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# Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

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# Association d'études juives canadiennes

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Online

May 29-31, 2022 | du 29 au 31 mai 2022

All times EDT

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.

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## SUNDAY, MAY 29 | DIMANCHE LE 29 MAI

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### 12:00 – 1:30 PM: Welcome and Session 1: Literature

Chair: Jesse Toufexis (University of Ottawa)

Jonathan Slater (SUNY Plattsburgh), *Naim Kattan and the Canadian Comet*

Simone Grossman (Bar Ilan University), *Déchirement et perdition chez les jeunes filles hassidiques dans Yioch ! de Magali Sauves*

Hadassah Danit O'Reilly (Independent), *Considering Jews as the Target of Christian Antisemitism Confirmed in the Christie Pits Graphic Novel*

### 1:45 – 2:45 PM: Session 2: Songs

Chair: Hernan Tesler-Mabe (University of Ottawa)

Miranda Crowdus (Concordia University), *The Musical Tastes of Jewish Montrealers: Preferences and Practices during the Pandemic*

Mariana Dobrev-Holder (University of Toronto), *Songs of the Plague*

### 3:00 – 4:30 PM: Session 3: Antisemitism and Holocaust Commemoration

Chair: TBD

Sean Remz (Concordia University), *The Hungarian Martyrs Synagogue and its Sisterhood: a locus of Holocaust commemoration avant la lettre*

Jason Chalmers (Concordia University), *Decolonising the Montreal Holocaust Museum*

Megan Hollinger (University of Ottawa), *Combating Antisemitism in Contemporary Canada: Lessons Learned and Future Directions*

### 4:30 – 5:00 PM: Break/Open Schmooze Session

### 5:00 – 6:30 PM: Session 4: Roundtable on Canadian Jewish Studies and Australian Jewish Studies

Chair: David Koffman (York University)

Mort Weinfeld (Social Science)

Adina Bankier-Karp (Social Science)

Yolande Cohen (Sephardi History)

David Graham (Demographics)

Dara Solomon (Museums, Holocaust Edu)

Breann Fallon (Museums, Holocaust Education)

**6:30 – 8:15 PM: Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award Presentation to Michael Brown, followed by:  
“The Backwards March”: an Interactive Evening with KlezKanada**  
Hosted by Hernan Tesler-Mabé, with Avia Moore and guests

**MONDAY, MAY 30 | LUNDI 30 MAI**

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**8:30 – 10:45 AM: Annual General Meeting and Open Board Meeting**

**10:45 AM – 12:15 PM: Session 5: Roundtable: Gender and Canadian Jewish Studies: a Conversation about Present and Future Directions**

Moderated by: Valentina Gaddi (Université de Montréal)  
Deidre Butler (Carleton University)  
Anne Letourneau (Université de Montréal)  
Jessica Roda (Georgetown University)

**12:15 – 2:00 PM: Lunch Break and Online Cooking Class: *Kosher Poutine* with Lori Hoch Stiefel from PJ Library**

**2:00 – 3:45 PM: Session 6: Canadian Jewish History 1**

Chair: Megan Hollinger (University of Ottawa)  
Ira Robinson and Yosef Robinson (Concordia University), *Maimonides for the Masses?: Rabbi Chaim Kruger, the Keneder Adler, and Medieval Jewish Philosophy*  
Emily Belmonte (York University), *Gender & the Canadian Jewish Fur Trader Experience: Expansion & Colonialism in British North America – 1759 to 1812*  
Michael Kent (Library and Archives Canada), *A Marriage Campaign: Anxieties over Singlehood Found in the Jewish Times*

**4:30 – 6:00 PM: Session 7: Roundtable on Canadian Jewish History & Australian Jewish History**

Chair: David Koffman (York University)  
Rebecca Margolis (Monash University) William Rubinstein (Aberystwyth University)  
Hernan Tesler-Mabé (University of Ottawa) Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)  
Richard Menkis (UBC)

