In memoriam: Our dear friend and supporter Robert A. Borns who helped make 50 years of these moments possible
Dear Friends,

This year, with its many twists and turns, reminded me of the legendary Holiday World wooden roller coaster The Voyage. Many of us have returned to the classroom, teaching students in a range of modes—masked, unmasked; in-person, online—sometimes changing from session to session. We unleashed our creativity planning once-routine events: guest lectures, workshops, gatherings, conferences, and even faculty meetings. We sought new ways to connect with our students as they brought us new questions. And we reassessed the value of our labors, whether individually or collectively. Each week brought a new blind turn, and we went along with the ride.

We held our welcome back dinner outside for the first time and we took advantage of the patio adjacent to our offices for our fall dessert. When Covid surged or travel became unpredictable, we temporarily shifted our programs online. Our majors’ dinner returned to an in-person event, as did our end of year student achievement celebration. Our graduate student conference remained online for a second year. And we tried a variety of hybrid meetings where we faced screens and each other.

These experiences have set up the structure for Jewish Studies in the 2020s. On one hand, we need to know facts, dates, concepts, authors, books, and languages. But these years have helped us to see Jewish Studies as a field of action as well: helping us to respond to crisis, to learn new ways to communicate with others, to determine the right path forward, to challenge injustice, to remain flexible.

We continue to move forward with the Blackness and Jewishness Project, ISCA and Olamot; with endowed lectures both familiar (Paul, Solotkin), and new (Zabinsky); and with exciting faculty research (such as Sarah Imhoff’s new book, featured in this issue). Our visiting scholars Brian Hillman and Vered Sakal will remain with us into 2023. And we maintain both our regular lunchtime workshop series, and our fantastic slate of undergraduate and graduate courses.

But we also face change. At the end of July, we bid a wistful farewell to our Assistant Director Carolyn Lipson-Walker. For twenty-nine years, Carolyn has been a force of nature in our program: a mentor to both students and directors, a liaison to supporters, and a tireless voice for Jewish Studies at Indiana University. We will miss her greatly.

And two days later, we lost Bob Borns, for more than thirty years a dear friend and transformative supporter of the Jewish Studies Program. We will miss him terribly: may his memory be a blessing.

Amid this change, I express my gratitude for the honor of serving the Jewish Studies Program as director these past two years. The experience has been both fulfilling and invaluable as I begin a new position as Associate Vice Provost of Faculty and Academic Affairs. In Stephen Katz, the program has a worthy and well-prepared successor. May we see a bright future ahead.

Judah M. Cohen, Outgoing Director
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture
Professor, Jewish Studies and Musicology
It is with a measure of awe, honor, and a sense of mission that I have accepted my colleagues’ urging and support to serve as the incoming director of the Borns Jewish Studies Program. I remain most thankful to them for the trust they have put in me and look forward to working with all to continue the excellence that is a hallmark of this unit within the College of Arts and Sciences.

This will be a demanding and a pleasurable task all in one. On one hand, it means following in the footsteps of the directors who have preceded me while seeking to continue their accomplishments. Their work has made the Borns Jewish Studies Program a superior educational and cultural venue for all students, faculty and members of the broader community in our state and beyond.

On the other hand, it means meeting the challenges ahead and seeking new and innovative paths that will keep moving this program forward as a leader in its field. We will continue to offer a broad array of courses to our undergraduate and graduate students in a host of disciplinary areas—retaining the old while seeking out new avenues. For Jewish Studies, that means collaborating with kindred academic units—departments, programs, and centers—to bring existing and new faculty to offer courses that will further enrich our offerings and open new avenues of study to our students. We will also continue to work with related departments to hire new faculty that will fill in any gap we currently have in our offerings.

To introduce myself: I am a professor of Modern Hebrew Literature who has taught at IU for a good number of decades—since the beginning of Jewish Studies as a program. I have always been a member of Jewish Studies, watching it grow as a center of gravity for the plethora of courses that constitute the field. My graduate studies were done at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, in New York, where I witnessed the rich array of courses that were available to us students. It is a challenge to try to compete with the smorgasbord that I had to choose from at the time, yet I also appreciate the value of a focused program for students at Indiana University.

I intend to continue our active outreach program to interested communities around the state to provide the caliber of intellectual and educational knowledge to educate, enlighten and entertain interested citizens in the historical and cultural legacy of the Jewish experience through time and geography. We will continue to engage all friends and supporters of Jewish Studies, gauge their views, and work in collaboration with them. Additionally, we will reach out to the greater population of the university and state, focusing on the interrelationship of Jews to promote interfaith and interethnic dialogue with university units and our Hoosier neighbors.

Stephen Katz, Incoming Director
Professor, Jewish Studies and MELC
Faculty Honors

We are proud of our faculty and their fantastic achievements in 2021-22!

Professor Laura Carlson Hasler won a Trustees Teaching Award, representing the top six percent of college instructors.

Professor Irit Dekel won two grants: a Faculty Fellowship for Research in the Social Sciences, and seed funds from the Institute for Advanced Study Bloomington symposium for a one-and-a-half-day seminar titled “When Justice Migrates: How Mobility across Borders Reconfigures Rights, Equity, and Belonging” (co-convened with Professors Sara Friedman and Jayanth Krishnan).

Professor Halina Goldberg won the American Musicological Society’s H. Colin Slim award for her article “Chopin’s Album Leaves and the Aesthetics of Musical Album Inscription” (published in the Journal of the American Musicological Society, 73:3).

Professor Judah M. Cohen was named Associate Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs for the Bloomington campus.

Professor Sarah Imhoff named Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies

Professor Sarah Imhoff was named to the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies on January 1, 2022. Imhoff is Associate Professor in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies and serves as Director of Graduate Studies for the Borns Jewish Studies Program (BJSP). She received her PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 2010, the same year she joined the BJSP and faculty in Religious Studies, and she currently holds affiliate appointments in Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, History, Gender Studies, and the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society.

The Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair, created in 1998, honors a world-class scholar with academic expertise in American Judaism or modern Judaism, and demonstrates excellence in teaching and research. “I’m delighted to congratulate Professor Sarah Imhoff on her appointment to the Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein Chair in Jewish Studies,” said Rick Van Kooten, executive dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “Professor Imhoff is a gifted author of numerous books and articles on gender, race, and ability in relation to Jewish and American religious history. She is also a dynamic teacher who explores these topics with students in both Religious Studies and Jewish Studies, inspiring future generations of scholars.”

Professor Imhoff’s research interests include Gender and American Jewish History, Race and Jewishness, Rabbinic Literature, and American Religious History. She and Professor Susannah Heschel are collaborating on a co-authored study titled Where Are the Women?: Gender and Jewish Studies, which explores the histories and structures that affect the place of women and gender in the academic field of Jewish Studies. She is building on that project in the digital humanities realm by undertaking bibliometric and network analyses of citations in academic publications. With her colleague M Cooper Harriss, Professor Imhoff also serves as co-editor of American Religion, a peer reviewed academic journal. You can read more on Professor Imhoff’s latest book, The Lives of Jessie Sampter, in our Focus on Research section on page 10.

Dima Romashov Promoted to Senior Lecturer!

On August 1, 2022, Dmitry (Dima) Romashov became a Senior Lecturer in Hebrew. Since joining the program’s faculty in 2015, Dima’s tireless dedication to the “Hebrew-in-Hebrew” method has yielded a distinguished teaching record that further burnishes the Hebrew program’s international reputation.

Congratulations to Dima!
Carolyn Lipson-Walker Bids Farewell

On April 10, during our End-of-Year Student Achievement Celebration, we honored Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker on her 29 years of service to the Jewish Studies Program. Faculty and staff delivered oral tributes to Carolyn. Here is Carolyn’s response:

I have been so fortunate for the past 29 years-plus to work with the amazing, inspiring, and amiable faculty of the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program, especially our remarkable directors. To Alvin Rosenfeld, the inaugural director who led the program for thirty years, I thank him for recruiting me. My gratitude to the wonderful directors who followed and who continued to make the Borns JSP a flagship and role model for other Jewish Studies programs throughout North America — Steve Weitzman, Jeff Veidlinger, Mark Roseman, and Judah Cohen.

I cannot thank enough the truly fantastic, hardworking, diligent, and loyal staff of the Borns JSP. The affable and skilled (especially technologically skilled) Missy Deckard, our events coordinator and undergraduate recorder, who has been there every day for me. I couldn’t have done what I did without her. Tracy Richardson is the most gifted fiscal officer and program administrator at this university—and such a delight to work with. She could not be more competent in everything she does. And Melissa Hunt, our account executive and graduate secretary, who, a number of years ago, returned to the JSP after a break — she is speedy, smart, and so productive.

It’s been a privilege to be able to do this work. When I was in college, I wanted to make the college environment a “kinder place,” and I thought the path to that was a PhD and life as a professor. After the PhD, I wound up with the perfect career. I can’t say it has not been stressful and overly busy, but I take such great pride in our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and our donors.

May the future for all of you be one of health and joy, and for the program—I wish for continued strength for generations to come—that the Borns JSP moves to be an even more remarkable place to learn, study, teach, and illuminate our university, Indiana, this country, and our world.
Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

Now in its 12th year, The Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA) at Indiana University, directed by Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld, is the only research institute at an American university focused actively and exclusively on advanced study of contemporary antisemitism. Through its teaching, research, and service activities, it is dedicated to pursuing knowledge of antisemitism in all its manifestations. We seek to understand and get others to understand this oldest of hatreds, investigate the causes of its recent revival, assess its threat potential in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, and devise strategies to help reduce its most harmful effects.

Each year, ISCA faculty members offer courses on antisemitism at IU on both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Sample courses include “Understanding Antisemitism;” “Antisemitism in the Modern Period;” “Contemporary Antisemitism in Socio-historical Perspective;” “Antisemitism on the Internet;” “Researching Antisemitism on Social Media;” “Muslim-Jewish Relations in the 20th and 21st Centuries;” and “Researching White Supremacism and Antisemitism on Social Media.”

