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*Thomas E. Levy explores Roman wreck site off the coast of the Greek island Sapientza, with a joint UC San Diego – University of Patras team.
(Photo by Tony Tamberino, UC San Diego Levantine Archaeology Lab).*

Diving Into Marine Archaeology

UC San Diego archaeologist Thomas E. Levy has spent much of his career excavating dig sites in the dry, hot deserts of Israel and Jordan. More recently, he has shifted some of his work offshore, digging into long-lost historic sites underwater as part of the Scripps Center for Marine Archaeology. A partnership between the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the Department of Anthropology at UC San Diego, the center launched in 2017 and is co-directed by Levy and Scripps Professor John Hildebrand.

Since then, Levy — who holds the Norma Kershaw Chair in the Archaeology of Ancient Israel and Neighboring Lands and is a longtime faculty member of the Jewish Studies Program — has also collaborated with marine archaeologist Assaf Yasur-Landau, director of the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa. Their joint work has focused on the recently discovered underwater ruins of Tel Dor, a Hellenistic port dating to ca. 4th century BCE.

The unique U.S.-Israeli partnership attracted the attention of the Koret Foundation, based in San Francisco, which made a \$1.3 million gift to support their efforts to study coastal and underwater sites along Israel's Carmel coast.

With that funding in hand, Levy and Haifa's Yasur-Landau have now launched the joint University of Haifa-University of California San Diego Maritime Archaeology Research Station.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

A Note from the Outgoing Director

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



The 2020-21 academic year has been a strange and challenging time. It has also been a humbling and inspiring year. Despite the challenge of maintaining our activities in an online format, I've seen my students and colleagues rise to the challenge of temporarily adapting their research and teaching to an online format and finding ways of supporting one another despite the months of social distance. I am especially pleased that during a particularly volatile time for young researchers, our program has managed to offer Opportunity Summer Fellowships to graduate students working on projects related to Jewish Studies. Last year's recipients of these awards are featured in this issue.

This year it was heartening to see so many supporters of the Jewish Studies Program attend our online events. These included our annual Katzin lecture, delivered by Professor James Loeffler on "Blind Justice: The Jewish Fight Against Antisemitism in Postwar America;" Seth Lerer, Distinguished Professor of Literature at UC San Diego, joined me in conversation with Arun Viswanath, the translator of Harry Potter into Yiddish, and Professors Mira Balberg and Haim Weiss presented their collaborative work in a book talk on *When Near Becomes Far: Old Age in Rabbinic Literature* (2021). The Holocaust Living History Workshop, under the direction of Professor Deborah Hertz and Dr.

Susanne Hillman, has continued to offer a regular series of extremely stimulating events and this year was no exception. Professors Yuval Gadot and Tom Levy, delivered a talk on *Digging in a Glass House*, in which they shared some of their recent findings in their archaeological excavations. Gadot will be a visiting faculty member at UC San Diego, in collaboration with the Murray Galinson San Diego-Israel Initiative (MGSDII). During the past year, we have been pleased to work with the MGSDII to bring Professor Mor Shilon to UC San Diego's Urban Studies Program. The recordings of many of these events are available through our website.

Most significantly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to my colleague, Professor Lisa Lampert-Weissig, who will begin a term as the director of UC San Diego's Jewish Studies Program in the 2021-22 academic year. It has been an honor to serve as the director of the program, and I am grateful to the colleagues and community members who have helped us to support excellent research and teaching, and who have attended our public programs and served on our Executive Committees. Special thanks are due to Emily Einhorn, who serves as the president of the Executive Committee. I would also like to thank Ana Marie Buenviaje, who has served as our events coordinator; Jennifer Dieli, our student advisor and Katherine Levy, who has offered me much support and advice as the Management Services Officer of UC San Diego's Institute for Arts and Humanities.

Sincerely,

AMELIA GLASER

Associate Professor of Literature
Director, Jewish Studies Program

Life After UC San Diego: Rabbi Samuel Spector

BY MATTHEW HALL, WITH DEBORAH HERTZ



Rabbi Samuel Spector knew before he went to college that he wanted to attend Hebrew Union College's Rabbinical Seminary and become a rabbi. This made UC San Diego's Jewish Studies Program, which he entered in 2007, the ideal starting point for his intellectual and professional journey. He especially appreciated the Program's diverse approach to Jewish studies, and especially appreciated his classes with

Professors David Goodblatt, William Propp and Deborah Hertz. He was indeed accepted to the Hebrew Union College Rabbinical seminary in Los Angeles and was ordained as a Reform rabbi in 2015. He notes that he was religiously drawn to Conservative Judaism, but because of that movement's opposition to same-sex marriage, he ultimately chose to affiliate with the Reform branch of Judaism.

