

Western Jewish Studies Association Conference

Founded 1995

May 5-6, 2024



**Memorial Union, 2nd Floor
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona
President: Lawrence Baron**

Sunday, May 5, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Registration (Cochise Hall and Beverages* in Cochise Room)

*Drinks will be available in the Cochise Room through out the conference.

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Session 1

**Panel 1 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)
Holocaust Education and Museums**

Chair: Volker Benkert, Arizona State University

- Beatrice Leeming, University of Cambridge (V)
Post-Witness Paradox: Holocaust Memory and Affective Engagement at Memorial Museums
- Melanie Carina Schmoll, Bar Ilan University (V)
Holocaust Education and the Idea of Reflecting on Identity

**Panel 2 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)
Jews in the Crossfire of Christian-Muslim and Muslim-Hindu Conflicts**

Chair: Jason Brunner, Arizona State University

- Shmuel Shepkaru, The University of Oklahoma (V)
Misdirected Vengeance: Jews Between Christians and Muslims During the Crusades
- Sayan Lodh, Presidency University (V)
The Role of Baghdadi Jews in India's freedom movement

Panel 3 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Latin American Jewish Film

Chair: Darrell B. Lockhart, University of Nevada-Reno

- Nora Glickman, Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY
Jews in a Mexican Soap: A Chronicle of Casts
- Naomi Lindstrom, University of Texas at Austin
Critical Studies of Alejandro Jodorowsky: Jewish Traces and Hybridity



Sunday, May 5, 2024

11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Session 2

Panel 4 - Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

Perspectives on the AMIA Bombing 30 Years Later

Chair: Nora Glickman, Emerita Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY

- Amalia Ran, Independent Scholar (V)
Walls of Memory: Resistance and Trauma in Jewish Popular Art in Buenos Aires
- Darrell B. Lockhart, University of Nevada-Reno
Representations of the AMIA in Graphic Narrative and Comics

Panel 5 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)

Jewish Responses to Modernity

Chair: Jeffrey Blutinger, California State University-Long Beach

- Anna Zabraniak, University of Wrocław (V)
The Examined Body: Exploring Jewish Hygienic Depictions in Polish and Jewish Enlightenment Texts
- Vered Sakal, Christopher Newport University
Of Making Many Books [in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction]: The Hatam Sofer on Print, Scholarship, and Knowledge.
- Joel Gereboff, Arizona State University
Contemporary Jewish Understandings of Fasting

Panel 6 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Jewish Death and Killers in Film and Reality

Chair: Ellen Eisenberg, Willamette University

- Eleanor Kaufman, University of California, Los Angeles
Voices from Jewish Cemeteries
- Hadar Aviram, University of California Law School, San Francisco/Graduate Theological Union
Crime, Persecution, and Antisemitism in Film Noir
- Susie Banks, University of Glasgow
Last Seder, Then Armageddon: The Secret Jewish Life of Dylan Klebold 25 Years after Columbine

Sunday, May 5, 2024

1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Luncheon Cochise Room

Laurie Baron, Opening Remarks

Baron Award for Best Graduate Paper

Hava Tirosh-Samuels, Opening Remarks

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Session 3

Panel 7 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

Sephardi and Mizrahi Jews in Latin America

Chair: Stanley Mirvis, Arizona State University

- Seth Ward, Emeritus University of Wyoming
Julián de Castellanos' Fast of Jonah, Gitlitz' Last Book,
Crypto-Judaism in 16 th Century Mexico and
Contemporary Contexts.
- Shirley Nigri Farber, Shalom Magazine (V)
Lebanese Jewish Immigration to Brazil: The tale of the
Chattah and Nigri Families

Panel 8 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)

Hebrew Bible

Chair: Don Benjamin, Arizona State University

- Elaine Goodfriend, California State University-Northridge
Does Deut 22:10 Concern Compassion for Animals or
Inappropriate Sexual Behavior?
- Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Ruth and Potiphar's Wife

Panel 9 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Eastern European Jewish Responses to Repression

Chair: Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, Arizona State University

- Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University
Let My People Go: The Struggle of Kyivan Jews for
Immigration to Israel
- Armin Langer, University of Florida
Religious Organizations and Authoritarian Politics: A
Case Study of Jewish Federations in Hungary



Sunday, May 5, 2024

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Session 4

Panel 10 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

Modern Jewish Thinkers

Chair: Vered Sakal, Christopher Newport University

- Jeffrey Blutinger, California State University, Long Beach
Graetz in Palestine: a Pre-Zionist Critique of the Old Yishuv
- Amy Hill Shevitz, Loyola University Chicago
Drawing the Umkreis Der Liebe: “This, too, is the Way God Loves”
- Arief Arman, University of London (V)
I Am Me Only Because You Are You: An Integration of Levinasian Ethics into Habermas’ Public Sphere

Panel 11 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)

Regional American Jewish History

Chair: Joshua Furman, University of Denver

- Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, Midwest Jewish Studies Association
Jews make their cases as Americans in the Ozarks: Rabbinical Writing Published in the Press
- Ava F. Kahn, Independent Scholar
Cultural Migration and Reinvention: Establishing Jewish Identity Far From New York
- Dana Evan Kaplan, Temple Beth Shalom of the West Valley
The Jews of Sun City, Arizona 1960-1989

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Dinner

Cochise Room

Sunday, May 5, 2024

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Keynote Presentation

Pima Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPima>)

Entangled Stories: Phoenix Beth Hebrew Synagogue in Interdisciplinary Perspective



Introduction: Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Arizona State University

Volker Benkert, Arizona State University

**Discussants: Jason Brunner, Arizona State University,
Marc Vance, Arizona State University**

The history of Beth Hebrew, a mid-century Phoenix synagogue turned Mexican American Pentecostal church and African American theater, show how meaning are created and re-created in the encounters of different people with this place. The founders of Beth Hebrews saved 1500 Jews from Vichy France. The building epitomizes post-Holocaust Jewish life in the American West as well as struggles with social justice, racial and economic disparities, and community building in a heavily segregated city. Even as a graffiti-covered vacant building, the restored but empty structure expresses the lives of its occupants in ways that can only be understood by different scholars and disciplines in conversation with each other.

