institute as we continue our mission of fostering open exchange and including a broad

variety of perspectives on Jewish life. You are all warmly invited to join us and engage in the vibrant intellectual community of Judaic Studies at Michigan.

Maya Barzilai

*Director of the Frankel Center
for Judaic Studies*

*Associate Professor of Hebrew Literature
and Jewish Culture*

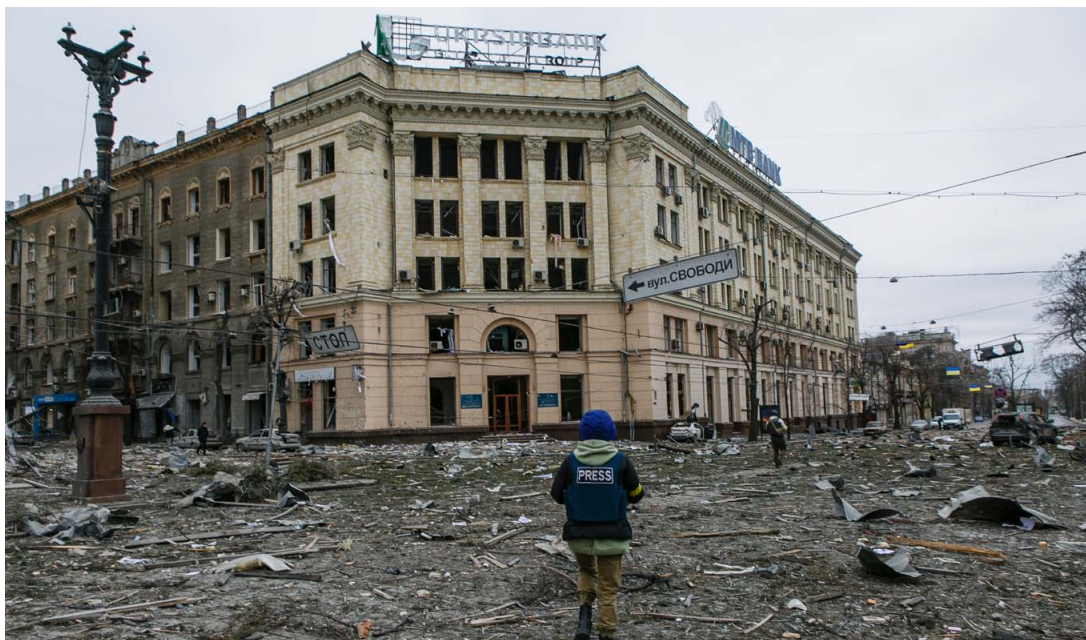
effect of the war. So far, Jews have not been directly targeted or affected on either side of the conflict. Still, the war has already created a split between Russian and Ukrainian Jews. In Ukraine, Jews profess their loyalty to their country as Ukrainian Jews, while in Russia some Jewish institutions and individuals have signaled their support of Russian imperialism and its policy. In essence, “post-Soviet Jewry” no longer exists. Should we, as scholars of Jewish studies, begin to take stock of that historical period by gathering sources and creating archives?

Can Jewish history, and especially the experience of Jews in Eastern Europe during the past century and a half, offer us a valuable perspective on current events and their political, social, and cultural contexts? We addressed this question in the first meeting of the Frankel Summer Institute. We decided to focus on two conceptual clusters where our expertise could be useful. One set of categories included nationalism, imperialism, and colonialism, which are central to the intellectual and political discourse around the war. Ukraine is often portrayed as a Russian colony fighting a war of national liberation, while Russia is seen as an aggressor trying to restore its imperial dominance in the region. Our group sought to add more nuance to this basic characterization of the conflict, comparing it to the better-known cases of British and French colonialism. Whereas Western imperialists stressed the racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious differences between the European colonizer and the “native” colonized, Russian colonial discourse has denied Ukraine any kind of separate identity. For Putin, a Ukrainian identity is an artificial concept invented by Russia’s enemies as part of their plan to undermine and eventually destroy Russia. This construction of Ukraine as simultaneously “Little Russia” and “Anti-Russia” looks, in some uncanny way, like a replica of the

Central European antisemitic bias in reverse. Whereas the European antisemites resented Jewish assimilation and sought to stress Jewish difference, Putin’s policy, on the contrary, aims to eliminate Ukraine by fully absorbing it into Russia.

During our second and third meetings we discussed the current use of terms related to the Holocaust and the Nazi regime. For the Russian propaganda apparatus, the claim that the democratic Ukrainian state is a “neo-Nazi regime” carrying out a “genocide” of the Russian-speaking population serves as a powerful tool for justifying this policy. This reference appeals in a crude and distorted way to the memories of the Second World War and the Holocaust. In their turn, the Ukrainians and some Western observers and commentators accuse Russia of perpetrating acts of genocide against the Ukrainian people, inevitably also bringing up the Holocaust, which largely took place in Ukraine. Ukraine had its own trauma of genocide, known as Holodomor, a famine that was deliberately inflicted on Ukrainian peasants by Stalin’s regime in 1932–1933, when more than three million people starved to death. Memories of these and other traumatic events are now being revitalized in public discourses and mobilized in political propaganda. Some commentators, most notably the prominent Yale historian Timothy Snyder, argue that today’s Russia is a fascist state.

To what extent are these and other concepts developed to describe the events of the turbulent 20th century applicable to our understanding of the 21st century conflicts? We hope to continue our discussion of these questions in the coming academic year and invite all who are interested to reach out to the Frankel Center so that we can reflect together about this terrible war and its destructive consequences.



01 March 2022: Press in the destroyed center of the city of Kharkiv. — Photo by Pavel Dorogoy

New Faculty

Deborah Forger

The Frankel Center is pleased to welcome Deborah Forger as a new instructor for fall 2022.

As a scholar of Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity, Forger received her PhD from the University of Michigan, where she continued her career as a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies during the 2017–2018 Theme Year, “Jews and the Material in Antiquity” and as a research fellow in Judaic Studies and Middle East Studies. Her current research intentionally crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries to examine the early understanding of God’s body in the developing religions of Judaism and Christianity.

Her first book project, *God’s Bodies in Ancient Jewish Tradition: Embodied, Materialized, and Sense-perceptible Forms*, “explores how ideas about God’s body present an unexpected point of convergence between the emerging religions of Judaism and Christianity. By examining excerpts from first-century Jewish authors such as Philo and Josephus, as well as portions of texts that would later be grouped into collections known as the Pseudepigrapha, Apocrypha, Dead Sea Scrolls, and New Testament, I investigate how ancient Jews, including those who followed Jesus, depicted God in bodily form and humans as divine.” She has been awarded a Leslie Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship at Dartmouth College; a Frankel Fellowship; the Radcliffe/Ramsdell Fellowship; the Lipschutz, Host, and Smith Fellowship; the Michigan Center for the Study of Early Christianity Award; and the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann (DZL) fellowship, a multi-year national dissertation award for her work on this project.

