

IMPACT REPORT 2022-2023



STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES | UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022-2023



955 students took **42** courses across **15** departments and programs



Nearly **165,000** people from **195** countries engaged with educational resources on our website



41,389 people from **22** countries watched our academic lectures **62,000** times on YouTube



\$ 243,674 donated with over \$125,000 for direct student support



Nearly **1,700** people attended **25** events, offered free to the public

Front cover: Singer and composer Sarah Aroeste performs at the "Muestros Artistas" Sephardic arts symposium in February 2023. Photo by Meryl Schenker.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As my first year as director of SCJS comes to a close, I am heartened by everything we accomplished and am excited by the opportunities for growth and collaboration ahead of us. We had an unprecedented year of ambitious programs, attended by record numbers of people.

This was a year of major transition in the Stroum Center: I had the privilege of overseeing long-planned events that were delayed due to the pandemic, like the Jews of Arab Lands lecture series (p. 7). I also welcomed new staff and faculty to our center (p. 15) and oversaw leadership transitions in the Israel Studies Program (p. 13).

Israel, of course, experienced its own major electoral transition, challenging Israelis and Jewish Americans like never before to articulate the meaning of being the only democratic state in the Middle East. Members of our faculty served as experts in webinars, courses, and cultural events in Seattle (p. 3).

On a personal level, three members of our center had children this year, two of us for the first time. After my son was born in November, I suddenly became more aware than ever of the vulnerability of life, the resilience of generations before me, and the obligations we owe to future generations – sentiments that inspire me as an educator and leader.

One of my first nights away from my son was to attend the "Muestros Artistas" [Our Artists] Sephardic arts symposium (p. 9), where I heard age-old Ladino songs brought back to life by musician Asher Shasho Levy – music that I look forward to sharing with my son someday.

This coming year we will begin to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Stroum Jewish Studies Program. Our origins lie in the collaboration between passionate UW scholars and engaged Jewish residents of Seattle. Today, 30+ faculty are associated with our center, we host Israel Studies and Sephardic Studies programs, and our website is a national and global resource for countering antisemitism (p. 4). We have accomplished so much together, and I am confident that the best is yet to come.

Director, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies

Herbert L. & Lucia S. Pruzan Chair in Jewish Studies

Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

FACULTY BEYOND THE CLASSROOM



Isaac Alhadeff Professor **Devin E. Naar** took students on a walking tour through Seattle's Central District neighborhood where many Jews – both Sephardic and Ashkenazi – first settled in Seattle.



At this year's Seattle Jewish Film Festival (SJFF), new faculty member **Canan Bolel** introduced the Sephardic Spotlight films, *Alegría* and *Songs of the Sephardim in Izmir*.

Faculty member **Smadar Ben-Natan** and Rabbi Moshe Kletenik spoke with SCJS Director **Mika Ahuvia** about the SJFF film *Divorce Denied*, which outlined obstacles to Orthodox women pursuing divorce in rabbinical courts.



Nicolaas P. Barr took a small group of students to visit the Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle, where they watched a special performance of the play *The Ruins of Memory: Women's Voices of the Holocaust* by Tales of the Alchemysts Theatre. The photo shows a portion of the cast. Photo by Olivia Ockey



FEATURED FACULTY AND ANTISEMITISM SCHOLARSHIP

Outstanding Instructor – Nick Barr



This spring, students selected faculty member Nicolaas P. Barr as this year's Outstanding Instructor in Jewish Studies. Barr is a lecturer in the Departments of Comparative History of Ideas (CHID), History, and International Studies. He teaches courses about how to make sense of – and respond to – antisemitism in the context of white supremacy and racism in Europe. He is also the study abroad director for CHID and leads an annual program to Amsterdam that examines the concepts of identity, prejudice and tolerance.

In their nominations, students wrote that Barr inspired them to learn more about Jewish history, even though they weren't Jewish Studies majors or minors. Students commented on his kindness, inclusivity, and how "incredibly illuminating" his courses were, both at the UW and abroad.

