

Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies



Newsletter, Fall 2012

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Message From The Director: Dr. Aviva Freedman

Let me begin by welcoming and thanking Dr. Shawna Dolansky, who will be taking over the role of Assistant Director for the 2012/13 academic year, replacing James Casteel whose life has been overtaken by a number of creative endeavours including the birth of his third child, and first daughter. Mazal tov to James and Sarah.

As his last service of this past year, James was centrally involved in developing our proposal to the Office of the Vice-President of Research International (through the cross-faculty committee, READ) to recognize the Zelikovitz Centre as a Carleton University Research Centre. Our submission was successful and we are delighted with the new possibilities open to us as a result.

This recognition by the university attests to the degree to which individual and collaborative research undertakings by members of the ZC have been both prolific and well-received; it also attests to the degree to which the ZC has become even more multi-disciplinary, with research productions emanating from disciplines across nearly all faculties – including now FASS, FPA, Science, and even Engineering. It is also the case that much of our

research has grown out of cross-disciplinary hubs, which coalesce with university-wide research priorities: including, but not limited to, the extensive work on Holocaust and post-Holocaust experience (with recent new emphasis on the psychological and neurological consequences of anti-semitism for the victims and the multi-generational costs of national traumas); diasporic experiences; and global identities.

This year will see a renewed focus on encouraging the work of all our Research Associates – by re-establishing our practice of having informal interactive meetings focusing on works-in-progress, highlighting new directions in relevant research among faculty members, and opening up possibilities for incoming graduate students.

A review of some of the key presentations from 2011-12 reveal the degree to which the ZC's work is centrally multi-disciplinary and focused on the themes cited above, without sacrificing an interest on key areas in Jewish Studies itself. In early fall, ZC Research Associate Sarah Casteel (English) organized a workshop together with her colleague Dalia Kandiyoti (CUNY-College of Staten Island) on **Sephardic Studies**



and Comparative Methodologies in Iberia and the Americas, engaging issues of colonialism, postcolonialism, and diaspora in transnational perspectives.

Working with Sexuality Studies at CU as well as the Religion Program and Hillel, the ZC sponsored a presentation and film screening by Rabbi Stephen Greenberg, (Clal: the National Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership, NY) on the topic of "Being Gay in the Eyes of God." In November, we partnered with the Shoah Committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to Canada to show two screenings of the film "Eichmann's End: Love, Treachery and Death."

Also in the Fall, Shawna Dolansky launched *The Bible Now* (Oxford University Press), co-authored with

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Richard Elliott Friedman, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, and in February, she presented a three-part lecture series: “A Goddess in the Garden? The Fall of Eve,” “Genesis: Myth and History,” and “The Bible, God and Sex.”

In February we also organized and hosted The Second Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies at Carleton on the theme “Jewish Spaces, Jewish Places,” featuring a keynote lecture by Professor Michael Meng of Clemson University entitled “Jewish Spaces in Twentieth Century Europe.” The timing of the Conference was coordinated with the opening of the “Names Instead of Numbers” exhibit at Carleton University, an international traveling exhibition on the inmates of the Dachau concentration camp, hosted by the Department of History. The event included presentations by the curator of the exhibit, Sabine Gerhardus, and Rabbi Erwin Schild, a former prisoner of Dachau Concentration Camp. In addition, ZC research associate Jennifer Evans launched her new book entitled *Life Among the Ruins: Cityscape and Sexuality in Cold War Berlin* at the event.

In March, the ZC collaborated with the Shusterman Foundation to bring composer, violinist, oud player and singer Yair Dalal to perform a concert to a packed audience at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre. We also collaborated with the Department of English, the Institute for Comparative Studies in Literature, Art and Culture, and the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies to host a talk by Dr. Galya Diment, Professor and Chair of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Washington on “Samuel Kotliansky: A Journey from the Pale of Settlement to the Heart of Bloomsbury” drawing on her book recently published by McGill-Queens University Press. Finally, we ended the semester in April by co-sponsoring the talk by Freddie Rokkem, Tel Aviv University, “Discursive Practices and Narrative Models: History, Poetry, Philosophy.”

As you will see below, our planning for an intellectually and culturally rich set of programs for 2012-2013 is well underway! As we are adding new events all the time, please check our website (<http://www1.carleton.ca/jewishstudies/>) periodically for updates.

2012-2013 EVENTS

Monday, November 5, 2012

David Biale Lecture @Carleton University

Thursday, January 10, 2013

Michael Greilsammer Kick-off Concert

@ Kailash Mital Theatre, Carleton University

Wednesday, January 16, 2013

Sharrona Pearl from U. Penn: "The Digital Divide: Inside and Outside Chabad's Use of Media"

6:00pm @ Paterson 303, Carleton University

Sunday, January 20, 2013

Michael & Shimrit Greilsammer Children's Concert

2:00pm @ Soloway JCC

Saturday, February 2, 2013

Michael Greilsammer Concert, 8:00pm @Soloway JCC

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Steven Fine Lecture @Carleton University

Wednesday March 7, 2013

Amy Kronish Lecture: Israeli Film

7:00pm @ Carleton University

Monday, March 11, 2013

Jewish Studies Graduate Conference:
“Culture, Identity, Memory”

Keynote: Debra Kaufman, Northeastern University

@Carleton University

Faculty Research Lunches Are Back!

