



# ASSOCIATION

*FOR CANADIAN JEWISH STUDIES*

*D'ÉTUDES JUIVES CANADIENNES*

**2026**

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE / CONFÉRENCE ANNUELLE**

**ISRAEL AND GOLDA KOSCHITZKY CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES**

**YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO, ON | MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2026**



## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is the first and only scholarly organization dedicated to advancing public knowledge on the Jewish experience in Canada through scholarship, research, and community-oriented projects.

Representing the diversity and interdisciplinarity of contemporary Canadian Jewish scholarship, our 2026 conference will explore topics of historical depth and contemporary relevance, including the intersections of Jewish identity with Canadian multiculturalism, Jewish engagement with politics, law, and social policy, antisemitism, racism, and responses to discrimination within Canada's Jewish communities, and comparative and contemporary perspectives on Jewish religious life, ritual, and observance in Canada.

Fifty years after its founding as the Canadian Jewish Historical Society, ACJS also invites critical reflection on the ways in which the Canadian experience has shaped the study of Jewish Canada, and vice versa.

### ACJS 2026 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Jonathan Slater (SUNY-Plattsburgh)

Matthew McKeown (York University)

## À PROPOS DU CONGRÈS

L'Association d'études juives canadiennes est la première et l'unique société savante consacrée à faire avancer les connaissances du public sur l'expérience juive au Canada grâce à l'érudition, à la recherche et aux projets axés sur la communauté.

Notre congrès de 2026 représente la diversité et l'interdisciplinarité de la recherche juive canadienne contemporaine. Le congrès enquêtera sur des sujets d'une profondeur historique et d'une pertinence contemporaine, y compris les intersections de l'identité juive avec le multiculturalisme canadien, l'engagement juif avec la politique, le droit et la politique sociale, l'antisémitisme, le racisme et les réponses à la discrimination au sein des communautés juives du Canada, et des perspectives comparatives et contemporaines sur la vie religieuse juive, les rituels et la pratique religieuse au Canada.

Cinquante ans après sa fondation en tant que la Société de l'histoire juive canadienne, l'Aéjc propose une réflexion critique sur la manière dont l'expérience canadienne a forgé l'étude du Canada juif, et vice versa.

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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Visit [acjs-aejc.ca](https://acjs-aejc.ca) to learn more about the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Visitez [acjs-aejc.ca](https://acjs-aejc.ca) pour en savoir plus sur l'Association d'études juives canadiennes

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

Rm 519, 763 Kaneff Tower, York University

|          |                        |   |
|----------|------------------------|---|
| 9:00 AM  | WELCOME                | Joshua Tapper (Executive Director, ACJS; Stanford University)   |
| 9:15 AM  | PODCAST TAPING         | <b>The Jewish Experience through the Arts: <i>Tête-à-tête: Conversations in Canadian Jewish Studies Live</i></b><br>Host Jonathan Slater, in conversation with Evelyn Tauben (Fentster/SHVILIM)   |
| 10:30 AM | BREAK                  |   |
| 10:50 AM | SPONSOR REMARKS        | David S. Koffman (York University)  |
| 11:00 AM | CONVERSATION & READING | <b>Life in the Literary and the (Re-)Emergence of <i>Parchment</i></b><br>Orly Zebak ( <i>Parchment</i> ), in conversation with <i>Parchment</i> board members Gary Barwin and Cynthia Good, with a reading of “Three Stars” by spring 2026 issue contributor Hannah Warry-Smith  |
| 12:15 AM | LUNCH                  |   |
| 1:15 PM  | PANEL                  | <b>Taking Root in Toronto: Narratives of Inclusion and Exclusion</b><br><i>Moderator: Sterling Stutz (University of Toronto)</i><br>Elliot Fonarev (University of Toronto), “Bageling Interrupted: How Toronto Jews Navigate Belonging in an Unsettled Time”<br>Noah Draper (Toronto Metropolitan University), “The Different Now is We’re Not Running: Exploring Narratives of Family History among Third Generation Holocaust Descendants in Toronto”<br>Luke Langille (Concordia University), “Hovels, Hunchbacks, and Hegemony: Racializing Jews in Scheunenviertel and St. John’s War”<br>Kelly Train (Toronto Metropolitan University), “Indian Jewish Women in Canada and the Preservation of Indian Jewish Cultural Identities and Religious Traditions through Food” |
| 2:30 PM  | WORKSHOP               | <b>AI-Aided Research in Canadian Jewish Studies</b><br><i>Led by: Sidney Shapiro (University of Lethbridge) and David S. Koffman (York University)</i>  |

|         |                     |  |
|---------|---------------------|--|
| 3:45 PM | BREAK               |  |
| 4:00 PM | PRESIDENT'S REMARKS | Norman Ravvin (Concordia University)   |
| 4:15 PM | AWARD CEREMONY      | <p><b>Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award Presentation</b></p> <p>2026 Winners<br/><i>Sheldon and Judy Godfrey</i></p>   |
| 4:30 PM | ROUNDTABLE          | <p><b>Fifty Years of Canadian Jewish Studies: A Roundtable with Past Winners of the Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award</b></p> <p>Norman Ravvin (Concordia University), in conversation with Ruth Panofsky (Toronto Metropolitan University), Janice Rosen (Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives), Randal Schnoor (York University), and Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia)</p> |



