As part of the Arizona State University commitment to increase sustainable practices, Jewish Studies is limiting the number of paper mailings we send. Please sign up to receive periodic event announcements, updates, and reminders, via email. jewishstudies.asu.edu/signup

2021–2022 public programs

Events in this calendar are free and open to all unless otherwise noted.
All times MST (Arizona). Schedules subject to change. Visit jewishstudies.asu.edu/calendar for up-to-date information. In-person events will have limited seating capacity. Social distancing will be observed and masks will be required. Pre-registration is required for all events via the links provided in this calendar.

October 2021

Religion and science

Oct. 5 | series
Religion and Science
Religion and Trust
Adam Cohen | Psychology, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/trust

Is there hope for “getting along” in a religiously pluralistic society? Every religion has unique, differentiating characteristics which affect adherents’ beliefs and behaviors. For example, Jews and Christians make moral judgments differently, in accordance with religious messages about what is moral. Even so, psychological research finds people trust members of other religions as much as they trust members of their own. This is especially true after observing others demonstrate commitment to their own religion, through actions such as donating to religious charities or adhering to religious food restrictions. Join us to learn more about how religion promotes trust.

Oct. 12 | series
Religion and Science
Religion’s Role in Human Evolution
Paul Cassell | Leadership and Integrative Studies, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/humanevolution

Why religion? Where did it come from? What purpose does it serve? Explore recent ideas concerning the origin of religion in human prehistory. Mental innovations powered the first steps taken by early pre-humans toward symbolic culture. As these hominins grew in their ability to use symbolic thinking and communication, the divine — conceived to answer the big ‘why’ question of human existence — emerged as a kind of glue, linking together prior social and cultural innovations into a system, a religious ‘package.’ Learn how it gave purpose to early human groups, helping to direct social and cultural innovation.
The Lowe Family Conference

Jewish-Muslim Relations Through the Ages: Co-existence and Conflict

Sunday, October 17, 2021
10 a.m.–6 p.m. MST (Arizona)
via Zoom
free and open to all
registration required
jewishstudies.asu.edu/lowe

Since the rise of Islam in the seventh century, Jews and Muslims have lived in close proximity, collaborating, interacting and cross-influencing each other. This conference examines the development of Jewish-Muslim interaction over time, with special attention to the difference between pre-modern and modern periods, and highlighting the confluence of social, economic, political, cultural, and religious dimensions. The conference contends that understanding the past is conducive to addressing the challenges of the present and the future. World-renowned historians, sociologists and scholars of religious studies will examine the past and present of Jewish-Muslim relations.

Organized by ASU Jewish Studies. Sponsored by the Lowe Family Holocaust and Genocide Education Endowment and Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism at Arizona State University. In partnership with The Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at Arizona State University.
10–10:15 a.m.
**Welcome**
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Director of ASU Jewish Studies
Jeffrey Cohen | ASU Dean of Humanities
Ronald E. Lowe | Benefactor

10:15–11:30 a.m.
**Jewish Life among the Muslims in the Middle Ages**
Mark R. Cohen | Princeton University
 respondent
Eve Krakowski | Princeton University

11:30 a.m.– 12:45 p.m.
**Jews and Muslims in the Early-Modern Period: Continuity and Change**
Yaron Ayalon | College of Charleston
 respondent
Matthias Lehmann | University of California-Irvine

12:45–2 p.m.
**Jews and Muslim Communities in Contemporary Europe**
Gunther Jikeli | Indiana University
 respondent
Alejandro Baer | University of Minnesota

2–3:15 p.m.
**Jews and Muslims in Modernity: Colonialism and Nationalism**
Jessica Marglin | University of Southern California
 respondent
Lior Sternfeld | Penn State University

3:15–4:30 p.m.
**The Quran and Jewish-Muslim Relations Today**
Reuven Firestone | Hebrew Union College
 respondent
Gabriel Reynolds | University of Notre Dame

4:30–5:45 p.m.
**Jews and Muslims in the Academy**
Aaron Hughes | University of Rochester
 respondent
Emran El-Badawi | University of Houston

