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

The Sephardic Studies Program of the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington has quickly become a world-renowned center for the study of Sephardic history and culture, as well as the Ladino Language. Home to one of the most vibrant Sephardic communities in the United States, Seattle offers an ideal environment to preserve and revitalize the legacy of the Sephardic Jewish experience.

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.

The Sephardic Studies Program relies on generous public contributions. To make a gift to the UW Sephardic Studies Program, call us or visit: jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-studies/support-sephardic-studies

About the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

Our Team

Professor Devin E. Naar
Sephardic Studies Program Chair
Isaac Alhadeff Professor of Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies

Ty Alhadeff
Sephardic Studies Research Coordinator

Professor Noam Pianko
Director, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

Dr. Sarah Zaides Rosen
Associate Director, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

Support our Program

Our program is deeply grateful for the support of the Sephardic Studies Founders’ Circle:
Isaac Alhadeff Foundation
Eli and Rebecca Almo
Joel and Maureen Benoliel
Harley and Lela Franco
Richard and Barrie Galanti
Marly and Sharon Lott

The Sephardic Studies Program is also pleased to work with partners on and off campus:
Division of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, the Department of History, Ottoman and Turkish Studies as well as Persian Studies in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, the UW Libraries, the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, Congregation Ezra Bessaroth, Congregation Sephardic Bikur Holim, the Sephardic Brotherhood, the SAMIS Foundation, Seattle Sephardic Network and more.

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Get In Touch

Phone (206)-616-6202
Email: sephstud@uw.edu
Web: http://jewishstudies.washington.edu/sephardic-studies/
INNOVATIVE COURSES

Sephardic Studies undergraduate and graduate-level courses explore the full range of Sephardic history, language, and culture, from the Middle Ages until today. Many courses are open to community members through the Access program.

Professor Ana Gomez Bravo offers classes on medieval Spanish Jewry and teaches a summer institute at the University of Washington Center in León, Spain. Her Converso Cookbook is one of the most visited online resources on the webpage.

UNDERGRADUATE PROJECTS

Recent projects include: a digital exhibition on a renowned Sephardic activist, “The Sephardic Lighthouse: Albert Levy & the Sephardic Jewish Journey,” a study of Sephardic identity in Seattle, the history of the Rhodes Holocaust monument, and an analysis of the debate over whether Sephardic Jews should apply for Spanish citizenship.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROJECTS

Recent projects focus on: The encounter between Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews in Istanbul, patriotic poems composed in Ladino and Turkish, the experience of marginalized Jews in Izmir, the last generation of Ladino speakers in Seattle and the Rhodes dialect.

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Our audience extends well beyond the Pacific Northwest. With a robust online and social media presence, including followers across the U.S., Israel, Europe, and Latin America, the Sephardic Studies Program cultivates one of the largest virtual Sephardic studies communities in the world.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Sephardic Studies Program brings together students, scholars, and community members for a wide array of public programs and online engagement.

INTERNATIONAL LADINO DAY

Bringing together hundreds of community members every year, Ladino Day celebrates the Ladino language and explores the past, present, and future of Sephardic life through stories, film, music, scholarship, cuisine and online content. Made possible by the Lucie Benveniste Kavesh memorial fund.

ABOUT THE CHAIR

Dr. Devin E. Naar is the Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies, Associate Professor of History, and faculty at the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies in the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington. Dr. Naar received his Ph.D. in History at Stanford University and served as a Fulbright fellow to Greece. His first book, Jewish Salonica: Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece (Stanford University Press, 2016), won the National Jewish Book Award in the category of Research Based on Archival Material and was a finalist in Sephardic Culture.

MAKING NEWS

The Sephardic Studies Program has captured the attention of local, national, and international news media outlets, including UW Daily, The Seattle Times, NPR, Tablet Magazine, The Jerusalem Post, Spanish Radio, and more.

TEACHING

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LOCAL EVENTS

The Sephardic Studies Program sponsors an array of public events that brings the community together, including the annual Sephardic spotlight at the Seattle Jewish Film Festival, performances of Ladino and Sephardic music, guest lecturers from across the world, and international academic conferences.

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