

Based on the  
Bensussen Ketubah,  
Ottoman Empire, 1919.  
  
Courtesy of Rabbi  
Solomon Maimon.



WHO WE ARE

About the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

Based in the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, the Stroum Center offers a comprehensive academic approach to Jewish life in its cultural, intellectual, religious, and international contexts. At the same time, our classes address universal questions about identity, community, and cultural adaptation over time.

The Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, which is dedicated to studying the diversity of Jewish experiences, proudly supports the continuing expansion of the Sephardic Studies Program. Sephardic Studies courses are integrated into the Jewish Studies curriculum, and program participants can take advantage of the Stroum Center's world-class faculty and resources.

Our Team

**Prof. Devin Naar**  
Sephardic Studies Program Chair  
*Marsha & Jay Glazer Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies and Assistant Professor of History*

**Ty Alhadeff**  
Sephardic Studies Program Coordinator

**Prof. Noam Pianko**  
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Support Our Program!

To make a gift to the UW Sephardic Studies Program, please call us or visit this link:  
[jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardicstudiesgift](http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardicstudiesgift)  
  
Thank you for your support!

Our program is deeply grateful for the support of the Sephardic Studies Founders Circle:

*Ike Alhadeff Foundation  
Eli and Rebecca Almo  
Joel and Maureen Benoliel  
Harley and Lela Franco  
Richard and Barrie Galanti*

The Sephardic Studies Program is also pleased to work with partners on and off campus:

*Division of Spanish & Portuguese Studies, the Department of History, Ottoman and Turkish Studies as well as Persian Studies in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, UW Libraries, the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, Congregation Sephardic Bikur Holim, the Sephardic Brotherhood, SAMIS Foundation and more.*



Sephardic Studies Program

► Stroum Center for Jewish Studies



**W** UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON  
HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



## The Sephardic Studies Program flourishes in three domains:

# 1 Research

## Sephardic Studies Digital Museum at the University of Washington



Housing more volumes than the Library of Congress or Harvard University, the hundreds of rare Ladino books, archival materials, family letters, and photographs in the UW Sephardic Studies collection date from the 16th to the 20th centuries and constitute the first comprehensive digital portal into the Sephardic experience.

## Academic Conferences



The UW Sephardic Studies Program gathers top scholars from around the world to participate in major conferences such as “Sephardic Jewry and the Holocaust: The Future of the Field,” organized in collaboration with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (*April 2013*).

## Visiting Scholars



The Stroum Center hosts leading international scholars to conduct research and teach at the UW. Thanks to visiting professor David Bunis, chair of the Ladino Studies Program at the Hebrew University, in 2013 the UW became the only American university to teach students how to read and write Ladino in Hebrew script.

# 2 Teaching

## Innovative Courses



Sephardic Studies courses explore the full range of Sephardic history, language and culture, from the Middle Ages until today.

**Prof. Ana Gomez Bravo** offers classes on medieval Spanish Jewry and teaches a summer institute at the University of Washington León Center in León, Spain. Her new blog, “Converso Cookbook,” invites readers to explore the recipes and culture of pre-Inquisition Spanish Jews.

## Undergraduate Projects



**Ashley Bobman:** A Seattle native, Ashley always knew she had Sephardic roots. Now, she is translating the Ladino writings of her great-grandfather, journalist and teacher Albert Levy, and even writing her own original Ladino poetry.

## Graduate Student Projects



**Oscar Aguirre–Mandujano:** A native of Mexico City, Oscar specializes in medieval Ottoman court history. He is applying his diverse language skills to bilingual poetry composed by an early 20th-century Ottoman–Jewish soldier and playwright, Yehuda (Leon) Behar, who immigrated to Seattle, where he directed the Ladino theater troupe.

# 3 Community Engagement

Embodying UW President Michael Young's call to “turn the university inside out,” the Sephardic Studies Program makes its expertise accessible to our local communities through a wide range of public events that reinforce our teaching and research goals.



## Sephardic Music

Visiting artists such as Sarah Aroeste, Guy Mendilow, Galeet Dardashti and scholars such as Maureen Jackson and Rina Benmayor.



## International Ladino Day

An intergenerational celebration of Ladino language and culture through song, poetry, stories, and history. The event was officially endorsed by the mayor of Seattle and the governor of the State of Washington.



## Sephardic Film Spotlight

An annual screening of a Sephardic-themed film in partnership with the Seattle Jewish Film Festival. Films have included “*My Sweet Canary: The Story of Roza Eskenazi*” and “*The Longest Journey: The Last Days of the Jews of Rhodes*.”

## About the Chair

Holding a PhD in History from Stanford University, Prof. Devin Naar focuses on the history of Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews in the former Ottoman Empire, with specific attention on Salonica, as well as diasporic communities in Europe and the Americas—including Seattle. He teaches courses such as Jewish Cultural History, Holocaust: History and Memory, The Sephardic Diaspora, and Jews, Christians and Muslims in the Mediterranean World.

## Making News

The UW Sephardic Studies Program has captured the attention of local media, national news outlets, and international venues from the UW Daily to The Jerusalem Post and Spanish radio.

“*Professor Devin Naar is singlehandedly putting authentic scholarly Sephardic Studies back on the map in the U.S.*”

**Rabbi Daniel Bouskilla**

Director of the Sephardic Educational Center in Jerusalem