Barr's current book project, provisionally titled *The Other of Enlightenment: Critical Theory, Secularism, and Race,* revisits theories of antisemitism to make sense of the far right's recent resurgence in Europe. On the Stroum Center website, Barr has written essays on Jewish identity, antisemitism, and Jewish opposition to Islamophobia in the Netherlands.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT JEWS, JUDAISM, AND ANTISEMITISM

During this academic year, nearly 85,000 people from 195 countries visited our online article by Mika Ahuvia, "Judaism, Jewish history, and anti-Jewish prejudice," a beginners' level overview of Jewish history, Judaism and antisemitism written in plain language and intended for a wide general audience.

The article – adapted from a virtual lecture – offers a clear, factual overview of the ancient roots of the Jewish people and Judaism, along with the almost-as-ancient problem of anti-Jewish prejudice. Images, linked citations, and a video version of the information complements the accessible nature of the piece.

In a year when antisemitism loomed large in the news, traffic to this reliable information source swelled, with thousands of search engine users finding and clicking on the page after searches with questions like "Who are Jews?" and "Where are Jews from?"

Check out the feature online: jewishstudies.washington.edu/jews





STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Ara Daglian, 2022-2023 Robinovitch Family Graduate Fellow



I didn't come to the UW expecting to become highly involved in Jewish Studies, since my research focus as a graduate student has always been on Armenian history.

Yet I found both a vibrant intellectual community in Jewish Studies that pushed me in my scholarship, as well as incredible friendships and a strong sense of camaraderie.

Through a Scholarship for the Advancement of Jewish Studies, the Stroum Center also offered me security during a time of uncertainty and anxiety. The Stroum Center's commitment to supporting students, enabled by the profound generosity of donors, allowed me to continue my graduate education free of financial worry.

As the Robinovitch Fellow in Jewish Studies in 2022-2023, I studied Armenians in Jerusalem, shedding light on a topic that often goes under the radar. You can read more about that fascinating community in my article on the Stroum Center website, along with the research of the other incredible fellows.

I was asked to offer a piece of advice for the incoming cohort of graduate fellows. My advice is this: Don 't be afraid to push the boundaries of Jewish Studies. If the field has room for me and my topic, it has room for you and yours.

Thank you for your commitment to the Stroum Center, in whatever form that takes.

Liv Fowler, 2022-2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Student

I'm a Jewish Studies major, but I haven't always been. It's no exaggeration to say that I have changed my major close to a dozen times. When I first came to the UW, I thought I wanted to be a nuclear engineer. And then I thought I wanted to be a linguist. And then a high school teacher. And then I was so confused I thought maybe I just wanted to drop out!

That whole time, the only thing that I knew with absolute certainty is that I wanted to be Jewish, and I knew that what I really loved doing was learning about Jews and Judaism.

So, almost exactly a year ago, I changed my major for – hopefully

 the last time and joined the absolutely incredible Jewish Studies community here at the UW.

I'm so thankful for the guidance of those who led me to finally commit to studying something that I find truly fulfilling, and for the experiences I've had learning with and from all of the amazing students and faculty members whose interests converge here.

I think that what the Stroum Center and all the people who make Jewish Studies at the University of Washington possible have cultivated is something very special. I'm proud to be a part of it and I'm excited to see what amazing things we'll all accomplish in the year to come.



STUDENT AWARDS

Ke Guo, 2023-2024 Dissertation Finish Line Fellowship



Ke Guo, the recipient of this year's Dissertation Finish Line Fellowship, is a doctoral candidate in music education at the UW School of Music. Her passion for studying and performing traditional Sephardic tunes has made her a fixture at Stroum Center events, where she has also sung with her mentor, Seattle's Hazzan Isaac Azose.

An anonymous donor established this fellowship in 2021 to support outstanding Jewish Studies doctoral students like Guo, who are in the final stage of dissertation writing.

After years working in the tech world and studying in Stanford science labs, Guo came to the UW to study the worldwide circulation of Sephardic music, for which she has conducted field research in Spain, Turkey and Israel.

Guo notes, "Many people ask me why I am drawn to Jewish studies as someone born in China who has studied mathematics, engineering, and music in the United States. The answer is that Sephardic music has guided me to explore the world in depth, ignited my curiosity, and prompted me to reflect on the complexities of diaspora. I am eager to learn as much as I can and deeply appreciate the support I have received from Jewish communities."

Mazal bueno, Ke!

