

UMass Amherst

Judaic Studies News

Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies



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Chair's Notes

Jacobs Lecture

On this last May 9th, nearly one thousand people packed Bowker Auditorium at UMass Amherst to hear and see **Daniel Libeskind** deliver the third annual Pamela and Robert Jacobs Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Life and Culture. In a captivating slide-lecture presentation, the architect of Berlin's Jewish Museum and the proposed Freedom Tower to be built on the World Trade Center site in New York City retraced the forms, drawings, and stories of his burgeoning oeuvre of buildings, museums, and memorials around the world.

Asked whether there was such a thing as "Jewish architecture," Libeskind replied that for him

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*Daniel Libeskind
delivers
3rd annual
Robert and
Pamela Jacobs
Distinguished
Lecture in Jewish
Life and Culture.
Photo by Ben
Barnhart*



Jacobs Lecture
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architecture itself was a Jewish art form, a way to formalize and house an ongoing conversation between himself and his pronounced Jewish cultural identity. With dozens of images of Libeskind's newly-designed museums in Manchester, San Francisco, Denver, Berlin, and his winning site-design for the new World Trade Center still in the



Daniel Libeskind with Pamela and Robert Jacobs.
Photo by Ben Barnhart

audience's mind, the architect thoughtfully responded to 20 minutes of questions posed to him by students, community, and faculty alike. After his lecture, he met with many of these same students and faculty at a special reception, trading design stories with students from the departments of Judaic Studies, Art and Architecture. Weeks later, students were still marveling at his extraordinary gift for showing and telling how his designs are conceived, drawn, and executed, how architecture comes to articulate and find meaning in Jewish history and memory.

Once again, the Department of Judaic & Near Eastern Studies at UMass Amherst offers profound thanks to **Pamela and Robert Jacobs** of Washington, D.C. for



Daniel Libeskind visits at reception with Professor Max Page and students. Photo by Ben Barnhart

their generous endowment of this annual lecture. As the third Jacobs Lecturer, Daniel Libeskind follows in the distinguished footsteps of Ambassador Dennis Ross and MK Naomi Chazan, who gave the first two Jacobs Lectures in previous years.

Posen Lecture



James E. Young, Sidra Ezrahi, Susan E. Shapiro, Bernard Avishai

As part of the department's Posen Grant for the Study of Jewish Secularism, Sidra Dekoven Ezrahi and Bernard Avishai presented an enthralling joint lecture on

Amichai's Jerusalem poems, asking her listeners to explore the difference between "loving Jerusalem" (turning it into

"Jerusalem, Politics, and Poetry." Sidra Ezrahi, a professor of Jewish Literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem who was a visiting professor at Duke University these last two years, opened with a stunning meditation on Yehuda

a concretized object of religious fervor) and "loving in Jerusalem" (turning it back into a place of ongoing, changing life). Bernard Avishai followed with a fascinating analysis of the ways these literary perceptions of Jerusalem found their expression, for better and worse, in Jerusalem's fraught political culture and the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

This was the third lecture to be delivered under the auspices of the Posen Post-doctoral Fellowship in Secular Jewish Studies at UMass Amherst. Previous Posen Lectures included presentations by David Biale, Rachel Elior, and Jonathan Boyarin.

Robert Rothstein is Named Amesbury Professor at UMass Amherst

The Department is very pleased to announce that Professor Robert Rothstein has been appointed as the inaugural Walter Raleigh Amesbury Jr. and Cecile Dudley Amesbury Professor of Polish Language, Literature and Culture. This professorship was established through a generous gift from



Robert Rothstein

the Walter R. Amesbury estate. In addition to his work in Jewish and Yiddish folklore, Professor Rothstein has long served as the campus's pre-eminent Slavic linguistic authority, scholar and teacher. As the new Amesbury Professor, Rothstein will continue to explore the reciprocal cultural and

linguistic influences between Yiddish and Polish, organize conferences and seminars on Polish language, literature, and culture, and continue to direct outreach programs for the local Polish-American community.