Forger first became interested in this area of research after traveling to Israel for the first time in high school:

“As I climbed in the caves near Qumran that housed the Dead Sea Scrolls, explored archaeological discoveries in the Old City of Jerusalem, and marveled at the architectural feats of Herod the Great, the stories I had read in the Bible from my early childhood transitioned from black and white words on the page to vivid colored images.

“I was hooked.

“From that moment on, I wanted to know everything that I could about the history, languages, texts, and material culture from this formative period of history from which the Bible, as well as the religions of Judaism and Christianity, ultimately emerged....Every day is a new day of discovery. Whether I’m translating portions of the Septuagint or the Dead Sea Scrolls, reading excerpts from Philo of Alexandria or the Jewish historian Josephus, or even a text from the Pseudepigrapha, such as the Testament of Abraham, I’m discovering something new about the beauty and complexity of this period of Jewish history.”

As a U–M instructor, Forger aims to focus on her students’ well-being alongside their education, showing how the study of antiquity has



meaning for us in the present day. She teaches classes related to the Bible as well as courses that explore more fully the formative periods of history from which Judaism and Christianity emerged. Next year, she will be teaching courses on “Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World,” “The Bible as a Material Object,” and “The Parting(s) of the Ways between Judaism and Christianity.” She hopes to be able to offer courses on topics such as “The Jewish Jesus” and “The New Testament in its Jewish Context” in the future as well.

For Forger, the University of Michigan offered a space to study these Jewish texts and traditions in relation to one another, “without the confines of later-dating canonical categories, especially in relation to broader languages, material evidence, and archaeological discoveries from the ancient Mediterranean world.” She’s thrilled to continue her work as part of the faculty at the University of Michigan, and looks forward to participating actively at the Frankel Center.

Forger’s next book-length project will explore how the early followers of Jesus heard God’s voice through their bodies—through both their eyes and ears, through their sense of sight and hearing—and therefore through both material texts and oral storytelling/audible readings. By invoking the theoretical framework of David Howe’s *Empire of the Senses* (2005), as well as the subsequent scholarship that has led to a ‘sensual turn’ that has swept its way across the humanities, and the recent ‘material turn’ in the study of religion (i.e., Hazard 2013), this project will attend to the vital materiality of speech itself and the materialization of oral accounts related to Jesus. Within this work, Forger will argue that because speaking creates sound, and sounds become perceptible to persons through their sense of hearing, voice itself can concretize Israel’s God. It can offer a means by which the God of Israel becomes tangible to the bodily senses; it can render God accessible in the somatic realm. In this manner, the project seeks to dismantle false binaries between the body and the intellect, the material and the oral, by making the categories more complex themselves. Related to this work, her article, “Hearing God’s Word(s): Aurality, Epistemology, and Embodiment in the Gospel of John,” was published in the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*.

Faculty Spotlight

Devi Mays

Associate Professor Devi Mays is trained as a historian of Ladino-speaking Jewry, and Mediterranean Jewry more broadly, in the 19th and 20th centuries. She has been with the Frankel Center since 2014 and has been a fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies during the 2014–15 Theme Year “Jews and Empires” and the 2018–2019 Theme Year “Sephardic Identities: Medieval and Early Modern.”

Mays is currently working with her colleague, Julia Phillips Cohen (Vanderbilt University), on a series of articles and a book focusing on a wide and dense network of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish tastemakers—art dealers and art collectors, fashion designers, opera and theater performers—in Belle Époque and interwar Paris. This current project has its roots in questions that confronted her in the material she found while researching and writing her first book, *Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora* (Stanford University Press, 2020), and in the unexpected chaos of COVID-19 beginning in 2020.

One of the reasons Mays is drawn to history as a discipline “is to uncover and try to recount the histories and experiences of people on an individual and family level. While tracking one such family—the Babanis—I found whiffs of a Babani family in Paris that created a house of *haute couture*, and became the second fashion house to launch its own perfume line, even before Coco Chanel. When the pandemic and the inability to travel for research made the project I had been working on no longer feasible, I began to research the Paris branch of the Babani family. I reached out to Julia [Phillips Cohen], and we discovered that we both had been researching this family. So we decided to work collaboratively on this new project.”

“A public research university with motivated students, one of the top programs in the country for both Judaic Studies and History, with faculty whose work she finds intellectually stimulating. In short, an institution where I could continually grow as a scholar and teacher.”

Mays describes being able to work with Phillips Cohen on this project as one of the “most fulfilling aspects of this research. Working collaboratively is relatively rare in the humanities compared to social sciences and STEM. The several years that Julia and I have spent researching, discussing, and writing together convinced me that such collaborative work would greatly benefit the humanities. Being a historian can be a very solitary endeavor, and being able to share the joys of discovery with someone equally invested, and to draw individually on our own strengths as scholars, researchers,



and writers while creating something fully collaborative, has made this project possible and pushed me more intellectually than I would have thought possible. On the level of the

research itself, it’s incredibly exciting to be able to piece together a history that challenges so many entrenched assumptions in Jewish, European, gender, fashion, and art histories through the experiences of Middle Eastern and North African Jewish women and men who were at the center of avant-garde European culture.”

Ever since graduate school, the University of Michigan has been Mays’ dream institution to work for: “A public research university with motivated students, one of the top programs in the country for both Judaic Studies and History, with faculty whose work she finds intellectually stimulating. In short, an institution where I could continually grow as a scholar and teacher.” Mays was awarded the Dorothy Rosenberg Prize of the American Historical Association for her book *Forging Ties, Forging Passports: Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora*. The Dorothy Rosenberg Prize for the history of the Jewish diaspora recognizes the most distinguished work of scholarship on the history of the Jewish diaspora published in English during the previous calendar year. In making its selection, the prize committee pays particular attention to depth of research, methodological innovation, conceptual originality, and literary excellence. Her book also won the 2021 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category of Modern Jewish History and Culture: Africa, Americas, Asia and Oceania and the Alixa Naff Migration Studies Prize from The Moise Khayrallah Center for Lebanese Diaspora Studies.

Mays has also translated a number of novellas and novels from Ladino into English, which she hope to publish. Only a handful of Ladino works have been translated into English, resulting in little Sephardi literature being taught in classes on Jewish literatures or being familiar to a broader public. The novels and novellas Mays has translated all engage with aspects of Sephardi experiences in the 20th century: intergenerational conflict; the political and social repercussions of nationalism, revolution, and war; intermarriage; migration; and changing expectations of gender. They are pieces of literature that could hopefully help Ladino cultural production be included within the Jewish literary canon.

