Jewish Studies
2024-25

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THE HOLOCAUST & THE EXILE OF YIDDISH

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS
Smoothing the Jew
“Abie the Agent” and Ethnic Caricature in the Progressive Era

JEFFREY A. MARX

The turn of the nineteenth century in the United States saw the substantial influx of immigrants and a corresponding increase in anti-immigration and nativist tendencies among longer-settled Americans. Jewish immigrants were often the object of such animosity, being at once the object of admiration and anxiety for their perceived economic and social successes. One result was their frequent depiction in derogatory caricatures on the stage and in print.

Smoothing the Jew investigates how Jewish artists of the time attempted to “smooth over” these demeaning portrayals, by focusing on the first Jewish comic strip published in English, Harry Hershfield’s Abie the Agent. Jeffrey Marx demonstrates how Hershfield created a Jewish protagonist who in part reassured nativists of the Jews’ ability to assimilate into American society while also encouraging immigrants and their children that, over time, they would be able to adopt American customs without losing their distinctly Jewish identity.

JEFFREY A. MARX is an independent scholar, the rabbi emeritus of The Santa Monica Synagogue in California, and a former visiting lecturer at Emeritus College, Hebrew Union College, and Pepperdine University. His publications appear in scholarly journals and in popular media on topics ranging from Jewish studies to New York culture.

Jewish Education

ARI Y. KELMAN

Most writing about Jewish education has been preoccupied with two questions: What ought to be taught? And what is the best way to teach it? Ari Y. Kelman upends these conventional approaches by asking a different question: How do people learn to engage in Jewish life? This book, by centering learning, provides an innovative way of approaching the questions that are central to Jewish education specifically and to religious education more generally.

At the heart of Jewish Education is an innovative alphabetical primer of Jewish educational values, qualities, frameworks, catalysts, and technologies that explores the historical ways in which Jewish communities have produced and transmitted knowledge. The book examines the tension between Jewish education and Jewish studies to argue that shifting the locus of inquiry from “what people ought to know” to “how do people learn” can provide an understanding of Jewish education that both draws on historical precedent and points to the future of Jewish knowledge.

ARI Y. KELMAN is the Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies in the Stanford Graduate School of Education in Stanford, California. He is the author of Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States and coeditor of Beyond Jewish Identity.

Key Words in Jewish Studies
Soviet-Born
The Afterlives of Migration in Jewish American Fiction
KAROLINA KRASUSKA

In 2010, when The New Yorker published a list of twenty writers under the age of forty who were “key to their generation,” it included five Jewish-identified writers, two of whom—American Gary Shteyngart and Canadian David Bezmozgis—were Soviet-born. This publicity came after nearly a decade of English-language literary output by Soviet-born writers of all genders in North America. Soviet-Born: The Afterlives of Migration in Jewish American Fiction traces the impact of these now numerous authors—Anya Ulinich, Emine Ziyatdinova, Julia Alekseyeva, Sana Krasikov, Nadia Kalman, and Gary Shteyngart among them—on major coordinates of the Jewish-American imaginary.

Entering an immigrant, Soviet-born standpoint creates an alternative and sometimes complementary pattern of how the eastern and central European past and present resonate with American Jewishness. The novels, short stories, and graphic novels considered here often stage strikingly fresh variations on key older themes, including cultural geography, the memory of World War II and the Holocaust, communism, gender and sexuality, genealogy, and finally, migration. Soviet-Born demonstrates how these diasporic writers, with their critical stance toward identity categories, open up the field of what is canonically Jewish-American to broader contemporary debates.

KAROLINA KRASUSKA is an associate professor at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw, Poland, and a founding member of its Gender/Sexuality Research Group. She is a coeditor of Women and the Holocaust: New Perspectives and Challenges and the Polish translator of Judith Butler’s Gender Trouble.

Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age
Jews, Noahides, and the Third Temple Imaginary
RACHEL Z. FELDMAN

Judaism in the twenty-first century has seen the rise of the messianic Third Temple movement, as religious activists based in Israel have worked to realize biblical prophecies, including the restoration of a Jewish theocracy and the construction of the third and final Temple on Jerusalem’s Temple Mount. Through groundbreaking ethnographic research, Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age details how Third Temple visions have gained considerable momentum and political support in Israel and abroad.

