



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

Online

May 23-25, 2021 | du 23 au 25 mai 2021

All times EDT

ZOOM LINK FOR ENTIRE CONFERENCE (PASSCODE *CASE SENSITIVE*: Acjs2021):

<https://uottawa-ca.zoom.us/j/99497422163?pwd=K2R1TFdRTnE1NzFtaEl6ZVIKeHdTZz09>

Please note the fifteen-minute gaps between sessions. This is meant to give you a short break to refresh or prepare for the following session, but we will keep the session open for anyone who would like to “schmooze” and get to know one another.

SUNDAY, MAY 23 | DIMANCHE LE 23 MAI

11:00 AM – 12:45 PM: Welcome and Session 1: Canadian Jewish Community Concerns

Chair: Jesse Toufexis

Valentina Gaddi, Université de Montréal, *Études Juives Canadiennes et genre: le point sur la situation [Canadian Jewish Studies and gender: where are we at?]*

Jonathan Slater, SUNY Plattsburgh, *So Near, yet so Far: an Assessment of the 2018 Survey of Jews in Canada*

Joshua Tapper, Stanford University, *Crisis Leadership and Community Upheaval: Findings from Toronto Jewry and the Coronavirus Pandemic: An Oral History Project*

1:00 – 2:00 PM: Session 2: Keeping Kosher?

Chair: Randal Schnoor

Ira Robinson & Yosef Robinson, Concordia University, *“Are Tref [Non-Kosher] Butcher Shops Really Tref?”: An Insight into the Dynamics of the Kosher Meat Industry in Montreal, 1934*

Nancy Phillips, York University, *The Secret Bacon Story: Why Did Kosher Canadian Jewish Mothers' Feed Their Children Bacon Between 1920-1945?*

2:15 – 3:30 PM: Expanding Our Fields: Panel Discussion on Canadian Jewish History and Latin American Jewish History

Richard Menkis, University of British Columbia

Yolande Cohen, Université de Québec à Montreal

Hernan Tesler-Mabe, University of Ottawa

Raanan Rein, Tel Aviv University

Adriana Brodsky, St. Mary's College of Maryland

David Sheinin, Trent University

Moderated by David Koffman, York University

3:45 – 5:15 PM: Session 3: Language

Chair: Valentina Gaddi

Rotem Raz, University of Toronto, *Reconciliation and Language Revitalization: Thoughts about Indigenous Languages and Hebrew*

Övgü Ülgen, Université de Montréal, *Language, Religion, and the Difference: Moroccan Jewish Belonging in Canada*

Zoë Belk, University College London, *Absence of Morphological Case and Gender in Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish*

5:15 – 5:45 PM: Break

5:45 – 7:15 PM: Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award Presentation to Frank Bialystok, followed by:

"Singing through Tears: Canadian Jewish Choirs in the age of COVID-19"

Hernan Tesler-Mabe, University of Ottawa (Moderator)

Faith Jones, Vancouver Yiddish Folk Choir

Sue Potechin, Temple Israel Choir (Ottawa)

Roslyn Schwartz, Kingston Jewish Council Choir

Minda Wershof, Musica Ebraica (Ottawa)

Benita Wolters-Fredlund, Calvin University

MONDAY, MAY 24 | LUNDI 24 MAI

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Open Board Meeting, Association for Canadian Jewish Studies | Réunion publique, Association des études juives canadiennes

10:45 AM – 12:45 PM: Session 4: Advocacy

Chair: Ira Robinson

Kenneth Grad, Osgoode Hall Law School at York University, *A Gesture of Criminal Law: Jews and the Criminalization of Hate Speech in Canada*

Megan Hollinger, University of Ottawa, *How We Speak About Anti-Jewish Hate: Exploring the use of the term "antisemitism" and how it may affect the fight against it in contemporary Canada*

Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein, Queen's University, *Attachment and Attitudes toward Israel among Canadian Jews, and what Impacts these Most*

Jason Chartrand, York University, *"Carving out a space within 'a relatively new field of professionalization': postwar Jewish activists and the development of the 'intergroup relations expert'"*

1:00 – 2:15 PM: Meet the Author Live: *No Better Home*

Hosted by Jesse Toufexis (University of Ottawa) with guests:

Pierre Anctil, University of Ottawa

Lois Dubin, Smith College

David Koffman, York University

Norman Ravvin, Concordia University

Mia Spiro, University of Glasgow

Link to purchase book (currently 25% off): <https://utorontopress.com/ca/no-better-home-2>