Barzilai Begins Term as Director of Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Maya Barzilai began her term as Director of the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies on July 1, 2022. Barzilai is Associate Professor of Hebrew literature and Jewish culture at the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, and in the departments of Middle East Studies and Comparative Literature. She has been a member of the Frankel Center faculty since 2009, served as Associate Director of the Center for three semesters, from winter 2019 to winter 2020, and served as co-head fellow of the Frankel Institute during the 2020–2021 “Translating Jewish Cultures” theme year. She will be working with the 2022–23 co-head fellows, Dr. Ruth Tsoffar and Dr. Ella Shohat, on the current theme year, “Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity.” The incoming cohort of fellows will comprise both scholars in residence in Ann Arbor and scholars working remotely this fall, and will offer both virtual and in-person public events throughout the academic year. Barzilai expresses her enthusiasm as she steps into her new role:

I am very fortunate to fill this leadership role as the Frankel Center continues to expand and thrive, owing to the efforts and creativity of our previous directors.

The Frankel Center and Institute see it as their mission to tackle the pressing issues and questions of current scholarship in Jewish studies and of our times more generally. In this vein, our public programming and course offerings underscore multiple Jewish frameworks for contending with current political, social, and legal issues and bring to the foreground under-represented groups and voices within Jewish studies.

Maya Barzilai’s scholarship explores the development of modern Hebrew literature through practices of translation, adaptation, and cultural exchange, primarily with German literature. Her first book, *Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters*, appeared in 2016 from NYU Press. It received the Jordan Schnitzer Book Prize (2017) in the category of Jewish Literature and Linguistics. Her book, *Golem, How He Came into the World*, an in-depth study of Paul Wegener’s 1920 Weimar film classic, was published by Camden House in 2020.

“I am especially happy to have the support of an incredible team: our chief administrator, Cheri Thompson, soon to celebrate 18 years of committed and outstanding work at the Frankel Center; our enthusiastic and knowledgeable student service coordinator, Sarah Kuljian; our events and public relations coordinator, Jillian Luciw, without whom this beautiful issue and every other invitation and event at the Frankel Center and Institute would not be possible; and, last but not least, Michele Fleming, our new executive assistant (featured in these pages). I really look forward to a productive and stimulating year at the Frankel Center and Institute.”



Barzilai is currently completing a book entitled *Translation Beyond Zionism: The Politics of Emotion in German-Hebrew Literary Exchanges*. The book explores early 20th-century translation between German and Hebrew (and vice versa), uncovering the intense debates around the value and significance of translation within a Zionist framework. Barzilai comments that her “work offers a vocabulary of emotions and attitudes—fondness and love, loss and sorrow, empathy, and disavowal—that brings into relief the political and cultural stakes of translation between Hebrew and German.”

The Frankel Center for Judaic Studies is excited to welcome Maya Barzilai as Director.

New Staff

Michele Fleming

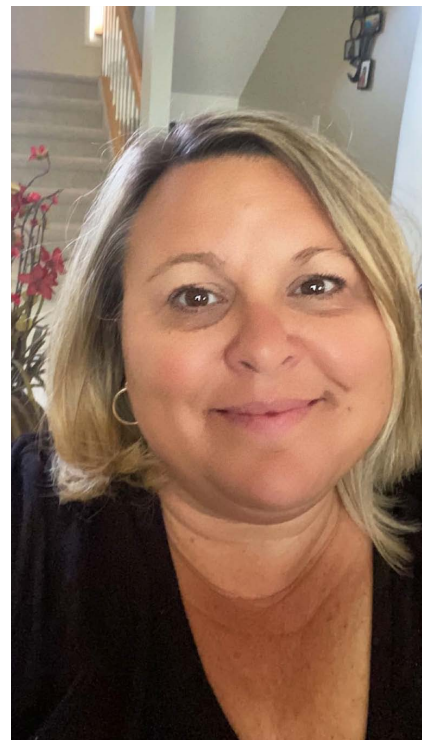
Executive Assistant

Michele Fleming recently joined the Frankel Center Staff as the new Executive Assistant. In this role, she offers professional and administrative support to the director and chief administrator of the department. Michele has 17 years of experience serving as an Executive Assistant in public education in the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and Livonia Public Schools districts; in her most recent position she provided high-level support to the Director of the Middle School Virtual Academy at Plymouth-Canton. Michele has a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Madonna University.

Having always worked in education and enjoyed contributing to learning environments, Michele reflects on taking on her new role in higher education:

“While I enjoyed my various roles in K-12 education, I was seeking new challenges and growth opportunities so I decided to make the transition... Working in a university setting opens you up to enriching experiences.”

Michele looks forward to supporting the Judaic Studies Department in an administrative capacity and spending time in Ann Arbor. She enjoys the city’s “exciting energy. There is always something going on. The vibe is friendly and accepting. I like being able to walk and take it all in. I look forward to trying local restaurants and shops.” Outside work, Michele enjoys spending time with her family and traveling, especially international travel. When she’s not at work, Michele enjoys DIY home projects, sports, and entertaining.



Frankely Judaic presents the research of faculty, fellows, or students in interesting and creative segments. Hosted by Jeremy Shere from NPR’s “Moment of Science” and “Sound Medicine.”

Listen on our website

<https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/resources/frankely-judaic-podcasts.html>

Frankel Center Fall 2022

Upcoming Events

A Jewish Race Scientist in Twentieth-Century Britain

Todd M. Endelman

September 22, 12pm

This is a hybrid lecture in Room 2022 South Thayer Building.

Zoom registration:

<https://myumi.ch/RWNV4>

No Straight Lines: Peculiar Pasts and Crooked Futures: Symposium in Honor of Geoff Eley

September 29

Rackham Graduate School Assembly Hall

September 30–October 1, 1014 Tisch Hall

Mizrahi Prose and Poetry: Meet the Authors

Tehila Hakimi, Shlomi Hatuka, Amira Hess, Adi Keissar, Mati Shemuelof, Yossi Sucary

October 3, 12pm

Virtual

Zoom Registration:

<https://myumi.ch/n8bxy>

Jewish and Christian Women in the Ancient Mediterranean

Meredith Warren, Sara Parks, Shayna Sheinfeld

October 20, 4pm

Hybrid Lecture

Henderson Room

(3rd floor, Michigan League)

Zoom Registration:

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/99282046745>

Jews of Algeria in Light of Modern Studies: Major Trends and New Horizons

Amina Boukail with the Jewish Muslim Research Network

October 25, 1pm

Zoom Registration:

<https://myumi.ch/RWq4G>



Padnos Public Engagement on Jewish Learning Lecture: “Remnants of a Mighty Nation”: Jews Through the Eyes of American Christians

Julian Levinson

November 1, 7pm

Hybrid Lecture

Loosemore Auditorium, DeVos Center, Grand Valley State University

Zoom Registration:

<https://myumi.ch/DJN9M>

“Can a Literary Mafia Affect Your Choice of Books?”: Jews, Publishing, and American Literature

Josh Lambert

November 3, 1:30pm

Hybrid Lecture

2022 South Thayer Building

Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/kyJmr>

New on the Mizrahi Bookshelf: Meet the Scholars

Merav Alush–Levron, Inbal Blau, Yali Hashash, Noa Hazan, Naphtaly Shem–Tov

November 8, 12pm

Hybrid Event

Room TBA

Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/7e8NN>

“Where is Anne Frank” Film Screening

Ari Folman

November 10, 5:30pm

Rackham Amphitheatre – Fourth Floor

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Fall Symposium: “Mizrahi Studies at the Intersection: Rewriting Body, Language, and Cultural Memory”

November 30, 10am–5:30pm

Hybrid

Rackham East and West Conference Rooms

Zoom Registration: <https://myumi.ch/wMPxz>

Mazel Tov!