Jay Berkovitz is Named Lady Davis Professor

This spring (2007) Professor Jay Berkovitz will travel to Jerusalem where he will serve as Lady Davis Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University. While in Jerusalem, he will con-



Jay Berkovitz

tinue work on his current research, "Civil Law and Justice in the Rabbinic Tribunals of 18th Century Metz." This project, initially undertaken with the assistance of a Faculty Research Grant awarded

by the UMass Amherst Research Council, focuses on the system of Jewish jurisprudence, family law, and the resolution of conflict in pre-revolutionary France.

Tenure for Aviva Ben-Ur

The Department is very happy to announce the awarding of tenure and promotion to Associate Professor Aviva Ben-Ur. In addition to serving on several campus committees,



Aviva Ben-Ur

advising numerous students, and teaching her popular and demanding course in Jewish History, Professor Ben-Ur introduced a well-received new course "Jewish Travelers and Travel Liars: Exploration and Imagination, Ancient to Modern Times." Professor Ben-Ur continues as Editor/Moderator of the Association for Jewish Studies

Sephardi/Mizrahi Studies Caucus Discussion List and continues to serve on the advisory/academic councils of Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Religious Heritage, the American Sephardi Federation, and Sephardic House.

Associate Professor **Aviva Ben-Ur** was on leave in the fall of 2005. In the spring semester she taught her semesterly course, "Introduction to the Jewish People, II: Medieval to Modern Times," and her new course, "Jewish Travelers and Travel Liars: Exploration and Imagination, Ancient to Modern Times." She continues as Editor/Moderator of the Association for Jewish Studies Sephardi/Mizrahi Studies Caucus Discussion List and continues to serve on the advisory/academic councils of Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Religious Heritage, the American Sephardi Federation, and Sephardic House.

Shortly after President Bush's nomination of Alberto R. Gonzalez, commentators speculated whether he or Benjamin N. Cardozo would have qualified as the country's first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice. In the midst of this debate, Professor Ben-Ur was among those interviewed by National Public Radio's Latino USA for "The Hispanic Jewish Question," which aired in September 2005.

Her review of Alan F. Benjamin, *Jews of the Dutch Caribbean: Exploring Ethnic Identity on Curaçao*, appeared on H-Atlantic in April 2006. Her forthcoming articles include, "A Bridge of Communication: Spaniards and Ottoman Sephardic Jews in the City of New York (1880-1950)," in *Recovering Hispanic Religious Thought of the United States*; "A Matriarchal Matter: Slavery, Conversion, and Upward Mobility in Colonial Suriname," in *Atlantic Jewry in an Age of Mercantilism*; and "Peripheral Inclusion: Com-

munal Belonging in Suriname's Sephardic Community," in *Crossing Boundaries in Gender, Faith, and Culture in the pre-modern world* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan). Her next book, *Sephardic Jews in America: Where Diasporas Met*, was recently accepted for publication by New York University Press.

This past year Professor **Jay Berkovitz** published two new studies devoted to the role of ritual in modern Jewish history: "Jewish Ritual and Law in Early Modern Germany," in *Jews, Judaism and the Reformation in Sixteenth-Century Germany*, Dean Phillip Bell and Stephen G. Burnett, eds. (Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, 2005), pp. 481-502; and "Ritual and Emancipation: A Reassessment of Cultural Modernization in France," in Ronald Schechter, ed., *Shifting Boundaries, Rethinking Paradigms: The Significance of French Jewish History*, a special issue of *Historical Reflections/Reflexions Historiques* 32:1 (2006): 9-38. He also published reviews of Lois Dubin, *The Port Jews of Habsburg Trieste in the AJSReview* 28 (2004): 387-391, and Ronald Schechter, *Obstinate Hebrews: Representations of Jews in France, 1715-1815* in the *International History Review* 36.4 (2004): 826-8.