Courses on the history of the Holocaust and Holocaust literature are also regularly taught at Indiana University. There are few, if any, universities in America that offer this number and array of courses on antisemitism and related subjects. Several of these courses are taught by Dr. Günther Jikeli, one of this generation’s leading younger scholars of antisemitism. Students who take his classes are enthusiastic about studying with him and extremely positive in their assessments of his classroom performance. Dr. Jikeli is the first incumbent of the Erna B. Rosenfeld Professorship, the only endowed faculty position at any American university with a focus on teaching and research on contemporary antisemitism.

In addition, an endowed Erna B. Rosenfeld Scholarship encourages student research on antisemitism. Since its inception, ISCA has actively collaborated with scholars throughout the United States and around the world in advancing scholarly research on contemporary antisemitism. We do so through the organization of conferences, seminars, and lectures that bring together scholars from different academic disciplines. Over the past several years, we have convened 5 major international scholars’ conferences on antisemitism, which have brought to Indiana University’s Bloomington campus over 150 scholars from almost 20 countries. We have also helped to organize and co-host 3 major conferences in Berlin, and our faculty regularly participates in such gatherings at institutions throughout America, Europe, Israel, and elsewhere.

To maintain the vital need for ongoing contact among scholars of antisemitism during a time of Covid-19-imposed travel restrictions, ISCA has created the Beinner Family Speaker Series of webinars that focus rigorously on key aspects of present-day antisemitism. To date, we have produced 43 of these programs. They feature presentations by leading scholars throughout the world on anti-Jewish hostility. Our webinars have reached well over 1,000 participants in some 40 countries and stimulated intensive discussion of many of the most pertinent issues before us. All have been recorded for subsequent viewing. Past webinars can be viewed on the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism website (isca.indiana.edu). The Beinner Family Speaker Series resumes in August 2022 and continue through the year. You can watch past webinars at go.iu.edu/4t89

In addition to his own publications on the subject, Professor Rosenfeld edits the Indiana University Press series “Studies in Antisemitism.” With over a dozen books in print and several others forthcoming, it is one of the most active book series of its kind at an American academic press. He has also brought the leading scholarly journal Antisemitism Studies, to the IU Press. Edited by Professor Catherine Chatterley, Professor Rosenfeld serves on the journal’s advisory board.

Günther Jikeli leads ISCA’s Social Media & Hate research lab, where 10-15 undergraduate and graduate students meet several times a week. The students collect data from various platforms, conduct computer-based analyses, and tag and discuss thousands of individual hate messages in conversations about Jews and other minorities. Published presentations and papers with these observations are available on the ISCA website.

In fall 2022, we will host a datathon & hackathon on hate speech against minorities. High school and college students from across the country will participate in competitive teams to improve their online media literacy and critical reflection on online conversations about Jews and other minorities.

As a result of ISCA numerous lectures, conferences, webinars, and publications, ISCA has helped to create an extensive network of scholars of antisemitism across this country and around the world. To keep in close touch with them and to facilitate ongoing collaborative research, we plan to continue the kinds of activities we have been engaged in over the years.
Olamot: One-of-a-Kind Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel

In 2021-22, Olamot welcomed Dr. Vered Sakal as the first Melanie and Andrew Goodman Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Sakal taught courses on the topics of secular Jewish worldviews in Israel, Religion and the State of Israel, and an important course on Jews and Water. Thanks to Melanie and Andrew Goodman’s generous support, Olamot is delighted to extend Dr. Sakal’s fellowship in 2022-23. In the Fall semester she will teach a course on Zionism and the State of Israel.

In March 2022, the Olamot Center collaborated with the Jewish Studies Students Association on a Purim-based study session called “The Whole Megillah!” The lively conversation, complete with locally sourced hamantaschen, explored the book of Esther from different perspectives, and featured discussions with Dr. Vered Sakal and Prof. Laura Carlson Hasler.

Olamot Center cooperated with the JSP Hebrew Language Program for the first time. Dr. Sakal joined Hebrew classes in April 2022 and discussed national symbols in Israeli art with students.

On November 7, 2021, acclaimed author and concept artist Esther Dischereit collaborated with music and dance students at the Jacobs School of Music for the unique and extraordinary program “Jews, Memory, and Inclusion.” On March 2, 2022, early music ensemble Il Dulce Suono (Corina Marti and Doron Schleifer) presented the program “Ki Kolech Arev: Jewish and Secular Music from Late Medieval Italy,” co-organized with the Department of Musicology and the Early Music Institute at the Jacobs School of Music. The musicians also conducted a master class with students at the Early Music Institute.

And there is wonderful new work planned for 2022-23, including the historic premiere of a symphonic composition by composer James Simon, a concert of Galeet Dardashti’s fantastic creation Monajat and the IU Opera and Ballet Theater’s world premiere of Shulamit Ran’s opera Anne Frank.

Borns Jewish Studies Supports the Arts

The arts and culture remain an important part of the Borns Jewish Studies Program’s mission. Last year was no exception, as we supported both artists and new works thanks to support from the Mervis Chair for Jewish Cultural Arts and the Dorit and Gerald Paul Endowment for Jewish Culture and the Arts.

In October 2021, the Program supported the premiere performance of American-Jewish composer Gerald Cohen’s song “Lo Vashamayim Hi” (“It is not in the Heavens”), written as reflection on the “Noli Me Tangeere” (“Touch Me Not”) convened by Indiana University’s Center for Religion & the Human. You can find the performance of this moving piece, by soprano Anne Slovin and pianist Andrew Voelker, online: touchmenot.indiana.edu/gallery/cohen-music.html.

On January and February 2022, the Joan and Samuel New Institute featured the core faculty participants in the Blackness and Jewishness Project in a three-part Zoom webinar series titled “Conversations on Blackness and Jewishness,” held on successive Sunday afternoons. During the first session, Jakobi Williams and Judah Cohen discussed “Blackness, Jewishness, and the Arts.” In the second session, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas and Aziza Khazzoom explored “Blackness, Jewishness, and Social Change.” The final session featured Valerie Grim and Sarah Imhoff speaking on “Blackness, Jewishness, and Jews of Color.” Each session opened exciting areas of conversation among both participants and attendees.

Joan & Samuel New Institute: Conversations in Blackness and Jewishness

In January and February 2022, the Joan and Samuel New Institute featured the core faculty participants in the Blackness and Jewishness Project in a three-part Zoom webinar series titled “Conversations on Blackness and Jewishness,” held on successive Sunday afternoons. During the first session, Jakobi Williams and Judah Cohen discussed “Blackness, Jewishness, and the Arts.” In the second session, Carolyn Calloway-Thomas and Aziza Khazzoom explored “Blackness, Jewishness, and Social Change.” The final session featured Valerie Grim and Sarah Imhoff speaking on “Blackness, Jewishness, and Jews of Color.” Each session opened exciting areas of conversation among both participants and attendees.
Past Events

Fall 2021 Events

**Monday, November 7**
“Jews, Memory, and Inclusion” on the October 2019 Attacks in Halle by author and poet Esther Dischereit

**Thursday, November 17**
“I Am My Own Witness” on the October 2019 Attacks in Halle by author and poet Esther Dischereit

Spring 2022 Events

**Monday, January 23**
Monday, January 30
Monday, February 6
“Conversations on Blackness and Jewishness”
Joan & Samuel New Institute for the Study of Jews and Judaism

**Friday, February 3 and Saturday, February 4**

“Jews, Judaism, and Crisis”
10th Annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association Conference

**Thursday, February 3**

“Queen of Herbs: A Plant’s-Eyed View of the Sephardic Diaspora”
Professor Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Yeterbi Family Chair in Mediterranean Jewish Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
Lillian Solotkin Lecture and Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association Conference Keynotes Address

**Thursday, March 2**

“Il Dolce Suono: Ki Kolech Arev”
A Concert of Jewish and Secular Music from Late Medieval Italy with Doron Schleifer (Countertenor) and Corina Marti (Flutes and Clavisimbalum)

**Thursday, April 26**

“Unorthodox Activism: Towards New Formations of Haredi Civil Society in Israel”

2021-22 Jewish Studies Faculty–Graduate Student Workshops

**Friday, September 17**

“Real and Imagined Jewish Lawyers in the United States, 1654–1900”
Dr. Britt Tevis, Visiting Scholar

**Friday, October 1**

“Defiant Discourse: Speech and Action in Grassroots Activism”
Professor Tamar Katriel, University of Haifa

**Friday, October 29**

“Authenticity, Interpretation, Anger: Jewish Self-Identification from Amy Levy to Michael Chabon”
Professor Karen Weisman, University of Toronto

**Friday, November 12**

“A Tale of Two Rabbis: The Feud between David Ashkenazi and Abraham Isaac Kook”
Dr. Vered Sakal, 2021–22 Visiting Lecturer, Olamot Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel

**Friday, December 3**

“Catastrophe and Jewish Modernity”
Distinguished Professor Mark Roseman, IU Borns Jewish Studies Program and Department of History

**Friday, January 14**

“Representing Immigration and Identity Stratification in Contemporary Israeli Art”
Emma Gashinsky, Ben Gurion University

**Friday, March 4**

“The Ten Plagues: A Post-Pandemic History of Signs and Wonders”
Professor Steven Weitzman, University of Pennsylvania

**Friday, April 1**

“The Thigh of Its Mother?” Fetal Ontology in the Babylonian Talmud”
Professor Sara Ronis, St. Mary’s University, Texas

**Friday, April 29**

The Lives of Jessie Sampter: Queer, Disabled, Zionist
Book launch for Professor Sarah Imhoff, IU Borns Jewish Studies Program and Department of Religious Studies

