

SERLING INSTITUTE

For Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Fall Newsletter
2020

This has been an extraordinarily challenging time, in multiple, layered and intersecting ways. The COVID-19 pandemic threatens the lives and livelihoods of people across the globe. Our faculty, staff, and students have gone above and beyond, courageously and creatively adapting in order to sustain our strong intellectual community, providing excellent education remotely since mid-March and preparing to continue that work through the fall. As per the University administration guidelines, all of our teaching, mentoring, advising, and programming will be virtual this Fall.

Despite these challenges, our Institute continues to grow. It has been a pleasure communicating with current and prospective Jewish Studies minors over Zoom. A record 942 MSU students enrolled in our courses last year, and we have averaged a record 45 minors in the past three years. We have a record number of faculty involved, with 5 core faculty and 32 affiliated faculty. We appreciate the support we receive from President Stanley, from the College of Arts and Letters, the Deans of James Madison College and the College of Social Science, and our many supporters in these trying financial times.

On top of, and intersecting with the pandemic, it has also been painful to see the structural inequities that have been highlighted during the pandemic, compounded by the police brutality targeting Black people that, first, resulted in the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, as well as against the many peaceful protesters who took to the streets to demand change. In June, our faculty posted a statement of solidarity with the Black justice movement on our website, and distributed it via email. The statement can be read in full on our website. In addition to voicing support and solidarity, we also emphasized how, “as scholars of Jewish studies, we have many inter-connecting responsibilities to stand against such discrimination and violence... We must come together as scholars in higher education to create classrooms, campuses, and scholarship that are not only inclusive of all communities, but actively combat anti-Black racism.”

As part of that commitment, we work to include programming on the historic and current relationship between the broader Jewish community, and other non-Jewish minority communities, especially Black Americans and other non-Jewish communities of color. In addition, we will endeavor to highlight

diversity within the Jewish world – particularly on the experiences of Black Jews – including the historic and oftentimes difficult relationship between these Jewish communities. In this vein, we have three exciting programs this fall. They include a virtual screening and discussion on the film *They Ain't Ready For Me Yet* (2020), which includes a post-film discussion led by the subject of the film, Tamar Manasseh, and the director Brad Rothschild. Manasseh is an African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against senseless killings on the south side of Chicago. The second event is a talk entitled “An Unending Journey to the Dream of Being Part of Israeli Society: Challenges and Successes,” with Michal Avera Samuel, Director of the Fidel Association, the leading Israeli NGO representing the interests and aspirations of Ethiopian Israelis. We will also screen the film *Shared Legacies: The African American- Jewish Civil Rights Alliance*, followed by a panel discussion with members of the Congressional Black-Jewish Caucus.

We also continue to address growing antisemitism globally, nationally, and on college campuses. The newsletter includes a timely article by Ken Waltzer on pandemic-related antisemitic conspiracy theories, and Kirsten Fermaglich describes the collaborative establishment of an MSU Dialogues on Ethnicity and Religion focused on antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Like the U.S., Israel is also at a cross-roads. As it struggles with the health and financial consequences of the pandemic, it has also struggled through three elections in one year. Some in the government have also been tempted to unilaterally annex parts of the West Bank, which could further threaten prospects for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority based on a two-state solution. The recent Abraham Accord between the UAE and Israel temporarily suspends any such annexations precisely to leave that door open. To explore these developments we have an exciting panel of four academic experts, two of whom have participated in previous peace negotiations. Please read through our faculty, alumni, and student highlights and our calendar of events for many enriching programs. We look forward to seeing you virtually at many of them!

Yael Aronoff

Director, Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel, aronoffy@msu.edu

FACULTY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

PROFESSOR KEN WALTZER

Recipient of MSU Faculty Emeriti Association “Outstanding Contributions by an Individual Award”

The Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel is thrilled to share the great news that Professor Kenneth (Ken) Waltzer has been selected as a recipient of the MSU Faculty Emeriti Association “Outstanding Contributions by an Individual Award” for 2019-2020 in recognition of his extensive contributions to the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel, the College of Arts and Letters, James Madison College, and MSU as a whole.

Professor Waltzer retired in July 2014 after a distinguished 43-year career of teaching, research and institution-building in James Madison College of MSU. He taught history in James Madison College for 43 years, was Acting Dean of JMC from 1990-1992, and also served as Director of the Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities from 1997-2005. Professor Waltzer helped found the Jewish Studies Program in 1992, and served as Director for the Program from 2004-2014. These remarkable contributions during his tenure at MSU have been followed by his robust contributions after retirement: He continues to be an active and invaluable member of the intellectual community of the Serling Institute, promoting the research of colleagues and students while carrying on an active research agenda of his own centering on Holocaust Studies as well as contemporary antisemitism. He has been invaluable to MSU in promoting diversity and inclusion through his work helping the MSU community deal with rising antisemitism, Islamophobia and white supremacy.

Dr. Waltzer also made sure that he would continue to impact MSU after retirement by soliciting contributions from faculty, students, and Board members upon his retirement, and dedicating those contributions to support faculty research and recognize teaching excellence. From this, two endowments were made in his name. The Waltzer Faculty Development Endowment in the Serling Institute has supported faculty research since his retirement. The Waltzer Teaching Award at James Madison College recognizes faculty who have exemplified excellence in teaching.



KIRSTEN FERMAILICH
Congratulations!
Promoted to Full Professor.



AMY SIMON
Congratulations!
Reappointed as Assistant Professor.



RONEN STEINBERG
Congratulations!
Promoted to Associate Professor.

NEW AFFILIATED FACULTY OF SERLING INSTITUTE



CHANTAL M. TETREAU
Associate Professor, Anthropology Department,
Michigan State University

“My new research examines how shared notions of Jewishness and Jewish community are produced through a negotiation of practices (rather than beliefs) within a Reconstructionist shul (synagogue). More specifically, I consider what it means to be a Jewish community when both a shared monologic belief or a consistent practice is absent. Using oral histories and ethnography, I explore the co-construction of senses of community among Jewish adherents of apparent mixed beliefs and/or practices. Building upon a panel from the 2019 American Anthropological Association, I am currently co-editing a special issue for the journal *Religion and Society* (slated for 2021), which will feature my research on constructions of “sharedness” in Jewish belief and practice among oral history participants in a Reconstructionist community. This research is a collaborative project with Dr. Kirsten Fermaglich, whose research focuses on Jewish Academic Communities in the United States After World War II.”

FALL EVENTS 2020 - ALL FALL EVENTS ARE VIRTUAL

Zoom links to all events will be advertised through email. If you are not getting our emails, please contact us at jewishst@msu.edu

Shakshukas of Israel

Thursday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm

Learn to make one of Israel's most popular dishes, in different versions and recipes. I will teach some Hebrew vocabulary, and make the recipes available in Hebrew and English.