In addition to his regular staple of courses, Professor Berkovitz taught a new course titled "Religion and Power in the State of Israel." This seminar focuses on moral issues relating to political sovereignty, war and peace, and Jewish identity in contemporary Israeli society. In

April he participated in a panel sponsored by the UMass Amherst Office of Jewish Affairs to discuss "Recent Developments in Israel and Palestine," alongside Professors Tayeb El-Hibri (Judaic & Near Eastern Studies) and David Mednicoff (Legal Studies). Discussion centered on the new political landscape created by Israel's disengagement from Gaza and in light of the recent Palestinian and Israeli elections.

In February Professor Berkovitz spent Shabbat at the Hillel House as scholar-in-residence, leading classes on women in the Exodus narrative and on the obligations of the bystander according to Jewish law. He also served as scholar-in-residence at Congregation Beth Elohim in Acton, where he spoke on "Contemporary Bioethical Dilemmas as Reflected in Jewish Law" and "The Jews of France: Liberty, Equality and Fraternity in a Troubled Land." As in past years, he lectured on medieval and modern Jewish history in the Me'ah Program, co-sponsored by the Combined Jewish Philanthropies and the Boston Hebrew College. This past spring he also lectured to the Me'ah Graduate Institute on "Rabbinic Responses to Modernity." In May Professor Berkovitz delivered a paper titled "Tradition, Revolution and Religious Ritual," at an international conference hosted by Bar Ilan University on the Past, Present, and Future of French Jewry. As noted above, Professor Berkovitz will travel to Jerusalem for the spring of 2007, where he has been named the Lady Davis Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the Hebrew University.

In 2006, Professor **Shmuel Bolozky** published an article in the Hebrew University's *Mexkarim Be-lashon* 10, "Pretonic lengthening in colloquial Israeli Hebrew," and another two electronically, "The role of casual speech in evaluating naturalness of phonological processes: the phonetic reality of the schwa in Israeli Hebrew,"



Shmuel Bolozky

SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics 2:3; and "Metaphors in Hebrew slang and in Hebrew literature," Hebrew Language Department at Bar-Ilan University. Four more articles were accepted for publication.

The article on metaphors in Hebrew slang above was part of the proceedings of a conference on Hebrew slang, organized and held by the Department of Hebrew and Semitic Languages, Bar-Ilan University, Feb 1, 2006. Another presentation: "The schwa and the segol in Israeli Hebrew," the National Association of Professors of Hebrew's International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture, University of Minnesota, June 11-13, 2006.

Professor Bolozky continued to serve as the Associate Director for Hebrew language in the National Middle East Language Resource Center, and supervised the teachers' seminars offered by the Center. He also chaired the Linguistics and Pedagogy sub-committees of the International Conference on Hebrew Lan-

guage, Literature and Culture's Program Committee.

As a Posen Post-doctoral Fellow, **Alanna Cooper** taught three course this past academic year on "Secularization in Israeli Society," "World Jewish Cultures" and "Jews of Muslim Lands: Responses to Modernity." In addition to her teaching these courses in Jewish secularism, Dr. Cooper delivered several public lectures, including presentations on Jewish culture and ethnicity (based on her research on Bukharan Jews) in the Judaic Studies departments of SUNY Albany and SUNY Binghamton. She also served as a discussant on a screening of the film "The Forgotten Refugees" at University of Massachusetts Amherst. In addition, she delivered a paper entitled, "Where have all the Jews gone?: Jewish-Muslim relations, mass migration and Uzbekistan's independence" at the "Bridging the Worlds of Islam and Judaism" international conference that was held at Bar Ilan.

Dr. Cooper's article, "Conceptualizing Diaspora: Tales of Jewish Travelers in Search of the Lost Tribes" appeared in *AJS Review*, March 2006. She is currently working on a book-manuscript entitled, "Reining in Diaspora's Margins: Bukharan Jews and Jewish Peoplehood."

