

YPSA Newsletter

THE YALE PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM

ACADEMIC YEAR 2012–2013

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Inessa Laskova

From the Director...



Maurice Samuels

Antisemitism is on the rise. After two years of declines in violence and vandalism directed against Jews around the world, attacks increased in 2012, according to the Kantor Center of Tel Aviv University. While Middle Eastern countries generate a great deal of antisemitic rhetoric, the vast majority of actual violence against Jews unsurprisingly occurs in countries in Europe and North America with large Jewish populations. Nearly one-third of all antisemitic attacks last year took place in France, home to the third largest Jewish community in the world.

The first annual YPSA conference on “Antisemitism in France: Past, Present, Future,” held on October 5, 2012, sought to shed light on this disturbing trend. Scholars from France, Israel, and across North America spoke about the nature of judeophobia in France, highlighting the similarities and differences between prior forms of antisemitism, which were mostly associated with right-wing groups, and the types of hatred found today, which are largely linked to radical Islamists and their supporters. Speakers included Pierre Birnbaum (University of Paris I), Maurice Samuels (Yale), Patrick Weil (CNRS), Henry Rousso (CNRS), Carolyn J. Dean (Brown), Susan Rubin Suleiman (Harvard), Nathalie Debrauwere-Miller (Vanderbilt), Lawrence Kritzman (Dartmouth), Bruno Chaouat (Minnesota), Dorian Bell (Santa Cruz), and Robert Wistrich (Hebrew University). The proceedings of the conference were recorded on video and can be accessed through a link on our website (ypsa.yale.edu).

YPSA is pleased to announce the creation of the Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series on Antisemitism. This series will enable us to sponsor exciting lectures from leading scholars around the world in a range of disciplines as well as to draw on the expertise of Yale faculty. All of our events are free and open to the public. This year we hosted eleven lectures on a remarkably diverse and stimulating array of topics: Antisemitism on the Left (R. Wistrich), East German Anti-Zionism (J. Herf), the Rhodes Blood Libel of 1840 (O. Borovaya), Legal “Flexiphobia” and Antisemitism (R. Weisberg), the “Global Holocaust” (T. Snyder), Russian-Jewish poets and the Shoah (M. Shroyer), Eastern European Totalitarianism (M. Shore), Christian Doctrine and Nazi Ideology (M. Saperstein), Antisemitism and Networking Memory Research (O. Linkiewicz), Antisemitism in Nazi Thought (J. Chapoutot), and the current conflict between Muslims and Jews in France (M. Mandel).

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From the Director... (continued)

With the generous support of the Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation, YPSA also co-sponsored a panel with the Department of Religious Studies and the Judaic Studies Program on Early Christianity and Anti-Judaism that explored the problem of Christian supersessionist philosophy in the Gospels and other Early Christian writing. Speakers included several members of Yale's Department of Religious Studies – Hindy Najman, Dale Martin, and Wayne Meeks (emeritus) – as well as Jörg Frey from the University of Zurich and Ben Dunning from Fordham University. This is a topic that gets to the very roots of Jew hatred in the Western tradition and it is one that we hope to return to in the years to come.



*Henry Rouso (CNRS),
YPSA Visiting Professor*

We were very pleased to have hosted Henry Rouso as the first YPSA Visiting Professor during the Fall semester. A senior research fellow at France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), Professor Rouso is one of the leading scholars of the World War II period, as well as a pioneer in the study of the memory of Vichy and the Shoah. He taught two very popular and well received seminars at

Yale – one for undergraduates on “The Holocaust in France” and one for graduate students on “Judging the Holocaust.” In addition to these courses, several other Yale colleagues taught courses relating to antisemitism. These included courses by Timothy Snyder on “The Holocaust and the Historians” and “Eastern Europe Since 1914”; by Maurice Samuels on “Jewish Identity and French Culture”; and by Marc Saperstein on “The Holocaust in Historical Perspective.”

Thanks to the continuing support of the Salo W. and Jeanette M. Baron Foundation, YPSA was able to award eight research grants to Yale students in 2013. Honoring the extraordinary lives and careers of Professor and Mrs. Baron, these grants facilitated research by Yale students on a wide range of topics, including a case of German resistance to Hitler, Bernard Lazare and the Dreyfus Affair, the cultural origins of the Babylonian Talmud, the intersection of human

rights and antisemitism in the post-WWII period, attitudes toward Israel in the contemporary Muslim world, attitudes toward Jews in 19th-century Galicia, and antisemitism and the Dirty War in Argentina. The recipients of the Baron grants will present a short summary of their research at an event in the Fall of 2013 – check our website for details. The Baron grants also sponsored the research of two Yale faculty members: Timothy Snyder, the Bird White Housum Professor of History; and Laura Wexler, Professor of American Studies and of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. We look forward to the important contributions to our understanding of antisemitism that they will provide.