Canadian Jewish Historical Society panel, Montreal, 1967. Courtesy Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives

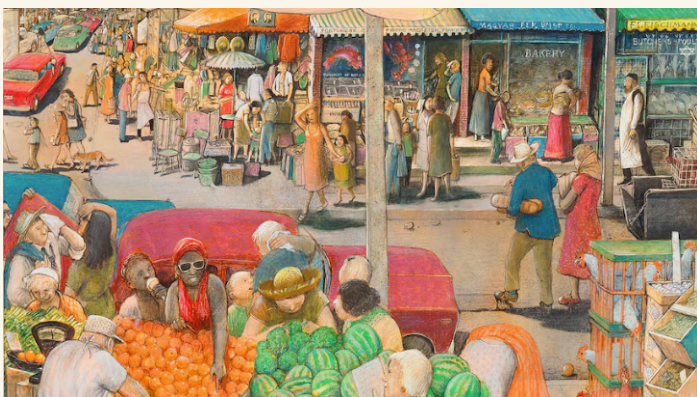
# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

Rm 519, 763 Kaneff Tower, York University

|          |                        |  |
|----------|------------------------|--|
| 8:00 AM  | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING |  |
| 9:45 AM  | SPONSOR REMARKS        | Mohammed Hamsin (Executive Director, Canadian Race Relations Foundation)   |
| 10:00 AM | PANEL                  | <p><b>Recollections of Montreal</b><br/> <i>Moderator: Jonathan Slater (SUNY-Plattsburgh)</i></p> <p>Lisa Grushcow (Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom), “Stern’s Sermons: A Half Century of Homiletics from the Reform Rabbi of Montreal”</p> <p>Jonah Fried (B’nai Brith Canada), “McGill University’s Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1963-1973: Historical Memory and the 2024 Gaza War Encampments”</p> <p>Célestin Stengelin (UQAM), « Les Juifs et leurs établissements médicaux à Montréal : l’intégration par institution »</p>   |
| 11:15 AM | PANEL                  | <p><b>Gender and Orthodoxies Shaping Canadian Judaism</b><br/> <i>Moderator: Miranda Crowdus (Concordia University)</i></p> <p>Deirdre Butler (Carleton University) and Betina Appel Kuzmarov (Carleton University), “Orthodox?: Troubling Orthopraxy, Gender, and the Experience of Jewish Divorce in Canada”</p> <p>Valentina Gaddi (Université de Montréal) and Alexandra Stankovich (Université de Sherbrooke), “Embodying the Hasidic Experience: Gender Norms From Within and the Margins of Orthodoxy”</p> <p>Chumie Juni (Carleton College), “‘I Found the Answer’: Discourses of Torah Study among Canadian Ultra-Orthodox Women”</p> |
| 12:30 PM | LUNCH & LEARN          | <p><b>A Mensch and a Scholar: A Tribute to Adam Fuerstenberg</b><br/> <i>Book Launch for <i>Transplanting Roots: The Adam Fuerstenberg Reader</i> (2025)</i></p> <p>Natalia Vesselova (University of Ottawa), in conversation with Norman Ravvin (Concordia University), Edward Trapunski (Canadian Jewish Literary Awards), Bernard Katz (University of Guelph), Seymour Mayne (University of Ottawa), and Zach Fuerstenberg)</p>   |

|                       |                            |  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <p><b>1:30 PM</b></p> | <p><b>PANEL</b></p>        | <p><b>Border Crossings: The Jewish Pro-Soviet Left in North America</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Robert Zecker (St. Francis Xavier University)</i></p> <p>Ester Reiter (York University), “Ties that Bind: The Jewish Left in Canada and the United States”</p> <p>Henry Srebrnik (University of Prince Edward Island), “Chaim Zhitlowsky and Secular Jewish Diaspora Nationalism in Canada and the United States”</p> <p>Elissa Sampson (Cornell University), “Heading Left and South: US and Canadian Connection, 1930–1950”</p>                   |
| <p><b>2:45 PM</b></p> | <p><b>BREAK</b></p>        |  |
| <p><b>3:00 PM</b></p> | <p><b>PANEL</b></p>        | <p><b>Writing Yiddish in Canada</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Joshua Tapper (Stanford University)</i></p> <p>Vivian Felsen (Independent), “The Forgotten Yiddish Writer Aleph Almi (1892-1963) and His Impact on Yiddish Culture in Toronto and Montreal from 1918 through the 1920s”</p> <p>Katarzyna Grabowska (Independent), “‘A Love Affair with Yiddish Letters’: Biographical Essay on Gershon Pomerantz”</p> <p>Miriam Borden (University of Toronto), “Between Empire and Desire: The Tone of Revolutionary Suspension in Nepom’s Poetry”</p> |
| <p><b>4:30 PM</b></p> | <p><b>WALKING TOUR</b></p> | <p><b>On the Jewish Streets of Toronto: A Kensington Market Walking Tour</b></p> <p><i>Led by: Miriam Borden (University of Toronto)</i></p>   |



William Kurelek, *Hot Day in Kensington Market*, 1972

Please meet outside the York University subway station, in front of Kaneff Tower, at 4:30 PM. We will travel downtown to Kensington Market as a group. The tour will begin at 5:30 PM and last for approximately one hour, concluding at the Kiever Shul (25 Bellevue Ave., between Nassau St. and Denison Square.) If you prefer to meet the group downtown, please arrive at our starting point, the Art Gallery of Ontario (317 Dundas St. W), before 5:30 PM.