Yore Kedem is Assistant Professor of Hebrew in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages and is Affiliated Faculty of the Serling Institute.

An Unending Journey to the Dream of Being Part of Israeli Society: Challenges and Successes

Sunday, September 13th at 12:00 pm

A conversation with Michal Avera Samuel, Director of the Fidel Association, the leading Israeli NGO representing the interests and aspirations of Ethiopian Israelis.

A social leader and educational activist advocating for the successful integration of Ethiopian Israelis, Ms. Samuel has over 18 years of experience in directing educational projects. She has served as Fidel's Executive Director since 2011. Ms. Samuel has an MA in Educational Counseling from Haifa University and is regularly invited to lecture on the Ethiopian Israeli community's history, culture and absorption at academic institutions and schools across Israel.

Ms. Samuel was born in Gondar, Ethiopia. She is the youngest of nine children, and made aliyah with her family in 1984 as part of Operation Moses via Sudan. She joined the Fidel Association in the year 2000 and served as Director of Professional Training, PR, and Community Development, as well as Deputy Director prior to being appointed Executive Director in 2011. Ms. Samuel serves on the Government of Israel's prestigious Round Table Panel on Social Issues, which brings together leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors.

Ms. Samuel's vast experience includes serving as a research assistant to MK Naomi Blumenthal on the Knesset's Immigration Committee and as Spokesperson and Advisor to the Scholarship Fund for Ethiopian Jews (SFEJ), Boca Raton, Florida. Beyond her dedication to advancing the Ethiopian-Israeli community, Ms. Samuel serves as a Board Member of the Israel Center for Educational Innovation and volunteers at "Women to Women," Haifa, supporting victims of domestic violence.



Netflix and Chill: Israeli Edition

Thursday, September 24th at 6:00 pm

A quick overview of some of the best options available on the Internet with English subtitles.

Marc Bernstein is Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages, is a Core Faculty of the Serling Institute, and is Coordinator of the Hebrew Program.

Aspects of the Reception of Flavius Josephus in the Middle Ages: The Greek-Speaking East and the Latin-Speaking West

Tuesday, September 29th at 7:00 pm

No Jewish works, except the biblical texts, were used by Christians on such a large scale as the *Judean Antiquities and Judean War* of the Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus (37-100 CE). His works (narrating the events from the biblical Creation to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE) became central to the construction of Christian thought and identity across the Greek-speaking East and the Latin-speaking West in the Middle Ages. Dr. Kampianaki will explore the reasons why and the ways through which a notable Jewish author, such as Josephus, entered the Christian sphere, while his Jewish origins were still being acknowledged.

Theofili Kampianaki is a Research Fellow at the School of History and Cultures in the University of Birmingham in the UK. She holds a Master's and a Doctorate in Medieval Greek and Latin Languages from the University of Oxford.



Panel on "Keeping the Door Open to Israeli-Palestinian Peace," moderated by Yael Aronoff with Ghaith Al-Omari, Daniel C. Kurtzer, David Makovsky and Saliba Sarsar
Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm



Ghaith al-Omari "Small Steps Towards a Big Goal: Preserving the Two-State Solution in Times of Profound Change"

Ghaith al-Omari, Esq. argues that the Two-State Solution remains the only option for resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in a way that meets both people's national aspirations. The talk will examine ways to preserve the future viability of a two-state solution.

Ghaith al-Omari, Senior Fellow in The Washington Institute's Irwin Levy Family Program on the U.S.-Israel Strategic Relationship, is the former Executive Director of the American Task Force on Palestine. He served as Advisor to the Negotiating Team during the 1999-2001 Permanent-Status Talks in addition to holding various other positions within the Palestinian Authority.



Daniel C. Kurtzer "Top-Down, Bottom-Up, Inside-Out, Outside-In: Which Way to Israeli-Palestinian peace?"

The old formula for trying to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians has not worked, and consideration is now being given to new, single-focus paradigms. There is a need for a comprehensive, multi-layered approach, driven by determined leaders.

Daniel C. Kurtzer is the S. Daniel Abraham Professor of Middle East Policy Studies at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs. During a 29-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, Ambassador Kurtzer served as the United States Ambassador to Israel and as the United States Ambassador to Egypt. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs and as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research.



David Makovsky "Bridge or Bypass Road? How Do Peace Moves between Arab States and Israel Challenge the Way We Think about the Palestinian Issue?"

The Arab Peace Initiative of 2003 was predicated on the view that the best way to provide leverage to the Palestinians was to forestall Arab-Israeli peacemaking until after Palestinian demands had been met. Yet, the shifting sands in the Middle East where countries are concerned about destabilization have caused a rethink of the classic paradigm. Can the Emirati-Israeli diplomatic breakthrough change the approach and lead to better results in the Israeli-Palestinian arena?

David Makovsky is the Ziegler Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy and Director of the Project on Arab-Israel Relations. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East Studies at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). In 2013-2014, he worked in the Office of the U.S. Secretary of State, serving as a senior advisor to the Special Envoy for Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations.

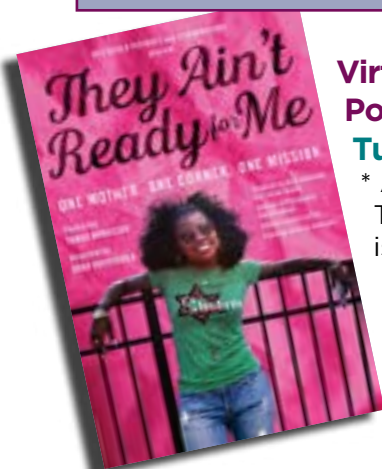


Dr. Saliba Sarsar "Finding Common Ground to Move Toward Peace"

Israelis and Palestinians have no choice but to keep the door open to peace. The path -- our path -- will remain challenged and challenging unless we overcome our fear of the other, our fear of the unknown that seems to dominate the best of us. Our obsession with power, resources, and retaliation has taken hold of our soul and twisted our being. Peace is born by preparing for it. The responsibility and credit for peace rest with all of us.

Dr. Saliba Sarsar, born and raised in Jerusalem, is Professor of Political Science at Monmouth University. His teaching and scholarly interests focus on the Middle East, Palestinian-Israeli affairs, Jerusalem, and peacebuilding. He is the author of *Peacebuilding in Israeli-Palestinian Relations* (2020) and *Jerusalem: The Home in Our Hearts* (2018). His most recent edited book is *What Jerusalem Means to Us: Christian Perspectives and Reflections* (2018).





Virtual Screening and Discussion: *They Ain't Ready For Me Yet (2020)*
Post-film discussion led by by Tamar Manasseh and Brad Rothschild (director)
Tuesday, October 13th at 7pm

* A link to the movie will be sent a week before the discussion.
 The film is the story of Tamar Manasseh, the African American rabbinical student who is leading the fight against senseless killings on the south side of Chicago. The film explores the challenges and motivations of this fearless community leader as she works to prevent more people from being killed by gun violence.
 The film premiered at this year's New York Jewish Film Festival and received a ten minute standing ovation following its presentation.