The Borns JSP Faculty–Graduate Student Workshop Series is generously supported by the Melvin and Betty Cohn Jewish Studies Institute Fund.
Upcoming Events 2022-23

September 14 at 5 p.m.
“Ghost Citizens: Jewish Return to a Postwar City”
Co-sponsored lecture by Professor Łukasz Krzyżanowski (University of Warsaw)
Global & International Studies Building (GISB) 1134

September 21 at 7 p.m.
“Monajat”
Galeet Dardashti reinvents the deep and reflective musical ritual of Selihot using digital technology to sing together and in dialogue with her grandfather, composing original music to sacred Jewish and Persian poetry, and performing with an acclaimed ensemble of Middle Eastern and jazz musicians.
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in Jewish Culture and the Arts

November 13 at 7 p.m.
“Where is Anne Frank”
Film screening and discussion with writer/director Ari Folman
This animated film follows the journey of Kitty, the imaginary friend to whom Anne Frank dedicated her diary. A fiery teenager, Kitty wakes up in the near future in Anne Frank’s house in Amsterdam and embarks on a journey to find Anne, who she believes is still alive, in today’s Europe. While the young girl is shocked by the modern world, she also comes across Anne’s legacy.
Shreve Auditorium GISB 0001

February 2-3
11th Annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association Conference (Topic TBD) featuring the 2023 Lillian Solotkin Lecture by Professor Michael Rothberg (UCLA), “Memory Citizenship: Migration and Holocaust Memory in Contemporary Germany”

March 3, 4, 9,10 at 7:30 p.m.
Jacobs School of Music Opera and Ballet Theater present the world premiere of “Anne Frank” Based on The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, this powerful recounting features a haunting contemporary score by Pulitzer Prize-winner Shulamit Ran and a dynamic libretto by Charles Kondek.

Musical Arts Center

Fall 2022 Beinner Family Speakers Series
Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

All webinars take place at 12 noon (ET) on Zoom

August 28
“Russia’s ‘Denazification’ of Ukraine: The Weaponization of Antisemitism in Contemporary Hybrid Conflict” - Sam Sokol Haaretz

September 4
“Myths and Realities about Israel’s Establishment: Their Relevance for Discussions of Contemporary Antisemitism” - Jeffrey Herf University of Maryland, College Park

September 18
“Night Without End’: New Scholarship on the Holocaust in Poland” – Jan Grabowski
University of Ottawa

October 2
“Semites, Anti-Semites, and Bernard Lewis: The Life and Afterlife of a Seminal Book” - Martin Kramer
Tel Aviv University/ Washington Institute for Near East Policy

October 6
“Occupation,” “Apartheid,” and “Ethnic Cleansing”: The Trifecta Libel Against Israel – Thane Rosenbaum
Touro University

October 16
“The Wayward Healer: Iatrogenic Antisemitism and the Perils of Intervention” – Kenneth Marcus
Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law/ George Mason University

October 30
“Making Peace with the Jews? Contemporary Islamic Arguments for and against Normalization” - Ofir Winter
INSS/ Tel Aviv University

November 6
“Pandemics, Hate Crimes, and Riots: Media Coverage of Antisemitism Since 2020” - Ben Cohen
The Algemeiner

November 13
“The Function of Antisemitism in Queer-Feminist Discourse” - Franziska Haug
Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

December 4
“Judeophobia and “Islamophobia” in Today’s France: Symbolism, Doxa, and Reality” - Yana Grinshpun
Sorbonne Nouvelle University
I first found her work in the archive when I was working on my first book; I’d hoped to find more women’s Zionist voices commenting on men and masculinity. She wasn’t very useful for that, but I was hooked. She fascinated me.

Jessie Sampter was born in 1883 to Jewish parents who had joined the Ethical Culture movement in New York. She had polio as a child, which left her with pain and weakness for the rest of her life. As a young woman, she was drawn to Zionism—an unusual move for an acculturated Jewish woman—and best known for her 95-page *A Course on Zionism*, an American primer for understanding support of a Jewish state in Palestine first published in 1915. In 1919, she packed a trousseau and declared herself “married to Palestine.” She lived there for the rest of her life, first in Jerusalem, then Rehovot, and then on Kibbutz Givat Brenner, where she died in 1938.

But Sampter’s own life and body hardly matched typical Zionist ideals: Zionism celebrated the strong and healthy body, but Sampter spoke of herself as “crippled” from polio and plagued by weakness and sickness her whole life; Zionism applauded reproductive women’s bodies, but Sampter never married or bore children. In fact, she wrote of homoerotic longings and had same-sex relationships we might consider queer. Though Jessie Sampter was in many ways quite distinctive, in another way, her life illuminates a sometimes-invisible aspect of the human condition: our embodied selves do not always neatly line up with our religious or political ideals.

In the book, I tell the story of Jessie Sampter a different way in each chapter—in the first, as a story about American religion, in the second as a story about disability, in the third as a queer story, in the fourth as a theological-political story, and in the fifth as a story of her afterlives. She was never terribly famous. She did publish dozens of articles (in both English and Hebrew) and eleven books, but none of those books sold very well. Her life and writing captivated me not because of how influential she was, but because of how interesting she was.
In late 1918, she sat with several friends and used a Ouija board to ask her dead mother: Did she approve of Jessie’s recent return to Judaism? And how did she feel about Jessie’s embrace of Zionism and plan to move to Palestine? These were pressing questions for the thirty-five year old—and the more I read about Sampter’s life, the more questions I began to ask myself. The traditional 613 Jewish commandments prohibit trying to contact the dead and divination. So how did Sampter understand Judaism? And the nature of the world and the afterlife? She seemed to be full of paradoxes.

These questions drew me in. I wanted to know more about her ever-developing inner life. I saw her not only as a writer, but also as a lover of children, a conflicted pacifist, an adoptive mother, an advocate for the disabled, and an Orientalist who became too comfortable pushing Arabs to the margins of society in Palestine. She also became a puzzle: How did a queer, disabled woman become a voice of American Zionism? And how should I write about the life and embodied experiences of this woman who defied social norms and confounded available categories of sexuality? The more I turned to her, the more she turned me to bigger questions. She became a way for me to think about the relationship between an embodied life and a body of thought—and a way for me to quietly theorize how those two things are entwined in wonderful and complex ways.

In telling of the lives of Sampter, I explored a methodology that takes seriously embodied ways of knowing. As part of the research, to take one small example, I grew many of the plants that Sampter grew. So the book draws not only on texts and material objects—the things scholars usually interpret through reading and seeing—but also what we apprehend by other senses, feelings, and experiences.

Scholars often discuss political and theological thought as if the authors had no bodies—or indeed, sometimes as if people were nothing more than brains and autonomous wills. But Sampter’s story refuses this kind of oversight. She had pain, weakness, and profound limitations on her physical energy. She could not partake in the kinds of physical and agricultural labor that Zionists championed. In the book, I explore what seem like a series of paradoxes: How could she be a pacifist and support Jewish armed defense in Palestine? How did she understand her place on a kibbutz where she could not participate in its agricultural production? How could she make sense of the gendered ideals of her political movement and the reality of inequality?

It is not my intention in the book to praise a lost poetic genius, to argue that Sampter profoundly influenced American Judaism, or to hold her up as a saint. Yet I do think we would gain something by considering her part of the canon of Jewish thought. And more broadly, writing her life with unflinching attention to embodiment offers us a model of how we can understand religious thinkers: not just as fine intellects, but as people with inextricably linked bodies and minds. While Sampter’s life as a queer, disabled Zionist is distinctive, it helps us understand something shared across humanity: our embodied lives do not always seamlessly mesh with our religious and political ideals.
Indiana University Press enjoyed strong sales and on-time publishing in the fall of 2021 through the spring of 2022, despite continuing supply chain issues and intermittent printing plant disruptions due to COVID-19. Of particular concern for scholarly publishers has been dramatic shifts in the labor market, with staff departures and arrivals occurring rapidly and continually throughout the last academic year.

As in previous years, IUP has responded nimbly and decisively to such changes, leaving undiminished its reputation and number of monographs in such fields as JS.

Four prizes were awarded over the past year to JS books published by Indiana University Press. *Casting a Giant Shadow: The Transnational Shaping of Israeli Cinema*, edited by Rachel S. Harris and Dan Chyutin, received The Janovics Center Best Book Award for Outstanding Humanities Research in Transnational Film and Theatre Studies. *Sultanic Saviors and Tolerant Turks: Writing Ottoman Jewish History, Denying the Armenian Genocide*, by Marc David Baer, was awarded the 2021 Dr. Sona Aronian Book Prize for Excellence in Armenian Studies from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. *The Memory Work of Jewish Spain*, by Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez Melgos, was winner of the Jewish Book Award from the Jewish Book Council. Sarah Cramsey’s *Uprooting the Diaspora: Jewish Belonging and the “Ethnic Revolution” in Poland and Czechoslovakia, 1936–1946*, although not being published until the spring of 2023, has already received the Jordan Schnitzer First Book Award from the Association for Jewish Studies.

The latter half of 2021 and first half of 2022 witnessed energetic publishing in JS, with several books originating through prominent IUP book series.
Perspectives on Israel Studies sponsored David Ben-Gurion and the Foundation of Israeli Democracy by Nir Kedar

Land Law and Policy in Israel: A Prism of Identity by Haim Sandberg.

The Modern Jewish Experience series included:

A “Jewish Marshall Plan”: The American Jewish Presence in Post-Holocaust France, by Laura Hobson Faure,

The Expulsion of Jews from Communist Poland: Memory Wars and Homeland Anxieties by Anat Plocker,

Yiddish Paris: Staging Nation and Community in Interwar France by Nick Underwood

The Studies in Antisemitism series included:

English translation of Jean Améry’s Essays on Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism, and the Left

Contending with Antisemitism in a Rapidly Changing Political Climate, edited by Alvin H. Rosenfeld.

