

# 2024

## Lab for the Global Study of Antisemitism



Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

מרכז למדעי היהדות

*Co-sponsored by the  
Faculty of Arts and Science*

## Conference on Historical and Contemporary Antisemitism

**September 23 to  
September 24, 2024**

**Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies**

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# Schedule

Monday, September 23, 2024

Location: Room 100,  
170 St. George Street

9:00

**Opening Remarks**

9:30

**Panel 1: *New Challenges and New Situations: Navigating Jewishness in the Contemporary World***

Robert Brym

*Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto*

Daniel Staetsky

*Director, European Jewish Demography Unit, Institute for Jewish Policy Research*

Dikla Yogev

*Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto*

Ron Levi

*Distinguished Professor of Global Justice, University of Toronto*

**Moderator: Sol Goldberg**

*Associate Professor, University of Toronto*

11:00

**Break**

11:30

**Panel 2: *Memories of Antisemitism***

Yolande Cohen

*Professor, University of Quebec in Montreal*

Kate Korycki

*Assistant Professor, Western University*

**Moderator: Doris Bergen**

*Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies,  
University of Toronto*

# Schedule

12:30

**Lunch**

13:30

**Panel 3: *Antisemitism and Healthcare***

Ayelet Kuper

*Associate Professor, University of Toronto*

Aaron Orkin

*Assistant Professor, University of Toronto*

Ariel Lefkowitz

*Assistant Professor, University of Toronto*

**Moderator: Joanna Krongold**

*Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto*

15:30

**Break**

16:00

**Keynote Lecture: “Antisemitism on Campus: A New Survey from the University of California”**

Jeffrey Kopstein

*Professor, University of California Irvine*

# Schedule

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Location: The Boardroom,  
315 Bloor Street West

9:00

**Panel 4: Centres for Jewish Studies and the Field of Antisemitism Research**

Avinoam Patt,  
*Maurice Greenberg Professor of Holocaust Studies, New York University*

Jeffrey Veidlinger  
*Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies, University of Michigan Ann Arbor*

Anna Shternshis  
*J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies, University of Toronto*

Manuela Consonni  
*Pela and Adam Starkopf Chair in Holocaust Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

**Moderator: Jeffrey Kopstein**  
*Professor, University of California Irvine*

11:00

**Break**

11:30

**Panel 5: Does it Feel Like the Old Country: Russian Antisemitic Tropes**

Ann Komaromi  
*Professor, University of Toronto*

Lynne Viola  
*University Professor Emerita, University of Toronto*

Leonid Livak  
*Professor, University of Toronto*

**Moderator: Anna Shternshis,**  
*J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies, University of Toronto*

# Schedule

13:00

**Lunch**

14:00

**Panel 6: *Public Discourse in Academia and Society***

Sol Goldberg

*Associate Professor, University of Toronto*

Randal Schnoor

*Professor, York University*

Renan Levine

*Associate Professor, University of Toronto*

**Moderator: Ann Komaromi**

*Professor, University of Toronto*

16:00

**Closing Remarks**

# Panel 1

## New Challenges and New Situations: Navigating Jewishness in the Contemporary World

### Robert Brym

#### “What More Can Canadian Jews do about Recent Hostilities toward Jews and Israel?”

##### Abstract

Since the 7 October 2023 pogrom, Canadian Jews have responded to the wave of attacks on Jews and Israel by organizing demonstrations of community solidarity, exposing falsehoods and distortions in the mass and social media, taking legal action against certain individuals and institutions, and rethinking philanthropic contributions to non-Jewish establishments. While these “hard” actions are necessary and useful, the results of a 2024 survey of nearly 3,000 Jewish and non-Jewish Canadians suggest that “soft” educational and inter-communal projects, though badly neglected, are also needed to increase understanding and empathy between Jews and their detractors, thus dampening inter-communal conflict. This paper reviews findings from the 2024 survey that help make a case for the value of such projects.

##### Bio

Robert Brym, FRSC, is Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto. He has completed major research projects on Jewish intellectuals in late tsarist Russia, Jewish emigration from the former Soviet Union, and the second intifada. Since he began studying the Canadian Jewish community in 2018, he has published more than a dozen works on the subject. They include: “2018 Survey of Jews in Canada,” with Keith Neuman and Rhonda Lenton (Toronto: Environics Institute, 2019); “The Ever-Dying People? Canada’s Jews in Comparative Perspective,” edited with Randal F. Schnoor (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2023); and “Jews and Israel 2024: A survey of Canadian attitudes and Jewish perceptions,” *Canadian Jewish Studies/Études juives canadiennes* (37: 2024) 6-89.