5:45–6 p.m.
**Conclusion**
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson | Arizona State University

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**Nov. 4 | lecture**
**Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians Before the Holocaust and Today**
Natalia Aleksiun | Touro College
5 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/conscioushistory

As Jews struggled to assert their place in a newly independent Poland, a dedicated group of Jewish men and women devoted themselves to creating a sense of Polish Jewish belonging while fighting for their rights as an ethnic minority. The story of their struggle lies at the core of Natalia Aleksiun’s new book, *Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians before the Holocaust*. When the political climate challenged the careers of university-trained scholars, they continued their efforts to create and disseminate Polish Jewish history by teaching and publishing beyond the university. Their articles — published in scholarly and popular journals — enhanced community awareness of its heroes, history, cultural heritage and achievements, and countered hostility toward Jews in the public discourse of the day.

Join us to learn more about the role of public intellectuals in the Polish Jewish world before the Holocaust and the continuing social role of scholars and scholarship.
**Thinking Through Literature After Auschwitz**

**Nov. 9 | series**
**The Impossible Art of Survival: the Poetry of Paul Celan**

Natalie Lozinski-Veach | International Letters and Cultures, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/artofsurvival

“To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric.” Written in 1955, by Theodor W. Adorno, these words are perhaps the most notorious philosophical statement of the 20th century. Through the work of Paul Celan — a survivor who is considered the most important poetic witness of the Holocaust in the 20th century — together we will explore the role of poetry in the face of unimaginable catastrophe.

**Nov. 16 | series**
**Ghost Writing: Phillip Roth, Franz Kafka and Bruno Schulz**

Brian Goodman | English, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/ghostwriting

How and why American Jewish writers like Philip Roth look to the communist-era Eastern bloc — and to dead writers from the region like Franz Kafka and Bruno Schulz — to help them imagine new ways of writing about the Holocaust in the final decades of the Cold War?

**Nov. 30 | series**
**Poetry and Prose After Auschwitz: A Roundtable**

Brian Goodman | English, ASU
Natalie Lozinski-Veach | International Letters and Cultures, ASU
Claudia Sadowski-Smith | English, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/Auschwitz

How do different Jewish writers connect across historical time? In this roundtable discussion, the panelists will put their research expertise into direct conversation to answer this question, consider the similarities and differences between post-Auschwitz poetry and prose, and discuss theoretical versus historical approaches to Holocaust literature. Audience questions are encouraged.

**December 2021**

**Jewish Genealogy**

Janette Silverman
Ancestry.com

**Dec. 7 | series**
**They Changed My Name: Immigration Myths and Mythologies**

6 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/myname

Does your family story include information about a name change at Ellis Island? Learn about this endless myth and the realities of traveling in steerage and arriving in the new country. Discuss first-person experiences of immigrants traveling from Europe to the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and what they encountered when they arrived. Although immigrants arrived in many ports throughout North America, we will focus on Ellis Island, the port where the greatest number of immigrants arrived.

**Dec. 14 | series**
**Challenges in Jewish Ancestral Research**

6 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/challenges

Many Jews have grown up thinking no records of family in Europe survived the war. Worse, families often refused to discuss the lives of immigrant ancestors in Europe; name those who remained in Europe; or share places relatives were from. If they were spoken of, towns and villages named often could not be identified on a map. People were referred to by so many different names, it often seemed as though they were five separate individuals. “Challenges in Jewish Ancestral Research” will discuss why identifying the names of our ancestors, dates of birth, death and marriage and the places they came from are so difficult.
The Rabbis that Shaped Jewish History

Stanley Mirvis
Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies, ASU

This three-part series will explore the role of rabbis in Jewish history from late antiquity until the dawn of the modern age; carve out definitions of rabbis and rabbinic culture; and assess the cultural contributions of individual rabbis through the ages.

all sessions
7 p.m. | Zoom and in person at the Martin Pear JCC
12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale | room 218-219

Jan. 13 | series
Rabbis of the Talmud
jewishstudies.asu.edu/talmudrabbis

The birth of rabbinic culture played a central role in reshaping Judaism in the immediate post-Temple era in the Galilee and Iraq, especially on shaping the Talmud and delineating spheres of communal authority. Explore the roles of major figures including R. Yochanan ben Zakkai, R. Akiva, Yehudah ha-Nasi, Abba Arikha, and Shmuel of Nehardea.