**TUESDAY, MAY 31 | MARDI 31 MAI**

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**9:00 - 10:30 AM: Session 8: Roundtable: The Role of Storytelling Traditions in Canadian Life Writing about the Holocaust**

Chair: Stephanie Corazza (Azrieli Foundation)  
Vardit Lightstone (University of Toronto and Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
David Koffman (York University)  
Kalman Weiser (York University)

**10:45– 12:30 PM: Session 9: Roundtable: Challenges and Opportunities in Contemporary Jewish Education: Cross-Sector Perspectives from the GTA**

Chair: Yael Bendat-Appell (UJA Federation of Greater Toronto)

Evan Mazin (UJA Federation of Greater Toronto)

Dr. Amy Platt (Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School)

Rabbi Yael Splansky (Holy Blossom Temple)

Rabbi Seth Goren (Hillel Ontario)

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

**1:30 – 3:00 PM: Session 10: Canadian Jewish History 2**

Chair: Hernan Tesler-Mabé (University of Ottawa)

Tyler Wentzell (University of Toronto), *'The Vanguard of the Vanguard of the Vanguard': Revolutionary Jewish Youth in Interwar Toronto, Montreal, and New York*

Saundra Lipton (University of Calgary), *Let My People Go: Gatherings in Calgary in Support of the Free Soviet Jewry Movement*

Irving Rosen (University of Toronto), *The Rise and Fall of Joseph Baruch Salsberg, The Seer of Spadina*

**Participants:**

**Adina Bankier-Karp** is a research affiliate at the Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation. Her research background is in the interconnected effects of Jewish education, family upbringing and critical Jewish experiences in shaping Jewish connectedness. She has published research on Australian olim, the Australian Strictly Orthodox population, as well as a study of the effects of COVID-19 on 11 American Jewish Orthodox communities.

**Emily Belmonte** lives in Ontario and is a sixth-year undergraduate student at York University pursuing her Specialized Honors BA in History and her Bachelor of Education with plans to graduate in June 2022 as an Ontario Certified Teacher. She is passionate about studying history and Indigenous studies, and was honored to create a paper showing the early relations between Jewish fur traders and Indigenous peoples in Canada using a gendered lens. This paper was awarded the Ted & Mary Beck Jewish Studies Award, nominated for the Odessa Prize for the Study of Canada and is published on the Ontario Jewish Archive website.

**Yael Bendat-Appell** is the Vice President of Jewish Education and Engagement at the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Education a department of UJA Federation, Toronto. In this role, Yael leads the organization's strategy for strengthening Jewish engagement across Toronto's educational and programmatic sectors. A native Torontonion, Yael lived in the United States for 18 years and is thrilled to have recently returned to Toronto with her husband, Rabbi Jordan Bendat-Appell, and their children.

**Deidre Butler** is Director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and an Associate Professor specializing in Jewish Studies in the Religion program at Carleton University. Butler is an award-winning teacher whose teaches in the areas of modern Judaism, gender, sexuality and religion, and religious and philosophical responses to the Holocaust. Butler's research operates at the intersections of religion, ethics and feminist thought. Her current research program targets modern Jewish life and thought as its object of study and develops a sustained critique of the ways in which philosophical and cultural narratives efface and dislocate lived gendered, and embodied experiences. Her research complicates and contests these distortions by marshaling a range of types of evidence (including original ethnographic data, as well as theological, philosophical, and artistic responses).

**Yolande Cohen** is a full professor in the Department of History at the University of Quebec in Montreal. She has held visiting professorships at Harvard, Princeton, UCLA, and in France. A specialist in Women's History and Sephardi History, Cohen is the author of numerous books and articles.

**Jason Chalmers** (they/them). settler, transdisciplinary, quilting enthusiast. i am a sshrc postdoctoral fellow at concordia university where i am hosted by the department of history and the school of community & public affairs. my research explores how genocide commemoration interacts with settler colonialism, with particular focus on museums, monuments, and other sites of public memory. my work has appeared in such journals as *american indian quarterly*, *socialist studies*, and *canadian jewish studies*.