Rabbi Spector's congregation in Salt Lake City, *Kol Ami*, has confronted challenges during the pandemic. He said that after some anxiety early on, the congregation has kept up strong community ties. Online programs helped everyone, rabbis and congregants alike, respond with grace and tranquility to the challenges of the pandemic. In addition, Rabbi Spector notes how difficult it is for his congregants to interpret and respond to the recent racial and political turmoil in the country. Spector believes that Jews need to face the current crises inside and outside their community with concerns for universal social justice. To do that, he looks to a range of literary and philosophical sources when writing his sermons, in addition to the Torah and the Talmud. Rabbi Spector believes that life-long learning is important, and he encourages Jewish young adults who feel apathetic towards Israel to find solace and inspiration in the intellectual tradition of Judaism, including the works of cultural Zionists. He believes that fostering engagement between the Diaspora and the State of Israel is essential and that Jews and others need to be able to criticize Israel lovingly. •

Research And Life During Lockdown: Spotlight On Professor Deborah Hertz



The year of pandemic had a silver lining for many scholars: quiet time to write. Before I entered into the maelstrom of Zoom teaching in winter quarter, I had the chance to make huge progress on my longtime book-in-progress, now titled *Visionaries, Lovers and Mothers: Jewish Radical Women from Conspiracy to Kibbutz*. I also wrote a short essay on "Fanny Hensel's Cross" for a large online Leo

Baeck Institute project entitled *Shared History Project: 1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-speaking Lands*. My essay "Warum Rahel Levin Clemens Brentanos Freundschaft Sucht," was published in a collected volume of essays in German, *Juedische und christliche Intellektuelle in Berlin um 1800* (Berlin: Wehrhahn Verlag, 2021).

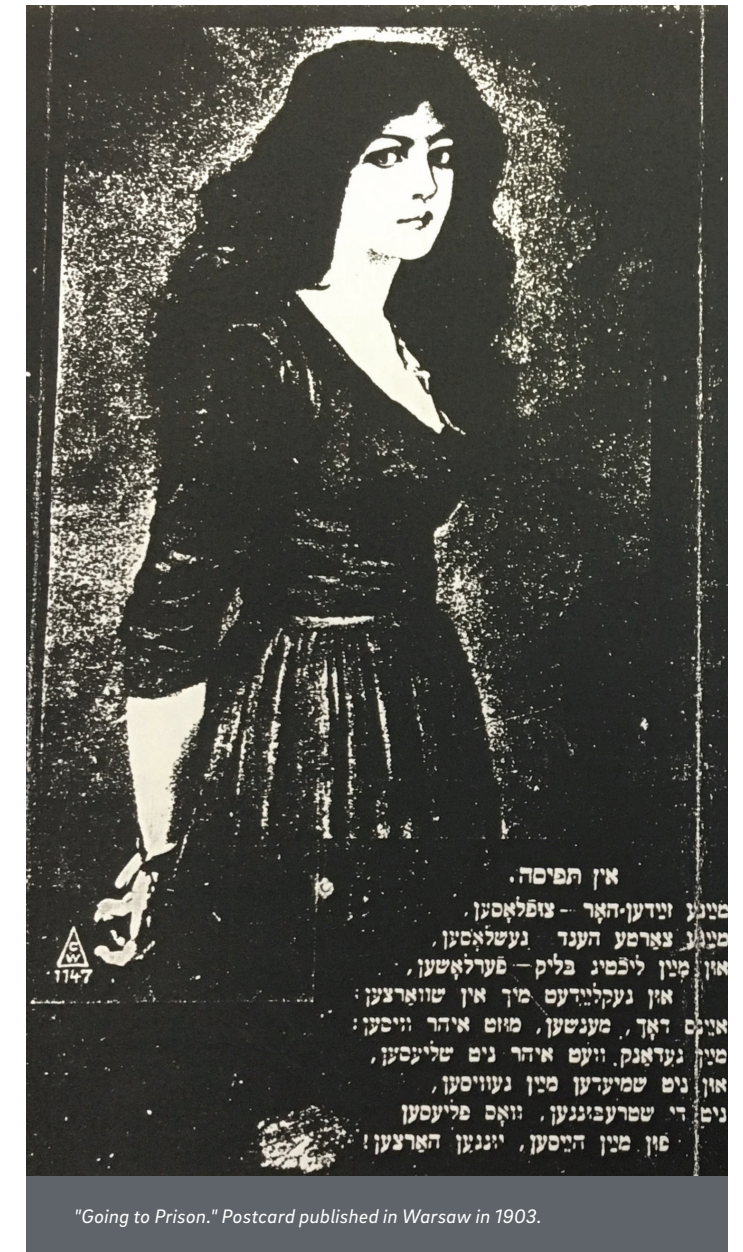
I participated in several online conferences and made several Zoom presentations, including chairing a session at the Association for Jewish Studies in December 2020; talks for the San Diego JCC, the JAANA summer lecture series, a Facebook streaming show called *Goldie's Thursday Shabbos Show*, and the *Leo Baeck Institute Book Club*.

