**Western Jewish Studies Association 25th Annual Conference,**

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

March 29-30, 2020

 

(Add Front Matter-which groups have contributed to the conference and what individuals should be thanked for working on it, Add Room Numbers for Each Panel and for Registration. Do we need a campus map or directions from the hotel)

**Sunday March 29**

8:30-9:30 AM Roundtable Discussion: ***The Future of Jewish Studies Programs***

Moderator: Holli Levitsky, Loyola Marymount University

Sophia Avants, California State University, Long Beach

Elyce Rae Helford, Middle Tennessee State University

**Registration 9:00-10:30 AM**

**Session 1 10:00-11:45 AM**

Panel 1 ***Commemorating******Key Modern Jewish Thinkers***Chair: Alan Levenson, University of Oklahoma

J.J. Kimche, Harvard University Celebrating 150 Years of Heinrich Graetz’s *History of the Jews*

Yvonne Kozlovsky Golan, University of Haifa A Discussion of Albert Memmi’s (1920-2020) Film and Novel, *The Pillar of Salt*

Danielle Roth-Johnson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Intertextuality in Memmi’s *Portrait d’un juif* and d’Eaubonne’s *Le féminisme ou la mort*

Haeyeun Han, University of Chicago Levinas on Time (25th *anniversary of his death)*

*Panel 2* ***Legacies of the Holocaust*** Chair: William Katin, California State University, San Bernardino

Paul R. Bartrop, Florida Gulf Coast University Memory and the Rescuers of Jews from Haute-Savoie to Switzerland

Gregory Brown, University of Nevada, Las Vegas "The Other New York Intellectuals: Jewish Refugee Historians and Post-War Historiography of the European Enlightenment"

Jeffrey Demsky, San Bernardino Valley College 75 Years Later: The Nuremberg Trials and "Irreverent" American Holocaust Memorialization

James McSpadden, University of Nevada, Reno Ethical Debate on Looted Nazi and Holocaust-Era Books in the United States

**Sunday, March 29 10:00-11:45 AM**

Panel 3 ***Anti-Judaism in European History*** Chair: Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

Robert P. Galoob, Graduate Theological Union Fake News About Judaism: The Life and Miracles of William of Norwich

Daniel J. Lasker, Ben Gurion University Christian Anti-Judaism and Jewish Anti-Christian Polemic: How Are They Related?

Armin Langer, Humboldt University, Berlin A barbaric, bloody act: The anti-circumcision polemics of the Enlightenment and its internalization among nineteenth-century German Jews

Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University victoria.khiterer@millersville.edu

The Rise and Fall of Jewish Scholarly Institutions in Kiev in the 1920s-1940s

**Luncheon 12-1 PM** *25th Anniversary Party for WJSA* Lawrence Baron, Founder and President of the Western Jewish Studies Association

Sunday, March 29, Session 2 1:15-2:45 PM

Panel 4 ***Teaching, Translating, and Reinterpreting Scripture*** Chair: Leonard Greenspoon, Creighton University

Joel Gereboff, Arizona State University Teaching Introductory Bible Courses in U.S. Rabbinic Schools

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Translating Human/Divine Interfaces in Sacred Tropes*: Tanakh, New Testament* and *Qur’an*

Benjamin Steele-Fisher, University of California, Davis Totality and Universality: The Apostle Paul in Taubes and Boyarin

Panel 5 ***Midwestern Jewish History*** Chair: Amy Shevitz, Loyola University

Deborah Y. Bachrach, Independent Scholar America Jewish Cowboys in Minnesota

Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, Missouri State University Gender Roles as Revealed in Jewish Homesteader Memoirs

Steven Green, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA More Than Just a Store: Jewish Food Entrepreneurship in Turn of the Century Iowa

**Sunday, March 29, 1:15-2:45 PM**

Panel 6 ***The Holocaust: Perpetrators, Victims, and Rescuers*** Chair: Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University

Jeffrey Koerber, Chapman University Young Soviet Jews Who Posed as Slavs during the Holocaust

Sarah Markowitz, Chapman University “An Entirely New and Utterly Horrifying Reality:” Lithuanian Killings of Jews in Kovno

Abigail Winslow, Florida Gulf Coast University “The White Buses: Memory of the Swedish Red Cross’ Rescue Mission during the Holocaust”

