

Western Jewish Studies Association  
Annual Conference March 25-26, 2012  
Eugene, OR

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**8:15 a.m.: Registration Table - McKenzie Hall Lobby**

**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Panel 1: Navigating Cultural, Social and Political Boundaries in the Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean, McKenzie**

Chair: **Jenifer Presto, University of Oregon**

- “Jewish Prayer and Politics in Fatimid Egypt: The Connotations of *nosrim* (Christians) in the Geniza Fragments’ Versions of the *birkat ha-minim* (Curse of the Sectarials),” **David Hollenberg, University of Oregon**
- “Translating Science and Philosophy in Medieval Sicily: Jewish Translators as Cultural Mediators,” **Lucia Finotto, Brandeis University**
- “Added in Translation: Flavius Mithridates, Pico della Mirandola, and the Negotiation of Cultural Boundaries in Renaissance Florence,” **Michela Andreatta, University of Rochester**
- “When Jews Deal with Idolaters, Do They Include Christians in that Category?: How Jews and Christians Accommodated to Censorship in Early Modern Italy,” **Federica Francesconi, University of Oregon**

**Panel 2: Cultural Memory and the Growth of Tradition in Second Temple Judaism, McKenzie**

Chair: **Robert Kugler, Lewis & Clark College**

- “Hunting for Heaven: Above, Beside, or In Between? Conceptions of the Divine Realm in the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice,” **Amy Marie Fisher, University of Toronto**
- “The Influence of Isis on Second Temple Jewish Literature,” **Nathalie LaCoste, University of Toronto**
- “Prophecy as Paradigm: Epitomizing Second Maccabees,” **Madison Robins, University of Toronto**
- “The Entering in of Years and the Going Out of Times: Perspectives on the Periodization of Time in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” **Ryan Stoner, University of Toronto**

**10:30 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. Coffee Break**

**10:40 a.m. - 12:10 p.m.**

**Panel 3: Central and Eastern European Jewry, McKenzie**

Chair: **Katya Hokanson, University of Oregon**

- “Either Rome or the Ghetto: *Bildung* and the Early Jewish Novel,” **D. Gantt Gurley, University of Oregon**
- “Separation along Gender Lines: Two Accounts of the Education of Jewish Children in mid-Nineteenth Century Russia,” **Michal Fram Cohen, University of Maryland/Bar Ilan University**
- “The Limits of Family? Destitute and Disabled Jews and the Jewish Family in Eastern Europe,” **Natan Meir, Portland State University**
- “The Jewish Songs of Leonid Utesov,” **Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University**

#### **Panel 4: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish Philosophical Perspectives, McKenzie**

Chair: **Sharon Carson, University of North Dakota**

- “Dostoevsky's Anti-Semitism: A Rosenzweigian Perspective,” **Steven Shankman, University of Oregon**
- “On the Origins of Rosenzweig’s ‘Metaethics,’” **Josiah Simon, University of Oregon**
- “Franz Rosenzweig’s Call for ‘Narrative Philosophy,’” **Elizabeth Grosz, University of Oregon**
- “From Time on the Basis of Death to Death on the Basis of Time: on the Levinasian Reversal of Heidegger,” **Jeffrey S. Librett, University of Oregon**

#### **Panel 5: Surviving the Holocaust, McKenzie**

Chair: **David Weinberg, Wayne State University**

- “Preaching to Nazi Germany: German Pastors of Jewish Descent Speak Out!,” **William Skiles, University of California, San Diego**
- “Extreme Experience and Holocaust Perception,” **Timothy Pytell, California State University, San Bernardino**
- “Levi and the Question of ‘Style:’ The Challenge of Teaching the Holocaust,” **Nancy Harrowitz, Boston University**
- “American Jewish Humanitarian Agencies and the Americanization of DPs, 1945-1955,” **Mea Geizhals, University of British Columbia**

**12:20 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break Gerlinger lounge**

**1:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.**

#### **Panel 6: The American Jewish Experience from the Wild West to the White House, McKenzie**

Chair: **Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University**

- “Josephine Marcus Earp: What’s a Nice Jewish Girl Doing in a Place Like Tombstone?,” **Ann Kirschner, Macaulay Honors College, City University of New York**
- “Jewish Quotas in American Higher Education,” **Martha Ravits, University of Oregon**
- “Where Were You in ’72? The Sixties Generation and the Formation of Kibbutzim,” **Ava Kahn, Independent Scholar**
- “American Jewish Leaders and President Gerald Ford: Differences over the Middle East,” **Arlene Lazarowitz, California State University, Long Beach**