Mark your calendars now for the next annual YPSA conference, entitled “Exodus or Exile? The Departure of Jews from Muslim Countries, 1948-1978”, to be held at the Whitney Humanities Center on Friday, October 4, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Leading scholars from Europe, Israel, and North America will come to Yale to discuss the circumstances surrounding one of the largest mass migrations in modern history. Though between 800,000 and one million Jews were displaced, this epochal event remains relatively little understood, overshadowed within Jewish historiography by the genocide of European Jews. And yet, it continues to haunt the relations between Muslims and Jews in both Israel and the Diaspora, and remains a contentious topic for both historians and political leaders. Check our website for updates and the schedule of speakers.

Let me conclude by saying how grateful I am for the continued support of the Yale administration and for the generous contributions of our various donors. I am also deeply indebted to my colleagues from across the university who have served on the YPSA Advisory Board, participated in our faculty reading group, or attended our various events. Finally, let me thank our exceptional administrator, Inessa Laskova, as well as Gary Tomlinson, Trevor Verrot, and the entire staff of the Whitney Humanities Center for all their help and support over the past year.

Maurice Samuels

Director, Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism

October 4

Ambivalence or Betrayal? Israel, the Jews, and the Left

Robert Wistrich
Neuberg Chair of Modern European History, Hebrew University. Director, Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism

October 18

At War with Israel: East Germany and the West German Radical Left, 1967-1989

Jeffrey Herf
Professor of History, University of Maryland

October 31

Baron Grant Recipients

Winners of the 2012 Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation research grants present their findings

November 14

The Rhodes Blood Libel of 1840. Two Versions.

Olga Borovaya
Visiting Scholar, Stanford University

December 3

Fatal Flexibility: A Defense of 'Flexiphobia' Against Early Christian Antisemites and the Secularists They Have Influenced Through the Millennia

Richard Weisberg
Walter Floersheimer Professor of Constitutional Law, Cardozo Law School

in conversation with

Robert Burt
Alexander M. Bickel Professor of Law, Yale Law School

January 22

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Global Holocaust: A History Lesson for the Future

Timothy Snyder
Bird White Housum Professor of History, Yale University
Discussion by Professor Adam Tooze

February 4

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Jewish-Russian Poets and the Price of Bearing Witness to the Shoah

Maxim D. Shrayer
Professor of Russian, English, and Jewish Studies, Boston College

February 19

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe

Marci Shore
Associate Professor, Yale University

March 5

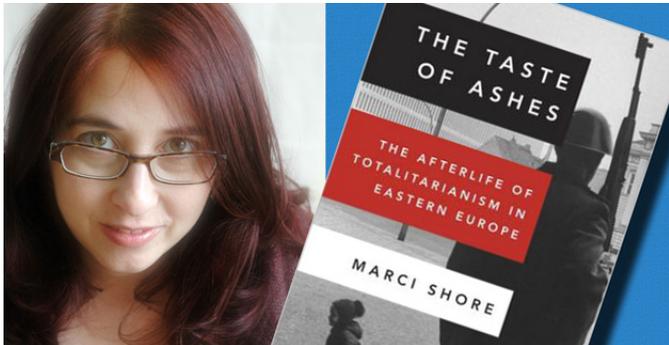
The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Christian Doctrine and the Nazi Death Camps: The Ambiguities of Influence

Marc Saperstein
Yale University and George Washington University

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Lectures 2012–2013 (continued)



Marci Shore, Yale University

March 28

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Kinship and Community: Jewish-Gentile Relations from the Perspective of Networking Memory Research

Olga Linkiewicz

Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Columbia University

Co-sponsored by the European Studies Council, MacMillan Center

April 4

Antisemitism in the Ancient Mediterranean? Early Christianity and Anti-Judaism

Panel featuring:

Ben Dunning

Associate Professor of Theology, Fordham University

Jörg Frey

Professor, Theological Faculty, University of Zurich, Switzerland

Dale Martin

Woolsey Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University

Wayne Meeks

Woolsey Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies, Yale University

Hindy Najman

Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University

Whitney Humanities Center, Auditorium

Co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies and the Judaic Studies Program. Made possible by a grant from the Goldhirsh-Yellin Foundation.

