



**Western Jewish Studies Association**

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas**

**March 12-13, 2023**

**President: Lawrence Baron**

**Campus Organizer, Roberta Sabbath**

**Program Committee:**

**Joel Gereboff**

**Ava Kahn**

**Seth Ward**

**Sponsors**

**UNLV College of Liberal Arts**

**Jewish Nevada**

**Boyd Law School Jewish Student Association**

**College of Liberal Arts**

**Department of Sociology**

**UNLV Hillel**

## Master Schedule

Sunday, March 12

8-9 AM, Registration

9 AM-12:30 PM Morning Panels,

12:45-1:45 PM Lunch,

2-5:15 PM Afternoon Panels,

5:30-6:45 PM Dinner

7-8:30 PM Keynote Lecture

Ronit Irshai, *Progress and Backlash: Israeli Modern-Orthodox Feminism*

Monday, March 13

8-8:30 AM Registration

8:30-11:45 AM Morning Panels

12-2 PM, Lunch-Plenary Panel on American Jewish Comedians,

2:15-3:45 PM Afternoon Panel

Sunday, March 12

9-10:30 AM

**Panel 1: Mishnah and Talmud SU 205**

Chair: Elaine Adler Goodfriend, California State University-Northridge

Tzachi Cohen, Ono Academic College

Parables of the Mishnah

Joel Gereboff, Arizona State University

Decreased Eyesight and Blindness in Early Rabbinic Literature

Yaron Silverstein, Hemad Academic College

Religion with technology: Talmud Yerushalmi Tractate Rosh-Hashanah: critical-digital edition

**Panel 2 The Yom Kippur War and Its Legacy 50 Year Later SU 207**

Chair: Hadas Cohen, University of Oklahoma

Adam Howard, George Washington University

Operating Quietly in the Corridors of Powers: The Story of Max Fisher and Israel

Orit Miller Katav, Ariel University

Diplomatic Contacts and International Involvement on the Way to the Yom Kippur War

Jacob Hellman, University of Wisconsin-Stout/University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Reexamining Gorodish on the Sinai Frontier, 50 Years after the Yom Kippur War

**Panel 3 Holocaust Feature Films and Documentaries SU 209**

Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

Gary Hochman, Documentary Filmmaker

Sobibor Documentation Project, Sneak Peek" of *Death Camp Cover-Up*

Yvonne Kozlovsky Golan University of Haifa

The Unspeakable Others in Israeli Cinema

Shira Klein, Chapman University

The Myth of the Good Italian in Cinema

Sunday, March 12

11 AM-12:30

**Panel 4 Modern European Jewish Activists, Theologians, and Thinkers SU 205**

Chair: David Weinberg, Wayne State University

Ilana Maymind, Chapman University

Edith Stein, Regina Jonas, and Rosa Luxemburg: Parting the Ways or Finding Things in Common?

Levi Morrow, Hebrew University

Speaking with Buber, Shadowboxing with Schmitt: Joseph Soloveitchik's Naturalistic Theopolitics

Danielle Roth-Johnson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Judéité in d'Eaubonne's *Mémoires Irréductibles*

**Panel 5 Jewish-Christian Identities and Responses During the Holocaust SU 207**

Chair: Susanne Hillman, San Diego State University

Paul Bartrop, Florida Gulf Coast University

Religion as a Moral Compass during the Holocaust: Two Case Studies of Self-Sacrifice

Beth Griech-Polelle, Pacific Lutheran University

Neither Christian, Nor Jew: The Position of Non-Aryan Christians in Nazi Germany

Abraham Rubin, University of Dayton

The Consolation of Christianity and the Inadequacy of Form in German-Jewish Convert Autobiography

**Panel 6 Jewish Law and Gender SU 209**

Chair: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Elaine Adler Goodfriend, California State University, Northridge

The "Killer Wife" (Qatlanit) in Jewish Law: A Survey of Sources

Ronit Irshai, Bar-Ilan University

Transformations in Jewish Law (Halakha): Transgender People, Halakhah and the Heterosexual Matrix

Haim Sperber, Western Galilee College

Agunot in America and The Russian Empire, 1890-1914 -Some Comparative Notes

Sunday, March 12

12:45-1:45 PM Luncheon      **SU 208A**

2-3:30 PM

**Panel 7   American Jewish Music and Literature SU 205**

Chair: Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

Alan Levenson, University of Oklahoma

A Tale of Two Novels: Michener's *The Source* and Leon Uris' *Exodus* or A Quirk in Zionist Reception History

Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, Missouri State University

Jewish History through Graphic Literature

Brian Wilson, Sonoma State University

Ernest Bloch, the 4th B is for Bashert

**Panel 8   Jewish Response to the Return of Democracy in Argentina, 1983-2023      SU 207**

Chair: Nora Glickman, Queens College and CUNY Graduate Center

Tamara Kohn, Latin American Rabbinical Seminary

Jewish Art in Argentina after 1983

Wanda Wechsler, Universidad Nacional Arturo Jauretche

The Construction of a memory of the Holocaust in Young Democratic Argentina

Laura Schenquer, IHUCSO, CONICET-UNL

The Argentine "holocaust": international denunciation strategies against the last dictatorship and official denial responses

Emmanuel Kahan IdIHCS, CONICET/UNLP

A Radical synagogue?" Presence and debate around the Jews during the Alfonsín years. A case study around the Anti-Discrimination Law.

**Panel 9   Holocaust Survivors      SU 209**

Chair: Esther Finder, Generations of the Shoah

Anthony Hostetter, Rowan University

Forging Local/Global Survivor Connections: The Creation of *Five Survivors Tell the World*, a new work of Documentary Theatre

Or Rogovin, Bucknell University

Ka-Tzetnik at 80: The Holocaust Testimony of Yechiel Dinur

Sunday March 12

Session 4 3:45-5:15 PM

**Panel 10 Immigrants, Survivors, and Foreign Workers in Israel and Israeli Cinema SU 205**

Chair: Hadas Cohen, University of Oklahoma

Joseph Hodes, Texas Tech University

1948-The Israeli War of Independence and the Creation of the Israeli Immigrant

Elke Heckner, University of Iowa

Coming of age in post-Holocaust Israel: Israeli Films on Teenage Survivors of the Holocaust

Liat Steir-Livny, Sapir Academic College

*Oy Mama*: Jewish-Israelis, the Migration of foreign workers to Israel, and Holocaust Associations in Israeli Documentary Cinema

**Panel 11 Images of Jewish Women SU 207**

Chair: Shirli Brautbar, Nevada State College

Erin Faigin, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982-2022

Nora Glickman, Queens College and CUNY Graduate Center

Cinematic Portrayals of Jewish Mexican Women

**Panel 12 Early Soviet Holocaust Survivor Narratives SU 209**

Chair: Esther Finder, Generations of the Shoah

Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University

"We did not Have a Childhood": Kyivan Jewish Children-Holocaust Survivors' Memories

Jeff Koerber, Chapman University

From Moscow to Munich: Early Holocaust Narratives about the Kovno Ghetto

Sunday, March 12

5:30-6:45 PM Banquet Dinner **SU 208A/B**

7:00-8:30 PM Keynote Address



## **Ronit Irshai**

**Bar Ilan University and Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem**

### **Progress and Backlash: Israeli Modern-Orthodox Feminism**

Ronit Irshai is the head of the gender studies department at Bar Ilan University, and a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman institute in Jerusalem. She has published a series of articles on halakhah (Jewish law), theology and gender, Jewish sexual ethics, and Jewish Modern-Orthodox feminism. Her first book: *Fertility and Jewish Law – Feminist Perspectives on Orthodox Responsa Literature* was published by Brandeis University Press in 2012. The second book on abortion was recently published in Hebrew by Magness press and the third book on Modern-Orthodox Feminism in Israel (together with Dr. Tanya Zion- Waldoks) will be published by Brandeis University Press.