**Miranda Crowds** is assistant professor at Concordia University where she holds the Research Chair in Canadian Jewish Studies and directs the Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies. She earned her doctorate at City University London in 2016 and then spent five years as a research associate at the European Centre for Jewish Music in Hanover, Germany. She is currently working on research on Jewish musicking, cultural heritage and cultural sustainability.

**Hadassah-Danit O'Reilly** is a Researcher-Educator in the Holocaust and its Genocide Integrating Visual Art and Culture. She sees the nature of interdisciplinary and interconnectedness in approaching these subjects while being cognizant that utilising the arts is integral to obtaining insight as to how a nation documents its society and culture. What she knows is that hatred of 'the other' is continuous. Her praxis is to demystify through a scholarly and artistic approach.

**Mariana Dobrev-Holder** holds a Ph.D. (University of Toronto) in religion and diasporic studies, and teaches in the areas of mythology (including Ancient Near Eastern mythologies and the Bible), folklore, and sacred space. Her research interests include religious space in diaspora, mythologies, music, and the transformation of folkloric rituals in diaspora.

**Breann Fallon** (she/her) is the co-ordinator of research and an educator at the Sydney Jewish Museum. She has published on religious violence, genocidal sexual violence, religious film, religious art and civil religion. Dr Fallon is an advisory board member of *The Religious Studies Bulletin*, an associate editor of the *Religious Studies Project* podcast, a face of the Sydney Jewish Museum's *Be a Mensch* campaign and the presenter of the upcoming documentary film *Trafficked to Australia*.

**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.

**Rabbi Seth Goren**, Chief Education and Campus Officer, Hillel Ontario. Originally from Philadelphia, Seth lives in Toronto and is a Ph.D. student at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto. After earning a B.A. and M.A. in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania and teaching English in the Czech Republic, Seth received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and practiced human rights, commercial, and consumer protection law. His commitment to interfaith community and Jewish communal work led him to Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's rabbinical school as a Wexner Graduate Fellow. He served previously as the Executive Director of Repair the World: Philadelphia and as the first Director of Jewish Student Life and Associate Chaplain at Lehigh University, where he also taught

courses on interfaith dialogue and Jewish law. He is an avid Bruce Springsteen aficionado and the proud father of an eleven-year-old.

**David Graham** is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) in London, Honorary Associate at the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of Sydney, and Honorary Research Associate at the University of Cape Town. A geographer by training and expert in the study of Jews in the UK, Australia and South Africa, his skills encompass statistical analysis, survey design, census analysis and geographic information system mapping. He has published widely for academic and general interest audiences and holds a DPhil from the University of Oxford."

**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.

**Lori Hoch Stiefel** is a PJ Library Engagement Officer, working with communities all around North America coaching them on models of relational-based engagement, creating content-rich programs, and more! She has also worked for other large Jewish organizations including Federation, JCC, Hillel, BBYO, and more. Originally from Montreal, Lori now lives in Charleston, SC, with her husband and three children. When she isn't working, she can be found making a mess in the kitchen creating vegan delights and attempting to sew her own wardrobe.

**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 and Treasurer for the ACJS.

**Michael Kent** is the curator of the Jacob M. Lowy collection of Rare Judaica at Library and Archives Canada. His background as a Judaica Librarian also includes work with the Greenberg Families Library at Ottawa's JCC, St Paul's University, and Yeshiva Darche Noam. Michael is also a professor for Algonquin college's library technician program. In addition to a traditional Yeshiva education, Michael holds Masters degrees in the Religious Studies, Library and information studies, and history, all from the University of Ottawa. His areas of work include the history of Jewish printing, Canadian Jewish history, and contemporary Jewish life.