Yiddish Children's Literature and the Jewish Twentieth Century: A Conversation

Thursday, November 5th, at 7:00 pm

Miriam Udel will be discussing her book, *Honey on the Page: A Treasury of Yiddish Children's Literature*, that was just published in October 2020. The book is her edition and translation of Yiddish Children's Literature.

Udel is Associate Professor of German Studies and Jewish Studies at Emory University, where her teaching focuses on Yiddish language, literature, and culture. She holds an AB in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University, as well as a PhD in Comparative Literature from the same institution. She was ordained in 2019 as part of the first cohort of the Executive Ordination Track at Yeshivat Maharat, a program designed to bring qualified mid-career women into the Orthodox rabbinate.



Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court

Tuesday, November 10th, at 7:00 pm

Dr. David Dalin will discuss his book *Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court, from Brandeis to Kagan*, which was selected as a finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award. The talk examines the lives, legal careers, and Jewish legacies of the eight Jews who have served or who currently serve as justices of the U.S. Supreme Court: Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer, and Elena Kagan.

Dr. David Dalin, who is a Senior Research Fellow at Brandeis University, is the author, co-author, or editor of twelve books, including *Religion and State in the American Jewish Experience* (co-authored with Jonathan D. Sarna) and *The Presidents of the United States and the Jews*.



Virtual Screening of *Shared Legacies: The African American- Jewish Civil Rights Alliance* followed by panel discussion with members of the Congressional Black-Jewish Caucus
Date and Time TBA for November

The crucial historical lessons of Black-Jewish cooperation are revisited and revived in this utterly fascinating, urgent call to action. The modern alliance between African-Americans and Jewish Americans dates to the NAACP founding in 1909. Since then, both groups have endured segregation and racism, from the codified bigotry of southern Jim Crow laws, to blatant bias in real estate, employment, higher education and politics. Common cause was found in the turbulent '60s Civil Rights era, as Jewish leaders backed Dr. King's efforts at racial equality and harmony. Yet, the relationship has frayed in recent years, as a once mighty bond of support and respect has seemingly faded, been forgotten or ignored. With divisive seeds of hate taking root anew in the American landscape, a new generation also affirms their pledge to actively promote the values of social justice. This potent, inspiring story of unity, empathy and partnership validates the ubiquity of the human experience, and how freedom and equality for all can be achieved only when people come together.



WOMEN'S POWER

Book Discussion with Melissa Klapper and with Lori Harrison-Kahan

Thursday, November 19th, at 3:00 pm

This discussion is part of a conference sponsored by the Center for Gender in Global Context entitled "Gender, Women's Suffrage, and Political Power: Past, Present, and Future."



American Jewish Women and the Politics of Power in the Turn-of-the-Century Women's Movement

During the last decades of the 19th century and first decades of the 20th century, American Jewish women participated in all the great women's movements of their day: suffrage, birth control, and peace. Their activism has been largely erased from the narratives of the women's movement, yet they exerted real power within these movements and exemplified the complex relationships among social justice and the politics of identity.

The Superwoman: How a Jewish Journalist Empowered Women to Fight for the Vote

Lori Harrison-Kahan will discuss her recent book *The*

Superwoman and Other Writings, an edited collection of journalism and fiction by Miriam Michelson. One of the earliest

women journalists in San Francisco in the 1890s, Michelson went on to become a suffrage activist and a bestselling author of feminist fiction like "The Superwoman," a novella that inspired the "Wonder Woman" comics. Harrison-Kahan's talk will address Michelson's upbringing as the daughter of Jewish immigrants in Virginia City, Nevada; her influence on politics in the Progressive Era; and her relevance to contemporary movements like #MeToo.

Lori Harrison-Kahan teaches at Boston College and is the author of *The White*

Negress: Literature, Minstrelsy, and the Black-Jewish Imaginary (Rutgers UP, 2011), an honorable mention for the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Book Award.

She edited *The Superwoman and Other Writings by Miriam Michelson* (Wayne State UP, 2019), co-edited *Heirs of Yesterday by Emma Wolf* (forthcoming in 2020),

and is currently co-editing a collection of writings by suffragist author and editor Elizabeth Garver Jordan. Lori received the American Studies Association's Gloria E. Anzaldúa Award and the Western American Literature Association's Don D. Walker Prize. Her current project, "West of the Ghetto: Pioneering Women Writers, Progressive Era San Francisco, and Jewish Literary Culture," has received support from the NEH, the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Berkeley's Bancroft Library, and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. In honor of the centennial of the 19th Amendment, Lori has been a featured speaker at the Newseum, the Library of Congress, and other venues.



In the Crucible of the Scientific Revolution- Evolution and Evaluation of the Ideas of Professor Aharon Katzir

Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00 pm

The presentation will examine ideas that Professor Aharon Katzir, one of the pioneers of Israeli science, published more than 50 years ago and how they stood the test of time. His theories range from thoughts about the origin of life, to modern day nanotechnology; from the first computers built in the 50's at Weizmann Institute, to DNA computers.

Assaf Gilad is Chief of the Division of Synthetic Biology and Regenerative Medicine, Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering at MSU and Affiliate of the Serling Institute.



Past Spring 2020 Events

January 13
Book discussion of *The Lion's Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky*

Discussion of Dr. Susie Linfield's book in anticipation of the author's visit on January 17.



Dr. Susie Linfield

Jonathan Netanyahu
Lecture, *The Lion's Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky*

Dr. Susie Linfield lectured on her new book, *The Lion's Den: Zionism and the Left from Hannah Arendt to Noam Chomsky* (Yale University Press, 2019). The book is the winner of the Jewish Book Council Distinction, formerly known as the Natan Book Award.

January 27
Hebreo: The Search for Salomone Rossi

This evening, in collaboration with the College of Music, was devoted to the music of Salomone Rossi (ca. 1570-1630). The evening included the 45-minute documentary *Hebreo*, by Joseph Rochlitz,



Yiddish Between Worlds

February 6
Yiddish Between Worlds

Dr. Margot B. Valles (MSU) chaired a panel with three scholars of Yiddish: Dr. Dov-Ber Kerler, Dr. Jack Kugelmass and Dr. Eli Rosenblatt. Together the panelists explored Yiddish writing and culture in diverse contexts.

followed by a musical performance and Q&A with singers from the Israeli vocal ensemble Profeti della Quinta who are featured in the film: Doron Shleifer, Roman Melish, Lior Leibovici, Jacob Lawrence, Loïc Paulin, Elam Rotem, and Ori Harmelin.

