

Based on the
Bensussen Ketubah,
Ottoman Empire, 1919.

Courtesy of Rabbi
Solomon Maimon.



The Sephardic Studies Program

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.

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. Students learn a variety of disciplines, methods, and approaches in Jewish Studies.

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

Professor Devin E. Naar
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Support our Program

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

STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SEPHARDIC STUDIES 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
Marty 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.





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.

RESEARCH

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE

With more than 400 Ladino books from the 17th to the 20th centuries, the UW Sephardic Studies collection houses more volumes than the Library of Congress or Harvard University. Hundreds of family letters, manuscripts, postcards, newspapers, and songs render the Sephardic Studies collection one of the most robust repositories of resources pertaining to the Sephardic experience.

DIGITAL ESSAYS

To make Sephardic resources accessible to scholars and the public, the Sephardic Studies program publishes online essays that highlight unique materials from our collection that focus on Sephardic customs, the Ladino language, individual and family stories, migration and refugees, war, literature and newspapers, institutions, recipes, songs, oral traditions, and more.

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, the UW became one of the only American universities to teach students how to read and write Ladino in Hebrew script. His tutorials on the *soletreo* script have become among the most popular videos on the Stroum Center website.



TEACHING

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.



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.



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.

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.



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.



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.