# Panel 1

## New Challenges and New Situations: Navigating Jewishness in the Contemporary World

### Daniel Staetsky

#### “Jewish Migration as a Mirror of the World Peace”

##### Abstract

This talk charts trajectories and patterns in Jewish migration to Israel since the 1990s. Why do Jews move to Israel? What regularities are observed in this movement? What do patterns of Jewish migration to Israel tell us about the world beyond Jews. The talk will start from the traditional focus on ‘why Jews choose to migrate to Israel’ and progress to far less traditional ‘what developments can Jewish migration to Israel predict, on a global scale?’. When appropriately viewed, it is maintained, Jewish migration is ‘prophetic’ with respect to war and peace.

##### Bio

Daniel Staetsky is a demographer and a statistician, born in the USSR - a world that no longer exists - and educated in Israel and Britain. He holds a PhD in Social Statistics and Demography. To date he has served in senior analytical roles in the Central Bureau of Statistics (Israel) and RAND Europe (Cambridge, UK). He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (London, UK). He has published widely on Jewish, Israeli and European demography and social statistics. The author's favourite topics are demographic and social puzzles involving Jews and people that surround them-why do Jews live so long? why do Muslim Arabs in Israel have so many children? why do women-globally- live longer than men? Is there a link between the classic old-fashioned antisemitism and today's antizionism? These are just a few examples of questions that motivated some of his work and on which he has written extensively. Dr Daniel Staetsky is an owner of the website 'Jewish World in Data' which is a unique depository of data and factual commentary in Jewish demography and statistics.

# Panel 1

## New Challenges and New Situations: Navigating Jewishness in the Contemporary World

**Dikla Yogev**

### **“Everyday Narrative of Antisemitism: Myths and Living Together”**

#### **Abstract**

This presentation focuses on a recently published study (Santos and Yogev, 2024) estimating the impact of October 7th on fear, antagonism, and harassment faced by Jewish and Israeli members of universities. Based on a survey of 201 Jewish/Israeli respondents across North America and Europe, the study examined their exposure to hate and comfort levels in daily activities. Respondents were randomly asked about experiences before, immediately after, or in recent weeks following October 7th, ensuring conservative estimates and minimizing bias. The findings reveal that hate levels, already high, significantly worsened after October 7th, leaving many uncomfortable expressing their culture. Respondents also feel universities have been ineffective in addressing their safety concerns.

#### **Bio**

Dr. Dikla Yogev is a sociologist currently holding a postdoctoral position at the University of Toronto. Her research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as Journal of Trust Research, Policing & Society, and International Criminology, focusing on topics concerning religious communities, the police, and the state. Dr. Yogev has been serving as the project manager for two federally funded research projects: "Histories of Orthodoxies" led by Dr. Naomi Seidman (since 2024) and "Workplace Democracy Project" led by Dr. Rafael Gomez (since 2023). Her current research is centered on community organization, social networks, and democracy, employing various methods including digital and computational techniques

# Panel 1

## New Challenges and New Situations: Navigating Jewishness in the Contemporary World

### Ron Levi

#### “Everyday Narrative of Antisemitism: Myths and Living Together”

##### Abstract

This presentation draws on a nationally representative Canadian survey to draw out the relationships between different antisemitic myths, and their relationship to practices of living together. We consider the correlates between these and dimensions of civic engagement, economic security, and confidence in state institutions, in order to embed the study of antisemitism within a broader space of expectations and concerns. We go on to compare these findings with cross-national data on reports of antisemitism.

##### Bio

Ron Levi is Distinguished Professor of Global Justice at the University of Toronto, and a Professor in the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy and the Department of Sociology, and a faculty affiliate with the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. His research focuses on competitions, claims, and ideas about justice and violence, often during disrupted or unsettled times. Ron directs the new multidisciplinary Lab for the Global Study of Antisemitism in the Centre for Jewish Studies, as well as the Global Justice Lab in the Munk School which pursues applied research with justice systems under stress. Among his projects, Ron is now collaborating with a team of colleagues at the University of Toronto and Hebrew University, on a project focusing on hate and counter-hate speech online.