February 10
Annual Rabin/Brill Lecture, *Holocaust by Bullets: Model for the Modern Genocide*
Father Patrick Desbois, Yahad-In Unum and Georgetown University

Father Patrick Desbois is founder and president of Yahad - In Unum, an organization dedicated to locating the sites of mass graves of Jewish victims of the Nazi mobile killing units in the former Soviet Union.



Professor Elie Rekhess



Father Patrick Desbois: Holocaust by Bullets

He is Braman Endowed Professor of the Forensic Study of the Holocaust at the Center for Jewish Civilization at Georgetown University.

February 17
Between the Ottoman Empire and Modern Greece: The Fate of Salonica, 'Jerusalem of the Balkans'
Dr. Devin E. Naar, University of Washington

This talk focused on how this once thriving Jewish community grappled with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and the rise of modern Greece prior to the devastation of the Holocaust.



Dr. Devin E. Naar

March 11
Third Time's the Charm? Analyzing the Israeli Election
by Dr. Yael Aronoff and Professor Elie Rekhess

Due to Covid-19 outbreak, the following lectures were broadcast via Zoom:

April 22
Student Forum on Antisemitism

In this forum students shared their experiences of antisemitism at MSU and Serling Faculty and Hillel Staff facilitated the discussion.

April 27
Coming to Terms with a Difficult Past: The Impact of the Holocaust on the Historiography of the French Revolution

Dr. Ronen Steinberg
 Dr. Ronen Steinberg, Associate Professor in the Department of History, presented his new book, *The Afterlives of the Terror: Facing the Legacies of Mass Violence in Post-Revolutionary France* (Cornell University Press, 2019).



January 17
Hebreo: The Search for Salomone Rossi



DISCOVER ISRAEL - THE STARTUP NATION!

By Ayalla Ruvio



Israel! A small country with a global reach. A country that impacts companies all over the world through its unparalleled innovation and entrepreneurial spirit and practice. How does Israel do it? And how do you convey such a spirit to American students?

During the spring break of 2020, I had the pleasure of leading 23 students from Michigan State University on the First Study Abroad Program in Israel that focuses on innovation and entrepreneurship. This amazing group consisted of students from a wide range of colleges across campus (Business, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Social Science, Communication Arts and Sciences, Lyman Briggs, Arts and Letters, Nursing, Engineering, and Natural Science). All of them were eager to learn how a country the size of New Jersey has become the world's center for innovation. Students registered for this three credit course, "Entrepreneurship and Innovations in Israel," as BUS 491, JS 400, MKT 490 or ESHP 202 and it counted for both the Jewish Studies minor and the Entrepreneurship minor.

Prior to the trip, the students met with business people from Israeli companies that operate in Michigan to learn about the global reach of Israeli innovation. Specifically, Art DuRivage from Sempris and Shahar Golan from Arkal Automotive gave fascinating presentations to the students. These presentations were followed by visits to these companies during their time in Israel.

During our 7-day travel throughout Israel, the students explored Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Tiberias, and Haifa. In each city they interacted with high-level executives and CEOs in various companies and fields. This Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel study abroad program opened with a fascinating presentation of Dr. Harry Yuklea, who has been a Serling Israeli Visiting Scholar at MSU for the past two years, and is an entrepreneur and international academic. He pointed out that Israel breeds innovation and entrepreneurship because it has no other choice. In Tel Aviv, students had the incredible opportunity to gain more insights at Google and Semperis. In Jerusalem, they met with key government officials from the Israel Innovation Authority, and learned about the role of government in facilitating innovation. In Tiberias, Arkal Automotive's CEO gave the students a full tour of this facility. We also visited the Hive Kibbutz Ginosar, which helps its members and people in its area to launch startups. In Haifa, the students had the pleasure of meeting and speaking with Mr. Nathan Hermony, the CEO of GE Healthcare, a multi-billion dollar global company. The students were also given a tour of their entire facilities and were able to meet multiple employees working on future innovations for the global healthcare system.

The students worked hard. Very hard. On most days, they had programs scheduled from 7:00AM until 9:00PM. Throughout the program, students not only



had the opportunity to meet business leaders and entrepreneurs across the country, but also saw the beauty of Israel's nature and culture. They visited sites such as the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, and Masada while also having the freedom to explore Israel's incredible cities together.

As a teacher, I cannot express how rewarding it was for me to witness the amazing transformation in the minds of these young students. I can say with great certainty that none of the students expected what they experienced during their time in Israel. Many came back from the program not just with a different perspective on Israel, but also on who they are and what they want to do. I also want to commend these students for their impeccable and professional behavior during the trip. They represented MSU with honor and demonstrated how wonderful Spartans are. I am humbled that I could facilitate and teach this incredible group of students on my study abroad program in Israel.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank those who provided scholarships to the students and enabled them to participate in this amazing experience by covering their program fees. Specifically, sincere gratitude goes to the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel, which provided \$1,000 scholarships to every student through two endowments in the Institute that provide study abroad scholarships for MSU students to study in Israel (The Modern Israel Endowment established by Michael and Elaine Serling and the Ed Levy, Jr. and Linda Dresner Levy Endowed Fund). Finally, a special thank you goes to Yael Aronoff, Director of the Serling Institute, for her help and support. We look forward to our next study abroad program in Israel!

Dr. Ayalla Ruvio - Associate Professor, Department of Marketing, Broad College of Business and Affiliate of the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel

Students share their experiences from the program:

Adwait (Adi) Ahire (Major in Finance)

"I investigated several study abroad options, such as Brazil, Japan and Spain. I picked Israel and it was one of the best decisions I have made in my college career. I got to meet some very successful entrepreneurs in Israel, visited large offices of companies, floated in the Dead Sea, learned the history of Jerusalem, experienced the modern touch of Tel Aviv and saw the port city of Haifa. Also, I made 20 new friends, got to meet amazing individuals and had one of the best experiences of my life."

Nolan Parker (Major in Finance)

"Despite reading about Israel before arriving, nothing could have prepared me for how enthralling the nation is. The entrepreneurial spirit is palpable, and after meeting with several Israeli engineers and entrepreneurs, I left with a lot of ideas I want to infuse in my work and life here in the states. I admire the directness, dedication to process simplicity, and work ethic embodied in every enterprise we visited, whether it was an automotive manufacturer or a high tech software developer."

Daniel Ruvio (Major in Human Biology)

"All in all the trip was amazing. We met incredible individuals with amazing ideas and eccentric personalities. While not someone in the business sector, I went in with an open mind, and I'm so glad for it. The connections I made on this trip, both personal and professional, were way beyond what I could have expected and hoped for."