Faculty: stay tuned to your emails for notification of monthly research meetings – to share our work, collegiality, and brown bag lunches!



Yair Dalal in Concert, March 18 2012, Soloway JCC
Photo courtesy of Howard Sandler

Deidre Butler Wins Teaching Achievement Award

Congratulations to Dr. Deidre Butler, Assistant Professor of Religion (College of Humanities) and Associate Director of the Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies, who has been selected as a recipient of the 2012 Teaching Achievement Award at Carleton University.

The Teaching Achievement Awards were established in 1991 to enhance the teaching of the recipients and the quality of instruction at Carleton. Selection for the awards is based on demonstrated excellence in teaching and on the quality of the teaching development projects proposed.

Dr. Butler's newest teaching project, incorporating the use of undergraduate research in the Religious Studies classroom, is outlined here:

An Invitation to Research: Undergraduate Researchers in the Religious Studies Classroom:

This course-based project opens up unprecedented access to the world of real research in the academic study of religion at Carleton University.



Through a new course, "Judaism and the Practice of Ritual" (to be offered September 2013), students will receive training in research design and interview-based research. They will investigate home ritual practices in the Ottawa Jewish community with attention to the phenomena of intermarriage, conversion and same-sex marriages. Combining interview and questionnaire-based research, this project takes advantage of the breadth of data that can be collected by a class cohort of researchers. Students will ultimately participate in the presentation of the research at scholarly conferences and in peer-reviewed publications.



Professor Deidre Butler (3rd from right) is acknowledged for her innovation and excellence in teaching.

Developing Future Leaders

By Benjamin Stenzler, DFL Program Junior Intern

Students at Carleton University are gaining valuable leadership skills and work experience within Ottawa Jewish communal agencies through the Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program.

Now in its third year, DFL has provided paid internships to over 30 students. Program participants work a total of 80 hours between September and April in Jewish agencies and gain an understanding of the diversity of the Jewish community, developing personal and professional skills through their placements and through specialized leadership workshops offered by the Program.

"We are looking for students with generalized leadership qualities who have potential, the ability to develop, and a solid Jewish knowledge," says Program Director, Dr. Josee Posen.

The DFL Program is funded by private donation through the Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies. Through the DFL program, the Centre is helping students to develop their leadership potential in the Jewish community through more than a dozen large and small partner agencies such as Jewish Family Services, Tamir, Hillel Lodge, Jewish Federation of Ottawa, Ottawa Jewish Archives, Ten Yad, and others.

As a result of the Program's versatile agencies and dynamic students, the experience itself becomes an innovative adventure of personal and professional development through living Jewish values.

Ben Globerman, an intern who completed an arts and music placement with Tamir residents, gained a new insight on the Ottawa Jewish community. According to Globerman, he was provided with "ideas of helping through the community and how to implement mitzvahs on a social/practical basis."

Other students gained a deep understanding of different individuals and the challenges they face. David Tanhelson polished his communication skills while interviewing landed immigrants from a variety of countries for Jewish Family Services (JFS). Tanhelson found that JFS "runs on Jewish principles, to be open to everyone."

The Program is offered to Carleton students with good academic standing who wish to develop their leadership qualities while serving the Jewish community. More information on how to participate or donate to the program can be found at www.carleton.ca/jewishstudies/developing-future-leaders-program/.

ISRAELI ROCK STAR COMING TO CARLETON



We are very pleased to announce that the Zelikovitz Centre will host Israeli musician Michael Greilsammer as a visiting artist this winter, courtesy of the Schusterman Visiting Artists Program. This program brings Israeli artists to North American colleges and universities for the purpose of offering audiences the opportunity to engage with contemporary Israeli culture.

A violinist and singer-songwriter, Greilsammer blends Irish, reggae and rock music. His first album, “Je me reveille” (“Waking Up”), was released by

a major French label, and his second album is a collaboration with his wife, Shimrit, a vocalist. Greilsammer has been a supporting act for international artists including Macy Gray and Ziggy Marley.

With support from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and others, the Schusterman Visiting Artists Program is one of the largest organized residency programs of Israeli artists in North America. It awards Israeli artists—including filmmakers, choreographers, musicians, writers and visual artists—long-term residencies at North American universities, museums, Jewish community centers and other cultural organizations, with a focus on fostering interaction between the artists and the communities in which they are based.