Other new JS monographs published through series included:

Gendering Modern Jewish Thought by Andrea Dara Cooper (New Jewish Philosophy and Thought),

Jewish Literary Eros: Between Poetry and Prose in the Medieval Mediterranean, by Isabelle Levy (Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies),

The Yeshiva and the Rise of Modern Hebrew Literature by Marina Zilbergerts (Jews in Eastern Europe)

Music and Jewish Culture in Early Modern Italy: New Perspectives edited by Lynette Bowring, Rebecca Cypess, and Liza Malamut (Music and the Early Modern Imagination).

Books on the Holocaust included:

Volume IV of The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945,

Boy with a Violin: A Story of Survival by Yochanan Fein,

and a graphic novel, Forgiveness: The Story of Eva Kor, Survivor of The Auschwitz Twin Experiments by Joe Lee.

Finally, we are pleased to announce the publication of Jews in Contemporary Visual Entertainment: Raced, Sexed, and Erased by distinguished scholar Carol Siegel, and the first English translation of The Golden Age of the Lithuanian Yeshivas by Ben-Tsiyon Klibansky.

And even more outstanding books in JS are in the publishing pipeline—twenty books are scheduled to appear over the next year, affirming once more the commitment of Indiana University Press to JS.
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2021 Recipient of the Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker Outstanding Senior Scholarship Award

Levi Gettleman (May 2022) is the recipient of the Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker Senior Scholarship Award that recognizes a JS undergraduate with a record of academic excellence and a commitment to JS initiatives.

He graduated with highest university academic honors with majors in Jewish Studies (with honors) and Folklore and Ethnomusicology. His Jewish Studies’ honors thesis: “The Sanctification of Space: Imagining Holiness in the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls” was directed by Professors Laura Carlson Hasler and Judah Cohen.

He was the winner of the Collins Living-Learning Center’s Elissa Bradley Award for actively promoting the mission of the LLC (as the co-chair of the Board of Educational Programming) and the Above and Beyond Senior Award. Levi received special recognition for academic achievement from the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology as the graduating senior with the highest cumulative GPA. He was a transformative Jewish Studies Student Association President (2021-2022, 2022-2023), and a remarkable Borns JSP Administrative Intern (2021-2022, 2022-2023). After working as a Rosh Eidah (unit head) at URJ Camp Newman in summer 2022, Levi will be working as an intern at Temple B’nai Israel in Oklahoma City in 2022-23, focusing on youth and adult education, leading services, and helping with administrative tasks and communications under the direction of Rabbi Vered Harris; working as a part-time intern for the Jewish Federation; and pursuing a graduate certificate in Organizational Leadership at the University of Oklahoma. He hopes to begin rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Fall 2023.

This scholarship was initiated to honor Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker, former Assistant Director of the Borns JSP, for her instrumental role in the growth and success of the program, and to recognize her service as a friend, advisor, mentor, and teacher to hundreds of JS students over more than 29 years. Carolyn was the inaugural recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Advisor of the Year Prize (2000) and received the IU Professional Staff Merit Award in 2017. She received her PhD in Folklore and American Studies at IU supported by a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship.

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This year, the Jewish Studies Advisory Board welcomed its newest member, Marc Swatez! The father of IU Jewish Studies alumna Joelle Swatez (2015), Marc serves as new the Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis.

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The Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association provides collegiality and support for all graduate students with an interest in Jewish Studies. Special gratitude goes to the 2021-22 JSSA officers, president Jonathan Lanz, vice president Brian Quinn, secretary Ellen Taraskiewicz, and treasurer Steve Kaplin.

This year, the JSGSA hosted its 10th Annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student conference entitled “Jews, Judaism, and Crisis” on Feb 3–4, 2022. The conference was held online, hosted graduate presenters from across the globe, and featured the Lillian Solotkin Lecture keynote address on Thursday evening delivered by Dr. Sarah Abrevaya Stein.

The 2023 JSGSA conference will be held on Feb 2–3, 2023. It will feature Michael Rothberg (UCLA) as the Solotkin Lecturer, and it will again be open for applications from MA and PhD students both from the US and internationally.

Next year’s officers will be president Seth Moller, vice president Sabina Ali, secretary Marian Gabani Gimenez, and treasurer Eliza Frenkel.

Professor Michael Rothberg will deliver the 2023 Lillian Solotkin Lecture as the keynote.

New PhD: Sean Sidkey

In May 2022, doctoral minor Sean Sidkey successfully completed his PhD.

His dissertation, entitled “No Letters Arrive Anymore: American Yiddish Holocaust Literature,” examines Yiddish language poetry composed during the Holocaust and in direct response to news events as they reached the Jewish communities of the United States.

Interpreting the unfolding events against a background of Jewish history, literature, and theology, this poetry confronts the question of what it means to retain, maintain, and rebuild a communal Jewish identity and to imagine a future for the Jewish people in the face of its imminent and ongoing destruction.

Physically removed from Europe, but unable to imagine themselves as separate from the communities being destroyed, the authors examined are deeply concerned with Jewish existence beyond physical survival. The immediacy of these events and the self-awareness that these poets express produce distinct forms of knowing and experience that cannot be understood through current interpretive frameworks derived from the study of survivor memoir and testimony.

His dissertation offers a new approach to the study of Holocaust literature that understands it to be responding not only to the physical destruction of Europe’s Jews, but also to an accompanying crisis of Jewish self-understanding and collective identity, especially reflective of American Jewish communities of the time, yet to understand their own relationship to the destroyed communities of Europe. Congratulations!
Jewish Studies MA Student News

We are delighted to welcome to the JS MA program this fall Mikaela Martinez-Gettenger, Clair Padgett, and Kaitlin Weflen

Elisha S. Breton just finished the first year of his master’s degree program with the help of the Glazer Family Fellowship. In addition to his studies, he spent the last year working under Dr. Gunther Jikeli at Indiana University’s Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism. This summer, he started research on his thesis, which will be on the intersection of Transhumanism and Halacha. Along with several other Jewish Studies graduate students, he received the Bicentennial Jewish Studies Scholarship, which will allow him to spend even more time pursuing his research.

Seth Moller completed the first year of his MA with support from the Glazer Family Fellowship. In the summer of 2022 he is learning German to prepare for his thesis work, which will deal with the contemporary reception of 19th and 20th century Jewish thought. Seth will serve as an officer in the JSGSA for academic year 2022-2023.

Walker Rhea completed his MA Thesis: “Singing the World into Existence: A Comparison of Hebrew and Greek Creation Songs.” His committee comprised Professors Sarah Imhoff (chair), Laura Carlson Hasler, and Bill Beck (Classics). Walker is now pursuing further study at the University of California Davis.

Congratulations Walker!

Jeremy Silverstein completed the first year of his MA with the aid of a Graduate Studies in Yiddish Fellowship, and he was awarded the 2022 George and Monique Stolnitz Yiddish Prize. This summer, he continued his study of Yiddish at the YIVO Institute in New York, and he looks forward to applying the knowledge acquired there towards his thesis research.

Our Doctoral Minor Students

Sabina Ali has completed the second year of the PhD program in religious studies. She has been engaged in graduate workers’ union organizing and has continued to work as managing editor of American Religion journal. Sabina was also elected and began serving as the student director on the AAR Board of Directors. In summer 2022, she continued to work on union organizing with other graduate workers and serves as a JSGSA representative, with her awesome friends and colleagues, for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Nicolette van den Bogerd (Musicology) presented papers at Northwestern University’s Holocaust Educational Foundation Lessons and Legacies interim regional conference in Knoxville, TN, the annual (virtual) meeting of the American Musicological Society, and the annual Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference at IU. Her essay “The Composer as Intellectual: Biblical Interpretation and Jewish Martyrdom in Alexandre Tansman’s Isaaïe le prophète” received an honorable mention in the 2021 Mark and Ruth Luckens International Prize in Jewish Thought and Culture. She was also awarded a 2022 Summer Dissertation Writing Grant from the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) to support full-time dissertation writing. During the 2022-23 academic year, Nicolette will spend one month at Warsaw University’s Musicology Institute as a visiting researcher through the IU Office of the Vice President for International Affairs Graduate Exchange Program with Poland. She will also continue working on her dissertation, supported with a Doctoral Scholarship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and IU’s Russian and East European Institute Mellon Dissertation Write-Up Grant.

Brian Quinn (History) is a third-year PhD student studying twentieth-century German history and Holocaust memory. In 2021-2022, he was a recipient of the Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust. He also served as the Vice President of the JSGSA during the 2021-2022 academic year, in which he helped organize the tenth annual JSGSA Graduate Student Conference titled “Jews, Judaism, and Crisis.” This summer Brian is conducting archival research for his dissertation in Germany.

Dale Spicer received a College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship for the 2021-2022 year for his dissertation, “Notorious Bodies: Disability and Theology in Al-Jahiz’s Book of title Leprous and Lame.”