# Panel 2

## Memories of Antisemitism

### Yolande Cohen

#### “The Organized Exile of Moroccan Jews: Multiple Layers of Antisemitism, Exclusion, Discrimination (1948-1956)”

##### Abstract

As France Vichy regime extended its racist and antisemitic laws in the Moroccan Protectorate in 1942, Moroccan Jews became unique targets of repressive measures, banning them from some professions, removing children from attending schools etc... For the minority of urbanized and westernized Jews, Vichy meant the end of the French Third Republic promise of emancipation. Even worse, French antisemitism accentuated Moroccan Jews sense of otherness, with these exclusionary measures.

Antisemitism fueled Zionists' agitation in favor of their *Alyah* to Israel, which in turn provoked intense turmoil and anger among Moroccan nationalist activists, eager to defend the right of Palestinian people to their land. The peak in this imperial politic of ethnic division happened in June 1948, only three weeks after the establishment of the State of Israel, with a pogrom in the neighbouring towns of Oujda and Jerrada in Morocco. In these towns, near the Moroccan-Algerian border, Arab mobs killed two hundred Jews amongst the many hundred who were transported by Israeli emissaries to Algiers, a key transit point for Jews heading to Marseille in France, and finally to Haifa in Israel.

During this post-war, post-Shoah period in 1948, till the independence of Morocco in 1956, some 110 000 Moroccan Jews have been displaced from their country to transit camps in France, where they sojourned from 3 months to 2 years or more, awaiting visas to enter Israel. This massive operation was organized by the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency, mobilized to 'rescue' Jewish populations at risk of antisemite uprising in Muslim countries. We will highlight in this presentation the many layers of discrimination this population experienced as a religious minority in a Muslim world (*dhimmi*, diminished as Memmi put it), as well as racialized subjects under the Vichy regime and the French protectorate, and then as an oriental population under the intense scrutiny of Ashkenazi Zionists who controlled the Israeli immigration policy.

# Panel 2

## Memories of Antisemitism

### Yolande Cohen

#### Bio

*Chevalière* of Québec National Order and *Chevalier* of France *Légion d'honneur*, Yolande Cohen is professor in the history department at the Université du Québec à Montréal. Past-President of the Academy of Arts and Humanities of the Royal Society of Canada, she has received an Honorary Doctorate from Université de Montréal (2019).

As a specialist in women and gender history in Québec and Canada, she has published several monographies: *Prostitution et traite des femmes: une cause féministe en France et au Canada*, (Prostitution and Human Trafficking: a feminist battle in France and Canada at the turn of XX e century), 2019; *Femmes Philanthropes* (Women Philanthropies), 2010; *Profession Infirmière. Une histoire des soins dans les hôpitaux du Québec*, (The nursing profession : history of caring in Québec hospitals), 2000 ; *Les sciences infirmières : genèse d'une discipline*, (Nursing : the construction of a discipline), 2002.

She also works on the history of Moroccan Jews and their transnational migrations. Her publications include: *Les Sépharades du Québec ( Sephardi Jews in Québec)*, dir., 2017; *Identités sépharades et modernité ( Sephardis Identities and modernity)*, YC, Jean-Claude Lasry and Joseph Lévy, 2007; *Les Juifs marocains à Montréal ( Moroccan Jews in Montréal)*, 1987, *Itinéraires Sépharades. L'odyssée des Juifs sépharades de l'Inquisition à nos jours (Sephardis trajectories. Sephardi Jews odyssey since the Inquisition)*, 1992 ; *Les juifs marocains, entre tradition et modernité (Moroccan Jews between tradition and modernity)*, 2000. A collection of her essays in French and English is forthcoming at the University of Ottawa Press (2025).

# Panel 2

## Memories of Antisemitism



### **Kate Korycki**

**“Past as a Political Tool: Collective Memory and Exclusionary Politics, the case of Poland”**

#### **Abstract**

This talk is based on Kate Korycki's recent book, titled "Weaponizing the Past: Collective Memory, and Jews, Poles and Communists in 21st Century Poland." The book explains why and how political elites narrate the past and what effects are produced by their preoccupation with collective remembering. First presenting a theory of politicized memory and then telling the story of post-transition Poland, in which many different political actors narrate communism as evil and conflated with Jewishness, Korycki shows how democracy, progressive ideals, and notions of national belonging are narrowed and constricted.