Tayeb El-Hibri, Associate Professor of Arabic and Director of Middle Eastern Studies Program, reports progress on a book project dealing with the Early Islamic Caliphate, the crisis of succession among the companions of the

Prophet, and the methods of literary and religious representation of this topic in medieval Islamic chronicles. During the spring semester, he participated in a panel discussion on the Recent Developments in Israel and Palestine, with professors David Mednicoff and Jay Berkovitz. The panel was co-sponsored by the office of Jewish Affairs.

Assistant Professor **Olga Gerhenson's** article *Postcolonial discourse analysis and intercultural communication: Drawing the model on Israeli ground* has been published in the volume *The Intercultural and International Communication Annual*, 28. Another article, "Cultural Colonization: A Case-Study of Geshet Theatre," is now being translated for inclusion in the collected volume on Russian immigrants in Israel published by Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. Professor



Olga Gerhenson at Tel Aviv 2006 opera

Gerhenson's recent book *Geshet: Russian Theatre in Israel; A Study of Cultural Colonization* (2005, Peter Lang) received a very posi-

tive review in the Russian-language Israeli newspaper *Novosti Nedeli*. The book focuses on relations between Russian-Jewish immigrants and veteran Israelis, as they are reflected in cultural expressions such as the Russian-Israeli Geshet Theatre. The book tells the history of Geshet and analyzes its controversial media reception.

Currently, Professor Gershenson is working on two research projects: the first project is about cinematic representation of Russian Jews, in both Russian and Israeli cinemas. The second one is a collected volume of essays dealing with issues of gender and space (co-edited with Barbara Penner).

In June 2006, Professor Gershenson joined the Russian-Jewish workshop held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This workshop brought together emerging scholars in the area of history and culture of Russian Jewry. As a member of this competitive program, Professor Gershenson presented her work in progress on representation of Jews in post-Soviet cinema.

As for conferences, Professor Gershenson has presented her work at the National Communication Association Convention in Boston (where her paper received a Top Paper Award from the International and Intercultural Communication Division) at the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, at a conference *imagiNATION: The Cultural Praxis of Zionism* at Arizona State University, and at the conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Con-

ference in Vancouver, Canada. In July 2006, Professor Gershenson presented at the European Association for Jewish Studies conference in Moscow, Russia. Professor Gershenson organized panels at the National Communication Association convention, and at the Association for Jewish Studies conference. She also was involved in the planning of a cultural event at AJS—performance “Babel: How It Was Done in Odessa” by Andrei Malaev-Babel, a theatre professional and a grandson of the great Russian-Jewish writer Isaac Babel.

Professor Gershenson has given invited presentations at the Center for Religion and Media at New York University, at the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver, and at the Five Colleges Slavic Seminar at Mount Holyoke College. She also served as a discussant at the Seminar on Postcolonial Studies at Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem.

In 2005-2006, Professor Gershenson continued to serve on a board of the *Journal of International Women's Studies*. She also continued to act as a reviewer for the International and Intercultural Communication Division of the National Communication Association. She has also served as a manuscript reviewer for Rowman & Littlefield.

In 2005-2006, Professor Gershenson taught two new courses: “Film and Society in Israel” (crosslisted with Communication and Film Studies) and “Jewish Theater and Film” (crosslisted with Theater Department and Film Studies). Professor Gersh-

enson's proposal for a course “Culture and Immigration in Israel” has been approved by the General Education Council, and her new course, “Film and Society in Israel” has been approved by Faculty Senate.