Jan. 20 | series
Rabbis of the Middle Ages
jewishstudies.asu.edu/middleagesrabbis

Explore the solidification of Diasporic rabbinic authority in medieval Baghdad, Spain, Tunisia, and Germany, focusing on the modes, methods, and language of rabbinic discourse and communication. Learn about major figures such as Sa’adia Gaon, Rabbenu Gershom, Nisim ben Jacob, Maimonides, and Samuel ibn Adret.

Jan. 27 | series
Rabbis of Early Modernity
jewishstudies.asu.edu/rabbismodernity

Explore the crisis of Rabbinic authority at the dawn of modernity in Italy, Western Europe, and the Ottoman Empire, focusing on the challenges to rabbinic authority from new forms of mysticism, messianism, and rationalism. Learn about the roles of figures like Samuel de Medina, Leone Modena, Menasseh ben Israel, Ya’akov Emden, and Hayim Yosef David Azulai.

2022 Albert and Liese Eckstein Scholar-in-Residence

Jewish Women and the Feminist Revolution

Pamela Nadell
American University

Jan. 24 | community lecture
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein

Women are no longer imprisoned by man-made myths. We are coming down from our pedestal and up from the laundry room.” When Bella Abzug wrote these words in 1972, she was just one of 14 women in the United States Congress. The other 521 were men. In the feminist movement of her day, Abzug stood among a striking cohort of Jewish leaders. This lecture looks back at some of these feminist icons and analyzes why Jewish women played outsized roles in this revolutionary movement.

Pamela Nadell is the author of America’s Jewish Women: A History from Colonial Times to Today, winner of the 2019 National Jewish Book Award–Jewish Book of the Year. A professor and Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women’s and Gender History at American University in Washington, DC, she is a recipient of the university’s highest faculty award, Scholar/Teacher of the Year. As past president of the Association for Jewish Studies, she has also received the American Jewish Historical Society’s Lee Max Friedman Award for distinguished service to the profession. Currently, she is working on a book about the history of American antisemitism.

jewishstudies.asu.edu/eckstein
How did Jews and Christians come to have Bibles that are so similar in content, but interpreted so differently? Explore how different communities of Jews in antiquity—including the Jesus movement that eventually became “Christianity”—read and reimagined their shared sacred texts. Traditions of reading the Bible ultimately helped create the distinction between “Judaism” and “Christianity,” as ancient communities debated major questions of interpretation, such as the identity of the messiah, the function of the Torah, and the meaning of Temple sacrifices. Discover how numerous points of contact and continuity between ancient Jewish and Christian readings of the Bible can make it challenging for scholars to identify particular interpretations as “Jewish” or “Christian.”

Different processes progressively enacted the separation between Judaism and Christianity. Far from being independent, fully formed entities from the start, Judaism and Christianity emerged through a dialogical process of differentiation and parallel formation. Explore topics such as circumcision, martyrdom, personified deity, and hostile rhetoric, and learn how communities—Jewish, Christian, and those on the margins—appropriated and reinterpreted previously co-existing practices and beliefs, to develop them into competing markers of identity.
Feb. 15 | series
Ancient Roots: Judaism and Ancient Christianity
Identities and Categories in Jewish Antiquity
Tim Langille | Religious Studies, ASU
7 p.m. | Zoom
jewishstudies.asu.edu/identities

Jew. Judean. Ethnos. Greek. Gentile. Christian. What did these terms and categories of mean from the Hellenistic period 323 BCE–63 BCE to the emergence of the Rabbinic period 200 CE? Learn about the ongoing academic debates about these categories, and explore ways in which the categories overlap, intersect, and shape one another.