#### **Bio**

Kate Korycki is Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Western University in Canada. She is a political sociologist interested in ways in which collective memory – or collective story-telling about the past – creates, justifies and maintains systems of social stratification in the present.

# Panel 2

## Memories of Antisemitism



### Doris Bergen

#### Bio

Doris L. Bergen is the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies. Her research focuses on issues of religion, gender, and ethnicity in the Holocaust and World War II and comparatively in other cases of extreme violence. Her books include *Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich* (1996); *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (2003); *The Sword of the Lord: Military Chaplains from the First to the Twenty-First Centuries* (edited, 2004); and *Lessons and Legacies VIII* (edited, 2008).

Prof. Bergen has held grants and fellowships from the SSHRC, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the DAAD, and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and she has taught at the Universities of Warsaw, Pristina, Tuzla, Notre Dame, and Vermont. Her current projects include a book on Germany military chaplains in the Nazi era and a study of definitions of Germanness as revealed in the Volksdeutschen/ethnic Germans of Eastern Europe during World War II and the Holocaust. Bergen is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington , D.C.

# Panel 3

## Antisemitism and Healthcare Roundtable Discussion

### **Ayelet Kuper**

#### **Bio**

Dr. Ayelet Kuper, MD, DPhil, FRCPC is an Associate Professor in UofT's Department of Medicine and practices medicine within the Division of General Internal Medicine at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. She is a Scientist and Associate Director at the Wilson Centre and is cross-appointed to the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, to the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and to UofT's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. A child and grandchild of Holocaust survivors, she holds a doctorate from the University of Oxford in Holocaust literature in addition to her medical training. She has been teaching about equity and inclusion within the MD Program, graduate programs, and various residency programs for many years, and she sits on numerous committees related to anti-oppression and social justice for a wide range of equity-deserving groups at the Faculty of Medicine and at UofT. She has published over 90 peer-reviewed papers, many of which relate to power, equity, inclusion, and social justice, and is frequently invited to speak about those topics internationally. Between June 2022 and June 2023 she served as the Faculty of Medicine's Senior Advisor on Antisemitism. Her pronouns are she, her, and hers.



# Panel 3

## Antisemitism and Healthcare Roundtable Discussion

### **Aaron Orkin**

#### **Bio**

Dr Aaron Orkin is a physician scientist in emergency medicine and public health, and Associate Professor at the University of Toronto. He is a founding member of the Jewish Affinity Group at Unity Health Toronto, Ontario's largest Catholic hospital network, where he practices emergency medicine. His research and practice focuses in part on medical humanitarianism and icky relationships between medical and state power.

### **Ariel Lefkowitz**

#### **Bio**

Dr. Ariel Lefkowitz is an Internal Medicine physician and the Education Lead for the Division of General Internal Medicine at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. He is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, and is the lead for novel educational sessions at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine on Religious Discrimination in Health Care and on Lessons for Physicians from the Holocaust.

### **Joanna Krongold**

#### **Bio**

Dr. Joanna Krongold is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow investigating antisemitism in health professions education at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine's Office of Inclusion and Diversity, the Wilson Centre, and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. Her work explores Holocaust literature, memory, and pedagogy; antisemitism and social justice-oriented education; and experiential learning. She has taught at many levels in both university- and community-based settings, and her scholarly monograph is forthcoming from Lexington Books

# Keynote Lecture

The Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies presents:  
Keynote Lecture of the **Conference on Historical and  
Contemporary Antisemitism**

## “Antisemitism on Campus: A New Survey from the University of California”



Jeffrey Kopstein  
*University of California, Irvine*

**Date:** Monday, September 23  
**Time:** 4:00pm  
**Location:** Room 100,  
170 St. George Street

All lectures are free and open  
to the public.  
Seating is on a first come  
first served basis.

# Keynote Lecture



## “Antisemitism on Campus: A New Survey from the University of California”

The outbreak of campus protest after the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, renewed and intensified the long-standing debate over whether social activism that questions Israel’s existence, or that is even critical of Israel, simply masks a new form of antisemitism, and whether Jewish students and faculty confront a particularly hostile environment on campus. This lecture interrogates student attitudes on four large campuses at the University of California in the months before and after October 7th. Based on an original survey, it explores the levels and correlates on antisemitic attitudes, whether universities are incubators of antipathy toward Jews, and the extent to which negative attitudes towards Jews have increased since the outbreak of the war.