Monday, March 13

8:30-10 AM

**Panel 13 Medieval Jewish Thought SU 205**

Chair: Tzachi Cohen, Ono Academic College

Aaron Adler, Herzog College

Maimonides' Attitude Towards Variant Customs

Jonathan Jacobs, Bar-Ilan University

Intertextuality in Northern France in the Middle Ages

Haggai Mazuz, Sha'anani Academic Religious Teachers' College

Apologetic and Polemical Aspects of Yerivuni 'Alel 'Ozvi Berit El

**Panel 14 Imagining and Expanding Israel SU 207**

Chair: Luba Levin-Banchik, California State University-San Bernardino,

Shoshana Elharar, York University

Zionism, 125 years to the First Zionist Congress

Amir Reicher, CUNY Graduate Center

Religiously Inspired Disenchantment from the Transcendent: A perspective on the Secularization Debate from the Hilltop Outposts of the West Bank

**Panel 15 Western Jewish History SU 209**

Chair: Ava Kahn, Independent Scholar

Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University

Pioneer Problems? Wrestling with Settler Colonialism at Western Jewish Museums and Historical Societies

Michael Green, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Hank Greenspun vs. The Communist Witch-Hunters

Eleanor Kaufman, UCLA

Jewish Cemeteries in the American West

Naomi Sandweiss, Arizona State University

Camp Cody, New Mexico and Jewish American Identity in World War I



Monday, March 13

10:15-11:45 AM

**Panel 16 Jews, Jewish Law, and Medicine SU 205**

Chair: Amy Hill Shevitz, Loyola University of Chicago

Irit Offer-Stark, Shalom Hartman Institute

What does Jewish tradition have to contribute to the stormy debate regarding the case of accidental embryo replacement in an IVF procedure?

Nicole Siegel, Fordham University

American Jewish Physicians and Medical History

**Panel 17 Jewish Urban Experiences SU 207**

Chair: David Weinberg, Wayne State University

Brenda Lee Bohen, Spertus Institute

Benè Romì: "The Children of Rome"

Daniela Goldfine, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

A Big Shtetl or the Exploration of Microhistory in Buenos Aires

Dóra Pataricza, Szeged Jewish Community Archive (read by David Weinberg)

The Szeged Synagogue - 120 years of Memory

**Panel 18 Middle Eastern Movies SU 209**

Chair: Liat Steir-Livny, Sapir Academic College

Shmuel Shepkaru, University of Oklahoma

Arab and Jews in Movies: Shifting Approaches

Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

"Democracy" vs. "We're All Jews:" A 50-year perspective on the film *Kazablan*

Hadas Cohen, University of Oklahoma

*In Between* – Subversion from Under the Veil

Monday, March 13

12-2 PM

Luncheon **SU 213**

### **Plenary Panel**

#### **American Jewish Comedians**

Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University



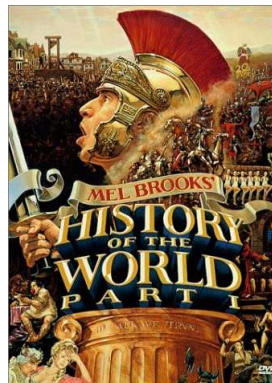
Jeffrey Demsky, San Bernardino Valley College

I Tell Ya, (Women) Get No Respect: Sifting Rodney Dangerfield's Misogynistic Comedy through Post-Holocaust Identity Screens



Elyce Rae Helford, Middle Tennessee State University

Sarah Silverman: Jewish Identity and Race Comedy



David Peterson, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Joan Latchaw, University of Nebraska at Omaha

Zikkaron as Cosmopolitical Practice in Mel Brook's *History of the World, Part 1*

Monday, March 13

2:15-3:45 PM

**Panel 19 Comparing the Holocaust to Other Genocides SU 205**

Chair: Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University

Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

Persistent Parallels, Resistant Particularities: Holocaust Analogies and Avoidance in Armenian Genocide Cinema

Remy Ilona, University of California-Riverside

When the Genocide of the Igbos Was Compared to the Holocaust

Timothy Pytell, California State University-San Bernardino

Sadistic Violence and Toxic Masculinity in the Holocaust and Rwanda

**Panel 20 Crypto-Jewish Identities SU 207**

Chair: Seth Ward, University of Wyoming

Nancy Katz, University of Houston

The Crypto-Jewish Memory of Being Hidden

Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Jewish Messianic Mysticism, Sabbatai Zevi, and the Sabbatean Legacy

**Panel 21 SU 209**

**Comparative American and European Experiences**

Chair: Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, Missouri State University

Armin Langer, University of Florida

Jewish Continuity Narratives in Germany and the United States

Amy Hill Shevitz, Loyola University Chicago

Seaside Holiday, Mountain Vacation: The Culture of Jewish Resorts in Britain and the United States

Gregory Brown, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Jewish Identity among Emigrant historians of the Enlightenment in the 1950s