Daniel Swanson (Linguistics) presented a paper entitled “A Universal Dependencies Treebank of Ancient Hebrew” at the Language Resources and Evaluation Conference and one entitled “Handling Stress in Finite-State Morphological Analyzers for Ancient Greek and Ancient Hebrew” at the Workshop on Language Technology for Historical and Ancient Languages.
Jewish Studies Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards

Graduate Student Funding

Fellowships for Incoming Graduate Students

Mikaela Martinez-Dettinger (JS MA) Borns Family Fellowship
Clair Padgett (JS MA) Alice Ginott Cohn, PhD and Theodore Cohn (Yiddish) Fellowship
Kaitlin Weflen (JS MA) Borns Family Fellowship

Grants-in-Aid of Research for Continuing Graduate Students

Nicolette van den Bogerd (Musicology PhD) Weinberger Family Fellowship
Eliza Frenkel (Anthropology PhD) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
Mariana Gabani Gimenez (JS MA) Alberto and Paulina A. Waksman Scholarship in Jewish Studies
Jonathan Lanz (History PhD) Erna B. Rosenfeld Fellowship
Brian Quinn (History PhD) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
Richard Raber (History PhD) Jewish Studies Graduate (Friends) Fellowship
Meghan Riley (History PhD) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust
Jeremy Silverstein (JS MA) Graduate Studies in Yiddishh Fellowship
Ellen Taraskiewicz (History PhD) Jewish Studies Graduate (Friends) Fellowship
Claire Woodward (Germanic Studies PhD) Sara and Albert Reuben Fellowship to Support the Study of the Holocaust

Undergraduate Student Scholarships

Lauren Appel (Buffalo Grove, IL) Irving Glazer Scholarship (4 year)
Rivkah Bunes (Indianapolis, IN) Irving Glazer Scholarship (4 year), inaugural Linda Caplan Dyson Scholarship, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship, Irving Katz Scholarship
Josie Epstein (Northbrook, IL) Borns Family Scholarship, Edward M. Dayan Scholarship, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
Natanya Katz (Indianapolis, IN) Herb and Bernice Levetown Scholarship (4 years), Gurin Family Fund Scholarship (4 years)
Adina Malmon (Irvine, CA) Leonard Goldstein Scholarship, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship
Sarah Meadows (Mt. Pleasant, MI) Elizabeth Borns and Jonathan S. Shapiro Scholarship, Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program
Benjamin Nadolne (Roswell, GA) Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Scholarship (4 year), Sandra and Stanley Trockman Scholarship, the Tuchman Bobrick Trust Scholarship
Justin Opell (Warren, NJ) Erna Rosenfeld Scholarship
Julia Orel (Cherry Hill, NJ) Henry Fischel, PhD Scholarship
Kobi Recht (Chesterfield, MO) Roberta and Arthur J. Kroot Scholarship (4 years), Gurin Family Fund Scholarship (4 years)
Ben Sauer (Wilmette, IL) Leonard Goldstein Scholarship
Claire Silberman (San Antonio, TX) Borns Family Scholarship, Percy Family Scholarship

Spring 2022 Israel Scholarships

Lauren Appel (HUJ) Harry A. Alpert, JD and Jeanette Salotken Alpert Scholarship, Irving and Sylvia Borns Scholarship, Fredric M. and Esther G. Fogel Scholarship, Karl and Rosey Krakowitz Scholarship, Andrew C. and Jane A. Mallor Scholarship, Louis L. and Sybil S. Mervis Scholarship, Jeffrey B. and Ilene S. New Scholarship, Marilyn R. Shevitz Scholarship

2021-2022 Graduate Conference Funding
(supported by the Gurin Family Fund)

Steven Kaplin (Religious Studies PhD)
Meghan Riley (History PhD)
Ellen Taraskiewicz (History PhD)

2022 Undergraduate Conference Funding
(supported by the Gurin Family Fund)

Kobi Recht (Chesterfield, MO)

Inaugurating the Linda Caplan Dyson Scholarship.

The Gurin and the Dyson family, from Fishers, Indiana (a family of IU alumni) have been very special to the Borns JSP. Longtime generous donors, Leonard and Robin are members of the Borns JSP Advisory Board. They endowed the Gurin Family Fund which has provided a great deal of JS student conference and scholarships. The most special thing they provided us was the opportunity to have their remarkable son/grandson Rabbi Ben Gurin (2012), currently a doctoral student in JS at Boston University. In 2012, in a graduating class of 30 Jewish Studies students, Ben Gurin receive the Piser Prize for the most outstanding graduating student who plans to pursue a career related to Jewish Studies. Ben completed an honors thesis in Jewish Studies on “The Quest and the Jewish Jesus (1900-1965).” He majored in both JS and RS.

In April 2022, at our End-of-Year Student Achievement Celebration, we celebrated a new and special gift from the Gurin family. In honor of the 80th birthday of Linda Dyson on June 8, 2022, Robin and Leonard Gurin established the Linda Caplan Dyson Scholarship in Jewish Studies which will support scholarships for undergraduates, grants-in-aid, and fellowships for graduate students.

The first recipient of the scholarship was Rivkah Bunes. We look forward to many more recipients in the years to come!
Alice Berkowitz (September 29, 2020) was a beloved and longtime member of the Borns JSP Advisory Board (serving as vice president). She was a catalyst for the growth of the Borns JSP. Her daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Gene Bate, continue Alice’s legacy as current members of the Borns JSP advisory board. Alice served as president of the IU Helene G. Simon Hillel board and president of the board of the Ohio Valley Hillels.

Robert A. Borns (July 31, 2022) was a dear friend who contributed immensely to the growth and strength of Jewish Studies on our campus. He leaves a decades-long legacy as an indefatigable and enthusiastic member of our Advisory Board, and founder of the Friends of Jewish Studies. A lifetime promoter of Jewish Studies, he always sought ways to spread the accomplishments of scholars and students, and proud of being among the supporters of one of the oldest programs of its kind in the country.

Allen Ketchersid (May 16, 2022) earned his BA in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies (with honors) at IU in 1998. He was awarded the Henry A. Bern Memorial Essay Prize. The minister of the Unionville Church of Christ from 1994-2021, he ran a Christian publishing company and served as the executive vice president of the János Starker Research Institute and Archives.

Sidney (Sid) Mishkin (October 29, 2021) was a longtime member of the Borns JSP Advisory Board and Honorary Board. He had a distinguished career as an attorney in Indianapolis. Described by those who knew him as a mensch, he wrote The Unvarnished Torah: Observations, Questions and Answers of a Jewish Lawyer, based on his years leading the Shabbat afternoon Torah study at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

Sondra L. Percy (December 3, 2021) and her late husband Arthur (Art) were both devoted IU alumni and longtime public school teachers in New Jersey. They endowed the Percy Family Scholarship that made it possible for so many Jewish Studies undergraduates to study in Israel.

Monique Stolnitz (November 18, 2021), along with her late husband Professor George J. Stolnitz, IU Professor of Economics and Demography, endowed the George and Monique Stolnitz Annual Yiddish Prize Endowment, an expression of their strong commitment to the advancement of education in Yiddish language and culture. Over the decades, many have received the prize that recognizes the student who shows the greatest promise in the study of Yiddish language, literature, and/or history in which Yiddish culture took root and flourished.

Charlene Sabetay Tuchman (October 12, 2021) was a longtime member of the Indianapolis Jewish community, along with her late husband Sid Tuchman who served on the Borns JSP Advisory Board. In 1988, they began splitting their time between Indianapolis and San Francisco. She and her family were generous contributors to Jewish studies at IU.

“Indiana University mourns the passing of Bob Borns, and our hearts are with the Borns family. Bob was a treasured alumnus whose kindness, generosity and dedication touched many students and faculty. His dedication to Jewish life and culture and to the learning and scholarship achieved by the renowned Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program will have an enduring impact.”
—Pamela Whitten, President, Indiana University
We take pride in our 948 undergraduate alumni and are pleased to report the latest news from our remarkable graduates:

Laura Kepes Linder (1988) is President and CEO, Memphis Jewish Partners (Memphis Jewish Federation and Memphis Jewish Foundation).

Lorraine (Denaburg) Wolf (1979) is the manager of Community Impact for Memphis Jewish Partners (Memphis Jewish Federation).

Rona Elder (1989) has been the Assistant Director of Education (since 2000) and the Administrator since (2007) of Congregation Hakafa, Glencoe, IL.

Karen (Becker) Sher (1990) is VP of Community Leadership and Engagement at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

Debra Barton Grant (1991), the former CEO and Executive VP of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, is now the Associate VP of LiveSecure at the Jewish Federations of North America. LiveSecure is a $54 million security campaign and initiative that will ensure the security of JCCs, synagogues, schools, senior centers, summer camps, and other centers of Jewish life.

Viki (Klee) Rosman (1993) is in private practice in Manhattan as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She also supervises clinicians in the field.

Rabbi Stacy Schlein (1994) is Director of Educational Capacity Building at the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland.

Brian Shankman (1994) is AIPAC Chief Strategy Director for National Affairs.

Rachel Daniels (1996) is Executive Assistant to the CEO of EverQuote in Cambridge, MA. In 2020, she completed an MA in Jewish Professional Leadership at The Hornstein Program of Brandeis University.

Alexis Gruber (1996) is a member of the Judaics faculty, lower school at Golda Och Academy in West Orange, NJ.

Lindsey Barton Mintz (1998) served for nearly 10 years as the Executive Director of the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council. She is now Director of Community Engagement, Programming, and Marketing/Communications at the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee in Florida.

Rabbi Jonah Geffen (2000) is Senior Jewish Educator and Campus Rabbi at Hunter College Hillel.

Leslie Cohen Kastner (2000) is Director of Institutional Advancement at the Jewish Community Day School in Boston.

Shauna Replace Leavey (2000) is Director of Community Engagement for the Jewish Federation of Howard County Maryland.

Jami (Trockman) Bachrad (2001) is Consultant for Evolve Giving Group.

Emily (Lipp) Sirota (2001) is a Democratic Colorado State Senator.

Miriam Pullman Friedman (2002) is Director of Donor Relations at the Marcus JCC in Atlanta.

Marie Harf (2003) is Executive Director of External Relations and Marketing at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.

Leah Nahmias (2004) is the Community Leadership Officer at the Central Indiana Community Foundation.

Marisa (Geer) Reby (2004) is Development Manager at Camp Northland-B’nai B’rith in the Toronto area. She completed an MSW at Washington University.

Sam Rodin (2004) is Director of Alumni Networks and Engagement for Diller Teen Fellows. He completed a master’s degree in Jewish Professional Studies at Spertus Institute.

Amalia Shifriss (2004) is Development Associate at IU Hillel and is pursuing an MPA in nonprofit management at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

Henry Bernstein (2005) is Operations and Logistics Coordinator at Chicago Jewish Day School.