### Jeffrey Kopstein

Jeffrey Kopstein is Dean’s Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Irvine. In his research, Professor Kopstein focuses on interethnic violence, voting patterns of minority groups, antisemitism, and anti-liberal tendencies in civil society. These interests are central topics in his latest books, *Intimate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust* (Cornell University Press, 2018), *Politics, Memory, Violence: The New Social Science of the Holocaust* (Cornell University Press, 2023), and *The Assault on the State: How the Global Attack on Modern Government Endangers our Future* (Polity, 2024). He has held fellowships at Harvard University, Princeton University, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His research has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the US Department of Defense, the Fullbright Foundation, and the Anti-Defamation League

# Panel 4

## Centres for Jewish Studies and the Field of Antisemitism Research Roundtable Discussion

### Avinoam Platt

#### Bio

Avinoam Platt is the Maurice Greenberg Professor of Holocaust Studies at New York University where he also serves as Director of the Center for the Study of Antisemitism. Dr. Platt previously held the Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies at the University of Connecticut, where he served as Director of the Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life. He also previously held positions at the University of Hartford and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of multiple books on Jewish responses to the Holocaust, including *Finding Home and Homeland: Jewish Youth and Zionism in the Aftermath of the Holocaust* (2009); co-editor of a collected volume on Jewish Displaced Persons, titled *We are Here: New Approaches to the Study of Jewish Displaced Persons in Postwar Germany* (2010); and is a contributor to several projects at the USHMM including *Jewish Responses to Persecution, 1938-1940* (2011). He recently completed a new book on the early postwar memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (*The Jewish Heroes of Warsaw: The Afterlife of the Revolt*, 2021). Together with David Slucki and Gabriel Finder, he is co-editor of *Laughter After: Humor and the Holocaust* (2020) and, with Laura Hilton, *Understanding and Teaching the Holocaust* (2020). His newest book, *Israel and the Holocaust*, was published by Bloomsbury Press as part of its *Perspectives on the Holocaust* series in 2024.

# Panel 4

## Centres for Jewish Studies and the Field of Antisemitism Research Roundtable Discussion

### Jeffrey Veidlinger

#### **Bio**

Jeffrey Veidlinger is Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies and Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute at the University of Michigan. His latest book, *In the Midst of Civilized Europe: The Pogroms of 1918-1921 and the Onset of the Holocaust*, won a Canadian Jewish Literary Award and a Vine Book Award, and was a finalist for the Lionel Gelber Prize, the National Jewish Book Award, and the Wingate Literary Prize. He is also author of the award-winning books *The Moscow State Yiddish Theater: Jewish Culture on the Soviet Stage* (2000), *Jewish Public Culture in the Late Russian Empire* (2009), and *In the Shadow of the Shtetl: Small-Town Jewish Life in Soviet Ukraine* (2013).

# Panel 4

## Centres for Jewish Studies and the Field of Antisemitism Research Roundtable Discussion

### Anna Shternshis

#### Bio

Anna Shternshis is the Director of the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies and the J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Chair of Jewish Studies

She is a distinguished scholar with an international reputation for her expertise in Jewish culture in Russia and the Soviet Union, oral history as well as Yiddish music.

Professor Shternshis is the author of *Soviet and Kosher: Jewish Popular Culture in the Soviet Union, 1923 – 1939* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006) and *When Sonia Met Boris: An Oral History of Jewish Life under Stalin* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017). She is the author of more than 25 articles on the Soviet Jews during World War II, Russian Jewish culture, post-Soviet Jewish diaspora and Yiddish culture of the Holocaust. Professor Shternshis lectures widely around the world and her work has been featured in print media in 45 countries in 22 languages. Her most recent project, *Yiddish Glory: The Lost Songs of WWII*, highlights forgotten Yiddish music written during the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. The project has received widespread acclaim, including a Grammy nomination in 2019. She is also the recipient of several awards, including Guggenheim Fellowship and the University of Toronto President's Impact Award.

Professor Shternshis was appointed as the Special Advisor to the Dean on Community Engagement in March 2020. As Special Advisor, she will provide advice to the Dean on matters related to the strategic priority of increasing community engagement. She will assist in evaluating opportunities for partnership, including working with external organizations and advisory groups. She will also help increase the Faculty's profile in the community and enrich opportunities for students and faculty, especially related to experiential learning and innovative scholarship.