The role of technology in this movement’s globalization has been critical. Feldman skillfully highlights the ways in which the internet and social media have contributed to the movement’s growth beyond the streets of Jerusalem into communities of former Christians around the world who now identify as the Children of Noah (Bnei Noah). She charts a path for future research while documenting the intimate effects of political theologies in motion and the birth of a new transnational Judaic faith.

RACHEL Z. FELDMAN is an assistant professor of religious studies at Dartmouth College and recipient of the 2023 Jordan Schnitzer First-Book Prize awarded by the Association for Jewish Studies. She is the coeditor of Settler Indigeneity in the West Bank with Ian McGonigle.
Checkbook Zionism
Philanthropy and Power in the Israel-Diaspora Relationship
ERIC FLEISCH
“Fleisch’s groundbreaking work helps scholars and the public understand why, despite American Jews’ significant investment in Israel, so many feel disempowered when it comes to the political future of the country. Even if there has been a major transformation in how American Jews support Israel, Fleisch reveals that the actual power they wield has remained remarkably restricted.”
—Lila Corwin Berman, author of The American Jewish Philanthropic Complex: The History of a Multibillion-Dollar Institution

American Jews donate approximately $2.5 billion to Israel each year. Behind all that money and influence lies a power-sharing dynamic that has left an indelible mark on the relationship between Israeli and American Jews and on the direction of Israeli society to this day. Checkbook Zionism investigates how both parties have managed their interests, emotions, and attitudes about the important yet at times tense collaboration between them.

By delving into the history of American Jews’ philanthropic giving to Israelis, Fleisch assesses the core nature of power sharing between both sides of the Jewish diaspora to the United States through in-depth contemporary case studies of the relationship between sixteen non-governmental organizations and their American Jewish donors. The result is a new paradigm for evaluating power-sharing that can be applied to future considerations of development in the Israel-Diaspora relationship.

ERIC FLEISCH is an assistant professor in Jewish studies at Pennsylvania State University, where he teaches Jewish history, Zionism, and Middle East studies.

New Israeli Horror
Local Cinema, Global Genre
OLGA GERSHENSON
Before 2010, there were no Israeli horror films. Then distinctly Israeli serial killers, zombies, vampires, and ghosts invaded local screens. The next decade saw a blossoming of the genre by young Israeli filmmakers. New Israeli Horror is the first book to tell their story. Through in-depth analysis, engaging storytelling, and interviews with the filmmakers, Olga Gershenson explores their films from inception to reception. She shows how these films challenge traditional representations of Israel and its people, while also appealing to audiences around the world.

Gershenson introduces an innovative conceptual framework of adaptation, which explains how filmmakers adapt global genre tropes to local reality. It illuminates the ways in which Israeli horror borrows and diverges from its international models. New Israeli Horror offers an exciting and original contribution to our understanding of both Israeli cinema and the horror genre.

OLGA GERSHENSON is a professor of Judaic and Near Eastern studies and of film studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is the author of The Phantom Holocaust: Soviet Cinema and Jewish Catastrophe (Rutgers University Press) and Gesher: Russian Theater in Israel and the editor of Ladies and Gents: Public Toilets and Gender.
Polish Jewish Culture beyond the Capital
Centering the Periphery
EDITED BY HALINA GOLDBERG AND NANCY SINKOFF
WITH NATALIA ALEKSIUN

“This splendid collection of essays breaks new ground in the study of Polish Jews and their cultural engagements. They redraw the map, bring centers and peripheries into unexpected relations, delineate cultural spaces in novel ways, and treat topics never before considered with a bracing freshness.”
—Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Ronald S. Lauder Chief Curator, Core Exhibition, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

“Polish Jewish life and culture has always been regional, diversely reflected in a multitude of centers from shtetlekh to urban working-class districts to provincial capitals. In this fascinating volume, leading scholars of Polish Jewry present original essays on the varieties of Jewish culture that once flourished in and around Poland.”
—Jeffrey Veidlinger, author of In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The 1918–1921 Pogroms in Ukraine and the Onset of the Holocaust

HALINA GOLDBERG is a professor of music and chair of the Department of Musicology at Indiana University–Bloomington. She is the author of Music in Chopin’s Warsaw, editor of a special issue of the Musical Quarterly devoted to Jewish culture and music, and director of the digital project Jewish Life in Interwar Łódź.

