



**The Center for Global  
& International Studies  
& the Jewish Studies  
Program present:**

A Hybrid Interdisciplinary Conference  
Conferência Interdisciplinar Híbrida  
Conferencia Interdisciplinaria Híbrida  
כנס היברידי בין-תחומי

# Jews in the Americas Judeus nas Américas Judíos en las Américas יהודים באמריקה

April 18-19, 2024  
18-19 de abril de 2024  
י'-י"א בניסן, תשפ"ד

## THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



The Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS) offers international expertise, education, and global perspectives on the world through undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Global & International Studies. CGIS prepares students for internationally-focused careers in Kansas, the United States, and abroad. Recent graduates have continued on to graduate school and law school. Others work at NGOs, nonprofits, and in the public sector, such as the State Department, FBI and CIA.

Building upon the exceptional resources at KU in area studies, world languages, and international programs, our mission is to enhance and develop cross regional and interdisciplinary academic, research, and outreach programs with local, regional, and national impact.



The Jewish Studies Program offers an undergraduate major (BA in Jewish Studies) and minor, Departmental Honors (both by research paper and by service learning), and courses in Jewish Studies, Israel Studies, Hebrew, and Yiddish. We co-sponsor courses in other units including History, Political Science, Religious Studies, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Linguistics. Among our several focus areas are Judaic studies, identities and ethnicities, languages and narratives, history and archaeology, and applied service in Jewish organizations.

KU Jewish Studies celebrates the Jewish experience with courses on the history, diversity, culture, religion, languages, thought, and practices of the Jewish people.



**On April 18th & 19th, the Center of Global & International Studies and the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas, will host the 2024 Jews in the Americas Conference.**

**This interdisciplinary conference will bring together scholars from a variety of fields, including history, religion, sociology, politics, anthropology, literature, and the arts, to explore the rich and diverse experiences of Jews in the Americas.**

The conference includes online panels of original research on Yiddish in South America, Israel related connections, Jewish art, culture, and identity, Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews, Speculative fiction, Jewish women, Antisemitism, Jewish education and pedagogy.

The conference features several in person components: two keynote speakers & a conference reception at the Spencer Museum of Art. An exhibit of Jewish art at the Spencer Museum of Art will be on view April 2-21, 2024 and an exhibit about the history of Kansas Jewry will be on view at KU Hillel from April 15-19, 2024.

The event will be hybrid, with most sessions online, however we welcome participants to attend in person at the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence.

Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

To attend the event in person, please join us at the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center located at 1299 Oread Ave, next to the Kansas Memorial Union.

To attend the event online, please register here:

[https://kansas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IA0BaEF\\_RDOLVA6yT7x2aA#/registration](https://kansas.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IA0BaEF_RDOLVA6yT7x2aA#/registration)

The conference website can be found here:

<https://kujewishstudies.ku.edu/jewsamericas>

For any questions, please contact:

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For Zoom issues during the event or general inquiries, please email: [jewsinamericas@ku.edu](mailto:jewsinamericas@ku.edu)

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## CENTRAL DAY TIME (CDT)

### DAY 1: Thursday, April 18, 2024

The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center  
& the Spencer Museum of Art

### Day 2: Friday, April 19, 2024

The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center  
& the Kansas Memorial Union