#### **Panel 7: The Holocaust in Reel Time: Cinematic Intimidations 1940-1944, McKenzie**

Chair: **David Frank, University of Oregon**

- “*The Mortal Storm* (1940) and the Politics of American Interventionism,” **Alexis Pogorelskin, University of Minnesota-Duluth**
- “*The Seventh Cross* (1944) and the Cinematic Concentration Camp,” **Paul Bartrop, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey**
- “*Mr. Emmanuel* (1944): A Belated British Warning of Nazi Anti-Semitism,” **Lawrence Baron, San Diego State University**

#### **Panel 8: Rupture and Continuity: The New Ladino Cultural Production, McKenzie**

Chair: **Evlyn Gould, University of Oregon**

- “Ladino among Latinos today: A New Stage in Language Revival,” **Monique Rodrigues Balbuena, University of Oregon**
- “Versions of Selfhood in Marcel Cohen’s *Letras a un pintor*,” **Celine Piser, University of California, Berkeley**

- “Eliezer Papo’s *Megila de Saray*,” **Rachel Bortnick, Independent Scholar**

**3:10 p.m. - 3:20 p.m. Coffee Break**

**3:20 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Panel 9: Early Modern Sephardic Studies, McKenzie**

Chair: **David Wacks, University of Oregon**

- “Soul Food: Kosher Food, Community, and Jewish Identity in the Atlantic World,” **Laura Leibman, Reed College**
- “*Kol Isha*: Recovering the Voices of Medieval and Early Modern Sephardic Women,” **Susan Aguilar, Graduate Theological Union**
- “A Jewish Religious Flowering in Colonial Latin America during a Time of Eclipse,” **Matthew Warshawsky, University of Portland**

**Panel 10: The Cultured World & the Natural World: Rabbinic Thought & Perspectives, McKenzie**

Chair: **Seth Ward, University of Wyoming**

- “Sitting with Scorners: Early Jewish and Christian Responses to Spectacle,” **Loren Spielman, Portland State University**
- “Talismanic Torah: Early Rabbinic and Patristic Reflections on ritual magic in miniature form,” **Jonathan Seidel, University of Oregon and Oregon State University**
- “*Peshat* and *Derash* of the Trees of Eden,” **Ted Chertok, Youngstown State University**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Singer Family Lecture, Ann Kirschner, “Sala’s Letters: The Gift and the Legacy.”**

**Temple Beth Israel**

**1175 E. 29<sup>th</sup> Ave.**

**Free and Open to the Public**

**Monday, March 26**

**8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. WJSA Board meeting at the Phoenix Inn**

**9:40 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.**

**Panel 11: Roundtable Discussion, McKenzie**

German Jewish Thought as Intellectual Wellspring for Critical Inquiry and Teaching Across the Disciplines in American Universities, **Professor Sharon Carson, University of North Dakota**

**Panel 12: Islamic and Jewish Interactions, McKenzie**

Chair: **Rick Colby, University of Oregon**

- “*Muslim Jews: Reflections on Conversion and Assimilation*,” **Jonathan G. Katz, Oregon State University**
- “The Difficulty of Islamic-Jewish Dialogue in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” **Seth Ward, University of Wyoming**

**10:50 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break**

**11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Panel 13: Holocaust Literature, McKenzie**

Chair: **Gina Herrmann, University of Oregon**

- “Private Versus Public Memory in the Catskills Mountains: A Literary Study of Survivor Communities,” **Holli G. Levitsky, Loyola Marymount University**
- “Memory and Trauma in Second-Generation Holocaust Literature,” **Victoria Aarons, Trinity University**
- “Andre Schwarz-Bart and Post-Holocaust Meanings of Diaspora” **Neil R. Davison, Oregon State University**

**Panel 14: The Architecture and Iconography of Jewish Life, McKenzie**

Chair: **Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, University of Oregon**

- “Composite Forms in Jewish Iconography: From the Birds’ Head Haggadah to a Violin-Playing Goat,” **Lisa R. Calevi, University of Oregon**
- “The Wall-Paintings from the Polish/Ukrainian Wooden Synagogues: Multi-Cultural Jewish Sources,” **Thomas C. Hubka, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**
- “Among Alien People: Synagogue Architecture in Contemporary Eastern Poland,” **Lucyna Aleksandrowicz-Pedich, Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities**
- “*Donna catenata* (woman in chains): The self-representation of Venetian poet Sara Copio Sullam,” **Gail Gould, University of Oregon**

**Panel 15: Postwar American Jewish Culture and Faith, McKenzie**

Chair: **Naomi Sokoloff, University of Washington**

- “Worlds of Childhood: Identity Politics in American Jewish Children’s Magazines, 1945-1967” **Joshua Furman, University of Maryland**
- “Romancing the past, reconstituting the future: How nostalgic remembrance informs *ba’al teshuvah* identity,” **Vicki Cabot, Arizona State University**
- “Wagner, Comedy and Self-Hating Jews: How Humor Helps Us Cope with the Great Art of Horrible Anti-Semites,” **Moshe Rachmuth, University of Oregon**

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Closing Lunch Gerlinger lounge**