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

### Rm 280N, York Lanes, York University

|          |       |  |
|----------|-------|--|
| 8:30 AM  | PANEL | <p><b>Retrieving the Holocaust</b><br/> <i>Moderator: Yasmine Lucas (University of Toronto)</i></p> <p>Adara Goldberg (Kean University), “‘Working Quietly and Persistently’: Locating Aged Holocaust Survivors in Canadian Jewish Archives”</p> <p>Katrina Hermann (University of British Columbia), “A Day to Remember: Developing the Holocaust High School Symposium, 1976–1983”</p> <p>Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia), “Spatial de-Nazification: Canadians and the Reconsecration of the Synagogue in Nijkerk, April 1945”</p>   |
| 9:45 AM  | BREAK |  |
| 10:00 AM | PANEL | <p><b>Sources of Remembrance</b><br/> <i>Moderator: Noam Lemish (York University)</i></p> <p>Hernan Tesler-Mabé (Huron University), “The Shoah Remembered, Musically”</p> <p>Marco Chiaretti (Sapienza University of Rome), “Belonging After Testimony: Canadian Jewish Memory Beyond the Survivor Era”</p> <p>Diego Rotman (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Ensembled Memories: On the Dora Wasserman Theatre/Archives (Montreal)”</p> <p>Miranda Crowdus (Concordia University), “Sonic Heritage Diversity: Songs of Middle Eastern and North African Jews in Montreal”</p>  |
| 11:15 AM | PANEL | <p><b>Political Pluralism, Cultural Belonging, and Canadian Jewish Identity</b><br/> <i>Moderator: Janice Rosen (Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives)</i></p> <p>Randal Schnoor (York University), “Widening the Tent? Navigating Non-Zionist Identity in Jewish Canada”</p> <p>Simone Grossman (Bar-Ilan University), « Déconnexion et ruptures chez les Hassidiques de Montréal »</p> <p>Marcin Janczak (University of Toronto), « La femme hassidique entre deux mondes – salut ou condamnation ? La voix féminine, le tabou et l’amour interdit dans <i>Hadassa</i>, <i>Yioh!</i> et <i>Félix et Meira</i> »</p> |

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

### Rm 280N, York Lanes, York University

|          |               |  |
|----------|---------------|--|
| 12:30 PM | LUNCH & LEARN | <p><b>Book Presentation: <i>From Popular Front to Cold War: The Interracial Left and the International Workers Order, 1930–1954</i></b></p> <p>A conversation with Elissa Sampson (Cornell University), Henry Srebrnik (University of Prince Edward Island), and Robert Zecker (St. Francis Xavier University)</p>   |
| 1:30 PM  | PANEL         | <p><b>Evoking the Holocaust</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Adara Goldberg (Kean University)</i></p> <p>Nathalie Dolbec (University of Windsor), « Un air de parenté dans le descriptif d’Eva et Ruda : récit à deux voix de survivants de l’Holocauste d’Eva et Rudolph Roden »</p> <p>Anna Sheftel (Concordia University), “The Untold Story of Holocaust Survivor Activism: The Association of Survivors of Nazi Oppression (ASNO)”</p> <p>Barbara Weiser (Independent), “Canadian Holocaust Memorials: Mourning a Painful Chapter in Jewish History”</p>                                |
| 2:45 PM  | BREAK         |  |
| 3:00 PM  | PANEL         | <p><b>Canadian Jewish Lives in Transition</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: David S. Koffman (York University)</i></p> <p>Jordan Molot (Concordia University), “Jewish Woman, Atlantic Subject: Life, Love, and Labour in the Letters of Dorothea Judah Hart”</p> <p>Irving Rosen (Independent), “Abraham Isadore Willinsky: A Pioneer MD in Pioneer Toronto”</p> <p>Janis Rosen (Independent), “Louis Rubenstein: The Father of Canadian Figure Skating”</p>   |
| 4:15 PM  | PANEL         | <p><b>Contending with Antisemitism in a Canadian Context</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Jonathan Slater (SUNY-Plattsburgh)</i></p> <p>Sara Klein (UQAM), « La reconfiguration des relations entre l’État-nation canadien et les Juifs québécois dans un contexte de resurgence de l’antisemitisme »</p> <p>Mia Theocharis (University of Toronto), “Shared Responsibility: The Canadian Council of Christians and Jews and the Postwar Struggle Against Antisemitism in Ontario and Quebec”</p> <p>Irina Levit (York University), “Antisemitism on Quebec Campuses Pre- and Post-10/7”</p> |

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Gary Barwin** is a writer, musician and multimedia artist and the author of 36 books including the national bestselling, *Yiddish for Pirates*. He has been shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award and has won the League of Canadian Poets' Lifetime Membership Award, the Leacock Medal, and—three times—the Canadian Jewish Literary Award. Forthcoming books include a novel, *The Comedian's Book of the Dead* (Book\*Hug Press, fall 2026) and poetry, *Take Rain* (with Elee Kraljii Gardiner, ECW, spring 2027). Barwin lives in Hamilton.