9:15-9:30	Conference Opening	7:30-9:00	<b>Panel 7:</b> With or Against the Law? East European Jewish Women Navigating Transatlantic Migration in the Early Twentieth Century (online only)
9:30-11:00	<b>Panel 1:</b> Transnational Yiddish Culture in Postwar South America		
	<b>Panel 2:</b> Jews in the Americas: Israel Connections, Politics, Identity, and Ideas		<b>Panel 8:</b> Jews in the Americas and Israel Related Connections: Diaspora Relations (online only)
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	9:00-9:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:45	<b>Keynote:</b> Dr. Sarah Imhoff: "We Have Always Been American: Jewish Origin Stories"	9:30-11:00	<b>Panel 9:</b> Jewish Culture, Historiography, and Identity in Latin America
12:45-13:45	Lunch break		<b>Panel 10:</b> Centering the Enslaved People in Sephardic Households in the Americas
13:45-15:15	<b>Panel 3:</b> Artists, Superheroes, and Cultural Brokers Across Continents	11:00-11:30	Coffee break
	<b>Panel 4:</b> Jewish American Identity and Culture in the USA and Canada	11:30-12:45	<b>Keynote:</b> Dr. Lyslei Nascimento: "Jewish Writers: A Jewish Face of the Brazilian Literature"
15:15-15:45	Coffee break	12:45-13:45	Lunch break
15:45-17:15	<b>Panel 5:</b> Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in the Americas Across Time	13:45-15:15	<b>Panel 11:</b> Jewish Diversity, Politics, & Antisemitism in the Americas
	<b>Panel 6:</b> Exploring Jewish Speculative Fiction in the Americas	15:15-15:45	<b>Panel 12:</b> Grounds for Reinvention: Early Interpretations of Jewish History in the Americas
17:15-17:30	Coffee break	15:45-17:15	Coffee break
17:30- 19:30	<b>Conference reception:</b> Spencer Museum of Art		<b>Panel 13:</b> Including Latin America in Your Jewish Studies Syllabus (Pine room, Kansas Memorial Union)
			<b>Panel 14:</b> Jewish Theology, Education and Language & Identity in the Americas (Pine room, Kansas Memorial Union)
		17:15-17:30	<b>Closing Remarks</b> (Pine room, Kansas Memorial Union)

## The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center

**9:15-9:30**      **Conference Opening:** Dr. Luciano Tosta, University of Kansas (USA)  
(Hybrid: online and in-person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**9:30-11:00**      **Panel 1:** Transnational Yiddish Culture in Postwar South America  
(Hybrid: online and in-person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. RB Perelmutter, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Rachelle Grossman, University of Haifa (Israel): "A Tragic and Weighty Privilege: The Ascendancy of Buenos Aires as Postwar Yiddish Center" (Presentation in English)

Dr. William Pimlott, University of London (UK): "Yiddish South America and the Futures of Global Yiddishland: Argopteyl and its International Reception" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Michael Rom, Harvard University (USA): "Press Politics: Polish Jewish Cultural Activists in Postwar Brazil" (Presentation in English)

Mr. Ernesto Honigsberg, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil), "Trajectory and Production of Yiddish Artists in 20th Century São Paulo" (presentation in English)

**Panel 2:** Jews in the Americas: Israel Connections, Politics, Identity, and Ideas (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Nitai Shinan, Israeli National and University Library (Israel): "Twin Nations – The Beginning and Development of the 'Special Relationship' Between Israel and Costa Rica and the Contribution of the Jewish Community to its Success" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Moria Ran, Brandeis University (USA): "JOFA and the Formation of a New Female Religious Identity: The Intersection Between Feminism and Modern-Orthodox Judaism in The Last Half-Century in the USA" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Avi Shilon, Tel-Hai College (Israel): "Hillel Kook in America: What Can We Learn From His Story About the Status of the Jews in the U.S During the 1940s" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Gal Levy, Open University of Israel (Israel): "Are Jews White Folks? Diversity and Political Activism Among American Jewry" (Presentation in English)

**11:00-11:30**      Coffee Break

## The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center

**11:30-12:45** **Keynote:** Dr. Sarah Imhoff, Indiana University Bloomington (USA):  
“We Have always been American: Jewish origin stories” (Hybrid: online  
and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**12:45-13:45** Lunch break

**13:45-15:15** **Panel 3:** Artists, Superheroes, and Cultural Brokers Across Continents  
(Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Samuel Brody, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Mr. João Gabriel Covolan Silva, Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy): “Portuguese Jews and New Christians as Commercial and Cultural Brokers Between the Americas and Italy: A Methodological Survey” (Presentation in English)