2:30 – 4:00 PM: Session 5: Second World War & Holocaust

Chair: Hernan Tesler-Mabe

Nathan Lucky, University of British Columbia, *A Voice Behind the Headlines: The Public Relations of the Canadian Jewish Congress during World War II*

Barbara Weiser, Independent, *Canada's National Holocaust Memorial... A Comparative Study*

Peter J. Usher, Independent, *Counting Heads: The Canadian Jewish Congress and the Royal Canadian Air Force in the Second World War*

4:15 – 5:15 PM: Session 6: Holocaust Survivors

Chair: Megan Hollinger

Anna Sheftel & Luke Moyer, Saint Paul University & University of Waterloo, *Reconceptualizing Resilience: Examining Narratives of Holocaust Survivor 'Success' and 'Failure' in Canada*

Joseph Kary, Independent, *Sonderkommando in Canada: Canada's first World War II war crimes trial, 1951-56*

TUESDAY, MAY 25 | MARDI 25 MAI

9:00 – 10:30 AM: Annual General Meeting

10:45 – 12:15 PM: Session 7: Stories

Chair: TBD

Simone Grossman, Bar Ilan University, *La double vie du policier ex-hassid d'Outremont*

Deidre Butler & Betina Appel Kuzmarov, Carleton University, *Troubling Batei Din: Stories of Jewish Divorce in Canada*

Monda Halpern, University of Western Ontario, *"She just vanished": Mob-Boss Bessie Starkman and Family and Religious "Abandonment"*

12:30 – 1:30 PM: Lunch Break/Open Schmooze Session

1:30 – 3:00 PM: Session 8: Popular Culture

Chair: Deidre Butler

Liat Steir-Livny, Sapir Academic College and The Open University, *Canadian Holocaust Survivors and Second Generation in I was a Child of Holocaust Survivors*

Alexandra Frankel, York University, *About Sheila Heti's Motherhood*

Miranda Crowds, European Centre for Jewish Music, Hanover, *Peripheral Jews, Global Narratives: The Complexity of Contemporary Jewish-Canadian Identity through the Lens of Popular Musical Culture*

3:15 - 4:45 PM: Session 9: Fitting In

Chair: Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein

Ashley Mayer-Thibault, Université de Montréal, *Quebec's Sephardic Jews: Between Localism and Francophone Transnationalism*

Bonnie Ellen Campbell, Independent, *A Rare Union of Two Cultures: How a Jewish merchant from Prussia made a meaningful marriage with a Nlaka'pamux girl from Spuzzum, and how his adherence to Jewish values enhanced the lives of his biracial children*

Irving Rosen, Independent, *Toronto's Signal Medical Pioneers and their Relations to Immigrant Jews*

Participants

Pierre Anctil is Professor of contemporary Canadian history and Canadian Jewish history at the University of Ottawa. He has written extensively on the history of the Montreal Jewish community and on current debates regarding cultural pluralism in Montreal. Among his contributions are translations from Yiddish to French of memoirs written by Jewish immigrants. He is the author of a literary biography of Montreal Yiddish poet Jacob-Isaac Segal (2012). Recent publications include *Les Juifs de Québec, 400 ans d'histoire* (2015) and his award-winning comprehensive history, *Histoire des Juifs du Québec* (2017), soon to appear in an English translation.

Zoë Belk is a postdoctoral researcher with the Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish project at University College London. Her background is in linguistics, with her doctoral work focusing on the syntax of the noun phrase. The current project aims to document and describe Yiddish as it is spoken in Hasidic and Haredi communities worldwide. She is now living, and speaking Yiddish, in the Montreal area.

Franklin Bialystok received his Doctorate from York University in 1997. His dissertation, "Delayed Impact: The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community", was published by McGill-Queen's University Press. He has been a sessional lecturer at York University, the University of Waterloo, and since 1998 at the University of Toronto. His forthcoming book, "Faces In the Crowd: The Jews of Canada" will be published by the University of Toronto Press in 2022; Among his academic interests are History, Memory and the Holocaust and Canadian Jews in the arts.

Adriana M. Brodsky is Professor of Latin American and Jewish History at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Her book *Sephardi, Jewish, Argentine: Creating Community and National Identity, 1880-1960*, appeared in 2016. She has published on Sephardi food, schools, beauty contests, and Latin American Jewish History in general. Currently, she is finishing a manuscript on Argentine youth in Zionist movements (1940s-1970s). She is currently co-President of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association.