April 9

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

'No Need for Hate': The 'Law of Nature' and the Jews in Nazi Thought

Johann Chapoutot

University of Grenoble

April 10

Muslims and Jews in France: A Rising Conflict

Maud Mandel

Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and History, Brown University



Wayne Meeks, Yale University

2013 Recipients of Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grants

Through the generous support of the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation, YPSA was able to award eight research grants to Yale students and faculty. These first Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Scholars were chosen on a competitive basis and received between \$500 and \$3000 to conduct research over the summer on a topic relating to antisemitism. They will present their research at a YPSA colloquium in 2013-14.

Students

Raissa von Doetinchem Rande, *Yale Graduate Student in Divinity School*

With the generous support of a Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Student Research Grant I will be researching the legacy of Otto Weidt in Berlin. Unknown in English, I hope to make known the courage and persistence of one of the Righteous among the Nations. Not motivated by religious, economic or political concerns, Weidt resisted the Nazis by protecting his blind Jewish workers from deportations. He was able to keep his Jewish staff by insisting on the indispensability of his small workshop to the German war effort. How many he saved is uncertain but we know he hid a Jewish family and a number of individuals, such as the German-Israeli writer Inge Deutschkron. After 1945 Weidt encouraged the establishment of a Jewish orphanage and a home for elderly Holocaust-survivors. With the help of this grant I hope to research Otto Weidt's work and the life one of 'his' survivors, Inge Deutschkron, in order to make it available to a wider audience.

Lauren Gottlieb, *Yale Graduate Student in History*

Bernard Lazare was already a well-published journalist and respected literary and social critic when the Dreyfus Affair exploded onto the Paris scene in late 1894. Though Jewish-born himself, he was known for his antisemitic views, arguing that French Jews were at least partially responsible for their own ills, provoking antisemitism by remaining "an unsociable people." But the Dreyfus Affair changed Lazare, just as it changed French society and the nature of the Jewish Question itself. Between 1895 and 1896, Lazare repented of his antisemitic views, became a leader of the Dreyfusard campaign, and along with another Paris-based writer named Theodor Herzl, placed himself at the head of the early Zionist movement.

My research focuses on Bernard Lazare's intellectual and ideological transformation as it represents the broader shifts in French-Jewish political identity in the late nineteenth century. A century after the Revolution, France's Jews discovered that their celebrated achievements of liberty, equality, and fraternity within the French republic were no longer secure. They found themselves alongside their central and eastern European brethren, asking whether Jewish citizenship could ever be fully realized outside of a Jewish state. Like Lazare's own work alongside Herzl, French engagement with the Zionist project is a subject ripe for further exploration, which I can now pursue through archival research this summer thanks to the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Student Research Grant.

Simcha Gross, *Yale Graduate Student in Religious Studies*

Under Persian rule, the Jews of Babylonia produced one of their most fascinating and enduring Jewish cultural artifacts, the Babylonian Talmud (known as the Bavli). The Babylonian Talmud dramatically influenced subsequent Jewish culture, more so than its counterpart the Palestinian Talmud (and Palestinian rabbinic literature more generally), produced under Greco-Roman rule. Scholars have identified many significant differences between the Babylonian Talmud and Palestinian rabbinic literature. But what has gone largely unnoticed is how many of these differences are owed to the Bavli's Persian context. I will research parallel ideological shifts and trends in both groups of literature and argue that the Bavli often departs from earlier rabbinic literature due to its participation in its surrounding culture.

Nathan Kurz, *Yale Graduate Student in History*

My dissertation investigates the ultimately problematic intersection of human rights and Jewish politics, broadly conceived, from the end of World War II to the 1970s. Longstanding

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Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grants (continued)

Jewish organizations from Western Europe and the United States emerged from the cataclysmic events of World War II by redefining their strategies of Jewish defense in a universalist key. Part insulation against another Nazi-like world order, part accommodation to an international consensus opposing special minority protection, this generalizing move was actually quite unprecedented in modern Jewish history. Prominent Jewish individuals and associations had often tied their political and social integration to general causes, including classical liberalism and Marxism, and nurtured opportunistic alliances with other racial and religious minorities in Europe and the United States. After witnessing state-sanctioned genocide, Jewish activists now signaled a loss of faith in the state as a guarantor of rights by claiming the best defense of Jewish rights was the defense of everyone's rights. They publicly committed themselves to creating what Hannah Arendt called a "sphere above the nations" – a world order in which international law could restrain the previously unchecked powers of the nation-state.