Dr. Armin Langer, University of Florida (USA): “Navigating Exile: Spanish and Jewish Refugee Artists in Trujillo’s Dominican Republic” (Presentation in English)

Dr. David M. K. Sheinin, Trent University (Canada): “Boxing and Modernity in Argentina and Canada” (Presentation in English)

Mr. Gideon Remez, Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Israel): “A Real-Life Immigrant Hero Behind American Superhero Comics” (Presentation in English)

**Panel 4:** Jewish Identity and Culture in the USA and Canada (Hybrid: online  
and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Henry Bial, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Chana R. Kotzin, independent scholar: “Braided identities; Buffalo Jews on the Niagara Frontier” (Presentation in English)

Dr. David Katzman and Dr. Andria Weis, independent scholars: “Beyond Delancey Street: Small-Town Jewish Midwestern Life” (Presentation in English)

Mr. Jonah Greene, The University of Kansas (USA): “Hair That Screams: Jew: Staging the ‘Good’ Contemporary Jewish American in Joshua Harmon’s Bad Jews” (Presentation in English)

Dr. Alex Tepperman, University of Winnipeg (Canada): “White Picket Fencers: Jews and Suburban Crime in Post-War North America” (Presentation in English)

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The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center

**15:15-15:45** Coffee Break

**15:45-17:15** **Panel 5:** Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews in the Americas Across Time (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center; interpretation will be provided in Portuguese).

**Panel chair:** Dr. Mechele Leon, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Merav Bellaiche, Bar Ilan University (Israel): "The Place and Status of Sephardic-Oriental Jewish Women Among Their Communities in New York at the Beginning of the 20th Century" (Presentation in English)

Ms. Adriana Bialski, Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil): "De Beirute e Sidon a São Paulo (1900 - 1930): Uma Proposta de Patrimonialização da Memória Judaica / From Beirut and Sidon to São Paulo (1900 - 1930): A Proposal for the Jewish Memory Heritagization" (presentation in Portuguese)

Ms. Shirley Nigri Farber, independent scholar: "Jews of Lebanon Immigration to Brazil the Tale of My Families Chattah and Nigri" (Presentation in English)

**15:45-17:15** **Panel 6:** Exploring Jewish Speculative Fiction in the Americas (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Luciano Tosta, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Valerie Estelle Frankel, Mission College and San Jose City College (USA): "A Rabbi and a Pirate Make a Magical World... Considering South American Sephardic Children's Fantasy" (Presentation in English)

Akiva Hoffman, independent scholar: "The Long Conversation: Far Future Talmud in Benjamin Rosenbaum's The Unraveling" (Presentation in English)

Dr. R.B. Lemberg Perelmutter, the University of Kansas (USA): "The Queer Speculation of Indecent and the Jewish American Utopia as an Iterative Process" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Bogi Perelmutter, the University of Kansas (USA): "Rediscovering William Sleator as a Jewish Author" (Presentation in English)

## DAY 1

*Program continued*

### The Spencer Museum of Art

- 17:15-17:30** Coffee Break
- 17:30- 19:30** **Conference reception:** art exhibit and musical performance (in person only, Spencer Museum of Art)
- 17:30-18:00** Food, drinks, and music
  - 18:00-18:15** Welcome remarks: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Executive Dean Arash Malfi
  - 18:15-18:35** Musical performance by The Bigs featuring covers of North American Jewish songwriters of the 20th & 21st century
  - 18:35-18:50** Jewish art - a guided tour
  - 18:50-19:15** Self guided tour of museum

## DAY 2

*Friday, April 19, 2024*

### The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center & the Kansas Memorial Union

- 7:30-9:00** **Panel 7:** With or Against the Law? Eastern European Jewish Women Navigating Transatlantic Migration in the Early Twentieth Century (Online only)
- Panel chair:** Rebecca A. Kobrin, Columbia University (USA)
- Participants:**
- Dr. Aleksandra Jakubczak, Harvard University (USA): "Fake Ksuves and Passports to America: Polish Jews Circumventing Immigration Restrictions in the 1920s" (Presentation in English)
  - Dr. Geraldine Gudefin, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel): "In the Shadow of the Law: East European Jewish Women's Strategies Against Gender-based Abuse in the Early-20th Century United States" (Presentation in English)
  - Ms. Lelia Stadler, Columbia University (USA): "Divorce Papers: Jewish Divorce in Interwar Migration from Poland to Argentina" (Presentation in English)