NANCY SINKOFF is a professor of Jewish studies and history and academic director of the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, at Rutgers University–New Brunswick in New Jersey.

Strictly Observant
Amish and Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Women Negotiating Media
RIVKA NERIYA-BEN SHAHAR

The Amish and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities have typically been associated with strict religious observance, a renunciation of worldly things, and an obedience of women to men. Women’s relationship to media in these communities, however, betrays a more nuanced picture of the boundaries at play and women’s roles in negotiating them.

Strictly Observant presents a compelling ethnographic study of the complex dynamic between women in both the Pennsylvanian Old Order Amish and Israeli ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities and contemporary media technologies. These women regularly establish valuable social, cultural, and religious capital through the countless decisions for use and nonuse of media that they make in their daily lives, and in ways that challenge the gender hierarchies of each community. By exhibiting a deep awareness of how media can be managed to increase their social and religious reputations, these women prompt us to reconsider our outmoded understanding of the Amish and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities, the role that women play in these communities as agents of change, and our own relationship to media today.

RIVKA NERIYA-BEN SHAHAR is a senior lecturer at Sapir Academic College in Sderot, Israel, where she teaches communications, religion, and gender.
Speaking Yiddish to Chickens
Holocaust Survivors on South Jersey Poultry Farms

SETH STERN

“Seth Stern skillfully brings to life a remarkable chapter in the little-known history of modern Jewish farming in the Diaspora. Lovingly written, Speaking Yiddish to Chickens travels with Stern’s grandparents and other European Jews from the horrors of the Holocaust to new lives in and around Vineland, New Jersey’s poultry farms, where these survivors healed their wounds and embarked upon their American journeys. Through meticulous research, Stern captures the extraordinary cooperation between the American government, Jewish philanthropic agencies, and the farmers themselves who made this bold experiment possible.”
—Jonathan Dekel-Chen, author of Farming the Red Land: Jewish Agricultural Colonization and Local Soviet Power, 1924–1941

Most of the roughly 140,000 Holocaust survivors who came to the United States in the first decade after World War II settled in big cities such as New York. But a few thousand chose an alternative way of life on American farms. More of these accidental farmers wound up raising chickens in southern New Jersey than anywhere else. Speaking Yiddish to Chickens is the first book to chronicle this little-known chapter in American Jewish history when these mostly Eastern European refugees—including the author’s grandparents—found an unlikely refuge and gateway to new lives in the US on poultry farms. They gravitated to a section of south Jersey anchored by Vineland, a small rural city where previous waves of Jewish immigrants had built a rich network of cultural and religious institutions.

This book relies on interviews with dozens of these refugee farmers and their children, as well as oral histories and archival records to tell how they learned to farm while coping with unimaginable grief. They built small synagogues within walking distance of their farms and hosted Yiddish cultural events more frequently found on the Lower East Side than perhaps anywhere else in rural America at the time. Like refugees today, they embraced their new American identities and enriched the community where they settled, working hard in unfamiliar jobs for often meager returns. Some hated every minute here; others would remember their time on south Jersey farms as their best years in America. They enjoyed a quieter way of life and more space for themselves and their children than in the crowded New York City apartments where so many displaced persons settled. This is their remarkable story of loss, renewal, and perseverance in the most unexpected of settings.

