

STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024



STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023-2024



423,481 people from **193** countries learned from resources on our website



740 students enrolled in **39** courses



11 public events and **20** workshops for students and faculty



62,000 views of lectures on our YouTube channel from **25** countries

Front cover: Photos by Kohana Aisaka & Meryl Schenker. Portrait of Hayim Katsman by Eliyahu Hershkovitz

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

There are no words to adequately describe the year we've endured, so I begin with images instead. In the pages of our impact report this year, you can see pictures of our distinguished teachers, including this year's outstanding instructors Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz and Kathryn McConaughy Medill; brilliant students like Outstanding Undergraduate Lauren Zarlingo and Husky 100 honoree Anaëlle Oiknine; and the amazing array of guest speakers we hosted this year, including ethnomusicologist Edwin Seroussi, sociologist and chair of the Association of Ethiopian Jews Efrat Yerday, environmentalist and former Knesset member Alon Tal, religion scholar Cynthia Baker, and Holocaust historian Marion Kaplan.



However, the person around whom our hearts and minds orbited all year was our former student and alumnus Hayim Katsman, who was killed by Hamas on October 7, along with 1,200 others. Within days our campus became a proxy for the war in the Middle East, with people insisting that their perspective was the only way to see things, that there was no complexity, only a binary of good and evil. It wasn't just our campus; this became the reality at many universities, synagogues, non-profit organizations, and other workplaces. In this climate, our Jewish Studies classrooms became even more important as places on campus where students of diverse backgrounds and politics still came together, still heard each other, were still in conversation, and still held space for complexity and multiple perspectives.

I had to remind myself over and over again that this is what we're here for: scholars of Jewish Studies believe that multiple narratives and perspectives can coexist, can be true, even if they contradict each other. We affirm that wisdom is, in the words of F. Scott Fitzgerald, "the ability to hold two opposing ideas in mind at the same time and still retain the ability to function... [to] be able to see that things are hopeless yet be determined to make them otherwise." I wonder if Fitzgerald knew of Rabbi Tarfon's famous words from two thousand years ago: "It does not fall on you to finish all the work of the world, but you are not free to desist from it." These two statements seem to me to be related: We must keep focusing on our mission and vision for good, regardless of how bleak the circumstances may feel. If those words resonate with you, you are part of our Jewish Studies community. And we have important work ahead of us.

Thank you for being a supporter and friend of the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mika Ahuvia".

Mika Ahuvia
Director, Stroum Center for Jewish Studies
Herbert L. & Lucia S. Pruzan Chair in Jewish Studies
Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies

IN MEMORY OF HAYIM KATSMAN, PH.D. '21



News of the October 7 Hamas attacks on Israel were felt immediately by the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies as we learned of the tragic murder of our alumnus, Hayim Katsman, at his home on Kibbutz Holit.

Hayim, a peace activist, died shielding his neighbor, Avital Alajem. “Hayim in Hebrew is ‘life,’” she told *The Forward*. “And he gave life to this planet as he saved me, and I was able to save two kids.”

Hayim graduated in June 2021 from the UW’s Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies with a Ph.D. in International Studies, with a focus on religions, cultures, and civilization. His dissertation on the Religious Zionist movement in Israel was dedicated to “all life forms that exist between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.”

Hayim was “a brilliant bright light in the field of Israel Studies, a citizen of a conflict-ridden region who pursued solidarity and peace, a lover of music, and a great friend,” remembers Stroum

Center director Mika Ahuvia. During his time at the UW, Hayim received considerable academic recognition, including a 2018–2019 Stroum Center graduate fellowship.

Faculty member Liora Halperin, who served on Hayim’s doctoral committee, notes that he was also an impactful instructor who taught courses on Israeli politics. “Hayim made friends and gained admirers from around the world at the University of Washington, in the Seattle Jewish community, and in his fields of study. He was a DJ, a gardener, and a car mechanic. He was generous and self-effacing.”



Hayim served as research and teaching assistant for faculty member Devin E. S. Naar, who called him a friend and colleague, and recalls how he “delivered an unforgettable guest lecture on the memory of the Shoah in Israeli society” for a course on the Holocaust. “He was a brilliant scholar and gifted lecturer. He had a deep, sophisticated, and compassionate analysis. May his memory be a blessing.”