Faculty



Joshua Cole contributed an essay for the catalog for The National Museum of Immigration in Paris' special exhibition, "Jews and Muslims of France," from April 5 to July 17, 2022. His book, *Lethal Provocation: The Constantine Murders and the Politics of French Algeria* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2019) provided the basis for a portion of the exhibit.



Shachar Pinsker was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research, the oldest organization of Judaic scholars in North America. Fellows are nominated and elected by their peers and therefore represent the most distinguished and most senior scholars teaching Judaic studies at American universities. He also published "Yiddish in Israel: A History by Rachel Rojanski (review)" in *AJS Review* and was invited to serve as a visiting professor at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.



Bryan Roby published "Not All Who Ascend Remain: Afro-Asian Jewish Returnees from Israel" in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, "How Race Travels: Navigating Global Blackness in J. Ida Jiggetts's Study of Afro-Asian Israeli Jewry" in *Jewish Social Studies*.



Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg received the National Society of Biblical Literature's 2022 A. R. Pete Diamond Award for Integrative Scholarship.



Ryan Szpiech published "The Book of Nestor the Priest and the Toledot Yešu in the Polemics of Abner of Burgos/Alfonso of Valladolid," which appears in: *Polemical and Exegetical Polarities in Medieval Jewish Cultures: Studies in Honour of Daniel J. Lasker*; "Turning and Returning: Religious Conversion and Personal Testimony in Medieval Iberian Societies" which appears in: *The Routledge Companion to Medieval Iberia: Unity in Diversity*; and "Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Medieval Europe" which appears in *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Europe*. He was also named Director of the U-M Center for Middle East and North African Studies and presented a paper, "Shapes of Turning: Conversion and Translation in Medieval Iberia (and Beyond)," delivered at Translating the Americas: Early Modern Jewish Writing on the New World conference at Washington University, St. Louis. He also directed the dissertation of Luis Miguel Dos Santos, "Remote Origins: Translation, Genealogy, and Alterity in Medieval Castile (1252-circa 1390)" (defended 2021), who recently began a tenure-track job at Hamilton College.



Genevieve Zubrzycki received the Bronislaw Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences from The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America and published the article "Jan Gross' Neighbors and Poland's Narrative Shock" in *The Jewish Quarterly Review*; she was also a co-organizer of the conference "What's New, What's Next Conference" at the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews (Warsaw) on October 7, 2021.

Fellows



Michal Artzy-Hillel, 2009-10, published "Using archaeological data for the understanding of Late-Holocene Sea of Galilee's level fluctuations" in *Nature, Scientific Reports*, "Late Bronze II Cypriot counterparts from the Tell abu Hawam anchorage: The White Slip Ware," in *Aura Supplement 9*, "The Lower Qishon Late Bronze Age Terrestrial and Maritime Network" in *Complutum 33*, and "Sailing Memories: Graffiti of Ships from Maresha," *Israel Antiquities Authority*. A book was published in her honor: *Nomads of the Mediterranean*, edited by Ayelet Gilboa and Assaf Yassar Landau.



Rodney Caruthers II, 2021-22, who has a forthcoming publication "Ordain, Ordination" in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, served as a Co-Chair for the Virtual Enoch Seminar's Studies in "Second Temple Judaism: A Global Enterprise," and presented a paper on "From Solomon to Tacitus: Jewish Lore in Ethiopia during the Second Temple Period." He was an invited speaker for SAJE (Seminars for Adult Jewish Enrichment) where he presented a lecture on "Jewish Reimaginings of Magic and the Limits of its Prohibition in Second Temple Literature," was a responder to Luca Bragalini's presentation of "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Black King of the Bible in Duke Ellington's Symphonic Triptych 'Three Black Kings'" hosted by the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies and Middle East Studies at the University of Michigan, and completed a review of *Papyri and the Social World of the New Testament* by Sabine Huebner for the *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* (forthcoming).



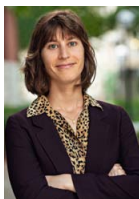
Suzi C Dessel, 2013–14, her recently completed micrographic artwork “HA LAMAOT” has been accepted for inclusion in the 2023 “Tzedek Box” exhibit at the Bernard

Heller Museum HUC/JIR (NYC).



Yaakov Herskovotz, 2019–20, received the Lubin Prize from Hebrew University of Jerusalem; received the Jona Goldrich postdoctoral fellowship, a two-year appointment in the Yiddish

studies program at Tel Aviv University; was appointed as an adjunct lecturer in the Yiddish Studies program at Hebrew University for the school years 2021–23; organized and delivered the first-ever panel devoted to Yiddish literature in the international writers festival in Jerusalem; and received grants from the national fund for Yiddish culture and from the national lottery of Israel for the publication of a book on the Hebrew poet Avot Yeshurun.



Amy Kerner, 2019–20, received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities and a guest fellowship at Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture —

Simon Dubnow, Leibniz, Germany. She also published the article “Indios, Negros, and Criollos: The Racial Anxieties of Argentine Yiddish” in *Jewish Social Studies*.



Rachel Kranson, 2013–14, published “History Shows that the First Amendment Should Protect Abortion” in the *Washington Post*. She was also named Director of the Jewish

Studies program at the University of Pittsburgh.



Alex Moshkin, 2020–21, received the Salo Wittmayer Baron New Voices in Jewish Studies Award from Columbia and Fordham universities; published “Russophone Literary

Journals in Israel: Global Networks, Visual Analysis, and Diasporic Cultures” in *Canadian-American Slavic Studies*; and was appointed Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature at Koc University in Istanbul.