SETH STERN is a legal journalist and editor at Bloomberg Industry Group. He previously reported for Bloomberg News, Congressional Quarterly, and the Christian Science Monitor. He co-authored Justice Brennan: Liberal Champion. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the Harvard Kennedy School, and Cornell University.
Zionism
An Emotional State
DEREK J. PENSLAR

“Perhaps the finest book on Zionism written in recent memory. This slim, brilliant volume probes with rare equanimity every volatile corner of this topic with its focus squarely on why it generates such promiscuous, even universal heat. Derek Penslar is an outstanding historian who knows so well how to marshal knowledge of the past to illuminate the aching complexities of the present.”
—Steven J. Zipperstein, author of Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History

“Derek Penslar has written a brave and thought-provoking book that seeks to understand the well-springs of hope and belief in Zionism. Yet he does not shy away from less attractive passions, especially hatred in the name of Zionism and hatred of Zionism itself. Anyone keen to understand the way such deep emotions animate and shape history must read this compelling book.”
—Ruth Harris, author of Dreyfus: Politics, Emotion, and the Scandal of the Century

“Derek Penslar’s masterfully written history of emotions adds a whole new dimension to our understanding of both Zionism and the State of Israel and is crucial reading for anyone interested in grasping the nature of modern nationalism.”
—Michael Brenner, author of In Search of Israel: The History of an Idea

DEREK J. PENSLAR is the William Lee Frost Professor of Jewish History at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He is the author of several books, including Theodor Herzl: The Charismatic Leader and Jews and the Military: A History.

Key Words in Jewish Studies
The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish

A History of the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye*

BARRY TRACHTENBERG

In the early 1930s in Berlin, Germany, a group of leading Eastern European Jewish intellectuals embarked upon a project to transform the lives of millions of Yiddish-speaking Jews around the world. Their goal was to publish a popular and comprehensive Yiddish language encyclopedia of general knowledge that would serve as a bridge to the modern world and as a guide to help its readers navigate their way within it. However, soon after the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye* (General Encyclopedia) was announced, Hitler’s rise to power forced its editors to flee to Paris. The scope and mission of the project repeatedly changed before its final volumes were published in New York City in 1966.

*The Holocaust & the Exile of Yiddish* untangles the complicated saga of the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye* and its editors, who continued to publish volumes and revise the encyclopedia’s mission while their primary audience of Eastern European Jews were facing persecution and genocide under Nazi rule, and then were reestablishing themselves in the first decades after World War II. Historian Barry Trachtenberg reveals how, over the course of the middle decades of the twentieth century, the project sparked tremendous controversy in Jewish cultural and political circles, which debated what the purpose of a Yiddish encyclopedia should be, as well as what knowledge and perspectives it should contain. Nevertheless, this is not only a story about destruction and trauma, but also one of tenacity and continuity, as the encyclopedia’s compilers strove to preserve the heritage of Yiddish culture, to document its near-total extermination in the Holocaust, and to chart its path into the future.

BARRY TRACHTENBERG is the Michael H. and Deborah K. Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. His books include *The United States and the Nazi Holocaust: Race, Refuge, and Remembrance* and *The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish*, 1903-1917.
Americans and the Holocaust

A Reader

EDITED BY DANIEL GREENE AND EDWARD PHILLIPS

FOREWORD BY SARA J. BLOOMFIELD

“This remarkable book shatters the myth that Americans lacked information about the dangers of Nazism. These diverse, historical sources from multiple voices across the United States leave us with troubling questions about the national will to respond to discrimination, war, and genocide.”

—Ken Burns, Lynn Novick & Sarah Botstein, Florentine Films

“This book is an important and exceptionally useful resource for the classroom. Any teacher or student who wants to get a feel for the prevailing sentiments in America during the prelude to World War II and during the war itself will be immensely aided by this important collection of voices. If you want to know what did people know and when did they know it, this collection will help provide the answer.”

—Deborah E. Lipstadt, Ph.D.

What did the American people and the US government know about the threats posed by Nazi Germany? What could have been done to stop the rise of Nazism in Germany and its assault on Europe’s Jews?

Americans and the Holocaust explores these enduring questions by gathering together more than one hundred primary sources that reveal how Americans debated their responsibility to respond to Nazism. Drawing on groundbreaking research conducted for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Americans and the Holocaust exhibition, these carefully chosen sources help readers understand how Americans’ responses to Nazism were shaped by the challenging circumstances in the United States during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, including profound economic crisis, fear of communism, pervasive antisemitism and racism, and widespread isolationism.

Collecting newspaper and magazine articles, popular culture materials, and government records, Americans and the Holocaust is a valuable resource for students and historians seeking to shed light on this dark era in world history.