David Mednicoff has been awarded a Fulbright research and teaching grant to Qatar for the entire 2006-07 academic year to continue research for a book project on the rule of law and Arab politics. Mednicoff will be lecturing on international politics, international law and US foreign policy at the University of Qatar. He is the first American Fulbright scholar to teach in Qatar in the field of international politics, and the first non-Muslim to receive a grant related to international law and Arab politics. Professor Mednicoff has also received a \$15,000 grant from the American Institute for Maghrib (North African) Studies to conduct further research on the rule of law and Arab politics in Morocco and Tunisia. He briefed members of different agencies of the US government on effective rule-of-law reform strategies in the Middle East in Washington this past June, based on a paper he published on this theme for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. In additional research activity, he was chosen through a three-stage competition as one of four Americans to represent the American Society for International Law at a conference in New Zealand for 16 outstanding emerging scholars from 5 countries that was organized around the theme of links between international law and democracy.

More can be found at:
<http://www.umass.edu/loop/people/articles/35277.php>

Professor **Robert A. Rothstein**, whose primary appointment is in Comparative Literature, included Yiddish material in his graduate seminar "Folkloristics" and in the course in discourse analysis that he taught for the Linguistics Department. Yiddish was also the topic of an independent study that he provided for a graduate student in Germanic Languages. He also taught Polish language courses for the Program in Slavic and East European Studies.

Professor Rothstein's articles on the Polish, Slovak and Yiddish languages as well as two biographical entries on Polish linguists were published in the multivolume *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*. His lengthy essay on Ashkenazic folklore appeared in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of World Folklore and Folklife*. Two articles in Polish were published in Lublin, Poland, in a collection of papers from a conference on Isaac Bashevis Singer. One was a revised version of a paper dealing with cultural exchange in language, music and verbal folklore that he had presented in at that conference; the other, the authorized translation of an earlier co-authored paper on food in Yiddish and Slavic folk culture. His paper "Where There's a Will, or from Spirit to Spirits" will appear in a special issue of *Harvard Ukrainian Studies* dedicated to Professor Michael Flier. Another paper, "The Sad Lot of Women in Ukrainian and Yiddish Folk-songs," was published electroni-

cally in *Textures and Meanings: Thirty Years of Judaic Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst*, of which he was one of the editors.

Professor Rothstein continues as a member of the editorial board of the journal *Folklorica*. He presented a talk entitled "More Words to the Wise: The Stories behind Polish Words and Expressions" at Central Connecticut State University and chaired a session at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society. His regular columns on Polish language and folklore continue to appear in *Biały Orzeł/White Eagle*, a bilingual newspaper published biweekly in Boston and distributed widely in New England, as well as in separate editions in Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona and California, and he has continued to be an active participant in internet discussion lists on Yiddish language and literature (MENDELE) and on Jewish music (JEWISH-MUSIC).

On campus Professor Rothstein continues as Director of the Program in Slavic and East European Studies and as a member of the Research Library Council of the Faculty Senate. He also organized an exhibit in the Du Bois Library of Russian children's books and gave a public presentation about the books.

Emanuel Rubin, Professor of Judaic Studies and Music, continues to teach classes in the history

of music as well as the course he created for this department, "Music of the Jewish People." In the past eighteen months he has brought out two new books. The first was an edition and study of an eighteenth century music collection: John Travers Eighteen Canzonets for Two and Three Voices of 1746 (Middleton, WI: A-R Editions: Recent Researches in the Music of the Classic Era No. 74, 2005). The second, just appearing in June of 2006, is a comprehensive study of the music of the Jewish people, written in collaboration with John H. Baron of Tulane University: *Music in Jewish History and Culture* (Warren, MI: Detroit Studies in Musicology / Studies in Music No. 47, 2006). Starting from the idea that no melody or harmony is intrinsically "Jewish," but rather it is cultural usage that defines it as such, *Music in Jewish History and Culture* reflects on the uses of and varieties of music employed by Jewish cultures as disparate as those of, say, Azerbaijan and France, medieval Spain and nineteenth-century Poland, or for that matter, modern Israel and the United States. The influence of Jewish musical tradition on the Broad-