Professor Deidre Butler is Director of the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and she researches and teaches at the intersections of religion, gender and sexuality, and Judaism in the Religion program at the College of Humanities at Carleton University.

Professor Betina Appel Kuzmarov is the Clerk of Senate and researches and teaches at the intersections of international law, politics and culture as well as law and religion in the Department of Law and Legal Studies at Carleton University.

Appel Kuzmarov and Butler are collaborating on a joint research project, *Troubling Orthopraxy: A Study of Jewish Divorce in Canada*. This interdisciplinary ethnographic project investigates the phenomenon of Jewish religious divorce in Canada. The project interrogates the problem of Get abuse; the phenomenon of husbands delaying or refusing to grant their wives Jewish religious divorces or delaying or refusing religious divorces in order to extort more favourable terms in a civil divorce.

Bonnie Ellen Campbell graduated from the University of Victoria and retired from a career as an investment professional. She held volunteer positions in the Victoria community as an Honorary Governor with the Victoria Foundation; a Board member with the Juan de Fuca Hospital Foundation and Victoria Hospice; and a Trustee for the Victoria Opera Foundation. Besides researching and writing, she enjoys life in Victoria with her husband and two Cairn terriers.

Jason Chartrand is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at York University. His dissertation research is focused on the history of human rights and the intergroup relations movement, with a particular focus on Ontario and Quebec.

Yolande Cohen is full professor of Contemporary History at the Université du Québec à Montréal (1976-present). Past-President (2016-) of the Academy of Arts and Humanities of the Royal Society of Canada, she is Chevalière de l'Ordre National du Québec and Chevalier de l'Ordre de la Légion d'honneur, République française. She is also a member of the Canadian Historic Sites and Monument Board (2017-) and has received an Honorary Doctorate from Université de Montréal (2019). She has published extensively on women and gender history in Québec and Canada and on the history of Moroccan Jews. *Les Sépharades du Québec* (Sephardi Jews in Québec), Montréal, DelBusso, 2017 is her latest essay (dir). She is currently working on their post-colonial migrations and circulations between Morocco, France, Israël and Canada.

Miranda Crowds is a research associate at the European Centre for Jewish Music in Hanover, Germany. Her work includes interdisciplinary research in Jewish Studies with a particular focus on lived Jewish musical-liturgical practices. She earned her doctorate at City University London in 2016. Her book, *Hip Hop in Urban Borderlands* was published at the end of 2018 and she is currently working on her second monograph on Romaniote Jewry in North America.

Lois Dubin is a professor of religion and a member of the Jewish Studies Program at Smith College. She has published widely on 18th- and 19th-century Jewish history and thought, including her award-winning book *The Port Jews of Habsburg Trieste: Absolutist Politics and Enlightenment Culture*. Professor Dubin has served as a visiting professor or fellow at the Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris, and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Alexandra Vieux Frankel is a PhD student in social anthropology at York University, where she is also pursuing a graduate diploma in Jewish studies through the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre. Her research is situated at the intersection of Feminist Science and Technology Studies and Anthropology of Reproduction, where she is specifically interested in the uptake of direct-to-consumer fertility tests among North American Jewry.

Valentina Gaddi is a doctoral student in Sociology at Université de Montréal and IRTG-Diversity scholar. She obtained a Master in Sociology at the Université de Montréal, with a dissertation on the controversies about Hassidim in Outremont. Her current research adopts an ethnographic approach to explore the construction of gender among Jewish Hassidic women in Montreal. More broadly, Valentina is interested in religious pluralism, and the place of religion in contemporary society. She is currently the coordinator of the *Collectif Judeité(s)* at Université de Montréal.

Kenneth Grad is a lawyer and Ph.D. candidate at Osgoode Hall Law School. His dissertation is a legal history of the Zundel and Keegstra trials from the perspective of the Jewish community, exploring the utility of the criminal sanction as a tool for combatting hate speech and Holocaust denial. Before pursuing his doctorate, Kenneth served as a law clerk to Justice Morris Fish of the Supreme Court of Canada and practiced criminal law in Toronto.

Simone Grossman, professeure de littérature française et québécoise à l'université Bar Ilan (Israël), a pour domaine de recherche actuel les écrivains juifs de Montréal. Elle a publié récemment des articles sur l'œuvre romanesque de Pierre Lasry. Elle s'intéresse également à l'écriture féminine de la judéité au Canada, en particulier à des écrivaines telles que Elaine Kalman Naves, Chantal Ringuet et Magali Sauves.