# Panel 4

## Centres for Jewish Studies and the Field of Antisemitism Research Roundtable Discussion

### Manuela Consonni

#### **Bio**

Manuela Consonni a social and cultural historian of 19th and 20th centuries. Her approach is transdisciplinary drawing on such subdisciplines as political history, the history of mentalities, oral history, gender history, history of ideas, and micro-history. Her fields of expertise are: history of modern Western Europe; the history of Italy and of its Jewry; memory studies and Shoah studies; the history of antisemitism and racism; the history of fascist and neo-fascist thought; the methodology and philosophy of history.

Within the field of socio-cultural history, she considers herself a scholar positioned at the crossroads of studies on ideology, phenomenology and hermeneutics, their convergence, and their dialectical relation to and influence on issues such as: complex system of secular and religious beliefs (popular and elites), power relations, public narratives and collective practices, social and political violence and justice, and question of time and space. Her trajectories led her to engage in investigations into history and myth, on the discourse of politics and religion, and on the reproduction of mythopoetic structures, at the core of which she places the question of the sacred as a cornerstone of understanding majority/minorities relations.

# Panel 5

## Does it Feel Like the Old Country: Russian Antisemitic Tropes

### Ann Komaromi

#### “Antisemitism and the Jewish Revival in the Soviet Union”

##### Abstract

In this talk, Komaromi will discuss reactions to antisemitism in Jewish samizdat in the USSR after Stalin. While not as dramatic as the "black years" of Soviet Jewry, the period after WWII in the Soviet Union continued to feature various forms of official and everyday anti-Jewish sentiment as recorded in uncensored writings (samizdat) of the time. As these writings show, antisemitism helped stimulate efforts to revive Jewish culture and identity and to emigrate

##### Bio

Ann Komaromi is professor in the Centre for Comparative Literature and the Department of Slavic & East European Languages & Cultures. She studied Soviet underground journals for her book *Soviet Samizdat* (NIUP, 2022). Her book with co-author Michael Beizer, *A Time to Sow: Refusenik Life in Leningrad* is forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press.



# Panel 5

## Does it Feel Like the Old Country: Russian Antisemitic Tropes and Contemporary Canada

### Lynne Viola

#### “Antisemitism in the NKVD”

##### Abstract

Following the German invasion of the USSR on June 22, 1941, murderous violence against local Jews broke out in many localities of the territories it had occupied in the wake of the 1939 Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact. In particular, organizers demanded revenge for the recent Stalinist repressions and deportations. Participants claimed that the “Jewish Soviet state,” the “Jewish NKVD,” or local Jews had been responsible for those crimes. Even now, the legend of prewar Jewish responsibility figures in the dubious “double genocide” thesis animating nationalistic historiographies in Eastern Europe and its international diasporas. This presentation seeks to counter that mythology, addressing the story of Jews in the NKVD at the end of the 1930s. It draws on the archives of the Ukrainian security services, especially records that document Stalin’s effort to divert blame for the recent Great Terror onto senior and mid-level officials. Stalin’s green light to criticize the bosses gave other NKVD officers the opportunity to address many issues, including that of antisemitism among NKVD cadres. These sources suggest that antisemitism was in fact a potent force within the NKVD in Ukraine and elsewhere.

##### Bio

Lynne Viola is University Professor Emerita at the University of Toronto. Her most recent books are *Stalinist Perpetrators on Trial: Scenes from the Great Terror in Soviet Ukraine* and (co-edited with Marc Junge), *Laboratories of Terror: The Final Act of Stalin’s Great Terror*.

# Panel 5

## Does it Feel Like the Old Country: Russian Antisemitic Tropes and Contemporary Canada

### Leonid Livak

#### “Integrating Jewish Studies with Russian Exilic Studies: The Holocaust and the End of Russia Abroad”

##### Abstract

The post-war disintegration of Russia Abroad as a cultural community is a historiographic lacuna of Russian exilic studies. A fuller understanding of the unraveling of France’s Russian community in the 1940s requires the integration of two unduly separated fields of inquiry – Russian exilic studies and Jewish studies. This presentation argues that the antisemitic persecution of the Jewish members of Russia Abroad in wartime France – expressed in overseas migration, social segregation, and physical extermination – undermined the cultural viability of France’s Russian diaspora. The significant differences in the ways the war had been experienced by ethnically Russian and Russian-Jewish émigrés further contributed to the fracturing and decline of the Russian cultural community in France, the last redoubt of Russia Abroad in post-war Europe.