To explore further, visit the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s digital exhibit, available here: https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust

Published in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

DANIEL GREENE is President and Librarian at the Newberry Library and an adjunct professor of history at Northwestern University. He curated Americans and the Holocaust, an exhibition at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

EDWARD J. PHILLIPS joined the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1994 and directed its exhibitions program from 2008 until his retirement in 2018. He contributed to nearly fifty exhibition projects, including Americans and the Holocaust, the basis for this reader.

Rutgers University Press • Jewish Studies SS24
NEW IN PAPERBACK

Stanley Kubrick
New York Jewish Intellectual

NATHAN ABRAMS

“Stanley Kubrick is outstanding in its approach and the material it covers. As a pioneer work, anyone investigating Kubrick in the future would not be able to overlook Abrams’ findings and arguments.”
—Marat Grinberg, coeditor of Woody on Rye: Jewishness in the Films and Plays of Woody Allen

“With imagination and intellectual rigor, using archival research and close readings of the films, Nathan Abrams explores Stanley Kubrick’s relationship with his Jewishness in this exceptionally readable and convincing book.”
—Robert P. Kolker, author of The Extraordinary Image

“Brilliantly documents and analyzes Kubrick’s Jewish sensibility by locating him in the lifelong context of his Jewish cultural and intellectual milieu. Abrams breaks acres of new ground. Essential reading.”
—Geoffrey Cocks, author of The Wolf at the Door: Stanley Kubrick, History, and the Holocaust

“A must-read for anyone interested in Kubrick, this original and provocative study combines wonderfully perceptive film analyses with extensive archival research and a dazzling display of cultural-historical and biographical knowledge.”
—Peter Krämer, author of BFI Film Classics on Dr. Strangelove and 2001: A Space Odyssey

“Written by Nathan Abrams, a superstar of contemporary Kubrick studies, this wonderfully knowledgeable and scholarly account of the great director’s Jewishness is the most original film book I’ve read for many years.”
—I.Q. Hunter, author of Cult Film as a Guide to Life: Fandom, Adaptation, and Identity

“In Nathan Abrams’s Stanley Kubrick: New York Jewish Intellectual, [an] exploration of the contradictions of Kubrick’s relation to Jewish identity, the film is seen through the lens of Biblical allusion and Kabbalistic interpretation.”
—Wall Street Journal

NATHAN ABRAMS is a professor of film studies at Bangor University in Wales. He is the founding coeditor of Jewish Film and New Media: An International Journal, and he is also the author of several books including The New Jew in Film: Exploring Jewishness and Judaism in Contemporary Cinema (Rutgers University Press).
Movie-Made Jews
An American Tradition
HELENE MEYERS

“Behind this eminently readable survey of American Jewish film is a very smart intervention. Meyers broadens the well-worn examination of Jews in film to include not just Jewish representations or Jews in the production process. She makes a solid case for adding the Jewish audience as part of the equation for what makes Jewish film Jewish.”
—Steven Carr, author of Hollywood and Anti-Semitism: A Cultural History up to 1941

“A significant and lively testament to the vitality of American Jewish cinema and its relationship to Jewish life in America.”
—David Desser, co-author of American Jewish Filmmakers

“An engaging, lively, and important contribution to Jewish film studies.”
—Elyce Rae Helford, author of What Price Hollywood? Gender and Sex in the Films of George Cukor

Movie-Made Jews focuses on an American Jewish cinematic tradition which includes fiction and documentary films that make Jews through antisemitism, Holocaust indirection, and discontent with assimilation, but also through the unapologetic assertion of Jewishness, queerness, and alliances across race and religion. While it’s a truism that Jews make movies, this book brings into focus the diverse ways movies make Jews.

HELENE MEYERS is Professor of English and McManis University Chair at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. She is the author of Femicidal Fears: Narratives of the Female Gothic Experience, Reading Michael Chabon, and Identity Papers: Contemporary Narratives of American Jewishness.