Alona Nitzan-Shiftan, 2007–08, published “Silencing Palestinian Architectural History in Israel: Reflections on Scholarship and Activism” in *International Journal of*

Islamic Architecture; “Mediterraneanism in Conflict: Development and Settlement of Palestinian Refugees and Jewish Immigrants in Gaza and Yamit” in *Ethnic and Racial Studies Journal*; “Layered Networks: Beyond the Local and the Global in Postcolonial Modernism” in *Rethinking Global Modernism: Architectural Historiography and the Postcolonial*; and “From Revolt to Declaration—Toward a Postmodern Journey in Tel Aviv-Jaffa: Editors’ Introduction” in *Jeremie Hoffman and Elad Horn, PoMo: Architecture of Privatization—Post-Modernism in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, 1977–2003* (Hebrew). She also received grants from the Israel Science Foundation for the study “The Rise and Demise of Global Haifa: An Architectural and Urban History of Networked Modernities (1905–1951)”; from the Ministry of Science, Digital Humanities, for “Experiential Historiography of Haifa: A Generative Digital Platform for the Preservation of Spatial Narratives,” PI; and from the Cyprus Excellence Program for “Uneasy but Shared Heritage: Modern Hotel Architecture on a Divided Island.” Nitzan-Shiftan also received a promotion to Full Professor.



Megan Nutzman, 2017–18, was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Old Dominion University.



Eli Rosenblatt, 2019–20, accepted a position as the Wallerstein Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at Drew University.



Yael Sela, 2020–21, published “Sacred Poetry, Eternal Felicity, and the Redemption of Israel: Ovadiah Sforno’s Commentary on Psalms in the Berlin Haskalah” in *European Journal of Jewish Studies* and “Fashioning Biblical Poetry as a Diasporic Motherland in the Berlin Haskalah” in *Azimuth*.



Andrea Siegel, 2012–13, completed her MSW through Louisiana State University, LCSWA clinical social work licensure earned in North Carolina, and received a 2021–2022 residency in

Spirituality and Psychotherapy completed through Wake Forest University (Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist).



Juan Manuel Tebes, 2017–18, published “Midian” in *C. Matthews* (ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Biblical Studies*. New York, Oxford University Press.



Beth Wenger, Past Fellow, received the 2022 Lee Max Friedman Award Medal from the American Jewish Historical Society for distinguished service, scholarship, and leadership within the field of American Jewish history.

Alumni



Pavel Brunssen, graduate student, was a keynote speaker at the conference on “Antisemitismus und Profifußball: Herausforderungen, Chancen, Netzwerk” / “Antisemitism and

Professional Football: Challenges, Opportunities, Network” on March 30, 2022 at Borussia Dortmund’s stadium, “Signal Iduna Park,” and was jointly organized by the Deutsche Fussball Liga (DFL), Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland, and the World Jewish Congress.



Saskia Coenen Snyder, past graduate student, received a 2022–23 Residential Holocaust Research Infrastructure (funded by the European Union)

and will be the new Interim Director of the Jewish Studies Program at the University of South Carolina.

Sara Halpern, past graduate student, received the Best Dissertation Award from the Ohio Academy of History and has accepted a three-year lectureship in Jewish History at Cardiff University in Wales, UK.

Erica Lehrer, past graduate student, published the article “Materiality and Holocaust Memory: Activating and Theorizing Poland’s Unquiet Places” in *Jewish Quarterly Review* and launched the new website www.thinkingthroughthemuseum.org as the project PI.



Marie Pattipati, past undergraduate student, was a John B. Angell Scholar and received a Jewish Democratic Council of America Fellowship. She also published “Role of Family in

Refugee Adjustment: Experiences of Hmong, Somali, and Syrian Refugees in the United States” in *Journal of Adversity and Resilience Science* and “Narrative Subversion of Acknowledgment and Denial within ex-Nazi Memoirs” in *Deep Blue Michigan*. She was also accepted into the MSW Global and Public Policy program and the Jewish Communal Leadership Program at the University of Michigan.



Andrew Reiter, past undergraduate student, began his graduate studies in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin. He is also interning with the Congressional

Research Service working with the Legislative Information Services division.



Joshua Scott defended his dissertation, “Second Temple Jewish Messianism as Social Political Discourse.”



Sam Shuman, past graduate student, gave two lectures: the “Jews in Modern Europe” series at Harvard and the “Rabin-Shvidler Post-doc-toral Fellowship Lecture” and organized a roundtable

about the film *Brussels Transit*. He will begin a new job this fall as a visiting assistant professor in anthropology at Davidson College.

Announcing the 2022–2023 Frankel Institute Fellows

Led by co-head fellows Ruth Tsoffar and Ella Shohat.

The theme is: “Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity.”

In the upcoming year, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies “will focus on the theme of “Mizrahim and the Politics of Ethnicity.” Under the leadership of 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, 13 scholars from three countries will explore interdisciplinary and intersectional conversations on the meaning of ethnicity in the study of Mizrahi (Arab–Jewish) culture. The group consists of a dynamic forum of scholars from a variety of disciplines aiming to reflect and further expand, diversify, and theorize the discussion of Jewish/Israeli society and culture.

Whereas Mizrahim have become more visible and prolific in Jewish and Israeli cultures, they are still underrepresented, even invisible, in Judaic and Ethnic Studies. In Israel and within global Jewish communities, Mizrahim have historically been constructed as ‘*Edot*, ethnic groups, within a hierarchical discourse of the Ashkenazi culture which has been dominant in contemporary Israel. This has reduced a diverse group of people to essentialized objects of anthropological study, obscuring their complexity and interconnectedness. But once released from this binary paradigm, subjectivity and agency emerge, and the intersections of “the ethnic” within frameworks of gender, class, sexuality, queerness, and dis/ability can be rendered tangible.

The cohort looks to explore and grapple with questions such as: What are the political, economic, and cultural challenges confronting people of Mizrahi descent? What are their struggles for inclusion and

advancement in both Israel and abroad? How should we undo cultural myths and practices of exclusion? What should the critique of logical systems, categories, and hierarchies in Israeli/Jewish culture be? What connections can we draw between the study of Mizrahim and that of Palestinians and other minorities? How does one compare or translate ethnic relations and conflicts? How can we write new histories and narratives of Mizrahi experiences? How can scholarship on Mizrahim enrich conversations on ethnicity within Judaic Studies? The fellows will explore these themes together and share their scholarship via several public events throughout the year.

By bringing together a diverse group of scholars who approach the material from a variety of perspectives within the humanities and social sciences, the Frankel Institute hopes to develop new understandings of Mizrahim and the politics of ethnicity.

The 2022–23 Frankel fellows and their fields of research follow on the next page. ➔

2022–2023 Frankel Institute Fellows



Merav Alush-Levron

Tel-Aviv University
“The Politics of Self-Representation in Contemporary Israeli Cinema and Television: Mizrahim Beyond the Construction of Loss and Subjection”

Mizrahim Beyond the Construction of Loss and Subjection”

Merav Alush-Levron is a scholar of Israeli culture specializing in the study of Israeli identities in film, television, and video art. Central to her scholarship is the in-depth examination of Mizrahi identity in Israeli culture. In her book, *Under Eastern Eyes: Identity and Self-Representation in Israeli Cinema* (Tel Aviv: Am Oved [Hebrew], 2021), Alush-Levron investigates the performative self-representation of Mizrahim in contemporary Israeli documentary cinema. She draws on postcolonial, post-secular, and feminist theories to define and depict Mizrahi identity politics in Israeli culture and society. Alush-Levron is also an activist who promotes distributive justice and gender equality.