Session 3 3-4:30 PM

Panel 7 ***Jewish Dance and Silent Film*s** Chair: Elyce Rae Helford, Middle Tennessee State University

Joel Rosenberg, Tufts University The First Jewish Film: On Georges Méliès’s *L’Affaire Dreyfus* (1899)

Dror Abend-David, University of Florida Jewish Identity, Silent Films and the Invisibility of the Translator

Margot Mink Colbert, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

The Golem and the Dybbuk as Portrayed in the Arts

Panel 8 ***The ‘Task of the Translator’ Reconsidered*** Chair: Elaine Goodfriend, California State University, Northridge,

Leonard Greenspoon, Creighton University “The Septuagint as a Jewish Translation of the Bible”

Alan Levenson, University of Oklahoma Forgotten Yiddishist: Maurice Samuel (1895-1972)

Amy Shevitz, Loyola University Chicago “Seien Sie Innigst Gegrüßt”: The Correspondence of “Rosenzweig’s Women”

**Sunday, March 29, 3-4:30 PM**

Panel 9 ***Contemporary Holocaust Literature*** Chair: Holli Levitsky, Loyola Marymount University

Megan Reynolds, University of Oregon Monstrously Human: Seeing Evil in Emil Ferris’s *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters*

Naomi Sokoloff. University of Washington The Beast of Memory: Animals and the Holocaust in Nava Semel’s *And the Rat laughed*

Lukas Wilson, Florida Atlantic University Pre(Occupied) Longing: Postnostalgia in Jérémie Dres’ *We Won’t See Auschwitz*

**Session 4 4:45-6:15 PM**

Panel 10 ***Jewish Voices from Late Antiquity*** Chair: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Lincoln Harris Blumell, Brigham Young University Kerry Michael Hull, Brigham Young University A Jewish Petition from Ptolemaic Egypt

Alexander Warren Marcus, Stanford University Recovering Jewish Women's Voices in Late Antiquity: New Directions

Aron Tillema, University of California, Davis “Efficacious Laments, Misguided Corrections? Reading Lamentations Then and Now”

Panel 11 ***The Jewish – Latter-day Saint Academic Dialogue Project* : *Rountable***

Mark Diamond, Loyola Marymount University

Shon Hopkin, Brigham Young University

Holli Levitsky, Loyola Marymount University

Jared Ludlow, Brigham Young University

Andrew Reed, Brigham Young University

Steven Windmueller, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles

**Sunday, March 29 4:45-6:15 PM**

Panel 12 ***Anti-Semitism, Gender, and Genocide*** Chair: Paul R. Bartrop, Florida Gulf Coast University, [pbartrop@fgcu.edu](mailto:pbartrop@fgcu.edu)

Sebastian Huebel, University of the Fraisier Valley and Alexander College German-Jewish Masculinities and the Adaption to Open Violence in Prewar Nazi Germany

Timothy Pytell, California State University, San Bernardino Sexualized Male Violence and Sadistic Pleasure: The Holocaust and the Bosnian Genocide

Maor Levitin, York University The Psychology of Left Anti-Semitism

6:30-7:30 PM Banquet

7:30-8:30 PM Keynote: ***They Came in Station Wagons, The Jews of Southern Nevada***

**Barbara Tabach, University of Nevada, Las Vegas**. Barbara Tabach is an oral historian and project manager for the Oral History Research Center at UNLV University Libraries.  Among the projects she has been involved with are: *Southern Nevada Jewish Heritage Project*, *The Latinx Voices of Southern Nevada*, and *The African American Experience of Las Vegas*.

**Michael Green, University of Nevada, Las Vegas** Michael Green is an associate professor of history at UNLV. His works include *Nevada: A History of the Silver State* (2015), *Las Vegas: A Centennial History* (2005), *The Peoples of Las Vegas* (2005) and a biography of former Mayor Hank Greenspun in *The Maverick Spirit: Building the New Nevada* (1998).