Jezreel Wallace (Major in Chemical Engineering)

"By going on this study abroad trip I was able to learn so much more than I would've imagined if I were to do a trip like this in the United States. I am thankful for receiving this international experience. I also enjoyed the food and the welcoming and accepting culture of Israelis. Some of the things that stood out to me in the country's landscape included the mountains of Masada as well as the Dead Sea. I enjoyed floating on the Dead Sea and being able to experience weightlessness in water, something that most people do not get to experience, and for that I am grateful. I really enjoyed my time in Israel and I hope to return there one day, whether it is for work or for leisure in the future and I am thankful for this opportunity. I will be encouraging my younger peers to experience life in Israel by going on study abroad trips such as this one in the future."



HIGHLIGHTING ALUMNI WHO ARE PROFESSORS OR ARE PhD STUDENTS

Geoffrey Levin '11

Eleven years after taking Professor Yael Aronoff's "Israeli Politics and Society" course as a student at MSU's James Madison College, Geoffrey Levin is heading back to the "Israeli Politics" classroom – but this time as an Assistant Professor of Israel Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. At Emory, Professor Levin will be a tenure-track faculty member based both in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies (MESAS) and the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies. He earned his PhD in History and Jewish Studies from New York University in 2019 and then spent a year at Harvard University as a postdoctoral fellow. Though Levin's doctorate was in history, as a professor he will be returning to the interdisciplinary path he began at MSU, teaching a wide array of courses in Israel Studies, Jewish Studies, and Middle East Studies at Emory. Mentorship from Professor Aronoff and Professor Ken Waltzer was crucial to Levin's decision to become a Jewish Studies minor at MSU, and to study abroad at the University of Haifa with the aid of the Levy Scholarship through the Serling Institute during his senior year. That decision led him to pursue a master's degree in international relations at Johns Hopkins University before turning toward academia, culminating with his appointment at Emory starting in the 2020-2021 academic year.



scholarly examination of environmental peacebuilding, with case studies in Israel-Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon, and Kuwait. Now, she teaches sustainability and global justice at Syracuse University's London Center. Her flagship course is a ten-day field studies class taking students to Scandinavia and the Arctic Circle to examine environmental justice - a seminar whose setup is inspired by the "Green Israel" program she herself participated in a decade ago.

David Warshay '19

"My Jewish Studies Minor through the Serling Institute has prepared me for graduate study in political science in many ways. The Institute has provided me with many scholarship opportunities, academic experiences, and research conferences from which I was able to identify my desired career path and work toward achieving it. Through the Israel Study Abroad Program led by Yore Kedem, I was able to conduct field research and get a real feel for what type of work that involves. Through the annual undergraduate research conferences offered by the the Serling Institute, I was able to listen to experts and professors speak about various topics of interest; I was also able to present my own research and get valuable presentation experience. Additionally, I participated in three research projects under the guidance of Yael Aronoff. The first one focused on the displacement of Jews from Middle Eastern countries. The second research project took the form of a senior honors thesis comparing three major genocides of the 20th century. In my senior seminar class I was able to research Operation Protective Edge and create a body of work that I was eventually able to use as a writing sample for graduate school applications. I was also able to present this work at the Serling Institute Undergraduate Research Conference. I was also fortunate enough to be awarded the Jewish Studies Student Achievement Award during my final year at MSU. All of these experiences contributed to my desire to enter academia and, starting in fall 2020, start a PhD graduate program in political science at the University of Colorado Boulder. My career goals are to become a professor and scholar and to influence the next generation of students."



Rebecca L Farnum '12

In Summer 2010, Becca Farnum travelled to Israel with two faculty-led programs through the Serling Institute for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel. She participated in a four credit "Nature, Culture and Environmental Issues in a Green Israel" study abroad led by Eric Aronoff, immediately followed by an 8 credit study abroad program at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem led by Yael Aronoff. Her experiences that summer, and subsequent coursework on environmental politics in the Middle East, led her to apply for a Marshall Scholarship for study in the UK. An MSc, law degree, and PhD honed her



Mateusz Leszczynski '19

"My focus going into the Political Science PhD Program at University of Colorado Boulder is to study Comparative Politics with a focus on political extremism in Europe. The Jewish Studies minor played a quintessential role in both my decision to apply for this graduate program and the specific field I am going into. The support and guidance of fantastic professors in Jewish Studies including Professors Simon and Pauly, made the graduate search and application process much calmer and more efficient. My concentration within the Jewish Studies minor was antisemitism and its history in Europe. The minor courses that I took were essential in the creation of my graduate focus, as now I hope to expand upon them and learn more in depth why some European communities on a local level have either combated xenophobia or have succumbed to it. I also want to research exactly how, in terms of tactics, local communities have resisted political extremism. Regarding my future, after receiving a PhD in Political Science, I hope to continue my academic career by applying for professorial positions at US universities. I am also open to research positions in think tanks."



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Benjamin Francis '21

Ben Francis is a Junior Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy major from James Madison College, a Religious Studies major, and a Jewish Studies minor. Ben was awarded the James and Anna Hersh Scholarship for Internships in Israel last summer and had the opportunity to intern as a research assistant at Bar Ilan University's Faculty of Law Clinics. He conducted comparative legal research on the rights of parents with disabilities through the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) between the countries of Israel, the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and Australia with the Disability Rights Clinic's Director, Dr. Roni Rothler. Ben also received the Ed Levy Scholarship to further strengthen his Hebrew abilities and take a month long Ulpan class at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at Mt. Scopus. Ben took two

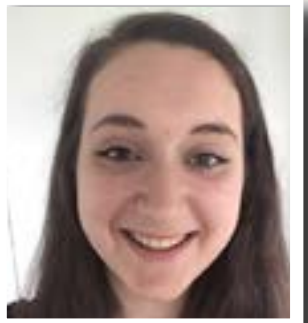


years of Hebrew with Dr. Yore Kedem and participated in his Study Abroad Program in Israel with the help of the Ed Levy Scholarship in 2018. There he researched Education Policy in Israel and presented his research at the Serling Undergraduate Research Conference in April. Ben also participated in the study abroad in Israel in Spring 2019 focused on entrepreneurship and was awarded the Jewish Studies Student Achievement Award in Spring 2019.

Ben will continue his education in Jewish Studies and Modern Israel through classes focusing on Judaism in his Religious Studies major, and will continue to be active in both MSU Hillel and Chabad. In the future, Ben is interested in Jewish non-profit work or finance before pursuing graduate school.

Yael Eichhorn '22

"I have been a Jewish Studies minor for a year and have really enjoyed it so far. At MSU there are Jewish Studies classes available on a wide variety of topics, so I have been able to learn about so many different aspects of Jewish life, culture and history. It has worked really well with my major and creates a space for me to focus on the areas of religion that interest me. I have been given the opportunity to work at the Institute and it has been a great experience, and has taught me a lot about Jewish academia. Jewish Studies also puts an emphasis on involving students, and I have appreciated getting to know the professors and faculty. I am confident that the knowledge I have gained in my Jewish Studies minor will be helpful to me in my future career."