Rabbi Jen Gubitz (2005) is the co-host of the OMfG Podcast: Jewish Wisdom for Unprecedented Times and founder and Executive Director of Modern Jewish Couples (that supports couples on the pathway to marriage and beyond). She is Rabbi Educator at Temple Shalom in Newton, MA.

Sarah Lawson (2005) is a psychotherapist at Whitman-Walker Health in Washington, DC.

Rabbi Sarah Smiley (2005) became rabbi of Unified Jewish Congregation in Baton Rouge this summer.

Rabbi Stephanie Clark Covitz (2006) is Bereavement Coordinator at Lifeline of Ohio.


Joanna Blotner (2007) is Legislative Director for council member Janeese Lewis George, member of the Council of the District of Columbia.
Margaret O’Connor (2007) is a Policy Analyst at the U.S. Department of State.


Rebecca Frazin-Chan (2009) is Director of Admissions at Bernard Zell Anshe Emeth Day School in Chicago.

Nina Loftspring (2009) is Director of the newly combined Kulanu Reform Jewish High School and Merkaz Conservative Hebrew High School in Cincinnati.

David Orenstein (2009) completed his PhD in Religion (History of Judaism) at Duke University in 2021 and is Senior Research Analyst in Education and Media for CAMERA.

Jessica Bram (2010) is Director of Congregational Learning at University Synagogue in Irvine, CA.

Emily (Berman) Pevnick (2010) was a recipient of the 2021 Davis, Gidwitz & Glazer Young Leadership Award awarded by the Jewish United Fund of Chicago.

Julia Steigerwald (2010) is PR Marketing Writer, Development and Public Affairs Division at Tel Aviv University.

Rabbi Lily Tash Blum (2011) is Rabbi/Cantor at Temple Judea in Tarzana, CA.

Matthew Levitt (2011) is Grants and Compliance Manager for the Zarrow Family Foundations in Tulsa.

Carly Valfer (2011) is Associate Director of Religious Education at Congregation B’nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, NJ.

Marisa (Briefman) Lipkin (2013) is Manager of Proposal Coordination at American Technion Society.

Melody Mostow (2013) is Senior Operations Coordinator for HardPin Media in the greater Chicago area.

Ethan Bennett (2014) is Global Director of Business Development for Speakap.

Rabbi David Bloom (2014) is Chaplain Intern at Norton Healthcare in Louisville while studying for the MCAT. He was ordained by Hebrew Union College in May 2019.

Adam Blue (2015) is Associate Director of High School Education for StandWithUs.

Jodie Goldberg (2015) is Education Consultant, Teen Engagement and Educator Networks at The Jewish Education Project in NYC.

Frankie Salzman (2016) is a rabbinical student at HUC-JIR in Los Angeles. The past year, his student pulpit was Congregation Havurim in Temecula, CA.

Megan Zimmer (2016) is Assistant Director for the Jewish Council for Youth Services in Chicago.

Hannah Morris (2017) is Liaison to Foreign Militaries at Israel Defense Forces in Beersheba, Israel.

Tony Satrian (2017) is in his second year of teaching at Colegio Americano de Quito in Ecuador.


Michelle Bennett (2019) is pursuing a master’s degree in Education Policy Analysis at Harvard University.

Mitchell Israel (2019) is a master’s degree student in Jewish Professional Leadership and Educational Leadership at Brandeis University.

Two current Hebrew Union College cantorial students Margo Wagner (2019) and Sarina Elenbogen-Siegel (2020) will be sharing a pulpit during the 2022-2023 year at Temple Shalom in Chevy Chase, MD.

Ethan Goldberg (2020) is a law student at the University of Miami on full scholarship.

Jordan Ichilov (2020) is pursuing an MA in Government with a specialization in Counterterrorism and Homeland Security at Reichman University in Israel. She was a most effective Program Director for IU Hillel for the past two years.

Rachel Aranyi (2021) a law student and Dean’s Scholar at the University of Illinois was elected to IU Phi Beta Kappa in fall 2021.

Jacob Friedman (2021) is Youth Director at Temple Isaiah in Lafayette, CA.

Morgan Kochanoski (2022) is pursuing a Master’s degree in Clarinet Performance at Michigan State University.

PhD Alumni News

After serving as the Director of Language and Instruction at the Instituto Albert Einstein in Panama, in 2021, Avi Blitz (PhD minor, 2021) began a position as a faculty member at Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mitsuko Kawabata (PhD minor, 2019) is now Associate Professor of Musicology at Kyoto City University of the Arts.

Barbara Krawcowicz (PhD minor, 2013) is Assistant Professor in the Institute of Religious Studies, Jagiellonian University. She also recently completed her term as the book review editor at H-Judaic.

Lindsey Pullum (PhD minor, 2020) is the American Druze Foundation Fellow in the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies at Georgetown University. She was the winner of the 2021 Ben Halpern Prize awarded by the Association for Israel Studies for her dissertation “Faithful/Traitor: Violence, Nationalism, and Performances of Druze Belonging.”

High School Seniors!

Apply for up to $60,000 ($15,000 per year) scholarships for JS majors.

Additional one-year scholarships for some incoming JS majors and certificate students.

Deadline: January 27, 2023

Incoming JS PhD minor and MA in JS students!

Apply for 2023–24 graduate fellowships.

Deadline: December 10, 2023

Indiana University | Borns Jewish Studies Program
Course Offerings

Courses for 2020–21 and 2022–23

Arts & Humanities

100 Level Courses
Jews, Christians, Muslims - Imhoff
Researching White Supremacism and Antisemitism on Social Media - Jikeli
Who Wrote the Bible? - Marks

200 Level Courses
Anne Frank & Hitler: Studies in the Representation of Good & Evil - Rosenfeld
Guns and Roses: Representations of Soldiers and War in Modern Hebrew Literature - Katz
Introduction to Hebrew Bible - Carlson Hasler
Introduction to the New Testament - Schott
Israel Film and Fiction - Katz
Literature of the Holocaust - Rosenfeld
Prophets, Messiahs, and Apocalypses - Carlson Hasler
Sacred Books of the Jews - Hillman
Yiddish Creativity From Folk to Art: Tale, Story, Song, Poem - Kerler

300–400 Level Courses
David: The Man & the King - Katz
Gender and Power in the Hebrew Bible - Carlson Hasler
Holocaust Literature in Israel - Katz
Introduction to Jewish Mysticism - Hillman
Judaism and Graphic Novels - Hillman
Modern Hebrew Literature in English - Katz
Music in Judaism - Cohen
The Bible and Empire - Carlson Hasler
The Bible and Ethics: Love, Poverty, and War - Carlson Hasler
Six Hundred Years of Yiddish language and culture can’t wait to meet you! - Kerler
Yiddish Life: On Page, On Stage, On Screen - Kerler
Yiddish without an Army: National, International, Liberal and Orthodox - Kerler

Social & Historical Studies

200 Level Courses
Godless Judaism - Sakal
Prostitutes, Homemakers, CEOs: Israel, Gender, and Difference - Khazzoom
Introduction to Jewish History: From the Bible to Spanish Expulsion - Hillman
Introduction to Jewish History: From Spanish Expulsion to the Present - Hillman
Israelian Inequality in Context - Khazzoom
Jews and African Americans in American Musical Theatre - Cohen
Jews & Gender: Then and Now - Sakal
Water and Heaven - Sakal

300–400 Level Courses
Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and White Supremacy - Khazzoom
Comparative Foreign Policy - Spechler
Exploring Jewish Identity Today - Hillman
History of the Holocaust - Dekel, Roseman
Jewish Muslim Relations from the End of the 19th Century - Jikeli
Jews of the Muslim East - Sela
The History of Genocide - Roseman
The Holocaust and Politics - Bielsiak
Synagogue and State: Jewish Intersection: with Power, Sovereignty and Colonialism - Sakal
United States Foreign Policy - Spechler
What is Middle Eastern? Perspectives Gainedthrough Comparisons with Israel - Khazzoom
Zionism and the State of Israel - Sakal

Languages

Beginning Yiddish I & II—Kerler
Intermediate Yiddish I—Kerler
Elementary Modern Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy, Romashov, Weiss
Intermediate Modern Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy, Romashov, Weiss
Advanced Modern Hebrew I & II—Maoz-Levy

Graduate Courses

Colloquium in Jewish Studies—Imhoff
Holocaust Memory, Debates and Sites - Dekel
Jews and Colonialism - Sakal
Multiple Voices of Israeli Society - Khazzoom
The New Historiography of Genocide - Roseman

“I really enjoyed the breadth of courses I was able to take in JS. Being able to learn about ancient Jewish magic one semester, and contemporary Jewish music another semester, just to name a couple courses, really made me feel like I was engaged in a comprehensive program.”

Jacob Friedman, JS BA, May 2021
Undergraduate News
2021–22 JS Graduates

JS Major

With the graduation of Jewish Studies major Levi Gettleman (with honors), 347 students have completed the BA in JS since our major was established in 1992.

Levi Gettleman – (May 2022) Oklahoma City, OK/Seattle, WA; JS major (with honors) and Folklore and Ethnomusicology major, with highest honors. Honors Thesis: “The Sanctification of Space: Imagining Holiness in the Hebrew Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls”. (See Dr. Carolyn Lipson-Walker Outstanding Senior Scholarship article)

JS Certificate Student

The JS certificate program requires, at minimum, 8 courses in JS. Joining the 491 alumni of our certificate program (established in 1976) is:

Kylie Wexler (August 2022) Thousand Oaks, CA; Liberal Studies BA
Midwest Campus Coordinator for StandWithUS (overseeing Emerson Fellows including at IU)

Jewish Studies Minor Students

The fifth class of students completing the JS minor included:

Hannah Cohen (May 2022) Deerfield, IL; Media major (concentration: Media Advertising; specialization: Graphic Communication; Advertising Concentration) and Sociology Minor with highest honors

Cicada Hoyt (May 2022) Bloomington, IN; Media major (concentration: Cinema & Media Art; Studio & Production; specialization: Media & Creative Advertising Strategies

Morgan Kochanowski (May 2022) Plainfield, IN; Clarinet, Bachelor of Music

(James) Eli Long (May 2022) Plainfield, IN; BA in History

Hebrew Minor Student

The 161st student completing the minor in Hebrew was:

Danielle DeCesaris – (May 2022) Munster, IN; Microbiology major; Psychology minor, with highest honors. This fall, she will begin her studies toward the MPH in Hospital and Molecular Epidemiology at the University of Michigan.