“The Schusterman Visiting Artists Program allows members of the host community and the visiting

artists to connect in a variety of settings—from formal to informal, Jewish to non-Jewish — over a significant period of time, rather than the more traditional one-off experience,” says Marge Goldwater, the program’s director. “As we look back on the first four years, we see that the success of the residencies has prompted host institutions to find ways to bring Israeli cultural leaders to their communities after the Schusterman artist has left.”

We are planning many events for both Michael and Shimrit at Carleton and in the larger Ottawa community for January and February. If you are interested in hosting Michael and/or Shimrit for a classroom presentation, or synagogue, educational, or community event or workshop, please contact Shawna Dolansky Shawna.Dolansky@carleton.ca for more information.



Shahriari wins 2011-2012 David and Rebecca Zelikovitz Scholarship



Soroosh Shahriari, studying in the new Religion and Public Life Master's program at Carleton University, has recently been awarded the David and Rebecca Zelikovitz Scholarship for 2011-2012. The award is given annually to a deserving graduate student who is studying Jewish culture.

Shahriari, a native of Iran, completed his undergraduate degree in English Translation at the Shahid Bohonar University of Kerman. He then moved to Canada in 2007 to begin his Master's degree in Comparative Literature at the University of Western Ontario. After completing his first Master's degree in 2010, he moved to Ottawa to begin his study of Religion at Carleton University.

"Initially, I was thinking of pursuing my research in Islamic Studies," Shahriari said. "But when I took Dr. Butler's Holocaust course in my first year at Carleton, I made up my mind to focus on Judaism and Jewish Studies."

Shahriari stated that the reasons for this change in focus, were the "unfortunate misrepresentations, misunderstandings and consequently, misbehaviour, between Jews and Muslims in the world."

A presenter at *Jewish Spaces, Jewish Places*, an Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies held by the Zelikovitz Centre on February 9, Shahriari delivered a paper entitled, "Iranian Jewish Oral History Project in the U.S.: Healing a Collective Memory or Creating a History?"

The paper is based on his M.A. research project on the Iranian Jewish Community in the United States, under the supervision of Dr. Deidre Butler.

How do we understand the histories of Jewish spaces in 20th century Europe?



This was the question posed by Professor Michael Meng, keynote speaker at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies, "Jewish Spaces, Jewish Places," held on Thursday February 9, 2012, at Carleton University.

Meng spoke to an audience of professors, students and community members about the complex and varied themes that are encompassed by the concept of "Jewish spaces." This is the focus of his first book, released in 2011, *Shattered Spaces*, which explores the postwar history of Jewish ruins in the urban landscapes of Germany and Poland from 1945 to the present.

Jewish spaces can represent themes such as expulsion, death, community, history and faith, which in turn, display generalities about Jewish history and the human condition.

Space, he argued, shapes how we talk, write and think, and moreover, how we imbue spaces with meaning.

In this context, he examined three main themes. First, he spoke about the politics of difference that arise in an urban environment. Second, he examined the interaction of transnationalism in an urban environment. Third, he noted the concept of geologically layered time: the various complex ways that one can conceive of the past.

Jewish spaces in early modern Europe were modest, plain and unadorned. Ghettos were the norm and synagogues were simple in appearance, hidden away in the background.

However, in the 19th century, Jewish spaces began to move away from the periphery, becoming more grandiose and visible. This narrating architecture of emancipation publically expressed Jewishness, argued Meng. Jewish life was ready to take center stage, representing a confidence in the public sphere. Moreover, buildings such as the Old Synagogue in Essen, Germany, combined both Jewish and German elements, representing the bifurcated soul of the German-Jew.

After 1945, the complex task was how to deal with the massive destruction exemplified in Warsaw and throughout Europe.

Jewish communities asked that their synagogues be kept intact and not destroyed.

Today, some modern synagogues from Europe are still standing and they remain spaces where Jews can renegotiate their layered meanings throughout time.

About the Centre:

Carleton University's Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies promotes scholarly inquiry into all aspects of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present and serves as a meeting point for scholars and the wider community, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The Centre encourages the growth of course offerings in Jewish Studies which deal with historical, religious, social, cultural, and political aspects of Jewish life from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

People:

Dr. Aviva Freedman, Director

Dr. Deidre Butler, Associate Director

Dr. Shawna Dolansky, Assistant Director

Jackie Shabsove, Assistant Administrator

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JEWISH STUDIES COURSES 2012-2013

Fall 2012

RELI 1710A Judaism, Christianity, Islam (0.5 credit) – Zeba Crook

RELI 2110A Judaism (0.5 credit) – Ely Braun

RELI 3120A Rabbinic Texts (0.5 credit) – Reuven Bulka

RELI 3842A Topics in Judaism: Adam and Eve and their Interpreters (0.5 credit) – Shawna Dolansky

Winter 2013

RELI 2121B Hebrew Bible (0.5 credit) – Shawna Dolansky

RELI 3140A Holocaust Encounters (0.5 credit) – James Casteel

RELI 4851C Seminar in Western Religions: The Bible in Public Life – Shawna Dolansky