SELECTED SCHOLARLY WORKS



Israeli Conservatism: Religious Zionism and the Struggle for Hegemony. In *Americanization of the Israeli Right*, 2024.

Religion and Politics in Israel: Boundaries and Values, with Guy Ben-Porat. In *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Politics*, 2023.

HAYIM KATSMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Hayim Katsman's presence at the UW made a significant difference in the lives of everyone that met him. Hayim encouraged his cohort of fellow students to study Israel comparatively and invited them to visit him there.

In fall 2023, Jewish Studies received a generous donation to support graduate summer study in Israel. Shortly after October 7, the Center decided to rename it in Hayim's honor. At the request of friends of the family, we are expanding this fund to honor his legacy, supporting study and scholarship that are in keeping with Hayim's ideals of deeper understanding and mutual respect across political, cultural, and religious differences in the Middle East.

For more information, or to make a gift in Hayim's honor, please visit: jewishstudies.washington.edu/katsmanfund



MEMORIAL EVENT

October 15, 2024

Please join us on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, to commemorate the *yarhzeit* of Hayim Katsman with a memorial event exploring the works and impact of Hayim's scholarship.

This event will feature a panel discussion with remarks led by Professor Emeritus Joel Migdal, and others who knew Hayim's scholarly works well.

Open to the public, this event will take place in hybrid format, both in person on the University of Washington's campus and via Zoom so that Hayim's family and friends in Israel may attend.

RSVP online: jewishstudies.washington.edu/memorial



New Religious-Nationalist Trends among Jewish Settlers in the Halutza Sands. International Journal of Religion, 2020.

The Hyphen Cannot Hold: Contemporary Trends in Religious-Zionism. Israel Studies Review, 2020.

Israel: Religion and Political Parties, with Guy Ben-Porat. In *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Political Parties*, 2019.

Reactions Towards Jewish Radicalism: Rabbi Yitzchak Ginzburg and Religious Zionism. In *Jewish Radicalisms*, 2019.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

HEBREW TABLE

In fall quarter, the Stroum Center partnered with the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures' Hebrew program to host a weekly Hebrew-language gathering for students on the UW campus.

Ph.D. student Nadav Ganon (Near and Middle Eastern Studies) writes:

"The Stroum Center for Jewish Studies has been instrumental in fostering a welcoming academic and communal environment for me this past year. The Center provided students with invaluable intellectual and social support through initiatives like the Hebrew Table, the lunch and learn series, and various other gatherings.

The Hebrew Table, in particular, became a cornerstone for me to meet other Hebrew speakers in a relaxed, conversational setting, serving as a safe space during challenging



times. Additionally, the communal lunches and events organized by the Stroum Center created a welcoming space for us to engage with faculty, peers, and guest speakers, facilitating meaningful academic discussions as well as socializing with each other. These opportunities offered a much-needed sanctuary, reinforcing a sense of solidarity and resilience. Stroum Center gatherings not only nourished our minds but also built a strong sense of community, underscoring the importance of Jewish Studies in our academic and personal lives."

BUILDING COMMUNITY

"LUNCH AND LEARN" SERIES

During winter quarter, the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies hosted a weekly "lunch and learn" series focusing on scholarship about and from Israel. Speakers included UW faculty (Naomi Sokoloff, Mika Ahuvia, Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz, and Andrea Gevurtz Arai) as well as several scholars visiting from Israel in person or via Zoom (Alon Tal, Shalom Sabar, and Sara Hirschhorn).

The lunch and learn format, geared for a smaller audience, provided opportunities for Jewish Studies professors, students, staff, and community



supporters to learn together and to engage in lively conversations on diverse topics ranging from art, music, and literature created in the aftermath of October 7 to Jewish bioethics to exile and diaspora in the ancient world. Students, faculty, and staff found the weekly lunchtime gatherings to be an important opportunity for community building and healing in the midst of ongoing grief and pain.