Monda Halpern is a Professor in the Department of History at The University of Western Ontario. She specializes in nineteenth and twentieth-century Canadian and American gender history and Jewish history. Monda is the author of two books: *And on that Farm He Had a Wife: Ontario Farm Women and Feminism, 1900-1970* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001) and *Alice in Shandehland: Scandal and Scorn in the*

Edelson/Horwitz Murder Case (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015). Her work has also appeared in academic journals, including *Canadian Jewish Studies*, *Ontario History*, and *Social History*.

Megan Hollinger is a PhD student in Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. Her masters research examined legal responses to antisemitism in contemporary Canada. Her doctoral research explores social, community-based strategies for combating antisemitism that engage both Jewish and non-Jewish communities across Canada. Megan is currently the Membership Chair for the ACJS and is the incoming Treasurer.

Joseph Kary is a lawyer practicing in Toronto. His legal publications have included articles on Quebec legal history and on religious dispute resolution mechanisms, including an article on Montreal's Jewish private courts. His translations of Yiddish poems have appeared in the online journal *In Geveb* and in *The Online Treasury of Yiddish Poetry*.

David S. Koffman holds the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry, and is an associate professor in the Department of History at York University. His first monograph, *The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America* (Rutgers University Press, 2019), was awarded an AJS Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in 2020. His new edited collection, *No Better Home? Jews, Canada, and the Sense of Belonging*, was published earlier this year. He is the editor-in-chief of the journal *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*.

Nathan Lucky completed an MA degree from the History Department at UBC in the spring of 2021. The relationship between the press and the Holocaust has been a long-standing interest of his since he wrote about the Vancouver Jewish Press as part of his honours thesis on B.C. newspaper responses to the rise of Jewish persecution in the 1930s.

A doctoral student in sociology at the Université de Montréal, **Ashley Mayer-Thibault** studies the field of francophone Jewry in France, Québec, and Israel. He is interested in how networks of Jewishness "producers" (rabbis, intellectuals, journalists, activists etc.) understand, struggle over- and distribute "Jewish" legitimacy. This brings him to investigate some of the social mechanisms behind the making of "credible" Jewish discourse on a series of key topics such as positioning francophone diasporas in the Jewish world, defining antisemitism or the dialectics between Jewish "authenticity" and liberal modernity.

Richard Menkis is a professor of modern Jewish History in the Department of History at the University of British Columbia. He is the co-author, with Harold Troper, of *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics*, and was the 2018 awardee of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award. He is currently working with Pierre Anctil on a two-volume collection of documents on Canadian Jewish history.

Elizabeth Moorhouse-Stein is a PhD Candidate in Political Studies at Queen's University. Her research compares organized Jewish activism and advocacy regarding Israel in Canada, the United States, and France since 2000, especially the different impacts of left-leaning activism in these countries. Elizabeth was the Managing Editor of the ACJS journal, *Canadian Jewish Studies*, from 2015 to 2019.

Nancy Phillips is a master's student in history at York University. Her current research involves collecting oral histories to understand why Canadian Ashkenazi Jewish mothers fed their children bacon for medicinal purposes in the first half of the last century. Her undergraduate degree from York University is in mass communications and sociology, and she has a certificate in children's mental health from Humber College. She has also been a freelance writer and editor.

Norman Ravvin's recent publications include the novel, *The Girl Who Stole Everything*, and the co-edited volume *Kanade, Di Goldene Medine: Perspectives on Canadian Jewish Literature and Culture*. He is presently the Interim Director of Concordia University's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. He teaches in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia in Montreal.

Rotem Raz is a PhD student at the university of Toronto, OISE, in the program for Language and Literacies Education (LLE) in the department for Curriculum Teaching and Learning (CTL). Raz was raised on Kibbutz Yiftah in Israel and has been living in Toronto since 2005. He is a Hebrew teacher and an interdisciplinary artist. Arts based research methods are integral to his scholarship.

Raanan Rein is the Elías Sourasky Professor of Iberian and Latin American History and Head of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for International and Regional Studies. His most recent book is *Populism and Ethnicity: Peronism and the Jews of Argentina*, Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2020.

Ira Robinson is Chair in Quebec and Canadian Jewish Studies in the Department of Religions and Cultures and Director of the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec. Robinson has written, edited, and/or translated nineteen books, and he has also published over seventy articles in journals. He is president of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, and is past president of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies as well as the Jewish Public Library of Montreal. He is the 2013 winner of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies.