“I am very thankful for my experiences as a Hebrew minor. The faculty always pushed me to work to my fullest potential and they helped me to learn and grow even when I was discouraged.”

Our Lively Undergraduates

The Borns JSP undergraduate community has long been active and convivial. The Jewish Studies Student Association (JSSA), led in 2021-2022 by Levi Gettleman, President; Sarah Meadows (fall 2021), Claire Silberman (Spring 2022), Vice President; Adina Malmon (Fall 2021), Rivkah Bunes (Spring 2022), Programming Director; and Josie Epstein, Engagement Director, held a Zoom welcome event for first-year students on the day before fall semester began. (Goody baskets were delivered to new students’ residence halls in their first weeks at IU).

Highlights of the JSSA year included the annual and very popular sushi dinner; a Hanukkah Craftaganza; and “The Whole Megillah! An Exploration of the book of Esther” with Dr. Vered Sakal and Professor Laura Carlson Hasler in conjunction with Olamot.

The JSSA was also a co-sponsor of a Hillel Zoom evening “A Holocaust Survivor’s Story: My Friend Abe (Abe Piasek).”

Other 2021-2022 JSP student events included the annual fall dessert, the JS majors/core faculty dinner at the Cohen home, and a celebratory end-of-year reception.

The Borns JSP and the JSSA are planning a full schedule of events for the 2022–23 year. JSSA officers will be Lauren Appel, President; Adina Malmon, Vice President; Rivkah Bunes, Programming Director; and Natanya Katz, Engagement Director.

Laura Carlson Hasler received the 2022 Trustees Teaching Award. She was selected to participate in the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning’s Early Career Teaching Workshop. She taught a new course this spring titled, “The Bible and Empire,” which focused on the imperial contexts of the Hebrew Bible as well as postcolonial approaches to biblical interpretation. Carlson Hasler’s article, “Mobile Rituals and Fragmented Space: Theologies of Collection and Expulsion in Early Judaism,” appeared the volume Ritual Space and Ritual Text: New Perspectives on Monumentality and Monumental Texts in the Southern Levant (Mohr Siebeck, 2021). Her 2020 book Archival Historiography in Jewish Antiquity was the subject of a review panel in the 2021 annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature. Last summer, Carlson Hasler presented a paper titled “The Embodied Economics of Nation-Making in the Postexilic Prophets” at the European Association of Biblical Studies, and was a panelist in the session, “Globalizing Biblical Studies,” at the International Society for Biblical Literature meeting. She presented a paper titled “Writing Resilience in Jewish Antiquity” at the Society for Textual Scholarship (STS) conference in May 2022. She also led a seminar on “Subjectivity, Scribal Practice, and the Role of the Textual Scholar” at the STS conference.

Judah M. Cohen completed his second year as the Director of the Borns Jewish Studies Program. He published the article “Musical Alternatives: Debbie Friedman in Houston, 1978-1984,” in the Journal of Jewish Education (v88, #1), co-curated the multi-author article “Contemporary Jewish Music in America” (a 20-year update) with Mark Kligman in the Journal of Synagogue Music (v46, #1), and extensively revised the article “Women, Music, and Judaism in America,” for the Jewish Women’s Archive’s Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women. His work on Caribbean Jewish history was featured on Season 2, Episode 4 of Theatre Dybbuk’s “Dybbukcast” podcast, titled “The St. Thomas Split.” He taught the new course “Race in American Musical Theatre” at the Jacobs School of Music, published book reviews in the Journal of Folklore Research Reviews and YUVAL, gave virtual public lectures for synagogues in Bloomington, Chicago, and Glencoe (IL), and delivered the Fallman Family Lecture at the University of Hartford. He also chaired paper sessions for conferences sponsored by ISCA and the POLIN Museum (Warsaw), and co-hosted a joint IU/UCLA session on “Body Art and Modification: Memory and Identity” with colleagues and graduate students from IUB and the University of Manchester, supported by a Manchester University internationalization grant. She joined the Department of Sociology as an adjunct and became affiliated faculty in the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in Culture and Institute for European Studies. Dekel taught two new courses: “Introduction to German Social Thought: The Freedom to Think Otherwise,” and the graduate class “Holocaust Memory: Debates and Sites”. Dekel received the OVP Faculty Fellowship for Research in Social Sciences for Spring 2023, enabling her to focus on writing her second monograph.

Halina Goldberg co-organized and co-moderated “Jews, Memory, and Inclusion,” a performance featuring author/poet/concept artist Esther Dischereit and Jacobs School of Music dancers and instrumentalists. It was part of the Jacobs’ Community Conversations series.

Brian Hillman received his doctoral degree in August 2021 from IU’s department of Religious Studies. In January, he presented material from his first book project, which grows out of his dissertation “Textual Authority and Jewish History was featured on Season 2, Episode 4 of Theatre Dybbuk’s “Dybbukcast” podcast, titled “The St. Thomas Split.” He taught the new course “Race in American Musical Theatre” at the Jacobs School of Music, published book reviews in the Journal of Folklore Research Reviews and YUVAL, gave virtual public lectures for synagogues in Bloomington, Chicago, and Glencoe (IL), and delivered the Fallman Family Lecture at the University of Hartford. He also chaired paper sessions for conferences sponsored by ISCA and the POLIN Museum (Warsaw), and co-hosted a joint IU/UCLA session on “Body Art and Modification: Memory and Identity” with colleagues and graduate students from IUB and the University of Manchester, supported by a Manchester University internationalization grant. She joined the Department of Sociology as an adjunct and became affiliated faculty in the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in Culture and Institute for European Studies. Dekel taught two new courses: “Introduction to German Social Thought: The Freedom to Think Otherwise,” and the graduate class “Holocaust Memory: Debates and Sites”. Dekel received the OVP Faculty Fellowship for Research in Social Sciences for Spring 2023, enabling her to focus on writing her second monograph.

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Brian Hillman received his doctoral degree in August 2021 from IU’s department of Religious Studies. In January, he presented material from his first book project, which grows out of his dissertation “Textual Authority and Jewish Modernity: The Case of the Lithuanian Mithnagdim.” This work seeks to demonstrate that the disciples of the famed Rabbi Elijah of Vilna, known as the “Vilna Gaon” engaged in distinctly modern practices of textual scholarship and philosophical reflection. In the coming academic year, Hillman is scheduled to present his research at conferences as well as a presentation on strategies for successfully defending qualifying examinations for doctoral students. Hillman taught four courses at IU, including the two-course core undergraduate Jewish history sequence. His students learned about the major events of Jewish history while gaining an
appreciation for the diversity of forms of Judaism that have flourished throughout the world—from ancient Egypt to modern India.

Sarah Imhoff, Borns JSP Director of Graduate Studies, published The Lives of Jessie Sampter: Queer, Disabled, Zionist with Duke University Press this spring. Thanks to a grant from IU Bloomington’s Office of the Provost and the IU Libraries, it will be freely available for all to read online. During the 2021-22 year, she was a faculty fellow with the Institute for Digital Arts and Humanities at IU; she worked on an ongoing project about gender and citation in Jewish Studies, and began a new project on Jewish wills in the early Americas. She is also continuing to work with Susannah Heschel on a co-authored book about the histories and structures that shape and limit the place of women and gender in the academic field of JS. It will be published with Princeton University Press. She also continues to co-edit, with her colleague M Cooper Harriss, American Religion, a peer-reviewed academic journal.

Günther Jikeli taught the 140-student course “Researching White Supremacism and Antisemitism on Social Media” in the fall of 2021 and will teach it again as part of this year’s Themester program “Identity and Identification.” To understand stereotypes and tropes that are used today (knowingly or not), the course teaches about the long histories of antisemitism and racism and looks at empirical “authentic and natural” data found in abundance on social media. Students’ published some of their findings in the research report “Bias Against Asians, Blacks, Hispanics/LatinX, Jews, and Muslims on Twitter.” Jikeli also made significant progress in his Social Media & Hate research lab. The lab’s latest paper, created with a group of six graduate students, will be published in the next edition of the peer-reviewed journal Computational and Mathematical Organization Theory (CMOT). That paper, “Differences Between Antisemitic and Non-Antisemitic English Language Tweets,” looks at methods of how antisemitic messages can be identified with computational methods.

Stephen Katz is the incoming director of the Borns Jewish Studies Program. In the past year, he served on its Faculty Affairs Committee as well as the Executive Committee of the Center for the Study of the Middle East, and the Lectures and Awards Committee of the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures. He also served the first of two years as a member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the Hamilton Lugar School. His article, in Hebrew, “Between Faith and Heresy: Agnon’s Religious Conscience in A Guest for the Night,” appeared in Hador, 2021. His study, “When Wolds Collide: Y. Hurgin’s Tale of the Great War,” was published in Prooftexts. He is also the author of a book review scheduled to appear in the forthcoming issue of Hador. He prepared an index for the major study of H.N. Bialik’s literary biography by F. Lachover. Professor Katz is the recipient of a CAHI (College Arts and Humanities Institute) Research and Travel grant to spend the summer of 2022 at the Gnazim Bio-Bibliographical Archives and the Beit Ariela Library in Tel Aviv, where he conducted ongoing research for a manuscript on the early responses and representations of the Holocaust in Hebrew literature. He is also continuing work on a book-length study of the representation of the First World War in Hebrew literature.