STUDENT AWARDS

2023-2024 Outstanding Jewish Studies Student: Lauren Zarlingo



Lauren Zarlingo, from Everett, Washington, was voted by faculty as the 2023-2024 Outstanding Jewish Studies Student. Lauren graduated this year with a B.A. in business administration and minors in Jewish studies, data science, and textual studies & digital humanities. Nominated by several faculty, Lauren's professors noted her impressive, graduate-level work and her ability to innovatively combine her interests in humanities, archives, and Ladino. Last summer Lauren worked with Professor Canan Bolel on the metadata project for the Sephardic Studies Digital Collection, allowing new books to be added to the collection online. Additionally, in her sophomore

year, Lauren digitized issues of the Ladino newspaper La Vara, creating a Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) document as part of her digital studies coursework. She credits the Stroum Center with giving her an intellectual home and community where she was able to develop her knowledge, interests, and research skills. Lauren particularly treasured the opportunity to learn Ladino, giving her the invaluable ability to access firsthand perspectives from Sephardic history. She wants to thank the professors, staff, donors, and supporters of the Stroum Center – the Center is a brilliant collection of people doing incredible work, and she is honored to have been a small part of it. *Mersi mucho!*

Husky 100: Anaëlle Oiknine

Anaëlle Oiknine was selected as one of this year's Husky 100, the top 100 undergraduate and graduate students making the most of their time at the University of Washington. She graduated with a B.A. in human evolutionary biology and a B.S. in biology, and minors in chemistry and Jewish studies. Highlights of her time at UW include: learning Hebrew with

Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz, teaching Judaics and Hebrew at the Kavana Cooperative, serving as lab technician at the Raible Lab, peer facilitating a physiology lab for three years, volunteering at Chabad weekly, and visiting Poland with other UW students to learn about the Holocaust. After college she plans to work in a lab and apply to medical school.



PUBLIC EVENTS, 2023-2024

Fall Quarter

What Can Jewish Mothers Teach Us About Jewish Origins and Ethnicities?
Cynthia M. Baker, Bates College

Ladino Day 2023: *Kantika*, A Sephardic Novel by Author Elizabeth Graver
Elizabeth Graver

Winter Quarter

A New Day in Babylon and Jerusalem: Zionism, Power, Politics, and Identity
Sara Yael Hirschhorn, University of Haifa

The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Finding a Path Forward
Alon Tal, Tel Aviv University

Jerusalem in Rome and Galilee: Encountering the Holy City in Jewish and Christian Mosaics

Karen Britt, Northwest Missouri State University
Ra'anana Boustan, Princeton University

Spring Quarter

Contemporary Ethiopian Artists in Israel and the Question of Hyphenated Identity
Efrat Yerday, Tel Aviv University

The Complexities of Jewish Friendships: Jews and Non-Jews in Imperial Germany
Marion Kaplan, New York University

Hitler's Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal
Marion Kaplan, New York University

Not a Good Time for Hebrew? Novelist Maya Arad & *The Hebrew Teacher*
Maya Arad, Stanford University



Workshops

Alongside its public programming, the Stroum Center also hosted a yearlong series of seminar-style workshops with renowned scholars for students and faculty. Highlights included:

- **Israel and Hamas in Perspective** – Alan Dowty, University of Washington
- **The Invention of the Postcard: The Circulation of Jewish Visual Culture in Ottoman and Greek Salonica** – Shalom Sabar, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- **Israeli Writers and Writing After October 7** – Naomi B. Sokoloff, University of Washington
- **Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and the Construction of Jews as White** – Aziza Khazzoom, Indiana University

ISRAEL STUDIES PROGRAM

In 2023-2024, the Israel Studies Program organized multiple public events highlighting the vitality and vibrant creativity of Israeli culture. These included lectures on ethnomusicology (Edwin Seroussi) and archaeology (Karen Britt and Ra'anan Boustan), as well as representations of Ethiopian Jews in the arts (Efrat Yerday). A lecture by Alon Tal, professor of public policy and former Green Party leader in the Israeli Knesset, addressed current political issues.

The Stroum Center's Israel Studies Program was pleased to work with a variety of academic units at the UW – the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, African Studies, Music, and

Anthropology, among others – to sponsor and cosponsor talks, interviews, and workshops with distinguished guest speakers.

In addition, winter quarter featured a weekly lunch and learn series focusing on scholarship about and from Israel (see page 5). Our Hebrew speakers and learners also engaged in weekly “Hebrew Table” gatherings, participated in yearlong translation projects with visiting scholars, and practiced their restaurant vocabulary by serving a meal and dining together at Hillel.