**Miriam Borden** is a PhD candidate in Yiddish Studies at the University of Toronto and a lecturer in Yiddish at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research examines motifs of marginality within modern Yiddish discourse, analyzing the ways mediated, adapted, and sub-canonical texts like lullabies, children's textbooks, and vernacular Bibles have been central to the continuity of Yiddish culture.

**Deidre Butler** is director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University and an associate professor in the Religion program, specializing in modern Judaism and gender and sexuality. She is also co-president of NECA and president of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies. She is collaborating with Betina Appel Kuzmarov on a joint interdisciplinary ethnographic project, *Troubling Orthopraxy: A Study of Jewish Divorce in Canada*.

**Marco Chiaretti** is a PhD candidate in Music and Performing Arts (Sapienza University of Rome, cotutelle Universidad de Murcia). His research focuses on the representation of the Holocaust and German-Jewish memory in contemporary visual and digital culture, with particular attention to social media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok. His work combines memory studies, visual culture, and media studies to analyze processes of aestheticization, depoliticization, and ideological conflict in digital remembrance practices. In addition to his academic research, he works as a journalist and educator, engaging with public history and memory transmission in secondary education.

**Miranda Crowds** is associate professor at the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University where she also holds the Research Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies. Her research interests lie at the intersection of ethnomusicology and Jewish studies and Critical Heritage studies. She earned her doctorate at City University London in 2016. She was a research associate at the European Centre for Jewish Music in Hanover, Germany. Her book, *Hip Hop in Urban Borderlands*, was published in 2019. She recently concluded a DFG-funded project, "Queering Jewish Cultural Heritage in Europe: Jewish Transformations Through Reparative Response and Creative Encounter." An edited volume with Routledge based on the project will appear in June 2026.

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Nathalie Dolbec**, professeure agrégée au Département de langues, littératures et cultures de l'Université de Windsor (Canada), enseigne la littérature francophone du Canada ainsi que la théorie littéraire contemporaine. Elle s'intéresse, dans une perspective narratologique, au fonctionnement du discours descriptif dans la littérature francophone du Canada, en particulier à l'écriture migrante consacrée à la Shoah. Dolbec est l'auteure de l'ouvrage *Les Rouges du descriptif chez Gabrielle Roy*, publié en 2017 aux Éditions Nota bene (Montréal).

**Noah Draper** is an MA graduate in Immigration and Settlement Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. His research focuses on Holocaust memory, and more broadly, how Canadians narrate and derive meaning from their family history. In 2025, he completed an archival research project for the Toronto Ward Museum, highlighting the lives of four historical Jewish Torontonians. He previously worked at Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) Toronto.

**Vivian Felsen** is an award-winning translator of both French and Yiddish into English. Her published translations from Yiddish include books on Canadian Jewish history, Holocaust memoirs, and short stories. More recently, her translations were included in *On the Waves of Destiny: The Selected Writings of Lili Berger* (University of Toronto Press, 2025), and Moshe Broderzon's *Idle Chatter: One of the Stories* (Harrassowitz Publishing House, 2025).

**Elliot Fonarev** is a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto in the Department of Sociology, with a collaborative specialization at the Anne Tenenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. He is also a Research Fellow at the Lab for the Global Study of Antisemitism at the University of Toronto. His research examines social change, community formation, and belonging in Canadian society, with particular emphasis on cultural transformations to Jewish life in the city. He has a background in law and also works as an experiential learning mentor and organizational consultant to civil society organizations around the world.

**Jonah Fried** is a researcher and communications specialist at B'nai Brith Canada, where he studies antisemitism and online extremism. He earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in History from McGill University. His writing has appeared in *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*, *The Jerusalem Post*, and other publications. The views expressed in his paper are his alone and do not necessarily reflect those of his employer(s).

**Zack Fuerstenberg** leads distribution teams that drive growth for Co-operators Life and CUMIS General. With 25+ years in financial services, he brings expertise across product, strategy, operations, marketing, and innovation, with prior leadership roles at Scotiabank, Assurant, Visa, CertaPay (a startup he founded, now part of Interac), and TD. He holds bachelor's degrees in engineering (University of Toronto) and international relations (York University), and master's degrees in political economy (London School of Economics), and business (Ivey). Zack is married to Dana Glassman (a CBC journalist), and has two children, Maya (18) and Lea (14), and a cockapoo named Roxy (6).

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Valentina Gaddi** is a doctoral student in sociology at Université de Montréal. Her thesis explores the construction of gender among Hasidic Jewish women in Montreal, based on a four-year ethnography. More broadly, her academic work focuses on the place of pious citizens in democratic societies. Her work has received support from the CRSH (Vanier Scholar 2017–2020, IRTG-Diversity Scholar 2020–2023). She is the co-creator of the podcast *Ma-Nishtana* and the coordinator of the Collectif Judéité(s) at Université de Montréal. She is also the French-language associate editor of *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*.

**Adara Goldberg** is the executive director of the Holocaust Resource Center, the Council on Global Education and Citizenship, and the Human Rights Institute at Kean University (Union, NJ). She previously held postdoctoral fellowships at Hebrew University and Stockton University and served as education director of the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

**Cynthia Good** was Penguin Canada's first editorial director, hired to originate the Canadian publishing program. She rose to be president and publisher, and after twenty years at Penguin she became the founding director of the Creative Book Publishing Program at Humber College, where she was named professor emerita. She also holds an honorary degree from Mount Allison University. She facilitates many Jewish book clubs, has acted on a variety of publishing and literary juries, and presents Good Books, a popular free discussion on reading every second Tuesday.