Jewish Childhood in Kraków
A Microhistory of the Holocaust
JOANNA SLIWA

A well-researched book. An important addition to Holocaust literature.
—Jan T. Gross, author of Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland

“This well researched book on the history of Jewish Childhood in Kraków will become a standard work on the subject, inviting other scholars to investigate Jewish childhood in other ghettos in Nazi-occupied Europe.”
—Joanna Beata Michlic, author of Poland’s Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present

“Joanna Sliwa offers a nuanced and compelling picture of what it meant to grow up Jewish under the German occupation of Kraków. By giving voice to Jewish children and their fears, heartbreaks, loss, and survival, she allows readers to learn of children’s vulnerability and resilience, agency and helplessness firsthand. These voices will become central to the ways we think about Jewish children’s experiences during the Holocaust.”
—Natalia Aleksiun, author of Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians before the Holocaust

Jewish Childhood in Kraków plumbs the decisions and behaviors of ordinary people in extraordinary times. It illuminates the complex relations between Jews and non-Jews in response to the Holocaust in Kraków and in German-occupied Poland more broadly. Ultimately, Jewish Childhood in Kraków is an effort both to understand the past and to reflect on the responses of young people during humanitarian crises.

JOANNA SLIWA is a historian at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) in New York City.
Jewish and Romani Families in the Holocaust and its Aftermath

EDITED BY KATERINA CAPKOVÁ AND ELIYANA R. ADLER

Diaries, testimonies, and memoirs of the Holocaust often include at least as much on the family as on the individual. Victims of the Nazi regime experienced oppression and made decisions embedded within families. Even after the war, sole survivors often described their losses and rebuilt their lives with a distinct focus on family. Yet this perspective is lacking in academic analyses.

In this work, scholars from the United States, Israel, and across Europe bring a variety of backgrounds and disciplines to their study of the Holocaust and its aftermath from the family perspective. Drawing on research from Belarus to Great Britain, and examining both Jewish and Romani families, they demonstrate the importance of recognizing how people continued to function within family units—broadly defined—throughout the war and afterward.


KATERINA CAPKOVÁ is a senior researcher at the Institute of Contemporary History in Prague and teaches at Charles University and NYU in Prague. Her book Czechs, Germans, Jews? National Identity and the Jews of Bohemia received the Outstanding Academic Title of 2012 from Choice magazine.

Unsettling

Jews, Whiteness, and Incest in American Popular Culture

ELI BROMBERG

“Bromberg breaks the silence and pushes discomfort to the margins as he unpacks notions of American Jewish Ashkenazi exceptionalism without overlooking how Jewish whiteness, an embodied American process, exists as an anomaly... Innovative.” —Katya Gibel Mevorach, author of Black, Jewish and Interracial: It’s Not the Color of Your Skin but the Race of Your Kin

“In this provocative and timely book, Eli Bromberg dares to examine how anti-Semitic sexual stereotypes centered on the incest taboo continue to shape representations of Jews and Jewishness in American culture. Bromberg brings oft-silenced topics to the fore, exposing the ‘protective politics’ of Jewish communities and unsettling paradigms...a fascinating contribution to the fields of Jewish cultural studies and comparative race studies.” —Lori Harrison-Kahan, author of The White Negress: Literature, Minstrelsy, and the Black-Jewish Imaginary

By analyzing how various media told stories about Jewish celebrities and incest, Unsettling illustrates how Jewish community protective politics impacted the representation of white male Jewish masculinity in the 1990s.

ELI BROMBERG completed his PhD in English and American studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2017. He has taught at Fordham University, the University of Hartford, Hofstra University, Mount Holyoke College, and UMass. He’s been published in The Forward, In geveb, Shofar, and Studies in American Jewish Literature.
Hebrew Infusion
Language and Community at American Jewish Summer Camps
SARAH BUNIN BENOR, JONATHAN KRASNER, AND SHARON AVNI
“A lively, evocative, and wide-ranging account of American Jewry’s complex and often malignated relationship with Hebrew, this important book is as much about community as it is about language. In finding creativity where others have found fault, Hebrew Infusion challenges us to rethink our assumptions about the cultural grammar of the modern Jewish experience.”
—Jenna Weissman Joselit, Charles E. Smith Professor of Judaic Studies & professor of history, George Washington University

SARAH BUNIN BENOR is professor of contemporary Jewish studies at Hebrew Union College and courtesy professor of linguistics at the University of Southern California.