Samantha Chaben '22

"My name is Samantha Chaben and I am an incoming junior at Michigan State University. I am enrolled in James Madison College as an International Relations major with a minor in Jewish Studies, as well as a Business Cognate. The highlight of my Jewish Studies experience has been learning and working with Professor Yore Kedem. He has not only helped me in studying the Hebrew language, but he reminds me to always push myself and be the best student I can be. Professor Kedem has also inspired me to learn more about the state of Israel and my Jewish culture/heritage. This summer I worked with the Friends of The Israel Defense Forces, which is a non-political organization that focuses on offering educational, cultural, recreational, and social service programs to support the soldiers of the IDF. I plan to continue to expand my Jewish learning and to educate my peers."



CORONAVIRUS ANTISEMITISM

By Kenneth Walzer

There is a relationship between the spread of plagues and the rise of antisemitism against Jews.

In medieval Europe during the mid-14th century, Jews who lived as strangers in Christian society, were accused of going around and poisoning the wells.

Attacks against Jews and Jewish communities took place in France, Spain, and rose to a crescendo in the Rhineland. Most

Jewish communities in Europe were wiped from history in these attacks, during which Jews were bludgeoned, subjected to the sword, and burned to death in an ongoing slaughter that peaked during 1347-1350.¹



1349 book by the French chronicler Gilles li Muisis, residents of a town stricken by the plague burn Jews, who were blamed for causing the disease. (WIKIMEDIA)

We live today in a radically different world transformed by modernization, secularization, and rapid global exchange. It is appropriate in this transformed world to expect that most would seek to identify the sources of plague-like threats to the global public health through the application of modern science and discussions of effective national and international public policy. Yet old habits and tendencies have staying power. Just 75 years after the conclusion of World War II, the peak years of antisemitism during the 20th century, there are signs of rising antisemitism again in Europe and elsewhere abroad and as well in the United States. Since March 2020, a feature of that antisemitism has been coronavirus antisemitism.

That is, rising antisemitism at this time is increasingly infected by conspiracy claims that the Jews are the people primarily responsible for creating the coronavirus or that they are actively engaged in spreading it.² Conspiracy theories spouted on social media identify Jews as connected to the labs in Wuhan from which the virus allegedly first spread or as mixed in the competitive global search to identify, manufacture and market an effective vaccine to profit from the calamity. Protesters on the right in the U.S., during April in Ohio and other midwestern states, carried antisemitic posters with rats and Stars of David, proclaiming that the “The Jews are the real plague.”³



THE ANTISEMITIC corona conspiracy theories posted on social media (photo credit: CST)

Such conspiracy claims appear increasingly in communications among marginal groups and movements in England, on the continent, and in Turkey, Iran and the Middle East. In England, where antisemitism has grown significantly, peaking during each of the last four years, the Community Security Trust now warns of an increase in such coronavirus-based conspiracy expression throughout the country. A recent survey by psychologists at Oxford University found 20% of Brits believe Jews had insidiously created the novel coronavirus to destabilize the world for their financial gain.⁴ In France, a Jewish former health minister is accused by protestors of blocking a drug that would have prevented the crisis. In the U.S., it is claimed “it’s the Jew flu.” As one anti-Semite is quoted: “The kikes get the credit for that one. It was the kikes. It’s ALWAYS the kikes.”⁵ In Turkey and Iran, the claim is that the Zionists manufactured the virus as part of a global campaign to redesign the world. Right wing radicals in Europe and America influenced by replacement theory ideology speculate on the link between the pandemic and Jewish global machinations.

Jewish Israel too is selected by some as the culpable force behind the origin and spread of the virus. A recent report by the Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs called “Virus of Hate,”⁶ reviews the varieties of antisemitism being broadcast on social media platforms, including

those emanating from anti-Zionist and anti-Israel sources as well as from rightist forces. Sometimes these different forms of antisemitism interact and overlap. White supremacist former KKK leader David Duke, for instance, claims Israel and “the global Zionist elite are up to their old tricks.”⁷ FBI sources have warned American Jewish organizations that racist groups on the right have signaled their members to contract the virus and then to seek out Jews they might infect. “If you have the bug, give a hug. Spread the flu to every Jew.”⁸

We are far removed from the medieval age, so it is unlikely that such charges and conspiratorial narratives will generate mass contagion or be the cause of significant harm to Jews, though Jewish organizations like the Community Security Trust in Britain and Anti-Defamation League (ADL) in the U.S. are wary. Such organizations track this material and discern and evaluate what is trash talk and what is likely more dangerous. Indeed, the ubiquity of such claims on social media from the right and left is increasingly



A placard reading ‘The real plague’, depicting a Jew as a rat, brandished at an anti-lockdown protest in Ohio. Photo: Twitter

Les #Rothschild et les crises mondiales #Coronavirus



Anti-Semitic cartoon (Photo: Twitter)

worrisome. We live in an increasingly unstable time in which antisemitism is becoming mainstream again, and into which is added new/old claims about the Jews for allegedly manipulating global health and plotting to profit from it. Students of antisemitism note both the poison the wells element in contemporary coronavirus antisemitism and also the more modern trope of Jews allegedly plotting to redesign or take over the world. This is less medieval, more modern, and includes echoes and trace elements of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. In a destabilized world sitting on the precipice of spreading virus and global depression, we should be wary.

Endnotes:

- 1 See, Kenneth Waltzer, “Jews and the Pandemic,” *Times of Israel*, April 30, 2020. See also Dan Freedman, “Why Were Jews Blamed for the Black Death?” *Moment Magazine*, March 31, 2020.
- 2 Brenda Katten, “Even during the coronavirus pandemic, Jews are ever the scapegoat,” *Jerusalem Post*, May 14, 2020.
- 3 Laura Hancock, “Some Ohio coronavirus protesters using anti-Semitic symbolism,” *Cleveland.com*, April 21, 2020.
- 4 Donna Rachel Edmunds, Rossella Tercatin, “One in Five English people believe COVID is a Jewish Conspiracy—Survey,” *Jerusalem Post*, May 25, 2020.
- 5 Quoted in Ghuneet Bhatia, “Dark Web Accuses Secret Jewish-Chinese COVID-19 Coalition of Controlling Wuhan Lab That Created Coronavirus,” *Latin Times*, May 4, 2020. See also on right wing conspiracy claims, Flora Cassen, ‘Jews Control Chinese Labs That Created Coronavirus’: White Supremacists’ Dangerous New Conspiracy Theory, in *Haaretz*, May 3, 2020.
- 6 “Virus of Hate” Israel Ministry of Strategic Affairs, <http://cdn.fedweb.org/>

- 7 Quoted in Manya Bachar Pashman, “Antisemitism are thriving Amidst Coronavirus Pandemic,” *Times of Israel*, April 10, 2020.
- 8 *Jewish News Syndicate*, “American Jewish Congress Report: Far-right, white supremacists use virus to foster anti-Semitism online,” April 10, 2020, and *Cleveland Jewish News*, “Report: Far-right, white supremacists use virus to foster anti-Semitism online,” April 27, 2020.