Gil Anidjar

Columbia University
“What’s in a Frame?”

Gil Anidjar teaches in the Department of Religion and the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of *The Jew, the Arab: A History of the Enemy* (Stanford, 2003) and *Semites: Race, Religion, Literature* (Stanford 2008). Among his essays are “Muslims Jews” (2009) and “Muslims (Shoah, Nakba)” (2018).

African Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of *The Jew, the Arab: A History of the Enemy* (Stanford, 2003) and *Semites: Race, Religion, Literature* (Stanford 2008). Among his essays are “Muslims Jews” (2009) and “Muslims (Shoah, Nakba)” (2018).



Shirly Bahar

Columbia University
“In Formation: Visualizing the Racialization of the Middle Eastern Jew, 1882–1948”

Shirly Bahar teaches at

Columbia University’s School of Visual Arts. Bahar’s writing and curatorial work explores the relationships between representation, politics, and the body. Bahar has published articles about film, performance art, literature, gender, and queer representation from Israel/Palestine, Turkey, and the United States. Since 2013, she has been curating art shows, public programs, and community events in New York City and across the United States. Bahar’s first book, *Documentary Cinema in Israel–Palestine: Performance, the Body, the Home* came out in July 2021 with Bloomsbury/IB Tauris.



Rafael Balulu

Israel Institute of Technology

“Thoughts about the Possibility Offered by the ‘Metaverse’ on Mizrahi History and Aesthetics”

Rafael Balulu is an award-

winning filmmaker. He is the director of the films *A Song of Loves* (2015) about R. David Buzaglo and *Levantine* (2019) about Jacqueline Kahanoff, among others. Balulu participated in the Berlinale Talent Campus in 2008, 2011, and 2012. He also participated at the TIFF Talent Lab and the Greenhouse Film Centre. Balulu has produced, written, and directed projects for television, and eight short films which won international prizes. Among them are *Such Eyes*, winner of the NYC Shorts; *Batman at the Checkpoint*, winner of the Berlin Today Award at the 62nd Berlinale; and *We Were a Sterile Bomb*, winner of Best Short Animation at the Jerusalem International Film Fest. Balulu teaches at the Israeli Institute of Technology.



Inbal Blau (Maimon)

Ono Academic College
“Mizrahi Discourse on Traditional Justice — The Cases of Ringworm Treatment and Yemeni Children in Israel”

Inbal Blau is an assistant professor on the Faculty of Law at Ono Academic College. Blau was a postdoctoral fellow at Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel and the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. The winner of a prestigious ISEF Foundation Scholarship for Outstanding Researchers, Blau earned her PhD, LL.M., and LL.B. from the Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University. For about a decade, she worked as a lawyer in the private and the public sectors. Her book on compensation for victims of mass events appeared with the Sacher Institute, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University. Some of her articles have been cited and mentioned in various rulings of the Israeli Supreme Court and the district courts.



Yali Hashash

Tel-Aviv University
“Mizrahi Feminism between Class, Religion, and Nationalism: A New Comparative Framework”

Yali Hashash is a Mizrahi

queer feminist academic. She received a PhD in Jewish History (Haifa University, 2011). Her research interests include social history of 19th and 20th century Palestine and the Middle East, poverty, gender, nationalism, ethnicity, and reproduction. Her book *Whose Daughter Are You: Ways of Speaking Mizrahi Feminism* was published in 2022. In 2019, Hashash founded the Gender and Criminology program in Or Yehuda Community College as an accessible learning space. She is a founding member of the Women Historians Forum in Isha l’isha Feminist Research Center for Middle East and Israeli society women historians, and co-heads the Oral History Laboratory in Tel Aviv University, which focuses on subaltern lives.



Gal Levy

The Open University of Israel
“What Kind of Diversity Are We?': Reading Mizrahi from the Occident”

Gal Levy (PhD, LSE) is a senior teaching faculty &

researcher at the Open University, Israel. He held visiting appointments at the University of Kansas and Cambridge University (CRASSH). Levy has published extensively on the intersection of education and citizenship and on class and ethnic voting in Israel. His article on protest and radical democracy in Israel (*Israeli Sociology*, 2016) was awarded the Best Published Hebrew Article by The Israeli Political Science Association. Levy is currently engaged in a three-year research project funded by the Israel Science Foundation on Citizenship education in Israel. In recent years, he has been engaged in studying poverty and activism with a research team comprising academics and activists (many of whom themselves live in poverty). In 2022, Levy was the first recipient of the distinguished award of civic and community engagement of the Israeli Political Science Association.



Liron Mor

University of California, Irvine
“Intention: The Racialization of Truth and the Literality of the Other”

Liron Mor is an Assistant Professor of Comparative

Literature at the University of California, Irvine, where she is affiliated with the programs in critical theory, Global Middle East Studies, and Jewish Studies. Her first book, *Conflicts: The Poetics and Politics of Israel-Palestine*, is forthcoming from Fordham University Press. Mor is currently working on a second book project, which interrogates intentionality as a mechanism for racializing both Mizrahi Jews and Palestinians. Her articles have appeared or are forthcoming in such venues as *Qui Parle*, *Arab Studies Journal*, *Comparative Literature*, and *Ha-kivun mizrah*.



Avner Ofrath

University of Bremen, Germany

“A Language of One's Own: Writing Politically in Judeo-Arabic, c. 1860–1940”

Avner Ofrath is a historian of

citizenship and the public sphere in the Middle East and North Africa. His first monograph, “Colonial Algeria and the Politics of Citizenship,” will be out with Bloomsbury in 2022. His current research explores the social and intellectual history of Judeo-Arabic political writing in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Ofrath is a member of the editorial committee of the *European Review of History* and co-convenor of several conferences and symposiums on colonial history and its aftereffects in the European metropolises.



Yoav Peled

Tel Aviv University

“Populist Protest: Class and Ethnicity in Mizrahi Political Behavior”

Yoav Peled is Professor Emeritus of Political Science

at Tel Aviv University. In 2015–2016 he was a Visiting Professor of Israel Studies at the University of Virginia, and in 2016–2017 served as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor in the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex and in the Middle East Center at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is co-author, with Horit Herman Peled, of *The Religionization of Israeli Society* (Routledge, 2019) and co-editor, with John Ehrenberg, of *Israel and Palestine: Alternative Perspectives on Statehood* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016). His book, co-authored with Gershon Shafrir, *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship* (CUP, 2002) won MESA's 2002 Albert Hourani Award for best book in Middle East studies published that year.