— Naomi B. Sokoloff, Chair of Israel Studies
Samuel & Althea Stroum Endowed Chair in Jewish Studies

Conference: National Association of Professors of Hebrew

This summer, the Israel Studies Program hosted the annual conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew on the University of Washington campus. Around eighty participants attended from North America and Israel. The conference included presentations on Hebrew language, literature, film, and pedagogy.

A special keynote event featured acclaimed Hebrew-language writer Maya Arad in conversation with faculty member and Israel Studies chair Naomi B. Sokoloff. An English version of Maya Arad's recent book, *The Hebrew Teacher*, translated into English by Jessica Cohen, was published in March 2024.



SEPHARDIC STUDIES PROGRAM



Ke Guo, UW Ph.D. '24, performs with musician Reynaldo Ruiz at the “Ladino Folksongs Today” event with musicologist Edwin Seroussi

“This past academic year has been tremendously challenging and painful. For us, it began on October 7 with the murder of our alumnus and my friend, Hayim Katsman, at his kibbutz near Gaza. Despite the pain so many of us feel, we can look to history — and the specific entry point that Sephardic Studies offers — to recognize that the present is radically different than the past, despite many throughlines, and thus we can imagine different futures. Sephardic Studies, I humbly submit, offers us a sense of optimism in such dark times.

Our program’s initiatives this past year highlighted the multidimensionality of Sephardic experiences. For Ladino Day 2023, which drew six hundred participants from nearly twenty countries, I had the pleasure of interviewing acclaimed novelist Elizabeth Graver about her award-winning novel *Kantika*.

Graver was also one of the judges in a new endeavor in partnership with the Sephardic Brotherhood of America, *Muestras Konsejas* (Our Tales), the first international Sephardic essay competition. Congratulations to our winners, selected from fifty submissions!

In the spring, as the culmination of an event series in honor of Hazzan Isaac Azose, we collaborated with Israel Studies to host Hebrew University musicologist Edwin Seroussi for two lectures on

Ottoman Jewish music, which transcends national and cultural boundaries.

I am proud that among this past year’s Stroum Center graduate fellows, four focused on Sephardic Studies projects: on the Dönme (a sect of Jewish converts to Islam); on Ottoman Jewish and Muslim legal writings; on a Jewish gynecologist in Ottoman Istanbul; and on Jewish refugees from Greece and Turkey. Many fellows benefitted from the expert instruction of our new Ladino professor in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, Canan Bolel.

Connecting across the generations, we hosted a field trip to campus for fifth graders from the Seattle Jewish Community School, Jewish Day School, and Seattle Hebrew Academy, who engaged with original artifacts from the UW Sephardic Studies Collection. In collaboration with the Seattle Sephardic Network, we also relaunched the Ladineros, a cross-generational Ladino meetup at the Summit Senior Living Community.

As we reflect on the challenges of this past year and take stock of our accomplishments, we can draw inspiration from a Ladino *refran* (proverb): *Kuando se eskurese, es para amanecer*. When it is dark out, do not forget that dawn is coming.”

— Devin E. S. Naar, Chair of Sephardic Studies
Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies

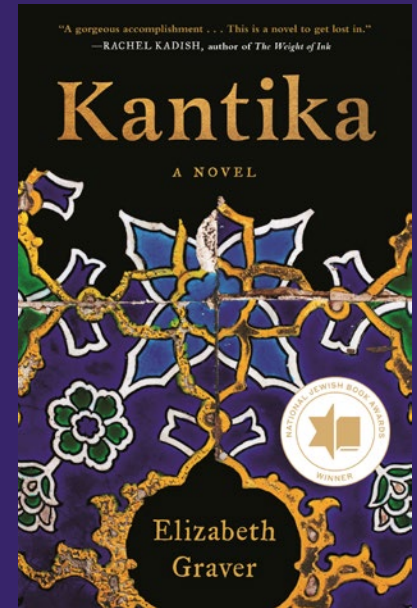
LADINO DAY 2023

For Ladino Day 2023, the Sephardic Studies Program was thrilled to host the author of one of the newest works in the Sephardic literary space: acclaimed novelist Elizabeth Graver. Graver joined program chair Devin E. S. Naar via Zoom to discuss her award-winning novel *Kantika* with an audience of six hundred viewers from nearly twenty countries.