Feb. 16 | lecture
Why Do People Discriminate Against Jews?
Jonathan Fox | Bar Ilan University
7 p.m. | Zoom and in person at the Martin Pear JCC
12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
jewishstudies.asu.edu/discrimination

What insights do social science theories and classic studies of antisemitism provide about the causes of societal and government-based discrimination against Jews in 76 countries around the globe? Join us for an empirical, fact-based, discussion of the causes, including religion, anti-Zionism and belief in conspiracy theories of Jewish power.

Feb. 22 | lecture
The Lowe Family Lecture
The Silence of the Pope: Pius XII and the SS Roundup of Rome’s Jews
David Kertzer | Brown University
7 p.m. | Zoom and in person at the Martin Pear JCC
12701 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
jewishstudies.asu.edu/lowe

In October 16, 1943, German SS officers surprised over a thousand of Rome’s Jews in their homes and brought them to a military college a few hundred yards from the Vatican. Great controversy has surrounded what the pope did over the following two days before the Jews were loaded onto a train that would take them directly to Auschwitz. Based upon Vatican archives for the papacy of Pius XII — which were finally opened to scholars in 2020 — learn the complete, inside story for the first time.

Organized by ASU Jewish Studies. Sponsored by the Lowe Family Holocaust and Genocide Education Endowment at Arizona State University. In partnership with The Melikian Center for Russian, Eurasian and East European Studies at Arizona State University.

The educational opportunities made possible by The Lowe Family Holocaust and Genocide Education Endowment are designed to foster understanding, and to disseminate knowledge, about the causes and conditions that foster genocides, including the Holocaust and to generate public awareness about the danger of authoritarian, totalitarian and nationalistic regimes to the future of humanity.

March 2022

March 6 | workshop
New Perspectives on Dancing Jewish
4 p.m. | Zoom | jewishstudies.asu.edu/dancingjewish

Celebrate the significant impact of Jewish dance artists and changing notions of Jewish identity on different communities and the dance field writ large. Learn about the sometimes surprising, often hidden and overlooked Jewish resonances within a range of styles such as modern and postmodern dance, ballet, folk dance, and flamenco.
Judaism and Public Health: Living in the Shadow of Pandemics

March 27, 2022
9 a.m.–6 p.m. MST
online via Zoom
free and open to all reservations required
jewishstudies.asu.edu/science

conference program

9–9:15 a.m.
Welcome
Hava Tirosh-Samuelson
Director of Jewish Studies | Arizona State University

9:15–10:15 a.m.
The Dr. Michael Anbar Memorial Keynote Lecture in Judaism, Science and Medicine
respondent: Noah J. Efron | Bar Ilan University
keynote address
The Community as Patient: Jewish Responses to Pandemics
Paul R. Wolpe | Emory University

10:15–11:30 a.m.
The Bible through an Epidemiological Lens
chair: Timothy Langille | Arizona State University
Impure or Infectious? A New Look at the Bible
Yitzhaq Feder | University of Haifa
The Ten Egyptian Plagues as a Powerful Metaphor for Emergence of Epidemics
Michael Kosoy | KB One Health, LLC
Can Mathematical Modeling Guide Pandemic Response, or is the Prescription Given in Leviticus as Good as It Gets?
Peter Rez | Arizona State University

info + registration
jewishstudies.asu.edu/science
The COVID-19 pandemic, which has upended the life of all people worldwide, is still raging, despite the invention of a vaccine against the virus. The annual Judaism, Science, and Medicine Group (JSMG) conference will reflect on the COVID-19 pandemic from historical, sociological, legal, philosophical, and ethical perspectives. Special attention will be paid to clinical and practical lessons learned since the beginning of the pandemic, and the diverse responses of the Jewish community to the pandemic. Through interdisciplinary examination of accumulated data, the conference will reflect on the past and future of living in the shadow of pandemics.
The holiday of Purim commemorates a reversal of fortunes for the Jews of ancient Persia as described in the Book of Esther whereby the Jews became the pursuers rather than the pursued. This theme has given rise to a variety of Jewish traditions associating Purim with revenge. This highly visual lecture explores the iconographic expressions of Jewish revenge fantasy found in Esther Scrolls from medieval to modern times.