Matthew DesMarais, 2023 Paper Prize for Holocaust Scholarship

This year, our Excellence in Holocaust Scholarship Paper Prize was awarded to senior Matthew DesMarais for his paper, "National Origin – Refugee: German Jewish Refugees in the United States and the Making of the Modern Refugee." In the paper, DesMarais looks at Jews living in Nazi-controlled Germany who immigrated to the United States on a refugee visa prior to World War II.

The essay asks the question, when does one become a refugee and when does one stop being one? Through examining the arduous process of seeking refuge in the United States, the paper demonstrates the ways

that this process affects the identity of those who experience refugeehood, not only individually but intergenerationally.

DesMarais' instructor, Rawan Arar, writes, "[Throughout his] quarterlong study of the Holocaust and the experiences of refugees more broadly, Matthew has demonstrated the kind of unyielding intellectual curiosity that can only be fueled by purpose. His commitment to creating a more compassionate and just world is evident in the kinds of questions he asks and his thoughtful approach to searching for answers."

Congratulations, Matthew!







JEWS OF ARAB LANDS LECTURES

Hundreds of attendees from around the U.S. tuned in to the Stroum Center's four-part Zoom lecture series, Jews of Arab Lands, in fall 2022. The series followed Jewish history in the Islamic Middle East, starting from a time when 90% of world Jewry lived under Muslim rule to the exodus of almost all Jews from Arab lands after Israel's war for independence in 1948.

Faculty member Hamza Zafer opened the series with a talk on how studies of the biographies of the Prophet Muhammad's wives – including a Jewish one! – illuminate our understanding of early Jewish-Muslim relations. Jennifer Grayson of UNC Chapel Hill then guided us to the streets of medieval Baghdad, where Jewish courtiers and bankers lobbied at the Caliph's court. Next, Yuval Tal of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem brought us to early twentieth-century French Algeria, where Jews and Muslims brawled in the factories and in the streets. Finally, Alon Tam of UCLA took us to the coffee shops of mid-twentieth-century Cairo, examining the daily lives of Jews and Muslims during the twilight years of Egypt's Jewish community.

While also recognizing many communities' experiences of persecution and violence, the series highlighted the rich diversity of Jewish experiences and contributions to the Islamic world.



Faculty member Canan Bolel responding in a scholarly discussion about faculty member Susan Glenn's latest research

NEW JEWISH STUDIES WORKSHOP SERIES

This year, the Stroum Center inaugurated its Jewish Studies Workshop; a series of seminars designed to allow faculty, visiting speakers and advanced graduate students to present works in progress to their peers. The workshop seeks to foster a vibrant intellectual community for the Center's faculty and ever-growing cohort of graduate students.

This past February, former Samuel and Althea Stroum Chair in Jewish Studies Susan Glenn presented the workshop series's first paper – a study of the barriers to interreligious adoption in mid-twentieth-century America – to a packed house in Suzzallo Library's Smith Room. In March, visiting speaker Rachel Brown of Washington University shared an article on the struggles of migrant caregivers in modern-day Israel. UW graduate student Ara Daglian gave the final presentation of the year, centered on a chapter from his master's thesis that addresses how academic studies of American Jews can illuminate the understudied experience of Armenian immigrants to the U.S.

Participants engaged with the works of all the scholars, offering constructive praise and criticism. Said Daglian, "I feel enriched by the feedback I received and am honored to be part of the [workshop] series." The workshops will continue next year with papers from several speakers on subjects ranging from the Holocaust to Ladino poetry.

STROUM LECTURES: WORDS, MUSIC, YIDDISH & CULTURE

Composer and vocalist Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell and accompanist Dmitri Gaskin wowed hundreds of Seattleites this year with their performances at the Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures, which explored the intersections of Black American and Ashkenazi Jewish experiences of persecution and resilience.

The pair employed musical oration, imagery of impoverished Black and Jewish communities, and disparate performance art forms to capture what Russell calls "the ambiguity of Black and Jewish diaspora."

"Attending Anthony Russell's mesmerizing performance and lecture, and sharing in a delightful bubble tea event, was an unforgettable experience."

Hayden Goldberg, undergraduate student

Faculty member Jason Groves, an expert on German Jewish literature and culture, recalled that the event was "both profoundly moving and



deeply humorous in the way that it explored some remarkable resonances between different communities. It was easily one of the top events I've been to in Seattle."