Professor Rubin's *Music in Jewish History and Culture*

way musical are explored with the same thoughtful attention given to Jewish musical roots of Christian liturgy in the Greco-Roman world. Beginning with the music of the Bible, the authors consider musical expressions of a broad spectrum of different Jewish communities more or less chronologically. In a unique feature, brief "historical interludes" are sprinkled through the book, showing the relationship of cardinal events in Jewish history to the development of Jewish musical practice. Professor Rubin also wears another hat, that of composer, and in that capacity he completed several original compositions during the year, including *Different Windows* for large concert band, *Toccatà*, a brilliant *perpetuum mobile* for brass quintet, and *Concerto for Horn and Orchestra*, a virtuoso exploration of the modern French Horn in conversation with the symphony orchestra.

Susan Shapiro has given presentations at several conferences and seminars: "Standing Again

With Judith Plaskow" was delivered as the Annual American Academy of Religion Meeting (November, 2005, Philadelphia), "Reading for Jewishness in the Essays of Sigmund Freud" was delivered at the Annual Association for Jewish Studies Meeting (December, 2005, Washington DC), "The Separation Between Religion and State in Moses



Susan Shapiro

Mendelssohn's *Jerusalem: the Status of Women and Religious Minorities*" was presented in April, 2006 as part of the year-long Interdisciplinary Seminar in Humanities and the Arts (ISHA) on "Religious Politics" in which she participated at the University of Massachusetts Amherst during 2005-2006, and she presented on "Secularism and Secularization in the Thought of Moses Mendelssohn," at the Annual Conference on Jewish Secularism (April, 2006, Miami). Professor Shapiro continued to direct the grant received from the Posen Foundation on Secular Judaism and to teach its core course, "Negotiating Religion and State." She continues to direct the Religious Studies Program, which in the last year has seen a marked increase in both faculty and student participation, including course guides, brochures, faculty and student listserves, as well as new course offerings and programming planned for next year.

Visiting Assistant Professor **Gregg Stern** published, "What Divided the Moderate Maimonidean Scholars of Southern France in 1305?" in *Be'erot Yitzhak: Studies in Memory of Isadore Twersky*, Jay M. Harris, editor, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005, pp. 347-375 in a volume of studies dedicated to his late teacher. This study breaks new ground in our understanding of the dispute over the status of newly-translated philosophic and scientific materials that had reached European Jewry from the Islamic world. This fall, Stern will serve as visiting assistant professor at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Stud-

ies, Yeshiva University, where he will teach a course on one of his areas of expertise, "Jewish Society in Southern France from the 12th to the 14th Centuries."

For details of recent activities by Associate Professor of Italian and French Studies **Jennifer Arlene Stone**, go to www.javari.com/jastonephd.

History Professor **Mary Christina Wilson** has spent the year teaching at the American University of Beirut where she holds the Alfred H. Howell Visiting Professorship in History. She has also made several trips to Syria in order to work on her book, *Syria: a Country History*, commissioned by Cambridge University Press. "I've had a great year," she reports. "My Arabic is much more fluent, my students are fabulous, and people everywhere, both in Lebanon and Syria, are very warm and welcoming."

This past year, Professor and Department Chair, **James E. Young**, continued his work as Editor-in-Chief of the Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, a ten-volume anthology, forthcoming with Yale University Press. He also hopes to submit his newest book, *Memory at Ground Zero: A Juror's Report on the World Trade Center Memorial*, to the press this fall. As usual, Professor Young taught his course on "Representing the Holocaust" to 170 students this fall, and a graduate seminar in the spring on "The Literary and Visual Cultures of Catastrophe."

Professor Young's published articles and essays this last year

included: "A Last Chance for Ground Zero," an Op-Ed piece for *The New York Times* (18 May 2006); "Memory in Many Forms," *Hadassah Magazine*, April 2006; "The Memorial Process: A Juror's Report from Ground Zero," in John Mollenkopf, Ed. *Contentious City: The Politics of Recovery in New York City* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2005); "The Veneration of Ruins in the Landscape of Holocaust Memory," in Joan Ockman and Salomon Frausto, Eds. *Architourism: Authentic, Escapist, Exotic, Spectacular* (Munich and New York: Prestel Verlag, 2005).