Dov-Ber Kerler taught four courses for general students, taught Yiddish language, and continued to mentor and supervise graduate students. He also taught remotely two advanced research mini-courses (in Yiddish) for the Workers Circle (New York): one on the sources, remnants, fragments and contemporary forms of the traditional Yiddish Purim performances and plays (the purimshpin) and the other on the social, cultural role and doctrinal significance of guter yid (meaning “bal shem,” miracle worker, healer and early Hasidic master; literally “good Jew”) in Yiddish language, folklore and ideologies since the 18th century rise of Hasidism. Dov-Ber co-edited issues of the independent quarterly of Yiddish literature and culture (entirely in Yiddish), entitled Yidishland and published in Israel and Sweden; the most recent issue 15 was just published and the next one is nearly complete. In July 2021 he remotely presented a paper on “Faith, Trust and Rebbe’s Authentic Speech in his ‘hungarian’ hasid’s oral transmission of the Rybnitzer rebbe’s “moldovan” Yiddish” at the Moscow 27th annual SEFER Jewish Studies Conference’s session dedicated to “Rybnitzer Rebbe—biography, hagiography, cult.” In December, Dov-Ber presented “The trouble with ‘melamed’— status and symbol—two fictionalized rivaling visions of the traditional East European Jewish melaned in ‘classic’ Yiddish literature” at the Moscow International SEFER Symposium on “Professionals and marginals in Slavic and Jewish Cultural Traditions.” In December, Dov-Ber presented “The trouble with ‘melamed’—status and symbol—two fictionalized rivaling visions of the traditional East European Jewish melaned in ‘classic’ Yiddish literature” at the Moscow International SEFER Symposium on “Professionals and marginals in Slavic and Jewish Cultural Traditions.” The topic was “The Earliest extant Yiddish book inspired by early Hasidism (1775).” Dov-Ber gave a closing lecture entitled “Fruitful and Frightful: Yiddish poets on Russian soil—1918-1952—from Avant-Garde to Social Realism & Martyrdom” at the Bar Ilan International conference on “The Avant-Garde in Yiddish Culture, The 100th Anniversary of Khalyastre.” June 14-15. Last summer he was invited to teach Yiddish language and literature at the Yiddish Summer Weimar Program for which he created a portal with Yiddish poetry (and some “literary” songs, see: livingyiddish.weebly.com) and where he lectured on both “singing” poetry in Yiddish and on Soviet Yiddish martyred authors to mark the 70th anniversary of the “Night of the murdered Yiddish poets” – August 12, 1952.

Aziza Khazzoom continued as Director of Undergraduate Studies. She taught a new one-credit course on the Palestinian/Israel conflict, which examined the range of stances Jews take on the conflict and how specifically Jewish experiences, such as surviving the Holocaust, growing up in an Arab country, or being a rabbi, inform both left and right-leaning perspectives. She also took part in the Blackness and Jewishness project at IU. She presented
on her recent work on Islamophobia and antisemitism at an invited workshop in Cambridge, England, and at the Association for Israel Studies conference in Israel. She also spoke on her work to a group of students at Trinity College in Dublin.

Jenny McComas, Curator of European and American Art at the Eskenazi Museum of Art, is conducting research for a forthcoming exhibition about American artistic responses to the Holocaust and preparing a focus exhibition commemorating the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Degenerate Art Exhibition (it opens in September 2022). She is also working on an initiative to upgrade the museum’s presentation of World War II-era provenance information online. Her most recent exhibition, Swing Landscape: Stuart Davis and the Modernist Mural, was on view at the Eskenazi Museum in the spring. Its related virtual symposium, Modernist Murals, funded by a grant from IU’s College Arts & Humanities Institute, drew 176 registrants from ten countries. In 2021 she published: “Decanonization, Jewishness, and American Art Museums” in AJS Perspectives (The Art Issue) and “Rediscovering Lost Histories: The Role of Provenance Research in the Study of German Art’s American Reception, 1920-39” in Collecting and Provenance, ed. Andrea Gáldy (London: Cambridge Scholars’ Publishing). She spoke about “Degenerate Art and German Reconstruction: Rehabilitating Modernist Art in Postwar Munich” in a symposium held in conjunction with the Cincinnati Art Museum’s exhibition Paintings, Politics, and the Monuments Men: The Berlin Masterpieces in America, and served as a panelist for a Nazi-era provenance research training program at the University of Denver’s Center for Art Collection Ethics. In 2021, McComas participated in the Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture at the YIVO Institute.


Now in his 55th year as an IU faculty member, Alvin H. Rosenfeld continues to teach and pursue research on Holocaust literature, history, and memory and post-Holocaust antisemitism. His edited volume, Contending with Antisemitism in a Rapidly Changing Political Climate, appeared in November with the Indiana University Press. His recently published articles include “Antisemitism in Today’s America,” in Comprehending Antisemitism through the Ages: A Historical Perspective (vol. 3; De Gruyter), “The Links Between Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism,” in Protecting the Future (Kaleidoskop, Moscow), “Jean Améry as a Critic of the Anti-Israel Left,” in Fathom, “How American Jews Faring in an Era of Rising Antisemitism?” in INSS, “Are Those who Hate Jews ‘Anti-Semites’ or ‘Antisemites’?” in The Journal of Holocaust Research, and “Bombs and Buzzwords,” in The Times of Israel. “Is there an Anti-Jewish Bias in Today’s University?” is forthcoming in The Betrayal of the Humanities: The University During the Third Reich (ed. Bernard Levinson and Robert Ericksen, IU Press). He gave numerous Zoom lectures on contemporary antisemitism at scholarly forums in Germany, Israel, Russia, and the United States, and presented “Remembering and Disremembering the Holocaust: Implications for Today” as the annual Yom HaShoah lecture for Georgetown University’s Center for Jewish Civilization. As director of IU’s Center for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism (ISCA) he organized a major international scholars conference (July 2021) with 60 participants from eight countries; and with his colleague Günther Jikeli he continued his ongoing research-oriented Webinar series. He continues to serve on numerous international committees related to the Holocaust and Anti-Semitism, while serving as editor of the IU Press book series Studies in Antisemitism.
Borns JSP Faculty, 2022–23

*Core faculty

James S. Ackerman
Professor (Emeritus), Religious Studies

Joëlle Bahloul
Professor (Emerita), Anthropology

Jack Bielasiak
Professor, Political Science, Russian & East European Institute
Politics of the Holocaust

Laura Carlson Hasler
Alvin H. Rosenfeld Chair in Jewish Studies; Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Hebrew Bible; Gender and Power in the Hebrew Bible; Prophets, Messiahs, and Apocalypses

Judah M. Cohen
Director of Jewish Sacred Music Curriculum
Lou and Sybil Mervis Chair in the Study of Jewish Culture; Professor, Jewish Studies and Musicology
Music in Jewish Life; American Music; Musical Theater; Popular Culture; Caribbean Jewish History; Diaspora; Medical Ethnomusicology

Irit Dekel
Director of Olamot: Center for Scholarly and Cultural Exchange with Israel
Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies and Germanic Studies
Contemporary Antisemitism in Germany; Collective Memory in Germany and Israel; Migration and Exile

Paul D. Eisenberg
Professor (Emeritus), Philosophy

Michelle Facos
Professor, Art History
Jewish Art; Jews in Scandinavia before 1915

Halina Goldberg
Professor, Jacobs School of Music, Musicology
Jews and Jewishness in 19th and 20th Century Poland; Jewish Musicians and Music; Jews in Łódz

Sarah Imhoff
Director of Graduate Studies
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Religious Studies
Gender and Judaism; Race and Jewishness; Rabbinic Literature; American Religious History

Jeffrey Isaac
Rudy Professor, Political Science

Günther Jikeli
Erna B. Rosenfeld Professor in Jewish Studies; Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Germanic Studies
History of Antisemitism; Racism, Discrimination and Education; Jewish-Muslim Relations

Stephen Katz, Director
Professor, Jewish Studies and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
Hebrew; Israeli Culture; Modern Hebrew Literature; Hebrew Literature of the Holocaust

Dov-Ber Kerler
Dr. Alice Field Cohn Chair in Yiddish Studies; Professor, Jewish Studies and Germanic Studies
Yiddish Studies

Aziza Khazzoom
Director of Undergraduate Studies
Associate Professor, Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures
Israel Studies

Jennifer McComas
Associate Research Scholar: Curator of European and American Art (medieval through 20th century), IU Sidney and Lois Eskenazi Museum of Art

Michal Maoz-Levy
Senior Lecturer
Modern Hebrew

Herbert J. Marks
Professor, Comparative Literature
Biblical and Literary Studies

Michael L. Morgan
Chancellor’s Professor (Emeritus), Jewish Studies and Philosophy

Dmitry Romashov
Lecturer
Modern Hebrew

Mark Roseman
Pat M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies; Distinguished Professor, Jewish Studies and History
History of the Holocaust; History of Antisemitism; The Holocaust; German-Jewish History

Alvin H. Rosenfeld
Director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism
Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies; Professor, Jewish Studies and English
Contemporary Antisemitism; Literature of the Holocaust; American Jewish Literature

Vered Sakal
Andrew and Melanie Goodman Olamot Postdoctoral Fellow
Israel Studies; Modern Jewish Thought; Sephardic History and Thought

Jeremy Schott
Professor of Religious Studies
Religion of the Late Ancient & Byzantine Mediterranean and Near East

Ron Sela
Associate Professor, Central Eurasian Studies; Director, Sinor Research Institute for Inner Asian Studies
Islamic History and Historiography; Authority and Self-Representation in Muslim Literary Traditions; Translation; Muslim-Jewish Encounters

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Comparative Foreign Policy; American, Russian, and Israeli Foreign Policy

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