**Monday, March 30 8-9 AM Registration**

Session 5 9-10:30 AM

Panel 13 ***Recent Holocaust Research on Germany, Bohemia, Moravia and Hungary*****Chair:** **Timothy Pytell, California State University, San Bernardino**

Wolf Gruner, University of Southern California Current Holocaust Scholarship on Bohemia and Moravia

Georg Michels, University of California, Riverside Current Holocaust Scholarship on Hungary

William Katin, California State University, San Bernardino Current German Scholarship on the Volksgemeinde

**March 30, 9-10:30 AM**

Panel 14 ***Jewish History in the American West***

Chair: Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University

Diana Clarke, University of Pittsburgh Not the Same Old Moses: Jewish Settler-Colonialism in Oklahoma Territory

Ava Kahn, Independent Scholar “She Knew Not Bacon:” The First Jewish Congresswoman Florence Prag Kahn Navigated the Restrictive and Anti-Semitic Interwar Years

Gabrielle Lyle, Texas A & M University There’s Jews in the Valley? The Hidden History of the McAllen Jewish Community

Panel 15 ***The Reinvention of Jewish Traditions and Texts*** Chair: Jody Myers, California State University, Northridge

Jonathan Friedmann. Academy for Jewish Religion California From Text to Melody: The Evolution of “Nusach Ha-Tefillah”

Alex J. Tal, University of Haifa The new crop of modern Talmud translations – characterizations, ideologies and utility in the academic environment

Martin Zwick, Portland State University Polymorphism and Polysemy in the Kabbalistic Tree

Session 6 10:45 AM-12:15 PM

Panel 16 ***American Jews in the Immediate Postwar Period*** Chair: Jeffrey Demsky, San Bernardino Valley College, [jdemsky@sbccd.cc.ca.us](mailto:jdemsky@sbccd.cc.ca.us)

Jeannette Gabriel, University of Nebraska, Omaha Bringing New Americans to the Heartland: The Impact of Post-War Jewish Refugee Resettlement on Small Jewish Communities

Elyce Rae Helford, Middle Tennessee State University Jewishness, Survivor Guilt, and Billy Wilder’s *Ace in the Hole*

Molly Hatay Ferens, University of Oregon Eating and Race in Herman Wouk’s *Marjorie Morningstar*

**Monday, March 30 10:45 AM-12:15**

Panel 17 ***Survivor Voices in Holocaust Education*** Chair: Norma Lisa Flores, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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Esther Finder, Holocaust Survivors Group of Southern Nevada

Susan Dubin, Sperling Kronberg Mack Holocaust Resource Center

Panel 18 ***Memory and Israeli History*** Yvonne Kozlovsky-Golan, University of Haifa

Rebecca Grossmann, University of California, Berkeley Sights of Division: Jewish Photojournalists and the 1948 Arab-Israeli War

Maya Hadar, Masaryk University Israelis and the Politics of Holocaust Memory

Martin Lowry, University of Texas at El Paso Reframing ‘Authenticity’: Israeli-Palestinian Relations in French Graphic Novels After the 2nd Intifada

Luncheon 12:30-2:15 ***Plenary Panel: Yitzhak Rabin's Assassination in Israeli Film, Television, and Commemoration*** Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

Naomi Meiri-Dann, Bezalel Academy and Tel Aviv University

The Commemoration of Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv – Between Israeli “Battlefield”

Monuments and John F. Kennedy’s Memorial Sites in Dallas, Texas

Shmuel Meiri, Bezalel Academy and Sapir Academic College

Yitzhak Rabin's Memorial Exhibitions in Academies of Arts vs. The Yitzhak Rabin Center

Miri Talmon, Tel-Aviv University A Touch Away from Making Love, not War: 1990s Filmic and Televisual Negotiations of Rabin's Assassination

Anat Zanger, Tel-Aviv University Yitzhak Rabin’s Assassination and the Messianic Turn in Israeli Cinema:

from *Rabin, The Last Day* to *Our Boys*

**Monday March 30** Session 7 2:30-4:15 PM

Panel 19 ***American Jewish Women*** Chair: Ava Kahn, Independent Scholar

Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University, "A Woman's Place? Supporting Jewish Causes and Community in Post-War Portland"

Laurie Baron, San Diego State University Pioneering American Jewish Women Directors in 1970s Hollywood

Janna M. Bernstein, University of Nevada, Las Vegas An Invisible Minority: Experiences of Ashkenazi Jewish Women Leaders in Higher Education

Panel 20 ***Survivors and Refugees in Postwar Poland and the United States*** Chair: Beth Cohen, California State University, Northridge

Elke Heckner, University of Iowa Playacting by Child Survivors as Working Through Trauma in *Unzere Kinder* (1948)

Beth Cohen, California State University, Northridge Forging a Collective Identity: Child Survivors of the Holocaust and Postwar US Networks

**Directory of Participants**

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