Over the last year, Professor Young lectured widely in the United States, Europe and Israel, including a stint as Visiting Professor at the Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University, with a series of lectures on "Representing the Holocaust," 20-22 June 2006.

Among others, his lectures and conference presentations included: "Artistic and Popular Forms of Memory and Memorialization," at a Conference on "The Demands of Memory," The Robert L. Bernstein International Human Rights Fellowship Symposium, at the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights, Yale Law School, 21 April 2006; "New Views on Memorialization," Spring Seminar on Jewish Art and Visual Culture, Jewish Museum, New York, 29 March 2006; "Memory and the Monument Before and After 9/11," Distinguished Visiting Lecturers in the Humanities Series, Human-

ities Institute, University of Texas Austin, 1 February 2006; "The Lessons of Genocide Today," Keynote Address, First International Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust Commemorations, House of Representatives, State House, Boston, 27 January 2006.



James E. Young

ish Culture in a Global Age," at the Herzliya Conference, for the Institute for Policy and Strategy, IDC Herzliya. Still other talks included: "Memory, Absence, and the End of the Monument in Berlin and New York," Center for the Humanities, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 17 November 2005; "Memory and Absence: Countermonuments in Berlin and New York after 9/11," Plenary Lecture for "The Future of Memory: An International Holocaust and Trauma Studies Conference," University of Manchester, UK, 12 November 2005; "Regarding the Pain of Women: Gender and the Arts of Holocaust Memory," Yom Iyyun in Honor of Froma Zeitlin, Princeton University, 6 November 2005; Zone: How Does Gender Matter?" Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 4 November 2005; "Memory, Countermemory, and the End of the Monument after 9/11," The Clarke Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary Issues, Dickinson College, 26 October 2005; "Regarding the

Pain of Women: How Gender Matters," for Conference on "In the War Zone: How Does Gender Matter?" Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, 4 November 2005; Matthew Vassar Lecture, Vassar College, 27 September 2005; "Art and Recovery: The Art and Politics of Commemoration," Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Tribeca Center for the Arts, New York City, 10 September 2005; "A German Reckoning: 60th Anniversary of the End of WWII" (Co-Panelist with Hans Haacke, Andy Rabinbach, and Atina Grossman), Vera List Center, New School University, New York City, 21 June 2005; "Remembering the Unimaginable in Berlin and New York: New Memorials to the Holocaust and 9/11" (Co-Panelist with Peter Eisenman and Michael Arad), Century Club, New York City, 17 May 2005; and "Teaching Representations of the Holocaust" (Co-Panelist with Marianne Hirsch and Irene Kacandes), Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, New York City, 15 May 2005.

Professor Young continues to serve on the Academic Council for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, on the Board of Directors of the AJS, on the Board of the Remarque Institute at NYU. This year he completed a six-year term on the Academic Advisory Council for the Ronald Perelman Program in Judaic Studies at Princeton University, which he chaired the last three years.

Department Lectures and Visitors In Review

- May 9, 2006 **The Robert and Pamela Jacobs Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Life and Culture**
Daniel Libeskind (Architect)
Breaking Ground.
- May 3, 2006 **The Felix Posen Distinguished Lecture in Secular Judaism Spring 2006**
Sidra DeKoven Ezrahi and Bernard Avishai.
Jerusalem, Politics, and Poetry.
- April 18, 2006 **Matthew Bogdanos (Author)**
Thieves of Baghdad: The Journey to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasure.
- April 4, 2006 **Jay Berkovitz (UMass Amherst), Tayeb El-Hibri (UMass Amherst) and David Mednicoff (UMass Amherst)**
Recent developments in Israel and Palestine.
- March 7, 2006 **Jay Berkovitz (UMass Amherst) and Alanna Cooper (UMass Amherst)**
The Forgotten Refugees, film screening and discussion of the film.
- February 2, 2006 **Adolfo Roitman (Israel Museum in Jerusalem and Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem)**
The Significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls for Judaism and Christianity.
- October 19, 2005 **Esther Dischereit (Poet, novelist, essayist, stage and radio dramatist)**
A reading and discussion of her recent work.
- September 21, 2005 **Murray Baumgarten (University of California, Santa Cruz)**
American Midrash: Urban Jewish Writing and the Reclaiming of Judaism.