With the generous support of a Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grant, I will be examining the interrelationship between human rights and antisemitism in a variety of contexts. First, I will finish a deep exploration of the archives of the international French Jewish organization, Alliance Israélite Universelle, as well as the personal papers of its prominent post-war president René Cassin, who won the 1968 Nobel Peace Prize for his human rights work. Less well known, however, was Cassin's advocacy for North African Jewry in the midst of French decolonization in North Africa. Second, I will spend a month at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio, which has just recently acquired the vast archive of the American Jewish organization B'nai Brith. In particular, I will be seeking material on B'nai Brith activist William Korey's involvement in the campaign for Soviet Jews in the 1960s and 1970s. Finally, I will mine the papers of Jewish jurist Luis Kutner at Stanford's Hoover Institute, seeking to draw connections and find tensions between his interest in a universal right of habeas corpus and his open concern for the fate of various embattled Jewish communities in the Middle East and Eastern Europe in the 1950s and 60s.

David Michaels, *Yale Graduate Student in International Relations*
David Michaels will conduct a comparative survey of policy-shaper perspectives in the Muslim world on foremost issues of contemporary political relevance and, specifically, on the Jewish state. Signaling the diversity of Muslim societies, and aiming to identify distinct, constructive approaches to engagement by Muslims with others, Michaels will focus on relevant government officials, faith leaders and Western diplomats in important, disparate Muslim contexts. His research will adopt a holistic approach to matters of intercommunal relations, taking into account the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia definition of antisemitism, which encompasses forms of strident anti-Zionism, and Pew Research Center findings of dismal favorability rates toward Jews in predominantly Muslim countries.

Michaels will explore the ways in which "elites" in the Muslim world relate to this reality – as well as any correlation of views on Jewish statehood to other key political opinions.

Katherine Peisker, *Yale Graduate Student in History*

With the support of a Baron Student Research Grant, I will conduct research in Cambridge, MA and the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv, Lviv, and Ivano-Frankivsk on perceptions and portrayals of the Jewish population of Austrian Galicia by Ukrainian temperance activists in the 19th century. Many of these activists were clergy or lay members of the Greek Catholic Church; ultimately this research will form the basis of one of the chapters of my dissertation, which considers the development of the Greek Catholic Church and its role in Galician society. The temperance movement was one of the first collective actions undertaken by the Ukrainian population of Galicia, and it is thus important for understanding the future development of the Ukrainian community. I intend to challenge the dominant historiographical narrative of universal Ukrainian scapegoating of Jews, in their role as tavernkeepers. My previous research has demonstrated that the leaders of the Ukrainian temperance movement, at least, placed the blame for Ukrainian alcoholism not on the Jews, but squarely on Ukrainians' own collective shortcomings. Was this conviction also adopted by the rank-and-file of the movement? Through an examination

of periodical literature and local temperance society records, I hope to elucidate precisely what role antisemitism played at a key moment in the evolution of understandings of ethnicity in a quintessentially multiethnic province.

Sasha Sesser-Ginzberg, *Yale Undergraduate Student in History*

What effect did the silence of the leadership of the Jewish community during the Dirty War in Argentina have on Jews who lived through this intimidating period of Argentine history? In what way did the prior history and diversity of the Argentine Jewish community make its experience unique during this time? Why did the outspoken opposition of Rabbi Marshall Meyer, an American living in Buenos Aires, not seem to have an impact on the response of the larger Argentine Jewish community? I propose to study how the Jewish community perceived and experienced the silence of the Jewish leadership during this time of terror, and what the lasting effects were on the Argentine Jews' relationship to both the state and the Jewish organizations. Furthermore, I hope to contextualize this within an investigation of the history of the Jewish community in Argentina, focusing primarily on the different factions that arose within the Jewish community, rendering it fragmented and subject to much of the same fear and silence that engulfed the rest of the country. In order to conduct this investigation, I plan to use a number of archives in Buenos Aires and I plan to interview members of the Jewish community in Argentina as well as people who are connected to this community currently living in the United States.