Daniel Schroeter

University of Minnesota

“The Global Politics of Moroccan Jewish Ethnicity During the Era of King Hassan II”

Daniel J. Schroeter is the

Amos S. Deinaid Memorial Chair in Jewish History and Professor of History at the University of Minnesota. Schroeter has written extensively on the history and historiography of Morocco and the Jews of North Africa and the Middle East in premodern and modern times. His works include *The Sultan's Jew: Morocco and the Sephardi World and Merchants of Essaouira: Urban Society and Imperialism in Southwestern Morocco, 1844–1886*; both books were translated into Arabic and published in Morocco. He is co-editor of *Jewish Culture and Society in North Africa* (Indiana University Press, 2011), and is currently co-authoring a book titled *Morocco and the Holocaust: The Story of King Mohammed V Saving the Jews during World War II*.



Naphtaly Shem-Tov

The Open University of Israel

“Contemporary Mizrahi Theater: Four Performing Mizrahi Frameworks in Israel”

Naphtaly Shem-Tov (PhD) is

Associate Professor and the

Head of the Department of Literature, Language, and the Arts at The Open University of Israel. His research interests are social aspects of Israeli theater, festivals, applied performance and education drama. Currently, he is researching Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) Jewish artists and their ethnic identity on the Israeli stage. He has published articles in several journals, including *The Drama Review*, *Theatre Research International*, *Contemporary Theatre Review*, *New Theatre Quarterly*, and *Research in Drama Education*. His books are *Israeli Theatre: Mizrahi Jews and Self-Representation* (Routledge, 2021), *Acco Festival: Between Celebration and Confrontation* (Academic Studies Press, 2016), and *Improvisational Teaching* (MOFET, 2015).

2022–2023 Frankel Institute Fellows



Ella Shohat

New York University

“Language, Culture, and the Imaginary of Mizrahi Belonging: Re-membering the Arabic Past in the Hebrew Present”

Ella Shohat is a Professor of Cultural Studies at New York University. Her books include *Taboo Memories, Diasporic Voices; Israeli Cinema: East/West and the Politics of Representation; On the Arab–Jew, Palestine, and Other Displacements: Selected Writings; Talking Visions: Multicultural Feminism in a Transnational Age; Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives* (co-edited); *Between the Middle East and the Americas* (co-edited); and with Robert Stam: *Unthinking Eurocentrism; Flagging Patriotism: Crises of Narcissism and Anti-Americanism; Multiculturalism, Postcoloniality and Transnational Media; and Race in Translation*. Shohat has also served on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Critique*, *Interventions*, and *Social Text*. She is a recipient of fellowships from the Rockefeller Foundation; the Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, where she also taught at The School of Criticism and Theory; Fulbright Research/Lectureship, University of São Paulo; and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin. Her award-winning publications have been translated into multiple languages, including Hebrew, Arabic, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, Polish, Turkish, German, and Japanese.



Ruth Tsoffar

University of Michigan

“Reading as the Ethnic Subject: Bible, Feminism, Violence”

Ruth Tsoffar is a Professor of Comparative Literature

and Women and Gender Studies and Faculty Associate in the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. She is the author of *Life in Citations: Biblical Narratives and Contemporary Hebrew Culture* (Routledge, September 2019), *Studies in Comparative Literature and The Stains of Culture: An Ethno-Reading of Karaite Jewish Women* (Wayne State University Press, 2006), and *Part of the Raphael Patai Series in Jewish Folklore and Anthropology*, the book was awarded the Elli Kongas Miranda Prize and the National Jewish Book Award finalist. Tsoffar’s work on Israeli ethnicity has focused on the intersection of body, gender, and poetry and was published by Hagar in two complementary studies: *‘The Body that Crumbled’: Mizrahi Men Writing Poetic Anatomy, Part I* and *Dissected Identity: Mizrahi Women, Space and Body, Part II*. Her future project includes a collection of essays on violence and women in the Bible and an ethnogeographic study on the chronicle of erasure of Jamusin, a Palestinian neighborhood in Northern Tel Aviv.



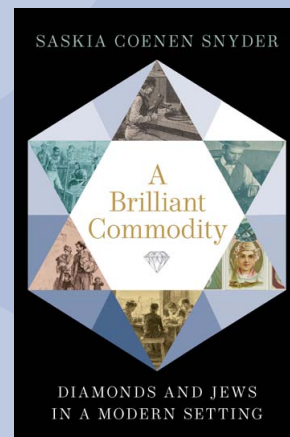
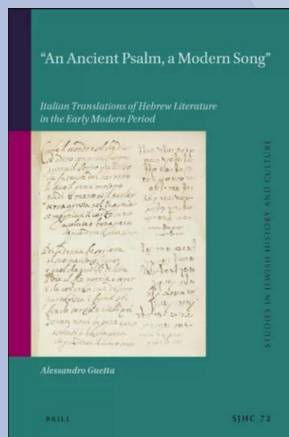
Erez Tzfadia

Sapir College, Israel

“Mizrahim and the Local Politics of Ethnicity in Development Towns”

Erez Tzfadia is an Associate Professor of Public Policy

and Administration at Sapir College, Israel, where he also served as the head of the department. Tzfadia received his PhD from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in 2002, held a Lady Davis Postdoctoral position at Hebrew University, and was an Israel Institute Visiting Scholar at Rutgers University. His studies focus on spatial policy in Israel. He is the co-author of *Rethinking Israeli Space* (Routledge, 2011); *Israel since 1980* (Cambridge, 2008); and was co-editor of *Abandoning State—Surveillancing State: Social Policy in Israel, 1985–2008* (Sapir and Resling, 2010). Tzfadia serves on the board of directors of BIMKOM – Planners for Planning Rights (NGO).



Alessandro Guetta, past Institute Fellow 2020–21, published *An Ancient Psalm, a Modern Song. Italian translations of Hebrew Literature in the Early Modern Period*, Brill, 2022

Megan Nutzman, past Institute Fellow 2017–18, published *Contested Cures: Identity and Ritual Healing in Roman and Late Antique Palestine*, Edinburgh University Press, forthcoming November 2022

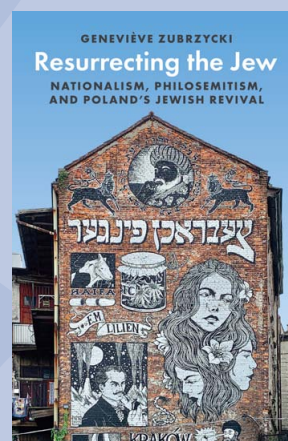
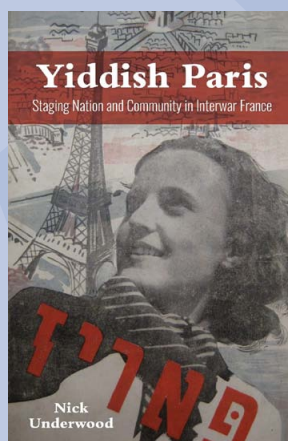
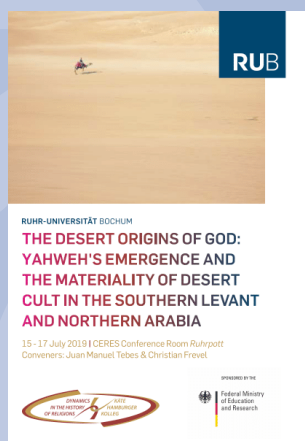
Sasha Senderovich, past Institute Fellow 2020–21, published *How the Soviet Jew Was Made*, Harvard University Press, 2022