Winner of the 2023 National Jewish Book Award in the Sephardic culture category, *Kantika* ("song" in Ladino) centers around the story of Graver's grandmother, who was

born into a Sephardic Jewish family from Istanbul in the early 20th century. Her kaleidoscopic journey takes her to Barcelona, Havana, and ultimately New York, and explores themes of displacement, endurance, and family as home.

"There are not very many novels about the Sephardic experience, so I wanted to speak to those readers," said Graver. "There's a story behind [the fictional narratives within *Kantika*] that really happened. That history is incredibly important to me."



NATIONAL SEPHARDIC ESSAY COMPETITION



Winner: "Si Kere El Dio" by Nuaia Menda Malki – Valencia, Spain



Runner up: "Mother, A Memoir" by Gloria DeVidas Kirchheimer – New York City, United States



Student winner: "Las Validjas" by Liza Cemel – Heidelberg, Germany



Student runner up: "Yogurt in Sephardi Life" by Nesi Altaras – Stanford, United States

2023-2024 Muestras Konsejas (Our Tales)

Mazal bueno to the winning storytellers of the first international Sephardic essay competition, *Muestras Konsejas* (Our Tales). Presented in partnership with the Sephardic Brotherhood of America, this writing contest opened a new space for the telling of Sephardic stories reflecting on Sephardic identity. Writers shared original works of prose (fictional or memoir) that gave voice to the experiences of Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jewish communities.

An expert panel of judges, including Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies Devin E. S. Naar, award-winning novelist Elizabeth Graver (also our featured guest for Ladino Day 2023), and MacArthur Fellow Ruth Behar, selected four winners across both "general" and student categories from fifty submissions received from all over the world.

Visit jewishstudies.washington.edu/muestras-konsejas to read the winning *konsejas*!

HAZZAN AZOSE COMMUNITY EVENT SERIES

Musicologist Edwin Seroussi on Hebrew & Ladino Music

This past spring, the Sephardic Studies Program partnered with Israel Studies to host renowned musicologist Edwin Seroussi, director of the Jewish Music Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in a two-day showcase spotlighting Hebrew and Ladino music.

Seroussi's first lecture focused on the songs of Rabbi Israel Najara, who drew inspiration from Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Greek and Ladino musical traditions in the sixteenth century. Seroussi's second lecture, "The Sonic Ruins of Modernity," explored the trajectory of a single Ladino folk song over time, illustrating the ability of music to transcend national and cultural boundaries.

"He really is the most important scholar of Jewish music working anywhere in the world today," said Isaac Alhadeff Professor in Sephardic Studies Devin E. S. Naar of Seroussi. "It is a great privilege and honor to have [had] him here."

Ke Guo, a Ph.D. in the UW's School of Music and the Stroum Center's 2023 Finish Line Fellow, performed several Ladino songs with Reynaldo Ruiz as part of the program and, in one of the most poignant moments of the evening, led the audience in a moving rendition of the Ladino folk song "Morenika," a fitting send-off for this artistic events series in honor of local *hazzan* (cantor) and Sephardic community leader Isaac Azose.



Photos by Kohana Aisaka & Meryl Schenker

Celebrating the Hazzan Azose Community Engagement Event Series

The two-day showcase with Edwin Seroussi marked the culmination of the Hazzan Azose Community Engagement event series at the University of Washington. The series was made possible by the Hazzan Isaac Azose Fund for Community Engagement in Sephardic Studies, which was established by the Isaac Alhadeff Foundation, Joel and Maureen Benoliel, and multiple community leaders and local institutions in partnership with the Sephardic Studies Program to celebrate local *hazzan* (cantor) Isaac Azose's 90th birthday in 2022.

The fund has supported public events, performances, and digital projects focused on Sephardic arts and culture, bridging the world of academia and artistic expression and centering the Sephardic experience.

Past events have included a discussion of the Netflix television series "The Club" ("Kulüp") with scholars and head writer Rana Denizer, and the *Muestras Artistas* arts symposium, which brought together six Sephardic artists.



Announcing the Sustainers' Circle in Sephardic Studies

In spring 2024, the Sephardic Studies Program announced a new level of giving: the Sustainers' Circle.