**Katarzyna Grabowska** is a historian, journalist, and researcher into the development of Jewish culture and commemoration of history. She has participated in several academic conferences, where she lectured on Polish-Jewish history and the contemporary development of Polish-Jewish relations. In 2017, Grabowska founded the Gszarim Foundation, where she led projects involving the translation of historical books from Yiddish. In 2020, she published *Polak nierdzennie Polski* (A Pole Not Natively Polish) and in 2023 edited and published Simche Polakiewicz's *W cieniu Treblinka* (In the Shadow of Treblinka).

**Lisa J. Grushcow** serves as senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Westmount, Quebec, and is an affiliate faculty member of the School of Religious Studies at McGill University. She received her BA from McGill and her MPhil and DPhil from Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Her rabbinic ordination is from the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion. Her writing appears in both academic and non-academic publications.

**Simone Grossman** est professeure de littérature française et québécoise à l'Université Bar-Ilan. Ses domaines de recherche actuels sont l'inscription littéraire de l'Holocauste à Montréal et les écrivains juifs francophones du Québec. Elle est l'auteure de *Regard, peinture et fantastique au Québec* (Québec, Éditions de l'Instant même, 2006) et de nombreuses études sur la littérature québécoise contemporaine.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Katrina Hermann** is an MA student in History at the University of British Columbia. She earned a BA with joint honours in History and German Studies from McGill University, during which she analyzed the development of Holocaust memory and memorials in the GDR. Through her work at the Montreal Holocaust Museum (MHM), she became interested in the Canadian context of Holocaust memory. This interest developed into her SSHRC-funded graduate research, which interrogates the role of grassroots organizations in creating spaces of memory through a comparative case study of the MHM and the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

**Mohammed Hamsin** is CEO and executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, with over twenty years of experience as a human rights advocate in Canada. His work has spanned civil society, government, and the labour movement, with a focus on advancing innovative public policy to address racism and strengthen inclusion. Under Mohammed's leadership, the CRRF has helped shape national anti-racism strategies, convened critical public conversations, and supported communities across Canada in developing local responses to systemic discrimination. A strategic leader and coalition-builder, Mohammed works at the intersection of policy, community, and institutions, advancing practical solutions to combat hate, strengthen public trust, and ensure democratic systems better reflect and serve diverse communities.

**Marcin Janczak** est doctorant en littérature française à l'Université de Toronto, où il prépare une thèse intitulée « Au carrefour des cultures : la représentation de l'identité juive dans la littérature québécoise », qui explore les héritages juifs français, espagnols, slaves et arabes des Amériques. Il est également inscrit au programme collaboratif Granovsky-Gluskin en études juives au Centre Anne Tanenbaum et Junior Fellow au Massey College.

**Chumie Juni** is assistant professor of Religion at Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She is the author of "The Incoherent Subject: Piety and Dissonance in Ultra-Orthodox Women's Prayer Rituals," published in the *Journal of Religious Ethics*. Her first book project (manuscript in progress) is titled *Halakhic Women: Gender and Ritual in American Orthodox Judaism*.

**Bernard Katz**, long retired from the University of Guelph and an ACJS member since it was the CJHS, has given conference papers and was treasurer for several years. Bernie has a BA from the University of Toronto, an MA from Johns Hopkins University, and a graduate library science degree from the University of Toronto. He's taught English at then Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, where he first met Adam Fuerstenberg. His fifty-year memoir of Adam is in the commemorative volume, *Transplanting Roots*.

**Sara Klein** a effectué son baccalauréat et sa maîtrise en science politique en France, à l'Université de Lille, à l'Université de Picardie Jules Verne et à l'Université de Bordeaux. Elle est actuellement doctorante en sociologie à l'Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), sous la direction de Frédérick Guillaume Dufour. Spécialisée en sociologie politique, ses intérêts de recherche portent sur l'antisémitisme, le judaïsme et les communautés juives québécoises et françaises.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**David Koffman** is the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry at York University, an associate professor in the Department of History, and a cultural and social historian of modern Jewish life, with a specialization in Canadian and US Jewries. He holds a PhD, MA, and MPA from NYU, an MA from the University of Toronto, and a BA (Honours) from McGill. Koffman serves as the associate director of the Israel & Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, and the program coordinator for the Jewish Studies undergraduate program at York University. He is the editor-in-chief of the journal *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*. His research interests encompass history, multiculturalism and ethnic studies, modern Jewish history, historiography, nineteenth- and twentieth-century Canadian and US social and cultural history, race, religion, medicine and gender, colonialism, and indigenous-settler relations.

**Betina Kuzmarov** is associate vice president and vice-provost (International Student Experience and Strategic Partnerships) at Carleton University and an associate professor in the Law and Legal Studies program, specializing in international law and the intersection between law and religion.

**Luke F. Langille** is a translator and emerging scholar pursuing an MA in Art History at Concordia University. A longtime cultural worker, Luke has organized events with AA Bronson, Lynda Barry, Alison Bechdel, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Deanna Bowen, Julie Doucet, Stan Douglas, Lee Lai, Fran Lebovitz, Jason Lutes, Kenneth Montague, and Walter Scott. His writing has appeared in *Elle Canada*, *Chatelaine*, and *Literary Hub*. His most recent translation, of Geneviève Bigué's graphic novel *When the Lake Burns*, was published in 2024 by Conundrum Press.