Preparing for Zoom lectures proved an all-consuming task with some pedagogical rewards. I was able to host fascinating international visitors for my *Hannah Arendt seminar* and my *African-Americans and Jews* course in the winter. This spring, my *Holocaust as Public History* course has been enriched by a guest lecture by Dr. Susanne Hillman on survivor testimonies and some innovative Zoom video contributions by the students.

Overall, I have been most impressed by how brilliantly my colleagues in the Department of History and beyond have adjusted to the many, seemingly endless technological demands of our year in Zoom classrooms. Plus, the opportunity to hear lectures from friends and colleagues around the world was authentically fantastic! My husband and I found some ways to have fun in the deepest lockdown, visiting cactus nurseries to add to our garden and going on lots of hikes and picnics. I was able to make a trip to St. Paul in the summer to visit my 97-year-old mother and do some family history video interviews with her.

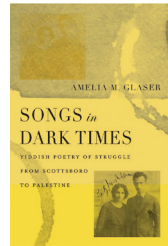
My favorite movie indulgences were *Borgen*, *Babylon Berlin* and *Call My Agent*. Many closets were finally cleaned. The lowest points were

shepherding the local grandsons through their Zoom learning and coping with the quarantine from their Pacific Beach gymnastics pod remote learning school. My fantasies for the post-pandemic era are to close down my Zoom account, board the number 30 bus in Birdrock and go to work in my new office, pick up a quick chai tea latte at the Mandeville coffee cart, swim without an appointment at the pool and roam the fiction stacks of the local public library! •

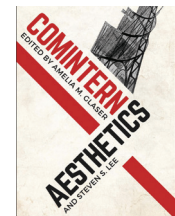


"Going to Prison." Postcard published in Warsaw in 1903.

FACULTY NEWS

**PROFESSOR AMELIA GLASER**

Professor Amelia Glaser published a new book, *Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine* (Harvard University Press, November 2020). This is a study of the Yiddish poets who, in the interwar period, drew from a Jewish vocabulary and collective memory to describe other marginalized ethnic groups, from Chinese works to Black Americans, to Palestinian Arabs. She also coedited, with Steven Lee, *Comintern Aesthetics* (U. Toronto Press, March 2020), which is a collective volume of studies of

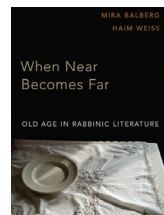


left-wing artistic movements around the world. In January 2021, Academic Studies Press published Glaser's 2012 book, *Jews and Ukrainians in Russia's Literary Borderlands* in Russian translation. Glaser is currently at work on a new project involving contemporary East European literary and artistic movements since the 2014 Euromaidan in Ukraine. She will be working on this project as the Rita E. Hauser fellow at the Harvard-Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study during the 2021-22 academic year. Glaser was recently honored with the Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies at UC San Diego. Her official appointment began on July 1, 2021.

**PROFESSOR MIRA BALBERG**

Mira Balberg, Professor of History and Endowed Chair in Ancient Jewish Civilization teamed up with Professor Haim Weiss of the department of Hebrew Literature at Ben Gurion University, in a joint study on representations of old age in the Talmud and other rabbinic texts. Their co-authored book, *When Near Becomes Far: Old Age in Rabbinic Literature*, was published by Oxford University Press in the spring of 2021. *When*

Near Becomes Far is the first thorough academic study of approaches toward old age in the rabbinic Jewish literature of late antiquity.



Through close literary readings and cultural analysis, the book reveals the gaps and tensions between idealized images of old age on the one hand, and the psychologically, physiologically and socially complicated realities of aging on the other hand. Balberg also won the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon New Directions Fellowship, which supports

midcareer humanities scholars who are interested in studying a new field in order to complement their research work. Balberg, who currently works on a book project on memory, forgetting, attention and distraction in the study culture of the ancient rabbis, received support from the Mellon Foundation in order to delve into the field of cognitive science. She is spending 2020-2022 taking courses, reading scholarly material and exploring the laboratory work of cognitive psychologists in dialogue with her own research on cognitive cultures in late antiquity.