Sara Silverstein, *Yale Graduate Student in History*

The end of the Second World War presented a widespread health emergency among the European populations and in the displaced persons camps. My dissertation examines the survivors, displaced persons, and refugees who in these circumstances took command of healthcare both in the camps and through international relief organizations. In the process they developed new standards for a right to health and to healthcare, producing a set of principles that became a foundation for emerging welfare states, European institutions, and the United Nations. The Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grant will support archival research in Paris and

Vienna, where I will work in the private papers of Ludwik Rajchman, Julius Tandler, and Andrija Štampar, who brought experiences of different welfare traditions in interwar Poland, Austria, and Yugoslavia to their leading roles in the League of Nations Health Organization, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization. This project will contribute to my dissertation's analysis of Jewish physicians' reorientation of individual health and collective health of society within reconstruction programs and their contribution to interweaving social and human rights norms within new health institutions. Beginning with work in the camps and moving into postwar states, many among these physicians also demonstrated an association between the social and civic exclusion that ill patients suffered as a result of limited physical abilities and the rapid disintegration of civil rights they had experienced as a result of antisemitism. They thus believed that asserting a right to health and to healthcare was the beginning of a new set of rights – integrating what we now define as social, human, and civil rights – that, if protected on both state and international levels, would prove more secure than traditional citizens' rights in nation-states. Rebuilding the health of the Jewish community and establishing the institutions to maintain that health thus became their first tenet of reconstruction. Exploring these issues, my dissertation draws the historical narrative beyond the limitations of nationally focused analysis of rights and citizenship, revealing an original transnational understanding of postwar social democracy.

Faculty

Timothy Snyder, *Bird White Housum Professor of History*

Timothy Snyder received his doctorate from the University of Oxford in 1997, where he was a British Marshall Scholar. Before joining the faculty at Yale in 2001, he held fellowships in Paris and Vienna, and an Academy Scholarship at Harvard. He is the author of five award-winning books. In 2010 he published *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, a history of Nazi and Soviet mass killing on the lands between Berlin and Moscow. It was named a book of the year by some dozen publications, has been translated into more than twenty languages, and was a bestseller in four countries.

[\(continues on back page\)](#)

Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grants (continued)

Laura Wexler, *Professor of American Studies and of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies*

Laura Wexler completed her undergraduate studies at Sarah Lawrence College and holds M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. degrees from Columbia University in English and Comparative Literature. She has taught at Amherst College, Trinity College, Wesleyan University, and Yale University. She served as Chair of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program from 2003 to 2007. She serves on the board of

the Muriel Gardiner Society for Psychoanalysis and the Humanities and on the board of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. She is currently a principal investigator of the Women, Religion, and Globalization Project at Yale, a joint venture among the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, the Yale Divinity School, and the Yale Program in International Affairs, supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and the MacMillan Center at Yale.

EXODUS or EXILE?

The Departure of Jews from Muslim Countries, 1948-1978

October 4, 2013 • 9am-4pm • Whitney Humanities Center Auditorium

Speakers include:

Georges Bensoussan *Mémorial de la Shoah*

Aomar Boum *University of Arizona*

Ethan Katz *University of Cincinnati*

Maud Mandel *Brown University*

Aron Rodrigue *Stanford University*

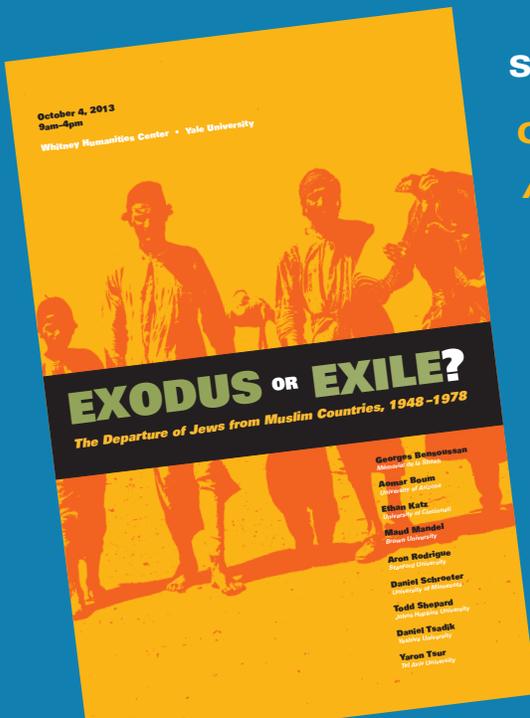
Daniel Schroeter *University of Minnesota*

Todd Shepard *Johns Hopkins University*

Daniel Tsadik *Yeshiva University*

Yaron Tsur *Tel Aviv University*

For a full conference program, visit our webpage at ypsa.yale.edu



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