To date, three Seattle Sephardic families have generously come together as sustainers by providing a five-year pledge to ensure the continued growth and impact of the Sephardic Studies Program.

Mersi muncho to **Joel and Maureen Benoliel, Harry Caraco, and Harvey Sadis and Harriett Cody!**

Sephardic Studies Sustainers' Circle

Joel & Maureen Benoliel

Harry Caraco

in honor of the Caraco & Tarica families

Harvey Sadis & Harriett Cody

in honor of Jean & Joseph Sadis

with generous donations from other supporters including

David & Victoria Benoliel, Sharon and Marty Lott

and the **Isaac Alhadeff Foundation**

Learn more about supporting UW Sephardic Studies: jewishstudies.washington.edu/support-ssp

WELCOMING ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR ALIYAH VINIKOOR



Aliyah Vinikoor became the Stroum Center's new associate director in March 2024, and brings a wealth of experiences from both academic and social work settings to the role. Most recently, Aliyah served as the assistant director of the Master of Social Work program at the UW School of Social Work, where she received a staff recognition award in 2023.

Before that, Aliyah was a program manager for Student Engagement and Activities at UW Bothell, where she organized numerous events and worked closely with student groups. She was also an associate

dean for the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, where she served on the leadership team for both the graduate and undergraduate programs.

In the world of social work, Aliyah was previously a mental health counselor for Jewish Family Service in Seattle; the director of emergency housing for the Ali Forney Center in New York City; and a program director for Safe Horizon in New York City, among other positions.

Aliyah holds a master's degree in social work from Hunter College's School of Social Work and a bachelor's degree in history from Barnard College. Part of a longtime Seattle Sephardic family, she is thrilled to join the Stroum Center. Welcome, Aliyah!

2023-2024 GRADUATE FELLOWS IN JEWISH STUDIES



Susanna Bluhm
Pamela & Robert Center Fellow
M.A., Comparative Religion Program
Research project: Landscape & environment in Jewish texts



Joana Bürger
Mickey & Leo Sreebny Fellow
Ph.D. candidate, Department of History
Research project: A Turkish Jew in Nazi Germany



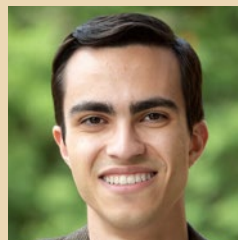
Büsra Demirkol
Robinovitch Family Fellow
Ph.D. candidate, Interdisciplinary Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
Research project: A Jewish, feminist gynecologist in late Ottoman Istanbul



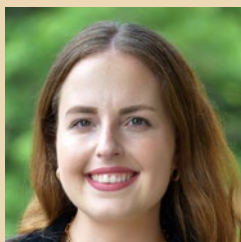
Amna Farooqi
Max Sarason Fellow
Ph.D. student, School of Drama
Research project: Stella Adler, Yiddish theater, and method acting



Corinna Nichols
Ina & Richard Willner Fellow
Ph.D. candidate, Interdisciplinary Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
Research project: Ancient writing on broken pottery ("ostraca") & life in biblical times



Elyakim Suissa
Robinovitch Family Fellow
M.A., Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
Research project: The historical value of "responsa" and Jewish and Muslim legal writings from the Ottoman Empire



Sasha Marie Ward
Ina & Richard Willner Fellow
Ph.D. student, Interdisciplinary Program in Near and Middle Eastern Studies
Research project: Istanbul's Dönme community and Jewish identity

Each year, the Stroum Center's interdisciplinary graduate fellowship program supports advanced graduate students from across the University researching Jewish Studies topics.

COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM THROUGH EDUCATION

As antisemitism education became increasingly important this year, the quiet work of Jewish Studies – creating inclusive classrooms grounded in trust and developing a robust understanding of antisemitism and its manifestations through courses, lectures, workshops and online resources – continued at the Stroum Center.