**PROFESSOR LISA LAMPERT-WEISSIG**

Lisa Lampert-Weissig was on leave in 2020-21 completing a book project. She has also published two new essays. One treats medieval and modern apocalypticism in the United States and the United Kingdom. The other, forthcoming in late 2021, focuses on the medieval roots of antisemitic conspiracy theory and how the aesthetic elements contribute to the power and endurance

of conspiracy theory narrative by manipulating emotion. Professor Lampert-Weissig also delivered talks via Zoom for events at the University of Manchester in the UK, the University of Bonn, Germany, and the Medieval Association of the Pacific. The first issue of the journal *New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy and Profession*, of which Lampert-Weissig is a founding editor, appeared in November 2020. The journal is hosted by eScholarship, the University of California Open Access platform, created to promote free access to scholarship to students and researchers worldwide. Professor Lampert-Weissig assumed the directorship of the Jewish Studies Program at the start of the 2021-22 academic year. •

2021 EVENTS AND LECTURES

January 11, 2021

Philip Graubart in conversation with Amelia Glaser, *Women and God* book talk

January 21, 2021

Anna Shternshis and Psoy Korolenko, "*Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of World War II*"

February 1, 2021

Amelia Glaser, *Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine* book launch

February 17, 2021

Anna Hajkova, *Sexual Barter in Times of Genocide: Reflections on Sexual Violence, Agency and Sex Work*

March 8, 2021

Katzin Lecture
James Loeffler, "*Blind Justice: The Jewish Fight Against Antisemitism in Postwar America*"

April 26, 2021

Mira Balberg and Haim Weiss, *When Near Becomes Far: Old Age in Rabbinic Literature* book launch

May 12, 2021

Yuval Gadot, "*The Latest Archaeological Excavations in Jerusalem - Digging in a Glass House*"

June 7, 2021

Arun Viswanath in conversation with Seth Lerer and Amelia Glaser, "*Magic in Mame-Loshn: Translating Harry Potter into Yiddish*"

UC San Diego's Holocaust Living History Workshop Events In 2020-21

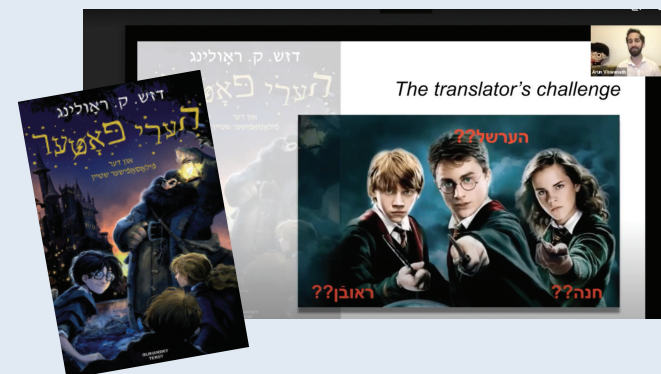
During the academic year 2020-21, the Holocaust Living History Workshop was able to continue its popular lecture series despite the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. A Zoom trial-run in June 2020 revealed the viability of the virtual format for public events, and as the year progressed, the advantages of the technology became ever more apparent.

The 2020-21 series featured internationally renowned speakers and artists and attracted hundreds of viewers from near and far, an average of 100 per event. Lawrence Baron, J. Marek Haltof and Leora Bilsky explored the Holocaust through the medium of film, while Anna Hájková gave a lecture on sexual barter. With its innovative combination of historical context, music and song, the January workshop titled "*Yiddish Glory*," which featured Anna Shternshis and Psoy Korolenko, constituted one of the highlights of the year. Readers are invited to enjoy the recordings of previous events by searching the UC San Diego Library's digital collections.

The final workshop of the year took place on June 2 featuring David Marwell, the author of the recently published biography of the infamous Auschwitz physician Dr. Josef Mengele.

Due to the success of the virtual format and the positive feedback from attendees, the program is planning to adopt a hybrid format for next year's series of public events. While some events will be hosted on campus, health and safety permitting, others will be delivered online. In this way we hope to continue to reach the broadest possible audience without sacrificing quality and personal interaction. •

All Holocaust Living History Workshop events are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit our website at lib.ucsd.edu/hlhw.



Student Research Highlights



BEATRICE WATERHOUSE

Waterhouse's research focuses on the Moroccan-descended Jewish community of the Amazonian city of Iquitos, Peru and its members' understanding and deployment of their Jewish identities. Their struggles to be recognized as authentically Jewish in an increasingly homogeneous Diaspora highlight the tensions between transnational community and Diasporic belonging.