After his concluding performance, Russell, the fiftieth Stroum Lecturer, shared details of his personal journey into Yiddish music with a group of two dozen undergraduate students over bubble tea (see picture above).

To view the event recordings, visit: jewishstudies.washington.edu/stroum-lectures-2023



Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell singing alongside accompanist Dmitri Gaskin



Hazzan Isaac Azose and Sephardic singer and composer Sarah Aroeste pose in front of art displays at Muestros Artistas [Our Artists]. Photo by Meryl Schenker

By Hannah S. Pressman

rom a painting to an aria to a human face, the works of art which qualify as masterpieces depend mainly on individual perception.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

What, then, is the role of community in art? How does our experience of seeing change when we view art with others? Can a collective context affect which pieces of a culture are deemed beautiful enough, or important enough, to be passed down?

Such questions of cultural production and communal reception were at the forefront of the University of Washington's *Muestros Artistas* (Ladino for 'Our Artists') *Sephardic Arts Symposium*. Held on February 27 and 28, 2023 at the University campus in Seattle, this two-day event featured six Sephardic artists from across the country and across disciplines, showcasing both their creativity and culture.

"There is very little public discussion of Sephardic art, let alone in academic environments," explained Jennifer McCullum, Assistant Director of the UW's Sephardic Studies Program (SSP). "With 'Muestros Artistas', we were hoping to offer both the artists and audience a forum to explore what it means

to create Sephardic art in the 21st century, and to illustrate how these various mediums of music, painting, poetry, and prose can offer meaningful points of entry for discovery, reflection, and appreciation of the Sephardic experience."

Since the inception of the SSP more than 10 years ago with the arrival of faculty member Devin E. Naar, the Isaac Alhadeff Professor of Sephardic Studies, cross-cultural collaboration has been a hallmark of the program. As part of the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, Sephardic Studies is a field that builds bridges, so its approach to *Muestros Artistas* was no different.



SCJS Associate Director Brendan Goldman assists Sephardic author Jane Mushabac as she reads from her novel Photo by Meryl Schenker

The UW School of Art and Hillel UW served not only as sponsors of the event, but as sites of scholastic discussion as well, along with the Burke Museum and the Henry Art Gallery. "I think the format was really valuable," said Gabriel Solis, UW's Divisional Dean of the Arts. Solis, an ethnomusicologist who has Sephardic roots himself, facilitated a private workshop with the artists at the Burke. His conversation with the group revealed each artist's unique positionality. "There were some significant differences in [the] kinds of purposes for art and relationships to art," he said, particularly in the ways their craft intersected with their Sephardic identity.

New York-based writer Jane Mushabac took full advantage of her time on campus, visiting Noam Pianko's "Funny Jews" course as well as Canan Bolel's "Guided Readings in Ladino" course, one of the newest additions to the Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures curriculum this past year. In both classes, Mushabac – one of the only American Jewish writers creating original work in Judeo-Spanish today – showed students examples of her Ladino material. "We all want to change the constricted narrative of what 'Jewish' means," said Mushabac, referencing the ongoing cultural bias centering Eastern European Jewish representation. "My fiction opens a larger picture of who Jews are, what their language is, and where their families are from."

This vision of a more inclusive sense of Jewish culture resonated at the symposium's culminating event: a public showcase in Kane Hall that featured Sephardic cuisine, presentations, and a panel discussion moderated by Dean Solis.

"The moment I walked in, I realized that this was more than an exhibition of Sephardic artists," recalled Seattle community member Dov Pinker. "As an Ashkenazi Jew, I think it's critical to understand that the Jewish experience is so much more rich, diverse, and flavorful than what popular culture portrays. The artists [...] brought to life this rich diversity. It was truly moving."

The artists, too, sensed a special synergy. Singer and composer Sarah Aroeste, who performed her semi-biographical song 'Chika Morena' at



Attendees socialize and eat Sephardic food before the event Photo by Meryl Schenker

FEATURED ARTISTS



Asher Shasho Levy Musician and *hazzan*



Ellen Benjoya Skotheim Multidisciplinary artist



Harry Naar Painter



Jane Mushabac Playwright and writer



Sarah Aroeste Singer, composer, and author



Tom Haviv Writer, artist, and publisher

the symposium, emphasized how the event felt like a communal confirmation of each of the artists' vital stories. "So much of my work – and that of most artists – is created alone, in a vacuum," she said. "Coming together as Sephardic artists, specifically, allowed us to draw energy from one another to continue making Sephardic art in all its colors and dimensions."