**Irina Levit** is a PhD student in the Socio-Legal Studies program at York University. Her research interests include the language of dehumanization, propaganda and influence, cognitive and social identity biases in large language models, and antisemitism.

**Seymour Mayne** is the author, editor, or translator of more than eighty books. His latest collections include the personal anthology, *In Your Words: Translations from the Yiddish and the Hebrew* (Ronald P. Frye & Co., 2017) and *Le chant de Moïse* (Mémoire d'encrier, 2018), a bilingual English-French selection of biblical poems. He edited *Transplanting Roots: The Adam Fuerstenberg Reader* (Ronald P. Frye & Co., 2025). He is professor emeritus at the University of Ottawa.

**Richard Menkis** is associate professor of Jewish History at the University of British Columbia. His recent publications include, with Harold Troper, *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* (2015), and with Pierre Anctil, *In a "Land of Hope": Documents on the Canadian Jewish Experience*, vol. 1 (2023). In 2018 he won the Association for Canadian Studies' Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award, and in 2023 the Dean of Arts Award for "outstanding contributions to the Faculty of Arts."

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**Jordan Molot** is a PhD student in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University. His research explores eighteenth-century Jewish settlement in Canada, with a particular focus on the lives of early Jewish women. His forthcoming thesis, tentatively titled “Atlantic Intimacies: Life, Love, and Labour in Early Jewish Canada,” is expected for defence in 2027.

**Ruth Panofsky**, FRSC, is a professor of English at Toronto Metropolitan University, where she teaches courses on Canadian Jewish Literature and Holocaust Literature. She is the author of *The Force of Vocation: The Literary Career of Adele Wiseman* and co-editor of *The Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman*. She co-edited volume 32 of *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes* devoted to Canadian Holocaust literature.

**Norman Ravvin** is a writer, teacher, and critic. His recent book is *Who Gets In: An Immigration Story* (University of Regina Press). He has published novels and short stories, including *The Girl Who Stole Everything*. His essays on Jewish writers can be found in *A House of Words: Jewish Writing, Identity, and Memory*. He is co-editor of *The Canadian Jewish Studies Reader* and *Failure's Opposite: Listening to A.M. Klein*. A native of Calgary, he lived in Vancouver, Toronto, and Fredericton before settling in Montreal. He teaches in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University.

**Ester Reiter** is a professor emerita from York University, where she taught in the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and was a member of the Centre for Jewish Studies. She is the author of a book on the Jewish left, *A Future without Hate or Need: the promise of the Jewish Left in Canada*.

**Janice Rosen** has been the Archives Director of the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives, formerly known as the Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, since 1989. She is a co-creator of the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, a database-driven website showcasing the holdings of several partner archives and museums. She chairs the Archives Committee of ACJS, and has written several archival resource articles for *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*. A native of Montreal, she graduated from McGill University and the University of Virginia, specializing in cultural anthropology. She was awarded the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service award in 2016.

**Janis Rosen**, born in Toronto in 1962, was a competitive figure skater with the Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club. She earned degrees in Social Work and Education and taught middle school with the Toronto District School Board for over twenty years, creating programs focused on Jewish education. Now retired, she enjoys time with her partner Mike, their dog Mya, and her three granddaughters, who inspire her to value and share her heritage. After attending the World Figure Skating Championships in Montreal, she felt renewed motivation to honor Louis Rubenstein, the father of Canadian figure skating.

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**Irving Rosen** was awarded the McEacheran Fellowship, which he spent at Memorial Hospital, New York City, in 1960. He is currently a member of the Department of Surgery at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, where his activities are devoted to the history of medicine and its presentation.

**Diego Rotman** is an assistant professor in the Department of Theater Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He works at the intersection of performance, archival practice, and Yiddish studies. His research focuses on Yiddish theatre, postwar Jewish cultural production, and informal modes of knowledge transmission through performance. Through archival research, oral history, and artistic practice, he explores theatre as a site of embodied memory, communal authorship, and cultural continuity.

**Elissa Sampson** is an urban geographer who studies how the past is actively used to create new spaces of migration, memory, heritage, and activism. She has pursued a life-long interest in migration, diaspora, re-diasporization, and immigrant culture on New York's Lower East Side, and in Brooklyn, Jerusalem, and Paris, making visible dynamic interactions among diasporas in shared spaces/places. Sampson is a frequent public speaker at talks, lectures, academic and community events, and has been featured in movies and podcasts. As a research associate in Cornell University's Jewish Studies Program, she has worked extensively with Cornell's Kheel Center confiscated Cold War archives on the International Workers Order (IWO), including their partial digitization. She co-organized a public, online academic conference, "Di Linke" (the Left), based largely on its archival Jewish Section holdings and has taught labor and gender history, including the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, its memorialization, and relationship to current activism. She has authored "Yiddish Leftists as Early Inter-Ethniks" in *Beyond Whiteness: Revisiting Jews in Ethnic America*; "Grunge Authenticity: The Tenement as Upscale Tourist Destination," in *Tourism Gentrification in Contemporary Metropolises, International Perspectives*; "Yosl Rakover Speaks to G-d," in *Imagining the Jewish God*; and "Louis Wirth and the American Image of the Frankfurt Ghetto" (with Jonathan Boyarin) in *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge*. She is the co-editor and contributor to a new book, *From Popular Front to Cold War: The Interracial Left and the International Workers Order, 1930–1954* (Cornell University Press, 2026).