EDWARD MUALLEM

Edward Muallem says one of the most academically rewarding experiences of his undergraduate education was pursuing a minor in Jewish Studies. He adds that even though the program is small, the interdisciplinary selection of courses offered allows students to explore a wide variety of interests and methods. This past year, he had the opportunity to take a unique seminar entitled "*Hannah Arendt Life and Work*" with Professor Deborah Hertz, a scholar of the subject. In the course, Hertz encouraged students to research a topic of their own choosing relating broadly to Arendt. Muallem chose her many-sided perspective on Zionism. After the course, with Professor Hertz's guidance, he applied and was accepted to present at the UCLA Y&S Nazarian Undergraduate Israel Conference. Muallem explains the conference was a bit different on Zoom, but nonetheless invigorating. "Sitting in a 'room' of such brilliant young intellectuals from around the world and engaging in lively discussion and debate on Israel, the conflict and Jewish politics, felt nothing short of a contemporary Jewish salon." Muallem explains this course and conference have shaped his destiny. He's now looking towards law school and a future career at the intersection of policy, biology and political philosophy.



CELINE KHOURY

Celine Khoury's research engages with the tension between the flexibility and the rigidity of race and its relationship to emergent capitalism. In her dissertation, she explores "racial capitalism" as it relates to late medieval and early modern drama and literary culture. This includes an examination of Christian identity and the roots of antisemitism in Europe. Thank you to the Jewish Studies Program for supporting this research!



EVELYN VASQUEZ

Evelyn Vasquez is from Lincoln Heights in Los Angeles. Her general research interest is in visual inequality and the effects it has on people in poor inner city communities. Currently, she's concerned with tenement floor plans in relationship to fictional tenement representations in early 20th century American literature, including comic books.



FABIOLA CARRANZA

Fabiola Carranza examines visual, cultural and personal phenomena through art and writing. She studied art in Vancouver, Canada and is an art-practice PhD student specializing in Critical Gender Studies. Funds from the Jewish Studies Summer Fellowship enabled her to research the life and work of Felicia Cohn Montealegre, on whom she recently published an article with *Canadian Art*.



RACHEL HENNINGS

The Wilhelmine period in Germany of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was a time of confessionalization, rapid economic change and nation building. Rachel Hennings' research examines the impact of diverse religious perspectives on attitudes towards capitalism, work and business practice — particularly among Catholics, Protestants and Jews.



KARINA VAHITOVA

Karina Vahitova's research centers on ethnicity and race in Soviet, contemporary Russian and American cultures. She seeks to understand the role of cultural memory in how people have entered technologies of social power in various iterations of imperialism, control, slavery and serfdom. She's also researched the role transnational coalition building has played and will play in the dismantling of these systems.



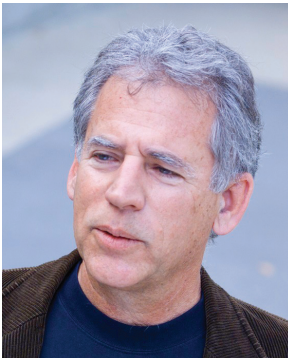
SEMIH GOKATALAY

Thanks to the Jewish Studies Summer Fellowship, Semih Gokatalay conducted research on Jewish participation from the Middle East in the international expositions in the United States. After his research, he made a presentation at the Fourth International Conference on Israel and Judaism Studies. He wrote an article on this topic that will be published in 2022.



REBECCA FUTTERMAN

Rebecca Futterman wrestles with the idea of what it means to be Jewish in America in 2021. While a lot of her research was stalled due to COVID-19, she focused on connecting with her Jewish peers and evaluating her own Jewish heritage and identity. When travel restrictions are lifted, she looks forward to traveling and speaking with Jews across the world. Ultimately, she hopes to sculpt her findings into a one-woman show that examines the experience of being Jewish in this day and age.



Thomas E. Levy

DIVING INTO MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Inaugurated in late April 2021, the field station is located in the coastal town of Akko (known in history books as Acre) in northwestern Israel.

The field station will become a hub for exploration and research into submerged cultural heritage, and not just in Israel. "Our vision is to examine climate, environmental and cultural change in the connected ancient world," says Levy. "Stretching from the Mediterranean worlds to India and China."

Levy also leads the Qualcomm Institute-based Center for Cyber-Archaeology and Sustainability at UC San Diego. •

GIVING BACK

For more information about how **you can make a difference** for the Jewish Studies Program and its students, please visit jewishstudies.ucsd.edu/giving or contact us at jewishstudies@ucsd.edu.