Throughout Kane Hall, these distinct dimensions were displayed in various formats, including poetry telling the story of Turkish Jews in the 20th century by New York-based writer Tom Haviv, multidisciplinary artist Ellen Benjoya Skotheim's Izmir Artist Book, and Syrian and Ottoman Jewish *piyyutim* (liturgical poems) played on the *oud* (a stringed instrument) by San Francisco-based musician and *hazzan* (prayer leader) Asher Shasho Levy. However, common themes including family folklore, the Inquisition, the Holocaust, searching for answers, and hope for the future were present throughout.

Visual artist Harry Naar drew from personal family memories for his ten-painting series, 'Echoes of Salonica', which served as a particularly poignant inspiration for this event as Naar – a former professor of fine arts and gallery director at Rider

University – is also the father of SSP chair Devin E. Naar. The two participated in an intergenerational conversation hosted at Hillel UW as part of the symposium – a highlight for all who attended.

Joel Benoliel, a key supporter of the Hazzan Isaac Azose Fund for Community Engagement which made the symposium possible, reflected, "In a fitting tribute to Hazzan Azose and his lasting impact in our community and around the world, 'Muestros Artistas' brought together a highly diverse group of skilled artists...to the delight of the Seattle audience. It was a triumphant event, offering hopes for a continued and unique focus on the arts in coming years."

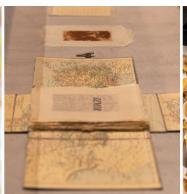
The next opportunity to explore the Sephardic arts nexus will be in March 2024, with an event series continuing to highlight and celebrate those striving to express Sephardic identity on their own creative terms.

Perhaps we should write a corollary to the Ladino refran "Kualo es la ermoza, la ke te plaze a ti" – Beauty is what pleases you). To emphasize the learnings of 'Muestros Artistas' [Our Artists] we might also say: "Kualo es la ermoza, la ke mos plaze a mozotros" – Beauty is what is pleasing to us.

To view the event recording and more, visit: jewishstudies.washington.edu/muestros-artistas

Photos by Meryl Schenker















LADINO DAY 2022

The Future of Ladino

This year marked the 10th anniversary of Ladino Day the hallmark event of the UW Sephardic Studies Program (SSP). From performances by world-famous Sephardic musicians to lectures from acclaimed Sephardic authors and scholars, the last decade of Ladino Day programming has brought together students and community members worldwide to celebrate Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) language and culture.

Ladino Day 2022: The Future of Ladino took place over Zoom on December 4, 2022, and featured a global panel of scholars and activists in conversation with SSP chair Devin E. Naar.



Panelists Karen Gerson Şarhon, Nesi Altaras, Rachel Amado Bortnick, and Eliezer Papo reflected on the generational significance of Ladino and the vital place of this dialect in the academy. They shared some of their favorite *refranes* (sayings) with a global audience of almost 400 viewers from 17 different countries!

SEPHARDIC STUDIES DIGITAL COLLECTION

Making Sephardic Arts Accessible

Since the inception of the Sephardic Studies Program (SSP), the Sephardic Studies Digital Collection (SSDC) – one of the largest repositories of Ladino literature and Sephardic artifacts worldwide – has remained a key pillar of the SSP. The SSDC contains more than 400 Ladino books, dating from the 17th to the 20th centuries, and more volumes of Ladino source materials than the Library of Congress or Harvard University.

These valuable artifacts were entirely crowd-sourced from the local Sephardic community and, this spring, came one step closer to being shared more widely with the world. Three students who had enrolled in faculty member Canan Bolel's winter Elementary Ladino course furthered their experience with the language by creating metadata for 355 collection items. Metadata are the details about archival items that enable library users to identify and locate these items within a collection, by using their location of origin, language, original donor, etc.

Undergraduates Anna Feit and Lauren Zarlingo, and graduate student Elyakim Suissa, undertook this meticulous process in partnership with UW librarians Benjamin Risenberg and Anne Graham, preparing these artifacts for inclusion in the SSDC's new online portal, which is currently under development.



A COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR AT THE UW

Seven years ago, members of Seattle's Jewish community, friends of the Stroum Center, faculty and university administrators came together to found the Israel Studies Program at the University of Washington. Together, we've made possible a remarkable array of guest speakers, student research projects, and new courses in departments that hadn't featured the study of Israel before. The UW became a high-profile research center for the study of Israel, attracting high-caliber students and scholars.

As Israel Studies' first chair, Distinguished Endowed Chair of Jewish Studies Liora Halperin oversaw multiple events per year (see timetable below) and ensured that Israel was featured in lectures like the Jackson School's 2021 series "Protest, Race and Citizenship across African Worlds" and the Department of History's 2022 series "Capitalism in Action: Culture, Power, History." Recently, she co-organized a conference with Sephardic Studies, "Jews Amidst the Embers of the Ottoman Empire," showcasing the work of a half dozen UW graduate students and bringing them into dialogue with a range of scholars from across the country.



Liora Halperin with students Sam Gordon, Pablo Tutillo, and Özgür Özkan (left to right) in 2018

Israel Studies also hosted a post-doctoral fellow, Smadar Ben-Natan, between 2020 and 2022. During her time at the UW, Ben-Natan was awarded a Distinguished Scholar grant by the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation for her research on incarceration and reconciliation in Israel. This past year, she developed a new course, Religion and Law in Israel, which included hosting public talks on the reproductive agency of Haredi women and on religious feminism and social change in Israel.

EVENTS TIMELINE

Iraqi Jewish Migration to Israel Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago

2018

Desalination
Technologies in
Israel
Alon Tal, Stanford
University

"The Art of Leaving": Memoir of a Yemeni Israeli Writer Ayelet Tsabari,

Ayelet Isab writer

2019

American Jews and Israel Dov Waxman, University of California, Los Angeles Behind the Scenes with NPR's Jerusalem Correspondent Daniel Estrin, journalist

Migrant Workers in Israel Sarah Willen, University of Connecticut

2020

African American
Perspectives on
Mizrahi Israelis
Bryan Roby, University

of Michigan

American Christians and the Holy Land Hillary Kaell, McGill University

2021

Israel's Response to COVID Nadav Davidovitch, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Architects

writer

Jerusalem

Adina Hoffman.

A VISION FOR ISRAEL STUDIES



In 2023-24, the Israel Studies Program will be highlighting the vitality and vibrant creativity of Israeli culture, acknowledging the important roles that cultural activity assumes in expressing, shaping, and exploring diverse and multi-faceted identities. Public events will include lectures on ethnomusicology and archaeology, as well as representations of Ethiopian Jews in popular media and the arts.

The Stroum Center's Israel Studies Program is pleased to work with a variety of academic units at the UW (the Departments of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Anthropology, African Studies, and the School of Music, among others) to sponsor and cosponsor talks, interviews, and workshops with distinguished guest speakers.

The UW is also slated to host the largest annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in June 2024. This organization, which began as a North American initiative, has evolved into an international association with some hundreds of members from the U.S., Israel, and countries around the globe. The conference features presentations on Hebrew language, literature, film and pedagogy. Stay tuned for more details about the program. Our own Biblical Hebrew and Modern Hebrew curriculum at the UW, offered through the MELC Department, continues to draw students at multiple levels of skill in learning the language.

- Naomi B. Sokoloff, Chair of Israel Studies, 2023-2026

HIGHLIGHTS OF HEBREW STUDIES

- End-of-year projects and celebrations allow students at all levels of Hebrew to meet one another
- "Hadar's Restaurant" in May 2023 provided vocabulary building and community building over a delicious meal, bringing students in beginning and intermediate classes together with other UW students who are native speakers and heritage speakers
- Weekly Hebrew Table gatherings offer conversation practice
- Students in advanced classes have been working on translation projects (Hebrew to English) and producing online publications for both Jewishgen.org and the Yad Vashem archives

The Rise of Modern Vernacular Hebrew Ivy Sichel, University of California, Santa Cruz

2022

Israeli Elections Panel Various SCJS faculty members 2023

Medicine and Religion: Doctors and Rabbis in Israel Michal Raucher, Rutgers University

Revolutionary Evolution: Religious Feminism and Social Change in Israel Masua Sagiv, University of California, Berkeley