**David S. Koffman** is the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry at York University, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes*, and the associate director of York's Israel & Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies. He is the author of numerous articles and chapters, the author *The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America*, and the editor *No Better Home? Jews, Canada, and the Sense of Belonging*.

**Anne Létourneau** est professeure adjointe à l'Institut d'études religieuses de l'Université de Montréal et spécialiste de l'exégèse de la Bible hébraïque. Elle détient un doctorat en sciences des religions (études bibliques) avec concentration en études féministes de l'Université du Québec à Montréal. Dans ses recherches et son enseignement, elle s'intéresse aux significations religieuses, littéraires et historiques des textes bibliques ainsi qu'à l'histoire de leurs effets, notamment sur les femmes et sur d'autres groupes marginalisés. Elle est co-responsable du chantier de recherche « Religions, Féminismes et Genres » du Réseau québécois en études féministes (RéQEF).

**Sandra Lipton** is a retired academic librarian. She is President of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta. Sandra has wide-ranging research interests. She currently maintains the Simone Weil Bibliography

(<https://simoneweil.library.ucalgary.ca/>), The Religious Studies Web Guide (<https://library.ucalgary.ca/c.php?g=698151&p=4955244>) and is also involved in researching the stories of the Jewish Canadian women who served in the Canadian military forces of the Second World War (<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/she-also-serves>).

**Evan Mazin** is the Vice President of Research & Affordability at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Within the research portfolio, Evan and his team work to improve and measure the impact of UJA's investments across Toronto's Jewish community through research and data analysis. The focus of the affordability portfolio is to increase participation in Jewish programs by removing cost as a barrier. Evan is a lawyer and an accountant and brings several years of private sector experience to his work. He earned a B.A. in Economics from Yeshiva University and a J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. He has also completed accounting coursework at York University. Originally from New York, Evan currently lives in Thornhill, Ontario with his wife and three children.

**Richard Menkis** is Associate Professor of Jewish History at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver). He is the co-author, with Harold Troper, of *More than Just Games: Canada and the 1936 Olympics* (2015) and has been teaching, and researching, other aspects of Canada's encounter with the Third Reich. He is currently working with Pierre Anctil on a collection of sources on Canadian Jewry until the 1920s. This volume, the first of two, will be published by the Champlain Society. He is also working on a study of historians of the Canadian Jewish experience, and the scholarly and popular receptions of their work. In 2018, he received the Louis Rosenberg Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to the study of Canadian Jewry.

**Avia Moore** has worked extensively as an artist, teacher, and creative producer with festivals, cultural organizations, and independent artistic projects across North America and Europe and is the Artistic Director of KlezKanada. Avia is a PhD candidate in Theatre and Performance Studies at York University (Toronto, Canada), where her research explores the performance and transmission of living traditions. She is a teacher and leader of Yiddish dance, known for her community-focused approach to the form.

**Dr. Amy Platt**, Head of School, Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. Amy and her husband are also proud parents of a Paul Penna DJDS graduate and current Grade 4 student. Principal Amy earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and history at McGill University. She obtained her MA and PhD at the Institute of Child Study at University of Toronto. Amy is passionate about excellent instruction and working with teachers to be the talented professionals they are destined to be. Amy also sees her job as creating a community where faculty, students and families feel a deep sense of belonging that lasts long after their days as professionals, students, parents and grandparents ends. When Amy is not at work, she can be found on long-distance bike rides, pondering the larger issues facing education.

**Sean Remz** is an MA Judaic Studies student in Concordia's Department of Religions and Cultures who seeks to figure out the modes of community-building and cultural transmission in the Hungarian-Jewish community in Montreal (c. from 1948 to the early 1980s) for his final project. For his PhD he plans to extend this timescale as far back and forward as possible.