**Randal Schnoor**, a sociologist, holds a PhD from McGill University and has been teaching Jewish Studies at York University for over twenty years. He is an award-winning teacher and the 2024 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award for lifetime achievement in the field. He teaches a course at York entitled "Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Canada" and facilitates the Bridging the Gap Israel/Palestine student dialogue group at York University and the University of Toronto.

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**Sidney Shapiro** is an assistant professor of Business Analytics at the University of Lethbridge's Dhillon School of Business and an adjunct assistant professor of Computer Science, with more than a decade of experience across data science, business analytics, data engineering, machine learning, and automation. His research and teaching focus on the practical and responsible use of AI in business, education, healthcare, program evaluation, and community innovation, with particular interests in AI adoption, data privacy, business intelligence, social network analytics, and ethical data collection. Prior to joining the University of Lethbridge, he led data science work in the occupational health and safety sector and held academic roles in business analytics and data analytics education. Shapiro's work connects applied research with real-world decision-making through partnerships in agriculture, tourism, health, municipal innovation, and small business, and he is active in public engagement through invited talks, media commentary, and the *AI in Action* podcast. He has published and presented widely on AI, data analytics, emerging technology, evaluation, and business education.

**Anna Sheftel** is principal and professor in the School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University. She does oral history of genocide, violence and migration. She has worked with Holocaust survivors for over 18 years, and has published extensively on oral history practice and ethics, most notably *Oral History Off the Record* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).

**Jonathan Slater** is a seasoned communications professional originally from New York City. Slater is professor emeritus of public relations at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, where he also directed the Institute for Ethics in Public Life and founded and led the institution's Jewish Studies Program. Dr. Slater is host of *Tête-à-tête: Conversations in Canadian Jewish Studies*, the official podcast of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies. He is currently at work on a book about the influence of television on Quebec's social and political development during the tumultuous years between the province's Quiet Revolution and October Crisis. His other research interests focus on Emile Berliner, the principal pioneer of Canada's recording industry, and on the posthumous celebrity of singer, poet, and songwriter Leonard Cohen. Dr. Slater is a faculty associate of SUNY Plattsburgh's Center for the Study of Canada and currently serves on the board of the Marshall McLuhan Initiative, in Winnipeg. Dr. Slater earned his doctorate at New York University. He and his family live on Montreal's South Shore.

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**Henry Srebrnik** is a professor of comparative politics and ethnic relations in the Department of Political Science at the University of Prince Edward Island, in Charlottetown. His research examines the impact of nationalism and ethnically based political conflict among diaspora peoples. He obtained BA and MA degrees in political science and history at McGill University and an MA in Contemporary Jewish Studies at Brandeis University. His 1984 PhD in political science, from the University of Birmingham, was entitled “The Jewish Communist Movement in Stepney: Ideological Mobilization and Political Victories in an East London Borough, 1935-45.” Apart from numerous academic articles in journals and anthologies, he has written three books on the subject of Jewish communities and Communist movements: *London Jews and British Communism, 1935-1945* (Valentine Mitchell, 1995); *Jerusalem on the Amur: Birobidzhan and the Canadian Jewish Communist Movement, 1924-1951* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2008); and *Dreams of Nationhood: American Jewish Communists and the Soviet Birobidzhan Project, 1924-1951* (Academic Studies Press, 2010). With Matthew Hoffman, he co-edited *A Vanished Ideology: Essays on the Jewish Communist Movement in the English-speaking World in the Twentieth Century* (SUNY Press, 2016). He also wrote *Creating the Chupah: The Zionist Movement and the Drive for Jewish Communal Unity in Canada, 1898-1921* (Academic Studies Press, 2011) and co-edited *De Facto States: The Quest for Sovereignty* (Routledge, 2004).

**Alexandra Stankovich** est doctorante à l’Université de Sherbrooke. Elle travaille sur le concept d’intermarginalité, plus précisément en lien avec les figures publiques s’identifiant comme queer d’expérience hassidique. À partir d’une démarche de philosophie de terrain, Alex suggère que les revendications que ces personnes avancent dans l’espace public modifient les dynamiques normatives, complexifiant ainsi la discussion sur le religieux, l’orthodoxie et la perméabilité de leurs frontières.

**Célestin Stengelin** termine sa maîtrise en histoire à l’Université du Québec à Montréal sous la direction des professeurs Pierre Anctil et Greg Robinson. Il étudie l’histoire de la communauté juive de Montréal au début du XXe siècle, notamment le rôle qu’ont joué les institutions médicales de la communauté dans son processus d’intégration.