##### Bio

Leonid Livak is Professor at the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. He is the author of books and critical editions devoted to Russian and transnational modernism, the history of Russian-French intellectual and literary contacts and transfers, as well as the cultural history of Jews in modern Europe. His publications include: *How It Was Done in Paris: Russian Émigré Literature and French Modernism* (2003) ; *The Jewish Persona in the European Imagination* (2010); *Russian Émigrés in the Intellectual and Literary Life of Interwar France* (2010); *In Search of Russian Modernism* (2018) ; *Études sur l'histoire culturelle de l'émigration russe en France* (2022). Livak is currently writing a cultural history of the end of Russia Abroad in the 1940s. At U of T, Livak regularly teaches a course on the history of anti-Judaism, Judeophobia, and antisemitism: SLA302/SLA1207 The Imaginary Jew.

# Panel 6

## Public Discourse in Academia and Society

### Sol Goldberg

#### “Antisemitism: Indeterminacy, Ambiguity, Vagueness”

##### Abstract

As reports of antisemitic incidents grow more frequent, so too do challenges to the very meaning of “antisemitism.” No doubt, this increased frequency leads to greater and closer attention, which partly explains such semantic challenges. Their most common explanation, however, is that antisemitism’s victims and perpetrators have conflicting interests in its definition. Charges of antisemitism are thus often followed by accusations that the term is being abused to stifle legitimate behavior, accusations in turn interpreted as antisemites’ self-serving and disingenuous denials of their antisemitism. Recognizing not only that we probably won’t ever produce an uncontested definition of antisemitism but also that we need to get beyond back-and-forth accusations of bad faith, Waxman, Schraub, and Hosein (2021) propose that we understand many disagreements about alleged/denied cases of antisemitism as a result of there being several viable and divergent frameworks for thinking about antisemitism. Although I am sympathetic to their motivations, I am unconvinced that contests over the meaning of antisemitism can be explained by a diversity of frameworks. My paper accordingly offers an alternative account in terms of antisemitism’s inherent indefiniteness, which, I argue, should be distinguished into different species. By understanding why and how antisemitism can be indeterminate, ambiguous, or vague, we might open up more productive ways to confront contested cases.

##### Bio

Sol Goldberg is Associate Professor (Teaching Stream) at the University of Toronto's Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies and the Associate Director of its Antisemitism Lab

# Panel 6

## Public Discourse in Academia and Society

### Randal Schnoor

#### “Bridging the Gap? Navigating Israel/Palestine tensions on Canadian Campuses”

##### Abstract

With the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel and the subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza, the recent academic year has been marked by conflict and polarization on university campuses. Toronto campuses are certainly no exception. This paper will discuss Bridging the Gap: a successful Israel/Palestine student dialogue group at York University. I will reflect both on the value of civil dialogue on campus as a way to prevent or reduce antisemitism (and other forms of oppression), as well as the challenges involved.

##### Bio

Dr. Randal F. Schnoor (PhD 2003, McGill University), a sociologist, has been teaching Jewish Studies at York University since 2004. He specializes in the qualitative study of contemporary Jewish life in North America. In 2019 he created a new course entitled “Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Canada” which he has taught several times. In December of 2023, together with a group of outstanding students at York University he rejuvenated “Bridging the Gap,” an Israel/Palestine student dialogue group. Inspired by this successful venture he is currently researching and writing about the processes of inter-cultural dialogue on campus. He is an award-winning teacher at York University and is the 2024 recipient of the Louis Rosenberg Canadian Jewish Studies Distinguished Service Award

# Panel 6

## Public Discourse in Academia and Society

### Renan Levine

#### “Connecting Sympathies for Middle East Protagonists to Attitudes about Jews & Muslims”

##### Abstract

Existing research into American public opinion finds that attitudes towards select immigrants and Muslim Americans often reflects views of foreign countries and those countries' actions on the world stage. This paper draws on existing survey data to extend that research towards examining how attitudes about Jews and other attitudes and demographic characteristics shape opinions towards the protagonists in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On some surveys, Americans are given the option of sympathizing with both Israelis and Palestinians, which is a popular option, especially among Democrats.

##### Bio

**Renan Levine** (PhD, Duke University) is an Associate Professor, Teaching Stream in the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto Scarborough, where he focuses on public opinion and voting behavior.