## The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center &amp; the Kansas Memorial Union

7:30-9:00

**Panel 8:** Jews in the Americas and Israel-related connections: diaspora relations (online only)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Rami Zeedan, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Zohar Segev, University of Haifa (Israel): "Israel and the Jewish Diaspora After the Establishment of the State: The American Jewish Perspective" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Gilad Halpern, University of Haifa (Israel): "Covering Israel 'en Famille': The international Edition of the 'Palestine Post'" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Hagar Lahav, Sapir Academic College (Israel): "On Non-Religious Jewish Believers" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Elazar Ben-Lulu, Ariel University (Israel): "A Queer Promised Land: LGBTQ+ Jewish Immigration to Israel" (Presentation in English)

9:00-9:30

Coffee Break

9:30-11:00

**Panel 9:** Jewish Culture, Historiography, and Identity in Latin America (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center); Interpretation will be provided to English from Spanish and Portuguese)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Luciano Tosta, The University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Lorena Ojeda-Davila, Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo (Mexico): "La Cultura Judeo Mexicana a Través de la Obra Artística de Tere Metta / Mexican Jewish Culture Through the Artistic Work of Tere Metta" (Presentation in Spanish)

Mr. Octávio Augusto F. Soares, Federal University of Goiás (Brazil): "Beyond Borders: Clarice Lispector's Literary Consecration and the Erasure of Jewish Identity in the Americas" (Presentation in Portuguese)

Ms. Mira-Briana Haydu, University of Kansas (USA): "Brazilian History or Jewish History? Examining Moacyr Scliar's The Strange Nation of Rafael Mendes Through a Historiographic Lens" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Mauricio Dimant, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel): "Israel's Tech Turn and Its Impact on Latin American Jewish Diaspora Relations" (Presentation in Spanish)

## The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center &amp; the Kansas Memorial Union

**9:30-11:00**     **Panel 10:** Centering the Enslaved People in Sephardic Households in the Americas (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** TBD, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Ms. Amalia S. Levi, Bonn University (Germany): "Record-Keeping Dependencies in the Caribbean: Locating the Enslaved in Sephardic Households in Barbados" (Presentation in English)

Dr. KB Dennis Meade, Northwestern University (USA): "The Intimate Paradoxes of Freedom: Jewish Slaveholding in 18th and 19th century Jamaica" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Natalia da Silva Perez, Erasmus University (Netherlands): "Strategies of Autonomy Across the Atlantic" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Sophie Rose, University of Tübingen (Germany): "The Intimate Economy of Slavery and Jewish Family Life in the Eighteenth-century Dutch Caribbean" (Presentation in English)

**11:00-11:30**     Coffee break

**11:30-12:45**     **Keynote:** Dr. Lyslei Nascimento, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil): "Jewish writers: a Jewish face of the Brazilian literature" (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**12:45-13:45**     Lunch break

**13:45-15:15**     **Panel 11:** Jewish Diversity, Politics, and Antisemitism in the Americas (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Samuel Brody, The University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Steven J. Hirsch, Washington University (USA): "Jews and the Peruvian APRA Party, 1931-1948" (Presentation in English)

Mr. Dror Birger, Cornell University (USA): "The War Over the War Against Antisemitism - the Current Jewish Double Bind" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Robert A. Kennedy, York University (Canada): "Jewish Students Campus Experiences of the New Antisemitism, Anti-Israelism, and "Whiteness" in the Era of BDS and Beyond" (Presentation in English)

Dr. James Weatherford, Southern New Hampshire University (USA): "American Protestantism, Anti-Semitism, and Jewish-Christian Relations, 1945-2000" (Presentation in English)