JONATHAN KRASNER is the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Associate Professor of Jewish Education Research at Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

SHARON AVNI is professor of literacy and linguistics at Borough of Manhattan Community College, City University of New York, and a research associate at the Research Institute for the Study of Language in Urban Society at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Planet Auschwitz
Holocaust Representation in Science Fiction and Horror Film and Television
BRIAN E. CRIM
“A great text....original in scale and scope.”
—Jonathan C. Friedman, author of The History of Genocide in Cinema: Atrocities on Screen

“In this deeply researched and insightful study, Crim lucidly reveals how the Nazi genocide has left an indelible and often unsettling mark on American popular culture.”
—Gavriel Rosenfeld, author of Hi Hitler! How the Nazi Past Is Being Normalized in Contemporary Culture

Planet Auschwitz explores the diverse ways in which the Holocaust influences and shapes science fiction and horror film and television by focusing on notable contributions from the last fifty years. The supernatural and extraterrestrial are rich and complex spaces with which to examine important Holocaust themes—trauma, guilt, grief, ideological fervor and perversion, industrialized killing, and the dangerous afterlife of Nazism after World War II. Planet Auschwitz explores why the Holocaust continues to set the standard for horror in the modern era and asks if the Holocaust is imaginable here on Earth, at least by those who perpetrated it, why not in a galaxy far, far away? The pervasive use of Holocaust imagery and plotlines in horror and science fiction reflects both our preoccupation with its enduring trauma and our persistent need to “work through” its many legacies.

BRIAN E. CRIM is professor of history at the University of Lynchburg in Virginia.
Holocaust Graphic Narratives
Generation, Trauma, and Memory
VICTORIA AARONS

“Holocaust Graphic Novels is a gem. The author is a master of her subject, discussing the many contributions made by graphic Holocaust novels with great erudition. In Aarons’ intelligent and insightful readings, the caesura induced by the Shoah continues to send intergenerational psychological shock waves.”
—Alan Berger, author of Children of Job: American Second-Generation Witnesses to the Holocaust

“Holocaust Graphic Narratives offers a brilliant analysis of central, representative works that have appeared in the wake of Spiegelman’s Maus and provides a vital way for us to re-envision the landscape of post-Holocaust testimony.”
—Eric Sundquist, author of Strangers in the Land: Blacks, Jews, Post-Holocaust America

In Holocaust Graphic Narratives, Victoria Aarons demonstrates the range and fluidity of this richly figured genre. Aarons analyzes the work of the graphic novelists and illustrators, making clear how they extend the traumatic narrative of the Holocaust into the present and, in doing so, give voice to survival in the wake of unrecoverable loss. In recreating moments of traumatic rupture, dislocation, and disequilibrium, these graphic narratives contribute to the evolving field of Holocaust representation and establish a new canon of visual memory. As a genre of witnessing, these graphic stories, in retracing the traumatic tracks of memory, inscribe the weight of history on generations that follow.

VICTORIA AARONS holds the position of O.R. and Eva Mitchell Distinguished Professor of Literature at Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas, where she teaches courses on American Jewish and Holocaust literatures.

Rebuilding Jewish Life in Germany
EDITED BY JAY HOWARD GELLER AND MICHAEL MENG

Seventy-five years after the Holocaust, 100,000 Jews live in Germany. Their community is diverse and vibrant, and their mere presence in Germany is symbolically important. In Rebuilding Jewish Life in Germany, scholars of German-Jewish history, literature, film, television, and sociology illuminate important aspects of Jewish life in Germany from 1949 to the present day. In West Germany, the development of representative bodies and research institutions reflected a desire to set down roots, despite criticism from Jewish leaders in Israel and the Diaspora. In communist East Germany, some leftist Jewish intellectuals played a prominent role in society, and their experience reflected the regime’s fraught relationship with Jewry. Since 1990, the growth of the Jewish community through immigration from the former Soviet Union and Israel have both brought heightened visibility in society and challenged preexisting notions of Jewish identity in the former “land of the perpetrators.”