Pamela Jacobs, James Young, Daniel Libeskind and Robert Jacobs. Photo by Ben Barnhart.



Qumran, Photo provided by the Israel Museum, Jerusalem



Murry Baumgarten

The Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies was proud to be a co-sponsor of the Interdepartmental Program in Film Studies 13th annual Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival in Spring 2006 (detailed program information at www.umass.edu/film).

Faculty

[James Young](#), Professor and Chairman, Modern Jewish Literature and Culture, Holocaust.
[Aviva Ben-Ur](#), Associate Professor, American Jewish History, Ladino and Sephardic Studies, Hispanic-Jewish relations.
[Jay Berkovitz](#), Professor, Jewish Social and Intellectual History, Classical Texts.
[Shmuel Bolozky](#), Professor, Modern Hebrew Language, Linguistics (Phonology, Morphology).
[Alanna Cooper](#), Visiting Assistant Professor, Jewish History
[Tayeb El-Hibri](#), Associate Professor, Arabic Studies, Middle East History.
[Jyl Lynn Felman](#), Visiting Assistant Professor, Jewish American Literature and Culture
[Olga Gershenson](#), Assistant Professor, Intercultural Communications and Cultural Studies.
[Julius Lester](#), Professor Emeritus, Religion and Literature.
[Robert A. Rothstein](#), Professor, Yiddish Language, Folklore.
[Emanuel Rubin](#), Professor, Jewish Music.
[Noemi Schwarz](#), Lecturer, Modern Hebrew Language.
[Susan Shapiro](#), Associate Professor, Jewish Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Gender Studies, Hermeneutics, Rhetoric and Critical Theory.
[Gregg Stern](#), Visiting Assistant Professor, Jewish History.

Adjunct Faculty

[Walter Denny](#), Professor (Art History), Islamic Art and Art History
[Walter Denny](#), Professor, Islamic Art and Art History
[Laszlo Dienes](#), Professor, Russian-Jewish Literature and Culture.
[Richard Ellis](#), Professor, Torah, Commentaries.
[Harley Erdman](#), Associate Professor, Jewish Theater.
[Ethan Katsh](#), Professor, Law and Religion.
[David Mednicoff](#), Assistant Professor, Middle East Law and Politics.

[Jennifer Stone](#), Associate Professor, Freudian Thought, Film Theory.
[Marvin Swartz](#), Professor, History of the Holocaust.
[Mary Wilson](#), Professor, History of the Middle East.



Judaic Studies Courses

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- 102 The Jewish People II
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- 333 Sephardic Cultures and Literatures of the Spanish Diaspora
- 344 Film and Society in Israel
- 345 The Making of Modern Jewry
- 350 Jewish Law and Society
- 353 Sephardic Cultures & Literatures of the Spanish Diaspora
- 360 Biblical Tales and Legends
- 363 Negotiating Religion and State: Jewish Secularism and the Emergence of European Modernity
- 365 Antisemitism in Historical Perspective
- 366 Modern Israel: History, Society and Culture
- 373 Jewish Travelers and Travel Liars: Exploration and Imagination, Ancient to Modern Times
- 374 Culture and Immigration in Israel
- 375 The Jewish Experience in America
- 383 Women, Gender, Judaism
- 385 Jews of Eastern Europe
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