MSU DIALOGUES ON RELIGION AND ETHNICITY FOCUSING ON ANTISEMITISM AND ISLAMOPHOBIA

By Kirsten Fermaglich



Yael Aronoff and Mohammad Khalil, Director of the MSU Muslim Studies Program, drafted a joint grant proposal in Spring 2019 which included establishing an MSU Dialogues on religion and ethnicity, focusing on antisemitism and Islamophobia. The MSU

Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives granted \$9000 for the project, which funded the work of several faculty -- Kirsten Fermaglich, Amy Simon, and Morgan Shipley - in their excellent work in putting together the curriculum. Yael, Mohammad and Ken Waltzer also served as contributing consultants. We are so excited by this important collaboration which will impact students, faculty, and staff for decades to come, and are deeply thankful to Kirsten, Amy, and Morgan for taking this on.

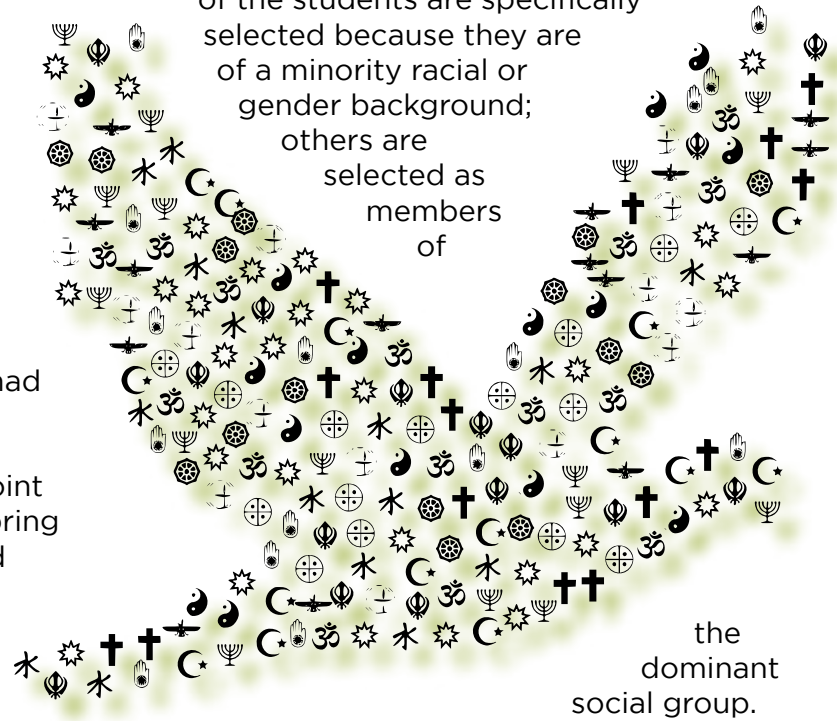


Yael Aronoff



Mohammad Khalil

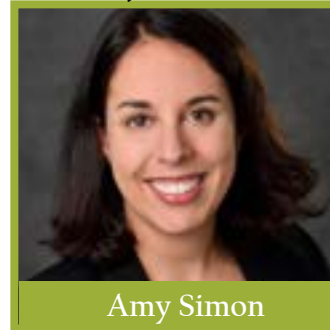
The Dialogues program was designed for undergraduates to teach one another about the impact of systemic racism and sexism. Faculty do not teach or lead sessions; led by fellow students who have been given special training (and who have themselves participated in one Dialogues program already) students engage with 8 Powerpoint slide shows, while participating in activities designed to explain concepts like privilege and microaggression and organized to encourage students to develop skills to fight back against racism. Some



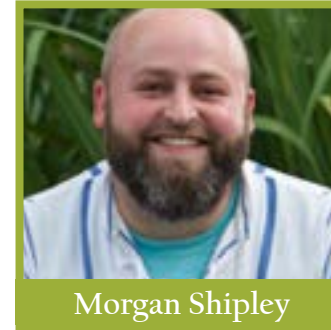
of the students are specifically selected because they are of a minority racial or gender background; others are selected as members of the dominant social group.

Morgan Shipley, Amy Simon and Kirsten Fermaglich were tasked with creating a Dialogues Program that would introduce students to religious bigotry and discrimination through two major examples: antisemitism and Islamophobia. We needed to use the preexisting template and curriculum to structure our work. In some ways, these preexisting materials made our task easier: many of the basic concepts introduced in the first two slideshows—like ideas about Dialogues or difficult conversations—did not need to be changed or reinvented. In other ways, however, the preexisting curriculum needed to be reshaped to fit the subjects of antisemitism and Islamophobia. Powerpoint 4, for example, encouraged students to recognize and fight back against stereotypes and microaggressions (small comments passed off as humor or innocent, and so more difficult to challenge). We found ourselves needing to introduce the concept of normalized Christianity to students—the ways that outsider religions are simply not acknowledged or recognized

by the larger society, and members of those religions must consistently ask for exceptions or find ways to work through “normal” society to make themselves understood. Similarly, Powerpoint 5 introduced a “privilege walk” for students: students are read a series of questions and then asked to walk forward if their answers reflect some sort of privilege in society, or step backward if they do not (e.g., Walk backward if you are the first member of your family to attend college). We were at first concerned about the privilege walk, because many American Jews’ (and Muslims’) socioeconomic status might make them appear only privileged: we used ideas about normalized Christianity and other stereotypes about Jews and Muslims to help develop questions that reflected Christian privilege in America (e.g., If you are guaranteed to have your religious holidays off from school/work without request, please take one step forward).



Amy Simon



Morgan Shipley

Our greatest challenge, however, was Powerpoint 3, a slide show designed to take students through the historical origins of racism or sexism in the United States. This Powerpoint—when used for other groups—basically offered a laundry list of historical events in the history of racism or sexism in the United States (e.g., The date of the arrival of the first African slave on American shores). The goal was for students to understand the long history of American racism or sexism.

As professors who study the history of Jews and Muslims, we felt that a simple laundry list would be inadequate to our task. In particular, focusing on the Americas would exclude some of the most crucial events in the history of antisemitism, like the Holocaust, which have taken place in Europe. Second, and more important, we did not think that the history of antisemitism or Islamophobia could be reduced to a laundry list of events—we felt we needed to introduce the tropes of antisemitism, the ingrained beliefs about outsiders, conspiracy, greed, and power, that are intertwined with actual events in Jewish and Muslim history (e.g., the 1179 edict from the

Catholic Church forbidding Christians from usury and thereby pushing Jews into moneylending). Our final Powerpoint took a long time to produce, but we are very happy with the result, which organizes the history of Islamophobia and antisemitism by trope. We introduce each trope (the Jew as greedy, for example, or the Muslim as dehumanized monster), then talk about the historical origins of these tropes and their historical legacies. We finished the Powerpoint with some case studies—like the Holocaust and the shooting at a Sikh temple—and created an activity for students to identify the tropes that allowed these events to take place.