Saskia Coenen Snyder, past graduate student, published *A Brilliant Commodity: Diamonds and Jews in a Modern Setting*, Oxford University Press, 2022

Juan Manuel Tebes, past Institute Fellow 2017–18, *The Desert Origins of God: YHWH's Emergence and Early History in the Southern Levant and Northern Arabia*, special volume of *Entangled Religions* 12/2, co-edited by Christian Frevel, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, 2021

Nick Underwood, past Institute Fellow 2019–20, published *Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France*, Indiana University Press 2022

Genevieve Zubrzycki, faculty, published *Resurrecting the Jew: Nationalism, Philosemitism, and Poland's Jewish Revival*, Princeton University Press 2022.



Student Funding



Calef



Lambert



Carlton



Scott



Zamir



Brunssen

Marshall M. Weinberg Endowed Fund for Graduate Students

Jewish Communal Leadership Program students, Abby Calef, Elana Lambert, Ellery Rodenzweig, and Caroline Strauss attended the 2022 JPro Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mimi Jessica Brown Wooten and Morgan Carlton both received funding to attend the Biennial American Jewish Historical Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in May. Brown was able to present her research for the first time in a conference setting with a paper entitled “*La Djusticia Amerikana: Leo Frank in the Ladino Press.*” As a 7th-year PhD student, Carlton took this opportunity to further network with scholars from different universities.

Frankel Family Fellowship

Joshua Scott presented a portion of his dissertation at the European Association of Biblical Studies Symposium in Prague (March 30 – April 1, 2022). His work focuses on charismatic leaders in ancient Judaism (538 BCE – 135 CE).

President Challenge for Graduate Student Support

Shai Zamir attended the 2022 Hayim Perelmuter Conference in Jewish-Christian Dialogue organized by the University of Notre Dame and the Catholic Theological Union. This year’s topic was “Competing Identities: Practice and Faith in the Public and Private Squares,” responding, among other things, to the challenges religious practice was facing during the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Zamir’s presentation was about friendship and spaces of sociability among Crypto-Jews of Portuguese origin in 17th-century Spain.

Jerold & Kathleen Solovy Fund

Pavel Brunssen conducted onsite research in Amsterdam (Netherlands) for his dissertation entitled “The Making of ‘Judenvereine’: Performing (Anti-)Jewishness in the Soccer Stadium and the Strange Case of ‘Jewish’ (Self-)Identification by Non-Jewish Soccer Fans in Europe” about the so-called “Jew Clubs” in European soccer. In Amsterdam, Brunssen visited museums, archives, and historical sites and interviewed leading scholars and practitioners on antisemitism, anti-antisemitism, Jewish identity, and memory cultures.

Student Spotlight

Alana Wilck

In the winter 2022 semester, Alana Wilck, a Frankel Center undergraduate student, received funding from the Weingast Family Fund for Study in Israel. Wilck had not intended to study in Israel because she had already visited the country in 2017 and wanted to go somewhere new. However, after reflecting on her studies at the Frankel Center and activities as president of Hillel, she realized she wanted to work in the Jewish professional world and found an amazing opportunity to prepare for this kind of career with the Nachshon Project fellowship partnered with Hebrew University.

Wilck describes her time abroad, which included monthly trips to different places within Israel: "I had an incredible four months abroad through the Nachshon Project.... Through this program I participated in Torah study, leadership seminars, Shabbatons throughout Israel, and career

workshops in order to strengthen my Jewish identity and determine what exactly I hope to do in the future. I was able to participate in a weekly Beit Midrash course about Jewish identity through the Tanakh. I learned that who I am, whether that be my morals or my actions, is directly rooted in my Judaism."

When asked what was the most impactful part of her time abroad, Wilck answered that the people she met and the places she visited were at the top. One of the most significant experiences of her trip was "being able to grow alongside 25 other Jewish college students who came from significantly different backgrounds than myself. Our cohort included Modern Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform Jews from universities all across America. Learning from my peers has allowed me to become much more intentional about my Jewish practice and my Jewish studies." She was able to meet Israelis her own age

and made valuable connections within her program that aided in narrowing down what career she'd like to pursue. She now also has the opportunity to participate in the Nachshon Project's graduate fellowship.

While visiting Israel, Wilck appreciated what she'd learned during her studies at the Frankel Center. For students looking to study abroad in the future, she offers the advice to take a step back and make a list of what you would like to gain from the experience: which institutions, big versus small universities, if you want to travel to other places while abroad, whether you'd like to know other people in your program, etc. She also suggests exploring programs outside the ones U-M offers because it opens up more possibilities, and funding for those programs is still available. While overseas, Wilck also cautions not getting overwhelmed by the experience, and says it's important to fill your free time with as many activities as possible instead of falling into the "normal college student routine of naps, etc." and to talk to as many locals as you can to enhance the experience beyond normal tourist activities.





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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

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2023-2024 Fellowship Opportunity **Jewish Visual Cultures**

Applications due **November 7, 2022** • www.lsa.umich.edu/judaic/institute

Studies of visual imagination in Jewish life have exploded in recent years. From the growth of Jewish museums throughout the USA and Europe to the founding of new journals devoted to Jewish art, Jewish visual culture has engaged broad audiences. Scholarly and popular studies, exhibitions and films, have enlightened us on a range of themes in various periods, from the medieval past to the present day. In diverse formats they depict the way Jews and Jewish culture and religion were seen, extending our

understanding of the intricate relations between Jews and others. How these portrayals framed images and understanding of Jewish life have added important dimensions to the contexts of Jewish life as a minority throughout history and recently as a majority.

The Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies seeks to explore many facets of Jewish visual imagination. How did Jewish experiences with and attitudes toward the visual intersect with those of the majority populations, and with minority populations in Israel? How did

Jewish visuality challenge or coexist with the hallmark of Jewish culture—the literary text? How does visual culture broaden the Jewish narrative? The Frankel Institute theme year on Jewish visual cultures will address these and other questions. The Institute invites applications from senior and junior scholars from a wide range of disciplines, as well as artists and curators, to investigate and explicate Jewish visual cultures from the medieval period to the present.

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Deborah Dash Moore
Bryan Roby
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