Monday, May 6, 2024

9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Session 5

**Panel 12 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)
Jewish Music**

Chair: Amy Hill Shevitz, Loyola University Chicago

- Kamilė Rupeikaitė, Lithuanian Culture Research Institute (V)
From Kaunas ghetto to Boston University: The Portrait of Violinist and Pedagogue Dana Pomerants-Mazurkevich
- Brian Wilson, Sonoma State University
Democracy: An Epic Rhapsody: An analysis of Swiss born, Jewish-American composer Ernest Bloch's 1926 work for Chorus and Orchestra

**Panel 13 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)
Hebrew and Yiddish**

Chair: David Weinberg, Wayne State University

- Hodaya Samet Har Shefi, Bar Ilan University (V)
Letters as Temporal Windows: Shalom Rosenberg's: Philosophical Exploration of Rosh Milin
- Joe Lockard, Arizona State University
Commodity Hebrew: Online Language Marketing and its Politics

Panel 14 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Eastern European Jews in the Interwar Period

Chair: Anna Cichopek-Gajraj, Arizona State University

- Martin Zwick, Portland State University (V)
Mussar and Esotericism in Revolutionary Russia
- Motti Zalkin, Ben-Gurion University
"Jewish Doctors in Every Corner" – Kovna as a Jewish Medical Center Between the Two World Wars

Monday, May 6, 2024

10:15 a.m. - 11:45 p.m. Session 6

Panel 15 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

Animating, Experiencing, and Filming the Holocaust

Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

- Yvonne Kozlovsky University of Haifa (V)
Reframing the Unspoken: Representations of Child Sexual Abuse during the Holocaust in Israeli Cinema
- Nancy L. Segal, Ph.D., California State University, Fullerton
The Twins of Auschwitz-Birkenau: The Humanity Behind the Horror
- Liat Steir-Livny, Open University of Israel (V)
“Unimating” the Holocaust: The Representations of the Holocaust in Animated Documentaries

Panel 16 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)

Jewish Literature Across Borders

Chair: Mara W. Cohen Ioannides, Midwest Jewish Studies Association

- Shoshana Elharar, Independent Scholar
Franz Kafka (1883-1924)
- Tanya Nawrocki, University of Nevada-Reno
Recovering a Lost Jewish American Writer:
Intersectional Identity in Emma Wolf’s Fiction
- Rachel Leket-Mor, Arizona State University
Reflections of War and Trauma in Popular Hebrew Literature: The IsraPulp Collection at ASU Library

Panel 17 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Rabbinic Rulings and Stories

Chair: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- Aaron Adler, Herzog Academic College
Maimonides Reversed Approach to Mitzvah Rationale
- Dael Rodrigues Garcia, Ben Gurion University (V)
Order and Dissent within Rabbi Nachman of Breslov’s
“The Rabbi’s Only Son”



Monday, May 6, 2024

12 p.m. - 12:50 p.m. Lunch Cochise Room

1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Panel Discussion

Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

University Responses to the 10/7 Massacres and Gaza War

Chair: Laurie Baron, San Diego State University

- Hadar Aviram, University of California Law School San Francisco/Graduate Theological Union
- Jeffrey Blutinger, California State University, Long Beach
- Naomi Lindstrom, University of Texas at Austin

2:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Session 7

Panel 18 – Yuma Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAYuma>)

Jewish Painters

Chair: Chelsea Haines, Arizona State University

- Ilana Maymind, Chapman University
Marc Chagall's Paintings and the Jewish Subject
- Fabio Fantuzzi, Columbia University and Ca' Foscari University
Norman Raebein and the New York Yiddish Cultural Milieus

Panel 19 - Pinal Room (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSAPinal>)

Gentile and Jewish Responses to the Holocaust, 10/7, and Covid

Chair: Rachel Leket-Mor, Arizona State University

- Isaac Amon, Jewish Heritage Alliance
An Untold Story of the Shoah: Selahattin Ülkümen and the Jews of Rhodes
- Emily Leah Silverman, Graduate Theological Union
Jewish Female Resilience and Resistance in the Holocaust, Hamas Massacre, and Nova Music Festival
- Haim Sperber, Western Galilee College
- Israel Rachevski, Western Galilee College (V)
Haredi Jews in Israel Respond to Covid and 10/7

Monday, May 6, 2024

2:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Session 7

Panel 20 - Santa Cruz (<https://links.asu.edu/WJSASanta-Cruz>)

Depicting the Holocaust in Asian Films and Mass Media

Chair: Nilanjana Bhattacharjya, Arizona State University

- **Lawrence Baron, San Diego State University**
Bawaal: Bollywood Does the Holocaust
- **Dylan H. O'Brien, University of California, San Diego (V)**
Ambivalence as Distortion: Attack on Titan and Holocaust Imagery in Japanese Media
- **Elke Heckner, University of Iowa**
Shanghai's Intertwined Histories of Oppression in A Jewish Girl in Shanghai

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