Yael Aronoff co-edited *Continuity and Change in Political Culture: Israel and Beyond*, with Ilan Peleg and Saliba Sarsar, (Lexington Books, the Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, forthcoming in fall 2020). In addition to co-editing the book, she co-authored the introduction and contributed a book chapter entitled “Pathways to Peace: Legitimation of a Two-State Solution.” This book contains contributions from ten leading scholars and practitioners of politics, political science, anthropology, Israel studies, and Middle East affairs. This book is a fitting tribute to Professor Myron (Mike) J. Aronoff, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Anthropology, and Jewish Studies at Rutgers University, who has built important conceptual and methodological bridges between political science and anthropology. It is unique as it addresses elements that frame Professor Aronoff’s scholarly work, mainly the interplay between politics and culture, especially the role of legitimacy. Each contributor ties her/his analysis to the main theme of continuity and change in political culture. Among the topics covered are the legitimacy of the two-state solution, identity and memory, denationalization, the role of trust in peace negotiations, Biblical and national narratives, democracy, majority-minority relations, inclusion and exclusion, art in public space, and avant-garde theater. Among the countries or regions covered are Israel, Palestine, the United States, the Basque Autonomous Region of Spain, and Poland. Lastly, Mike Aronoff relates his work on various aspects of political culture to each chapter in an integrative essay in the Epilogue.

Kirsten Fermaglich was promoted to full Professor of History and Jewish Studies this summer. She was chair of a panel on “Jews and the State” at the AJHS Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History, which was held virtually on June 25. She will be speaking on a panel about American antisemitism as part of a virtual series on antisemitism in the United States, Israel and Europe on October 1. She is also still speaking about her book, *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name* virtually; she gave a presentation for the City Congregation of Humanistic Judaism in New York on June 5, and she will be speaking for the Jewish Community

Center of the North Shore in Marblehead, MA this fall (date TBA). Fermaglich also has a Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Grant this summer to help fund her new project, a study of Jews in academia who migrated to college towns in the 1960s and 1970s. Fermaglich has been conducting interviews with members of the Lansing-area Jewish community about the migration of academics to MSU in the postwar era and would welcome talking to anyone who is connected to this subject!

Steven Gold’s recent activities include being a Table Presider for “Exploring the Creative Israeli Diaspora” and participating in a roundtable on “Immigrant Workers and the Labor Market” over Zoom at the American Sociological Association Conference August 11, 2020. He also reviewed the book by Çağlar, Ayşe and Nina Glick Schiller, *Migrants and City-Making: Dispossession, Displacement, and Urban Regeneration* (Duke University Press, 2018) in *The American Journal of Sociology*, Volume 125, number 6 (May 2020) pp. 1767-1678. Finally, he wrote the Forward for Arnold Dashefsky and Karen A. Woodrow-Lafield, *Americans Abroad: A Comparative Study of Emigrants from the United States*. Second Edition, New York, Springer Nature B.V. 2020.

Noah Kaye’s article: “Purity and Property at Gezer: The Commons in a Second Temple Town” will appear in the *Journal for the Study of Judaism* online at the end of ‘20 and in print at the beginning of ‘21.

In June 2020 **Deborah Margolis** presented: “Beyond the Holocaust Period: Studying Global Jewish History Through the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive” at the Association of Jewish Libraries conference. In August 2020 she organized a training session on the Fortunoff Archive for Holocaust Testimony.

Matt Pauly recently published an essay, “Symon Petliura, the Ukrainian People’s Republic, and National Commemoration in Contemporary Ukraine,” in *Burden of the Past: History, Memory and Identity in Contemporary Ukraine* (Indiana University Press, 2020). Symon Petliura was the political and military leader of the short-lived Ukrainian People’s Republic (UNR). In the midst of the violence of 1919, the Red Army, Whites, and forces under Ukrainian command—including regular troops as well as those of

local warlords—participated in the massacre of Jews. UNR soldiers were responsible for 40 percent of the documented pogroms, despite official condemnations and inquiries by Petliura’s government. The essay addresses the historiography of Petliura’s role in the pogroms, but is centered on controversy regarding post-Soviet proposals for his commemoration.

In July, Prof. Pauly discussed his essay together with three other contributors to the volume, *Burden of the Past*. The webcast was moderated and hosted by Cambridge University’s Centre for Ukrainian Studies. *Burden of the Past* includes a wide-range of essays on historical memory in Ukraine, including new oral histories of the Holocaust.

Lev Raphael (PhD 1986) has been chosen to be the Picador Chair in Literature at the University of Leipzig for the 21/22 winter term. Raphael, whose work has been translated into fifteen languages, has previously done two book tours in Germany, sponsored by the U.S. State Department, for his memoir *My Germany*.

His 19th of 26 books, *My Germany* explores the role of Germany--real and imagined--in his life as a Jewish author who is the son of Holocaust survivors and an American pioneer in Second Generation literature. On those book tours, Raphael did readings in German as well as English in nearly twenty German cities and towns. His many venues included the Jewish Museum in Berlin.

At the University of Leipzig, Raphael will be teaching two classes, a creative writing seminar and an American Studies class, as well as giving two public readings, one in Leipzig and one in Berlin. Raphael notes, “It’s been a dream of mine for many years to both teach and live in Germany and now that dream’s come true.”

In June, **Amy Simon** published the chapter, “Teaching with Holocaust Diaries: Voices from the Chasm” in *Understanding and Teaching the Holocaust*, edited by Avinoam Patt and Laura Hilton, University of Wisconsin Press, Harvey Goldberg Series for Understanding and Teaching History.

Ken Waltzer has two essays in press to be published in 2020-21. “Contending with Antisemitism in its Many Forms on American Campuses” will appear in *Contending with Antisemitism in a Changing Political Climate*,

ed., Alvin Rosenfeld, Indiana University Press. “History and Memory: Tales of Two Children in the Nazi Camps,” will appear in *After the Holocaust: Human Rights and Genocide Education in the Approaching Post-Witness Era*, eds., Charlotte Schallie, Helga Thorson, and Andrea van Noord, U. of Regina Press. He also recently received the MSU Faculty Emeriti Association’s “Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Award for 2019-2020” for continuing support and work with the Serling Institute and with James Madison College.

Harry Yuklea has accepted an invitation to serve on the Eli Broad College of Business International Advisory Board. He will: provide counsel, advice, service and support to the Broad College, its students, faculty, staff, and alumni in the areas of global mindset, international education, and education abroad; promote communication and affiliations between the Broad College, alumni, and stakeholders, particularly in the international context; and promote mutual interests of the Broad College and its alumni through personal, professional, and educational development.



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