2024

Jerusalem in Jewish and Christian Mosaics

Karen Britt, Northwest Missouri State University & Ra'anan Boustan, Princeton University

The Musical Poetry of Rabbi Israel Najara

Edwin Seroussi, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Ethiopian Art in Israel Efrat Yerday, Tel Aviv University

National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) Conference



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2025

STROUM CENTER FACULTY MEMBERS

GERMAN STUDIES

Richard Block: literature, philosophy, history, German-Jewish studies

*lason Groves: lewish studies and German literature, culture, and language

Annegret Oehme:

medieval & early modern German & Yiddish literature

*Jonathan Rafael-Balling: German-Jewish studies, modern Yiddish literature, gender, sexuality

HISTORY

Susan A. Glenn:

antisemitism, assimilation and identity in the US, Jews and Blacks

Liora Halperin: Jewish cultural/social history, nationalism and collective memory

*Mark Letteney: late antiquity, archaeology in Israel, history of incarceration

Laurie Marhoefer: Nazi Germany, fascism, gender, sexuality, race

Devin E. Naar: modern European Jewish history, Sephardic Jewry

Joel Walker: late antiquity, history of Jerusalem, ancient Iran, Mongols

JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Mika Ahuvia: ancient Judaism, magic, early mysticism, rabbinic literature

Smadar Ben-Natan:

human rights, justice and law, national security, Israel

Daniel Bessner: Jewish intellectual history, US foreign relations and history

Alan Dowty: Israel studies, political science, Israel/Palestine

Kathie Friedman: immigrant and refugee

studies, sociology

Andrea Gevurtz Arai: social movements, anthropology, Israel

Brendan Goldman: Jews of the medieval Islamic world, incarceration

Noam Pianko: American Jewish history, Zionism, modern Jewish thought

MIDDLE EASTERN **LANGUAGES & CULTURES**

*Canan Bolel: Ottoman history and Jewry, Sephardic Jewry, Ladino language

Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz: modern Hebrew language, literature, and conversation

*Kathryn McConaughey Medill: ancient Middle East, biblical Hebrew and the Hebrew Bible

Scott B. Noegel: biblical Hebrew, Middle Eastern languages, literature, history

Naomi B. Sokoloff: modern Jewish literature, Hebrew, Israeli culture

Hamza Mahmood Zafer: ancient Judaism, early

Islam, Jews and Muslims in the Quran

SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Galya Diment: Russian literary/cultural history, Russian-Jewish film

Barbara Henry: 20thcentury Russian/Yiddish literature, theatre and drama

Sasha Senderovich:

Russian-Jewish experience, modern Jewish literature, Yiddish

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE STUDIES

Ana Gómez-Bravo:

Sephardic culture in Spain, food and culture

CLASSICS

Sarah Culpepper Stroup:

classics, Latin prose literature, ancient history, art

COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF IDEAS

Nicolaas P. Barr:

antisemitism, intellectual history, modern Europe

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Noga Rotem: political and feminist theory, Hannah Arendt

* New faculty member

Photos by Meryl Schenker











For more information, visit: jewishstudies.washington.edu/faculty

IN MEMORIAM

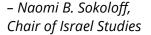
Jere Bacharach, Emeritus Faculty

Jere Bacharach joined the UW faculty in 1967, was one of the founding members of the Jewish Studies Program, and for many years taught courses on Jews in the Muslim world. His primary research interests were in the field of Islamic coins and currencies, and he was a highly accomplished scholar who received international recognition. Jere was best known, though, for his exceptional leadership and boundless energy.

Among his many roles at the UW, he served as chair of the Jewish Studies Program. Other positions he held included chair of the Department of History and director of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. He also served terms as president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA), president of Middle East Medievalists; and president of the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs.

Jere had a special gift for community building. He was generous with his time and supportive of colleagues. Many found in him a remarkable mentor and a helpful friend - not to mention, also: an avid collector of neckties, a champion writer of

thank you notes, a superlative sender of postcards from places visited on his many travels, and a cheerful participant at countless faculty meetings where he indefatigably seconded motions to approve the minutes.