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**Evelyn Tauben** is a curator, producer and writer based in Toronto and originally from Montreal. She is a leader in the field of contemporary Jewish art and culture with 20 years of experience in museums, galleries and arts organizations including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Renwick Gallery, the National Museum of American History, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Koffler Centre of the Arts. In her capacity at the Koffler, Tauben oversaw the Koffler Gallery where she curated the exhibition, *Spin Off: Contemporary Art Circling the Mandala* (2011). She also curated exhibitions featuring the photography of Andrew Moore (New York), Zion Ozeri (Israel) and D.R. Cowles (Montreal). Tauben's range of curatorial experience includes developing exhibitions for non-traditional and multi-use spaces. In 2016, she launched the artist-run window gallery, FENTSTER, which featured site-specific installations connected to the Jewish experience, extending her deep interest in democratizing art and animating the urban landscape with contemporary art. Tauben has curated content for festivals including the Ashkenaz Festival (Toronto) and Le Mood (Montreal). She has presented at conferences in Poland, New York, Montreal, Indianapolis, Toronto, and England. Tauben's writing has been published in the award-winning book *Graphic Details* (McFarland, 2014), the *Forward*, *AJS Perspectives*, and *The Canadian Jewish News*, where she contributed a regular arts column. She sits on the board of KlezKanada and previously served on the board of Kaeja d'Dance. Currently, she is the project director of SHVILIM.

**Hernan Tesler-Mabé** is an associate professor and coordinator of the Jewish Studies program at Huron University in London, Ontario. His research centers on modern Jewish history and culture across the diaspora, with a focus on the intersection of Jewish culture and identity. He is past president of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies.

**Mia Theocharis** is an early-career scholar and course instructor at the University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto, where she teaches interreligious communication, world religions, and religion in the public sphere. Her research focuses on Jewish-Christian relations, particularly in relation to the Catholic Church, the Holocaust, antisemitism, and contemporary questions of moral responsibility. She also serves as Director of Advocacy, Emerging Campuses at Hillel Ontario.

**Kelly Amanda Train** is a contract lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Toronto Metropolitan University. Her recent publications include work on Indian Jewish families and communities in Canada and North America across multiple edited volumes and journals. She holds a PhD in sociology from York University.

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**Edward Trapunski** is the chair of the Canadian Jewish Literary Awards jury. The Canadian Jewish Literary Awards is an offshoot of the Canadian Jewish Book Awards, which were founded and led by Adam Fuerstenberg. Trapunski served with Fuerstenberg on the Canadian Book Awards committee for many years. He is a writer and broadcaster and the author of four books, one of which was number one on the *Financial Post* best-seller list. A producer for CBC Radio and Television for over twenty years, he won the ACTRA Award as Best Writer, Radio Documentary for his work on the five-hour production *George Orwell: A Radio Biography*. He was senior producer of *The Arts Report* on CBC Radio, which won the Imperial Oil Award for Excellence in Arts Journalism. He was a founding member of Toronto Women in Film and Television and was an editor of *Changing Focus: The Future for Women in the Canadian Film and Television Industry*.

**Hannah Warry-Smith** is a Jewish Canadian writer based in Toronto. She has an Honours BA from OCAD and an MA in creative and life writing from Goldsmiths, University of London. Her work has been long-listed for the Pat Kavanaugh Prize in conjunction with United Agents and has been published in *Goldfish Writing Journal* and *Judith Magazine*. She is interested in storytelling as spell casting and is working on her first novel.

**Natalia Vesselova** holds a PhD equivalent in Literary Theory and a PhD in English. She is the coordinator of the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa. Natalia teaches Yiddish culture, literature, and film, as well as a course on Jewish Canadian writers. Her primary research field is Jewish Canadian literature, with a focus on Leonard Cohen's poetry and prose. She has published on comparative literatures, Central and Eastern European literatures and cultural studies, and Canadian literature. Her current interests include contemporary Jewish Canadian poetry and theatre.

**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, gravestones and monuments. She has documented Jewish material culture and ritual spaces in synagogues, historical societies, Jewish community centres and cemeteries across Canada. Her findings (more than 10,000 images) have been placed at the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives and the Center for Jewish Art at Hebrew University. Weiser is editor of a soon-to-be-launched website, “Canadian Jewish Ritual Art—150 Years of Creativity and Faith.”

**Orly Zebak** is the editor-in-chief of *Parchment*, the managing editor at *Brick, A Literary Journal*, and the co-founder of *Niv* magazine. When she is not making magazines, she performs and writes stand-up comedy.

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**Robert M. Zecker** is a professor of history at St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, Canada, where he teaches courses in race, immigration, social movements, and US history. His research includes immigration, radicalism and the popular culture of immigrants on the left. He is the author of five books, including *“A Road to Peace and Freedom”: The International Workers Order and the Struggle for Economic Justice and Civil Rights, 1930-1954* (Temple University Press.) He has also contributed book chapters to eight edited volumes, most recently, “Spotlight on Jim Crow: Radical Immigrant Papers Cover Race and Civil Rights,” in *Immigration and Exile: The Foreign-Language Press in the U.K. and U.S.* (Bloomsbury). He has published numerous articles in journals such as the *Journal of American Ethnic History*, the *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, *Oral History Review*, *Ethnic Forum*, *American Studies*, the *Journal of Social History*, the *Journal of Popular Culture*, the *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, the *Journal of Working Class Studies*, and *American Communist History*. Dr. Zecker has presented his research at conferences in Canada, the US, the United Kingdom, Holland, Greece, France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Finland, Turkey, and Ireland. Dr. Zecker’s current research includes a book manuscript on Communist Party workers’ schools. Before entering the academic racket, Zecker was an ink-stained wretch foisting journalism on an unsuspecting public in his native New Jersey.

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