## The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center &amp; the Kansas Memorial Union

**13:45-15:15** **Panel 12:** Grounds for Reinvention: Early Interpretations of Jewish History in the Americas (Hybrid: online and in person at Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Omri Senderowicz, University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Hilit Surowitz, Israel, Rutgers University (USA): "A Tiny Island of Hope: A Consideration of Curaçao's Jewish Communal Origins Story" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Michael Hoberman, Fitchburg State University (USA): "Revisiting Sampson Simson's 1800 Columbia Commencement Speech" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Shai Zamir, Northwestern University (USA): "Violence and Lust in Tío Anton's Tavern" (1905)" (Presentation in English)

**15:15-15:45** Coffee break

**15:45-17:15** **Panel 13:** "Including Latin America in Your Jewish Studies Syllabus" (Hybrid: online and in person at the Pine room in the Kansas Union)

**Panel chair:** Dr. Rami Zeedan, The University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Adriana Brodsky, St. Mary's College of Maryland (USA): "Teaching about Zionist Youth Movements from Latin America" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Naomi Lindstrom, University of Texas at Austin (USA): "Teaching Jewish Latin American Film from a Comparative Perspective" (Presentation in English)

Dr. Ariana Huberman, Haverford College (USA): "Teaching about the Jewish Gauchos of the Pampas" (Presentation in English)

Ms. Elaine Fitz Gibbon, Harvard University (USA): "Teaching about Jewish Latin American Music History" (Presentation in English)

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**The Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center & the Kansas Memorial Union**

**15:45-17:15**    **Panel 14:** Jewish Theology, Education and Language in the Americas  
(Hybrid: online and in person at the Kansas Memorial Union)

**Panel chair:** TBD University of Kansas (USA)

**Participants:**

Dr. Stephen Katz, Indiana University, Bloomington (USA): "To Be As Others: Hebrew Literature in the New World"  
(Presentation in English)

Dr. Ira Robinson, Concordia University (Canada): "The Montreal Yeshiva: an Early Experiment in Talmudic Education in North America" (Presentation in English)

Ms. Angelica Gimenez Ravanelli, University of Connecticut (USA): "Rabbi Marshall Meyer: Holocaust Memory and Jewish Theology in the Fight for Human Rights in Argentina"  
(Presentation in English)

**17:15-17:30**    Conference Closing Remarks: Dr. Samuel Brody, The University of Kansas (USA)

# CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS, SPONSORS, & CONTRIBUTORS

The conference was organized by the  
Center of Global and International Studies & the  
Jewish Studies Program at the University of Kansas.

This event was made possible thanks to the support  
of our sponsors and partners at the University of  
Kansas and the local and regional community of  
Northeast Kansas.

The University of Kansas International Affairs  
The KU Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies  
The Spencer Museum of Art  
The University of Kansas Libraries  
The University of Kansas Office of Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion, & Belonging  
The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences Research Initiative  
The Religious Studies Department  
The Spanish & Portuguese Department

KU Hillel  
Dr. David and Mrs. Sharyn Katzman  
The Lawrence Jewish Community Congregation  
The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

We thank you.

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# JEWES IN THE AMERICAS

A CELEBRATION OF JEWISH ART & JEWISH SONGWRITERS OF THE AMERICAS

THE SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

APRIL 18, 2024

5:30 - 7:30 PM



This reception is part of the  
**2024 Jews in the Americas Conference.**

The exhibit of Jewish art will be on display at the Spencer Museum of Art from April 2-21, 2024.

To learn more about the conference please visit:

<https://kujewishstudies.ku.edu/jewsamericas>

To attend the reception at the Spencer Museum of Art RSVP at

[https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_4lbHjtBSV4fJ9sy?Q\\_CHL=qr](https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4lbHjtBSV4fJ9sy?Q_CHL=qr)



Members of the  
KU & Lawrence  
community are  
invited to RSVP  
no later than April  
10th.

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