Some highlights from this year include:

- Regular gathering and dialogue spaces for students through lunch and learns and other workshops
- Faculty, staff and student trainings on communication and coping with antisemitism by Bard Center for Hate Studies director Kenneth Stern, local trauma recovery expert Connie Burk, staff from the bridge-building nonprofit Project Shema, and others
- Courses focused on antisemitism, the Holocaust, global diasporas, and the history of Israel and Palestine
- Support for the UW taskforce on antisemitism, with faculty member Devin E. S. Naar serving as a member
- Continued hosting of the Stroum Center’s podcast on the history of antisemitism and online explainers of Jews, Judaism, Jewish history and the mechanics behind antisemitism



MAKING AN IMPACT ONLINE



247,812 people read “Judaism, Jewish history and anti-Jewish prejudice,” an overview of Jewish history and the origins of antisemitism by faculty member Mika Ahuvia

- **131,000** read the overview in the weeks immediately following October 7
- **14,000** people viewed the video version of the overview on YouTube



3,322 people visited the Stroum Center’s antisemitism podcast online

STROUM CENTER FACULTY MEMBERS

COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF IDEAS

Nicolaas P. Barr
Antisemitism, intellectual history, modern Europe

GERMAN STUDIES

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

Richard Block
Literature, philosophy, history, German-Jewish studies

Jason Groves
Jewish studies and German literature, culture, and language

Annegret Oehme
Medieval & early modern German & Yiddish literature

HENRY M. JACKSON SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Mika Ahuvia
Ancient Judaism, rabbinic literature, material culture

Smadar Ben-Natan
Human rights, justice and law, national security, Israel

Daniel Bessner
Jewish intellectual history, US foreign relations and history

Kathie Friedman
Immigrant and refugee studies, sociology

Andrea Gevurtz Arai
Social movements, anthropology, Israel

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

Noam Pianko
American Jewish history, Zionism, modern Jewish thought

HISTORY

Susan A. Glenn
Antisemitism, assimilation and identity in the US, comparative history

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

MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES & CULTURES

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

Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz
Modern Hebrew language, literature, and conversation

Kathryn McConaughy Medill
Ancient Middle East studies, 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 and cultural history, Russian-Jewish film

Barbara Henry
20th-century Russian and Yiddish literature, theatre and drama

Sasha Senderovich
Russian Jewish experience, modern Jewish literature, Yiddish

STROUM CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

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

Gilah Kletenik*
Jewish philosophy, Spinoza, gender & women studies

SPANISH & PORTUGUESE STUDIES

Ana Gómez-Bravo
Sephardic culture in Spain, food and culture

Sarah Culpepper Stroup
Classics, Latin prose literature, ancient history, art

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Noga Rotem
Political theory, feminist theory, Hannah Arendt

* *New faculty member*



OUTSTANDING FACULTY

While this was a challenging year to teach in Jewish Studies, our faculty's impact on students was significant. This year, a full half of the faculty was nominated as an outstanding instructor by Jewish Studies students. This is a small selection of what students had to say in their nominations:

Devin E. S. Naar

Antisemitism as a Cultural System

"Professor Naar exhibited exceptional scholarly courage in leading a course on antisemitism that coincided with the greatest debates on the topic this country has ever seen. His lectures were prepared with vital sensitivity to the views, subject-matter background, and experiences of his diverse students."

Smadar Ben-Natan

History of Modern Israel/Palestine

"I appreciated the care she took with presenting the material in an unbiased and fact-based way, always respecting the seriousness of the topic. She fostered an atmosphere of open dialogue — without her attitude I likely would have never read Israeli authors and missed a huge part of the story. This was one of the most valuable courses I've ever taken."

Gilah Kletenik

Jewish Philosophy: Power, Politics, and Propaganda

"A phenomenally knowledgeable and enthusiastic scholar and teacher who transformed a subject I was ambivalent and insecure about into a new favorite. Professor Kletenik's passion was so contagious it had me doing extra reading outside of class and reconsidering my grad school aspirations."

Canan Bolel

Gulliver's Travels Among Muslims and Jews

"Professor Bolel has it all! She gives fascinating, expert lectures; the way she picks up and unravels the many thematic threads of a text one by one is amazing to watch. She also facilitates rich and lively in-class discussions. Our readings provided diverse perspectives on the topic and were perfectly coordinated to enhance our assignments, lectures, and discussions."

2023-2024 OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTORS

Because of the incredible number of faculty members nominated this year, the **two** most-nominated instructors were chosen to receive the outstanding instructor award for 2023-2024.