April 3 | lecture
Drunk with Genocide. Drinking Rituals and the Intoxication of Mass Murder in Nazi Germany
Edward Westermann | Texas A&M –San Antonio
5 p.m. | ASU Tempe campus
Memorial Union, Alumni Lounge (room 202)

The history of genocide and the history of slavery are often considered to be two separate fields of study, linked only by their shared association with large-scale human rights abuses. Explore how North American slavery fits into the case history of genocide, using distinctions that are usually made to separate these two crimes, and offering a new lens for understanding human rights abuses and patterns of harm and trauma in the United States today.

Co-sponsored by the ASU School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

May 1 | lecture
From Samarkand to the Valley of the Sun: The History and Culture of the Bukharan Jews
Daniel Stein Kokin
Stanley Mirvis | Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies, ASU
4 p.m. | Beth El Phoenix
1118 W. Glendale Ave., Phoenix

Valley of the Sun: Come meet the Bukharan Jews! A fascinating, if frequently overlooked, aspect of Phoenix-area Jewry is its substantial population of Bukharan Jews — the largest in North America after that of New York City’s Queens. Hailing from Central Asia — where they resided for over 1,500 years — Bukharan Jews form a distinct, tight-knit community with rich linguistic, musical and culinary traditions. Through lectures; traditional music and dance performance; and the opportunity to sample Bukharan food, this program will cast welcome light on a neglected aspect of the local Jewish scene.

Co-sponsored by the Harold and Jean Grossman Chair for Jewish Studies at ASU in collaboration with The American Sephardi Federation
April 4 | lecture
Father Patrick Desbois
6 p.m. | ASU Tempe campus
Memorial Union, Arizona Ballroom

Father Patrick Desbois is a distinguished author, university professor, historian, forensic detective and world renowned human-rights activist. He has dedicated his life to fighting the bigotry that fuels the disease of genocide and bridging the divide between faiths. His ongoing work brings closure to the victims and survivors of genocide and calls for legal justice for the perpetrators. He is the founder of Yahad-In Unum (“Together In One”), a non-profit organization dedicated to discovering genocidal practices wherever they are found around the world, providing documented proof of crimes against humanity, and a leading voice of protest on behalf of all past and present victims of mass murder.

Sponsored by the Phoenix Holocaust Association

April 6 | lecture
Ambassador Michaela Küchler
6 p.m. | ASU Tempe campus
Memorial Union, Arizona Ballroom

Ambassador Michaela Küchler currently serves as the Special Representative for Relations with Jewish Organizations, Issues Relating to Antisemitism, International Sinti and Roma Affairs, and Holocaust Remembrance. Her portfolio includes a wide range of issues, including cooperation with international organizations such as the OSCE/ODIHR, UNESCO, the EU, as well as with Israel and France, in the fight against antisemitism; dialogue with Jewish organizations in Germany, the United States and Central and Eastern Europe; and the promotion of Holocaust remembrance projects as well as projects to commemorate the genocide of the Sinti and Roma. As chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance her work in particular addresses the denial, distortion and diminishing of the Holocaust.

April 7 | lecture
Naomi Kikoler
6 p.m. | ASU Tempe campus
Memorial Union, Arizona Ballroom

Naomi Kikoler is the director of the Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide. As the Center’s deputy director, she led the Center’s policy engagement with the United States government and work on Bearing Witness countries, including undertaking the documentation of the commission of genocide by ISIS. She developed and implemented the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect’s work on populations at risk and efforts to advance R2P globally and led the Centre’s advocacy, including targeting the United Nations Security Council. Previously, she worked on national security and refugee law and policy for Amnesty International Canada. She has also worked for the UN Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, the Office of the Prosecutor at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, and the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement.
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