**Ira Robinson** was 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.

**Jessica Roda** is an anthropologist and ethnomusicologist currently serving as an assistant professor of Jewish Civilization in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Her research interests include performing arts, religion, gender, international politics, and transnationalism. More recently, Dr. Roda began an ethnography of Ultra-Orthodox Jewish life in Montreal and New York City, including both the normative and the underground scenes. She is working on her second book "*Beyond the Sheytl. Jewish Women, Performances, and the Reshaping of Orthodoxy in the Digital Age*", where she investigates how the artistic and political performances of Hasidic women act as an agent of social and cultural empowerment within the religious world and as a space challenging gender, racial, and religious identities in the context of decolonizing feminism.

**William D. (Bill) Rubinstein** was born in New York and was educated at Swarthmore College and at Johns Hopkins University. Since 1976 he has lived in Australia and also in the UK, and was Lecturer and later Professor of Social and Economic History at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia from 1978 until 1995, and was Professor of History at the University of Wales at Aberystwyth in the UK from 1995 until 2013. He now lives in Melbourne, Australia. He has written widely on modern British history, especially on elites and the wealthy, and on modern Jewish history, including the history of the Jews of Australia. He was one of the founders of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies and, in 1989-91, its second President, and is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, the Australian Academy of the Social Sciences, and of the Royal Historical Society of the UK.

**Suzanne D. Rutland** (OAM, PhD), Professor Emerita, Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies, University of Sydney, is past president of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies and the Australian Jewish Historical Society, Sydney editor of the AJHS Journal, and member, Australian IHRA Delegation. *Let My People Go: The Untold Story of Australia and Soviet Jews, 1959-1989*, with Sam Lipski, was the joint recipient of the 2016 PM's Literary Award (Australian History). Her latest books are *Lone Voice: The Wars of Isi Leibler* (Hybrid 2021) and, with Professor Zehavit Gross, *Special Religious Education in Australia and its Value to Contemporary Society* (Springer 2021). She received the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to Higher Jewish Education and interfaith dialogue.

**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.

**Dara Solomon** is the Executive Director of the Ontario Jewish Archives and the Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre. With a successful history of working in art museums and heritage institutions in Canada and the US, Dara is a storyteller, strategic administrator, fundraiser, and team builder. She holds a M.A. in Arts Administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and a B.A. in Religion and Art History from University of Toronto.

**Rabbi Yael Splansky** is the Senior Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto. She received ordination from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. Rabbi Splansky completed her undergraduate studies in Anthropology and Jewish Studies at Indiana University in Bloomington and at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. She is a past chair of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto, currently serves on the Executive of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, and is a Vice President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. She also sits on the President’s Rabbinic Council of Hebrew Union College. She is the editor of a prayerbook, *Siddur Pirchei Kodesh*, author of the Union for Reform Judaism’s “[Reform Voices of Torah: 2012 Commentary on Deuteronomy](#),” and monthly contributor to [The Canadian Jewish News](#).

**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 art, culture, and identity. His most recent book – *Mahler’s Forgotten Conductor: Heinz Unger and his Search for Musical Meaning, 1895-1965* – was awarded the 2020 Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Best Biography. 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.

**Morton Weinfeld** holds the Chair in Canadian Ethnic Studies, and directs the minor program in Canadian Ethnic Studies. He is the winner of the 2013 Marshall Sklare Prize for outstanding career contributions to the field by the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. Among his recent publications are an edited collection *The Jews in Canada*, with Robert Brym and William Shaffir, 2nd edition, (Oxford, 2010); *Like Everyone Else But Different: The paradoxical success of Canadian Jews* (McClelland and Stewart, 2001).

**Tyler Wentzell** is an SJD candidate (PhD in law) at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. His research focuses on the anti-fascism, fascism, and communism in the interwar years, and the use of military force and intelligence for internal security tasks. His first book, *Not for King or Country: Edward Cecil-Smith, the Communist Party of Canada, and the Spanish Civil War* was published by the University of Toronto Press in 2020.

## ***Institutional Participants***

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