Hadar Khazzam-Horovitz



Khazzam-Horovitz teaches modern Hebrew and a bioethics course. Students noted the joy, enthusiasm, and hands-on activities that Khazzam-Horovitz skillfully weaves into her instruction. One wrote: "Hadar had a profound impact on my education by teaching me Hebrew, which

allowed me to communicate with my grandparents. She has the most passion I've ever seen in a professor and brightened my day every class period."

Kathryn McConaughy Medill



Medill teaches Biblical Hebrew, Introduction to the Old Testament, and Introduction to the Ancient Near East, as well as a variety of courses dealing with biblical and ancient Near Eastern literature. Students wrote of her passion, knowledge, and one-on-one mentorship:

"She made me feel empowered as both a student and as a time-traveling research agent to navigate the ancient Middle East."



SCJS supporter Arlene Ehrlich with faculty member Noam Pianko. Photo by Meryl Schenker

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Meet long-time supporter Arlene Ehrlich

For nearly two decades, Seattleite and UW alumna Arlene B. Ehrlich's generosity has made it possible for UW students to engage deeply with Jewish Studies through study abroad, the study of Jewish languages, conference attendance, and research travel.

In 2007, Arlene B. Ehrlich established the Mitchell F. and Sophie Wise Ehrlich Student Support Fund in Jewish Studies in honor of her parents, to support academic experiences related to Jewish Studies for students.

Mitchell and Sophie's passion for community and love of learning were deeply instilled in their daughter Arlene, who earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at the University of Washington in

1957 and a Master of Social Work in 1960. After completing her master's, Arlene went on to work for Jewish Family and Child Service (now Jewish Family Service) in Seattle. She later served as an oncological social worker at the UW Medical Center, supporting cancer patients and their families as they coped with illness. Later in her career, Ehrlich also served as National Director of Service and Rehabilitation for the American Cancer Society.

Outside of her professional life, Ehrlich has pursued continuing education through the University of Washington's Access Program for seniors, through which she has studied numerous topics, including Jewish Studies. Ehrlich has also been an active member

of the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies' Advisory Board and the Honorary Board of the Holocaust Center for Humanity.

The creation of the Mitchell F. and Sophie Wise Ehrlich Student Support Fund brought the Ehrlich family's core values of community and education full circle. Mitchell Ehrlich had long wanted to honor the memory of his wife Sophie. When he passed away in 2005, Arlene Ehrlich decided to honor her parents' memories, and their values, by creating the endowment – providing meaningful learning opportunities and sparking new connections with Jewish learning for countless UW students for generations to come. **Thank you so much for making it possible, Arlene!**

ADVISORY BOARD

Q&A with new board member Doreen Alhadeff

As the co-founder of the Seattle Sephardic Network, Doreen Alhadeff has been an advocate for the Sephardic Studies Program from its inception. A granddaughter of the first Sephardic Jewish woman in Seattle, Alhadeff was recently knighted by the King of Spain for her work promoting Sephardic heritage. Learn more about her involvement with the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies:

Why were you interested in joining the SCJS Advisory Board?

Given my involvement with the local and global Sephardic community, it felt important to be a part of the Stroum Center for Jewish Studies at the UW. As someone who has seen Seattle's Sephardic community achieve worldwide recognition due to the Stroum Center's Sephardic Studies Program, it was important for me to help move forward these educational initiatives to highlight Sephardic culture.

Which Stroum Center events are most memorable for you?

I remember when the Stroum Lectures were established. It was a big deal because it brought together the broader Seattle Jewish community, beyond the individual affiliations with each synagogue. This community is the sum of all of its parts and events like the Stroum Lectures allow all of those facets to come together.



Photo by Ron Wurzer

What has being a part of the Stroum Center community meant to you?

As a Jewish person here in Seattle, and knowing worldwide what these centers can achieve, I've always been so proud that the Stroum Center at the UW has been something that exists in my community.

2023-2024 BOARD MEMBERS

Doreen Alhadeff
Terry Azose
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Herb & Lucy Pruzan with Stroum Lecturer Marion Kaplan. Photo by Meryl Schenker



**STROUM CENTER
FOR JEWISH STUDIES**

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SAVE THE DATE
50th Anniversary Celebration
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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