Yosef Robinson has a B.A. in Geography from Rutgers University, a Masters in City and Regional Planning from Ohio State University, a Masters in Environment from Concordia University, and a Masters in Religion (specializing in Judaic Studies) from Concordia University. He is currently an independent scholar, and he is engaged in Yiddish translation, sacred Jewish literature, and the history of early 20th-century Jewish life in Montreal.

Irving Rosen earned a MD at the University of Toronto medical school as well as a postgraduate education in Surgery at the same institute. A surgical fellowship followed at New York's Memorial Centre for Malignant Disease. He is currently a professor in the Department of Surgery at U of T. He has long retired from active surgical practice and pursues research in the history of medicine, as well as Canada's Jewish community.

Anna Sheftel is an Associate Professor of Conflict Studies at Saint Paul University. She is an expert on oral history, Holocaust testimony and memory of genocide. Her article, "Talking and Not Talking about Violence: Challenges in Interviewing Survivors of Atrocity as Whole People," won the 2019 Oral History Association (OHA) article award and her collaborative audio tour about Holocaust survivors' immigration and integration, "Refugee Boulevard: Making Montreal Home after the Holocaust," won both the 2020 OHA and Canadian Historical Association (CHA) Digital and Public History prizes.

David M. K. Sheinin is professor of History and director of the History Graduate Program at Trent University. He is a member of the National Academy of History of Argentina and the winner of Trent University's Distinguished Research Award (2017). His most recent books are *Race and Transnationalism in the Americas* (co-edited with Benjamin Bryce, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2021) and *Armed Jews in the Americas* (co-edited with Raanan Rein, Brill, 2021).

Jonathan Slater is the founding director of the Jewish Studies Program at SUNY Plattsburgh, where he also leads the campus's Institute for Ethics in Public Life and chairs the Department of Journalism and Public Relations. His research interests include the influence of mass media in the American Jewish experience, especially the role of radio in the first half of the twentieth century.

Mia Spiro is Senior Lecturer in Modern Jewish Culture and Holocaust Studies in Theology and Religious Studies at the School of Critical Studies, University of Glasgow. She is the author of *Anti-Nazi Modernism: The Challenges of Resistance in 1930s Fiction* (Northwestern UP, 2013) and has published works on Jewish representation in literature and film in the period leading up to WWII and on the impact of the Holocaust on post-war Jewish culture. She is currently working on a book, entitled 'Monsters and Jewish Migration: Golems, Dybbuks, and the Ghosts of War.'

Liat Steir-Livny is an Associate Professor in the Department of Culture at Sapir Academic College, and an advisor and course coordinator at the Open University of Israel. Her research focuses on Holocaust commemoration in Israel from the 1940s until the present. It combines Holocaust studies, Memory Studies, cultural Studies, Trauma studies and Film studies. She is the author of many articles and five books.

Joshua Tapper is a doctoral candidate in Jewish History at Stanford University. His dissertation examines the revival of Jewish organizational and cultural life in the final years of the Soviet Union and early post-Soviet period. He also coordinates *Toronto Jewry and the Coronavirus Pandemic: An Oral History Project*, about the impact of COVID-19 on Jewish communal life in Toronto.

Hernan Tesler-Mabé received his Ph.D. in History at the University of Ottawa and teaches in the departments of History, Modern Languages and Literature, and Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. His research centers on modern Jewish culture across the Diaspora, with a focus on the intersection of music and identity. Dr. Tesler-Mabé is President of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, and Coordinator of the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa.

Övgü Ülgen is a 4th-year Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University of Montreal. She explores how the linguistic and religious contexts North African and Turkish Jews found themselves in Canada have informed their sense of belonging and identity construction. Her project has been funded by FRQSC and IRTG Diversity. Previously, she earned her undergraduate degree in Turkey and her M.A. degree at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris, France which was awarded a scholarship.

Peter J. Usher is a retired geographer who lives near Clayton, Ontario. He is the author of *Joey Jacobson's War*, and has been writing about the experience of Canadian Jews in the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. He is currently working on a book about the life of the first Canadian Jewish war hero, William Henry Nelson, DFC.

Barbara Weiser is a Jewish Studies scholar and independent researcher living in Montreal with an interest in Canadian Jewish material culture; stained glass windows, Torah mantles, wedding canopies, grave stones and monuments. She has documented material culture and ritual spaces in synagogues, historical societies, Jewish community centres and cemeteries across Canada.

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