JAY HOWARD GELLER is Samuel Rosenthal Professor of Judaic Studies and Professor of History at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. He is the author of The Scholems: A Story of the German-Jewish Bourgeoisie from Emancipation to Destruction and Jews in Post-Holocaust Germany, 1945-1953.

MICHAEL MENG is associate professor of history at Clemson University in South Carolina. He is the author of Shattered Spaces: Encountering Jewish Ruins in Postwar Germany and Poland, among other publications on modern European intellectual and cultural history.
Cleveland Jews and the Making of a Midwestern Community
EDITED BY SEAN MARTIN AND JOHN J. GRABOWSKI
This volume gathers an array of voices to tell the stories of Cleveland’s twentieth century Jewish community. Strong and stable after an often turbulent century, the Jews of Cleveland had both deep ties in the region and an evolving and dynamic commitment to Jewish life. The authors present the views and actions of community leaders and everyday Jews who embodied that commitment in their religious participation, educational efforts, philanthropic endeavors, and in their simple desire to live next to each other in the city’s eastern suburbs. The twentieth century saw the move of Cleveland’s Jews out of the center of the city, a move that only served to increase the density of Jewish life. The essays collected here draw heavily on local archival materials and present the area’s Jewish past within the context of American and American Jewish studies.

SEAN MARTIN is the author of Jewish Life in Cracow, 1918-1939, and A Stitch in Time: The Cleveland Garment Industry, and author and editor of For the Good of the Nation: Institutions for Jewish Children in Interwar Poland.

JOHN J. GRABOWSKI is the editor of the on-line edition of the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History and the Dictionary of Cleveland Biography, and co-editor of Cleveland: A Tradition of Reform and Identity, Conflict & Cooperation: Central Europeans in Cleveland, 1850-1930.

Studying Hasidism
Sources, Methods, Perspectives
MARCIN WODZINSKI
“The contributors to Studying Hasidism are the academic equivalent of an all-star team while the topics covered are the wish-list of anyone interested in Hasidism. Up to date, original and comprehensive—there is nothing like it.”
—Shaul Stampfer, author of Lithuanian Yeshivas of the Nineteenth Century: Creating a Tradition of Learning

Hasidism, a Jewish religious movement that originated in Poland in the eighteenth century, today counts over 700,000 adherents, primarily in the U.S., Israel, and the UK. Popular and scholarly interest in Hasidic Judaism and Hasidic Jews is growing, but there is no textbook dedicated to research methods in the field, nor sources for the history of Hasidism have been properly recognized. Studying Hasidism, edited by Marcin Wodzinski, an internationally recognized historian of Hasidism, aims to remedy this gap. The work’s thirteen chapters each draws upon a set of different sources, many of them previously untapped, including folklore, music, big data, and material culture to demonstrate what is still to be achieved in the study of Hasidism. Ultimately, this textbook presents research methods that can decentralize the role community leaders play in the current literature and reclaim the everyday lives of Hasidic Jews.

MARCIN WODZINSKI is a professor of Jewish history and literature at the University of Wroclaw, Poland. He is the author or editor of many books, including Historical Atlas of Hasidism and Hasidism: A New History.
“A tour de force. It transcends conventional accounts of victimized prostitutes and malevolent pimps with an intellectually bold exploration of sexual and racialized public anxieties. An important contribution to the history of international mobility, immigrant sociability, gendered labor, and multi-ethnic cities.”
—José Moya, professor of history, Barnard College

“If you want to read just one of the very many books on Jewish white slavery, this is the one you should choose. Both specialists and the general public will find this volume engaging and insightful.”
—Raanan Rein, vice president, Tel Aviv University

“A fascinating account of Jewish participation in sexual commerce in Buenos Aires… Impure Migration deepens our knowledge of the relation between prostitution and migration.”
—Cristiana Schettini, National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) / University of San Martin, Argentina

Impure Migration investigates the period from the 1890s until the 1930s, when prostitution was a legal institution in Argentina. Yarfitz examines how thousands of Eastern European Jewish women and men migrated to Latin America and engaged in organized sex work to escape from the difficult conditions in their home countries.

MIR YARFITZ is an assistant professor in the department of History at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
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