Gad Barzilai, Emeritus Faculty



Professionally, Gad Barzilai was among the leading scholars in the field of law and society. With a background in both law and political science, he became the leading voice on the interplay of politics and law in Israel, especially issues pertaining to human

rights. In 2022-23, he was president of the Israel Political Science Association. Previously, he had served as president of both the Association for Israel Studies and the Israel Law and Society Association.

In Israel, Gadi was also a leading public intellectual. This year, 2023, he emerged as a prominent voice

on Israeli television and radio, analyzing (and decrying) the proposed changes in Israel's judicial system. He was passionate about Israel and was genuinely upset by the multiple changes proposed by the new right-wing government, fearing for the future of Israeli democracy.

Gadi was also a true mensch. Both at the UW and Haifa University, he drew people to him through his interest in them. He mentored multiple students, and together we served on a number of graduate committees. His funeral, not surprisingly, was a huge event with hundreds of people attending colleagues, students, friends, and family. Almost every conversation with Gadi started with a report on his two sons, Daniel and Ari, to whom he was extremely devoted.

- Joel Migdal, UW Professor Emeritus, International Studies

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Center, Former Advisory Board Chair

The Stroum Center honors the life of Bob Center, former chair of the center's Advisory Board and longtime advocate for Jewish Studies at the University of Washington.

After a long career in aeronautics and technology development, including the role of executive director of Washington
Technology Centers at the University of Washington, Bob Center became heavily involved with the UW's Jewish Studies Program.
He served as board chair and advisor to the program for many years, and, along with his wife Pamela, supported the research of six graduate students through the Robert and Pamela Center graduate fellowship between 2016 and 2023.

Bob Center was born in Germany in 1935. His family was able to emigrate to Sydney, Australia, just prior to the outbreak of World War II. He believed strongly in the importance of educating the public about Jews and Jewish history.

He will be deeply missed by the Stroum Center and its community.



Bob Center and graduate fellow Sara Molaie in 2018



2022-2023 BOARD MEMBERS

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Advisory Board members Herb and Lucy Pruzan enjoying the Stroum Lectures. Photo by Meryl Schenker

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

The Heyke Family

Dieter and Betty Heyke do not have the usual profile of Stroum Center supporters. First, they are not Jewish. Second, Dieter's formative years were spent in Nazi Germany.

In grade school, Dieter's mother and aunt became best friends with Else Karmin, the daughter of a local rabbi. Else and her husband, Max, escaped Germany on the eve of the Holocaust and started a new life in Chicago.

Dieter's family lost everything in the war. After Germany's surrender, Else and Max sent the family food and clothing from Chicago. In 1953, when Dieter turned 18, Max sponsored his immigration to the United States. Max's family lent Dieter a suit to wear on the journey (pictured), and Max gave Dieter his first job in the U.S.

"They were his saviors," Dieter's wife, Betty, explains.

Referring to SCJS, Betty explains how she and her husband "were impressed with what [the center] does... especially focusing [on educating not only] lewish students."



A young Dieter Heyke wearing Max Karmin's suit

Sustainers' Circle: Harvey J. Sadis & Harriett M. Cody



Harvey J. Sadis and Harriett M. Cody

This past year, in the wake of the Sephardic Studies Program's 10th anniversary, Harvey J. Sadis and Harriett M. Cody, a retired King County Superior Court judge, created the Jean and Joseph Sadis Sustainers Fund in Sephardic Studies as part of the newly launched Sustainers' Circle, representing the next stage of philanthropic support for SSP.

"This is the largest gift we've ever made and will probably be able to make in our lifetime," said Harriett. "We wanted to be part of a fund that would move support of the program into the next generation."

Harvey's grandparents were some of the first Sephardim to arrive in Seattle in 1911. Harvey's memory of his mother speaking Ladino is the soundtrack to his childhood in Seattle's Mount Baker neighborhood.

"To me the [Ladino] language is the bedrock of the Sephardic people. Without that they cannot fully express who they are," Harvey said. "With the Sephardic Studies Program, I couldn't be happier that there is a directive to preserve the traditions of Ladino."

To read more of Harvey and Harriett's story, and for more information about the Sephardic Studies Sustainers' Circle, please visit: **jewishstudies.washington.edu/sadis**



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SAVE THE DATE

UW Jewish Studies 50th Anniversary Gala

Tuesday, October 29, 2024 Intellectual House, University of Washington campus

