



Next Year in the Caribbean: Race, Religion, and Roots in the Jewish Atlantic World

April 11-12, 2021

Zoom Registration Required

<https://bit.ly/3cfGwUv>

Free and open to the public

A 2-day symposium in which scholars will explore the art, culture, literature, and history of the Jewish Atlantic world from the 18th Century to the present.

Featured speakers include:

- Dara E. Goldman
- Laura Liebman
- Stan Mirvis
- Sarah Phillips Casteel
- Dana Rabin

Organized by the Program in Jewish Culture & Society

With generous support from: Greenfield/Lynch Lecture Series | Humanities Research Institute | Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion | Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies | Oscar and Rose A. Einhorn Fund | Department of History | Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Symposium Schedule

All sessions will be held via Zoom. All times are CST.

Sunday, April 11th

4:15 PM Welcome/Intro

[Dana Rabin](#), History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

4:30 PM Session 1

Chair: [Gisela Sin](#), Political Science/Latin American & Caribbean Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Once We Were....Jewish Legacies and Intersectional Fabulations in Contemporary Cuba”

[Dara E. Goldman](#), Spanish & Portuguese/Jewish Culture & Society, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Response: [Gabriel Solis](#), Music, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

5:30 PM Break

7:00 PM Keynote Lecture

Chair: [Dana Rabin](#), History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

“Confluence, Competition, and Cooperation: Two Centuries of Jewish Entanglement with Free People of Color in Colonial Jamaica”

[Stanley Mirvis](#), History/Jewish Studies, Arizona State University

Response: [Rana Hogarth](#), History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Keynote lecture is co-sponsored by the [Humanities Research Institute](#) and the [Oscar and Rose A. Einhorn Fund](#)

Monday, April 12th

12:30 PM Welcome Back

[Dara Goldman](#), Spanish & Portuguese/Jewish Culture & Society, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

1:00 PM Session 2

Chair: [Rachel S. Harris](#), Comparative & World Literature, University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

“Beyond Binaries: Jewish Suriname Through the Photographer's Lens”

[Laura Arnold Leibman](#), English and Humanities, Reed College

Response: [Eugene M. Avrutin](#), History/Jewish Culture & Society, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

2:00 PM Coffee/Schmooze Break

2:30 PM Session 3

Chair: [Ramon Soto Crespo](#), English, University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

“Outside the Frame: The Josef Nassy Collection, the Sephardic Caribbean, and the Boundaries of Holocaust Art.”

[Sarah Phillips Casteel](#), English, Carleton University

Response: [Brett A. Kaplan](#), Comparative & World Lit/Jewish Culture & Society, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Professor Casteel’s lecture is generously supported by the [Greenfield-Lynch Lecture Series](#)

3:30 PM Coffee/Schmooze Break

4:00 PM Session 4

Chair: [Bruce Rosenstock](#), Religion, University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

"Whiteness as Process: Jews, Race, and Suffrage in Jamaica, 1820."

[Dana Rabin](#), History/Jewish Culture & Society, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Response: [Marc Hertzman](#), History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

5:00 PM Wrap-up Discussion/Roundtable

Chair: [Craig Koslofsky](#), History, University of Illinois Urbana - Champaign

[Laura Arnold Leibman](#) is a Professor of English and Humanities at Reed College in Portland, Oregon (USA) and the author of *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York in Five Objects* (Bard Graduate Center, 2020) which won three National Jewish Book Awards. Her earlier book *Messianism, Secrecy and Mysticism: A New Interpretation of Early American Jewish Life* (2012) won a Jordan Schnitzer Book Award and a National Jewish Book Award. Her work focuses religion and the daily lives of women and children in early America and uses everyday objects to help bring their stories back to life. She has been a visiting fellow at Oxford University, a Fulbright scholar at the University of Utrecht, the University of Panama, and the Leon Levy Foundation Professor of Jewish Material Culture at Bard Graduate Center. Her forthcoming *Once We Were Slaves* (Oxford UP, 2021) is about an early multiracial Jewish family who began their lives enslaved in the Caribbean and became some of the wealthiest Jews in New York.

[Sarah Phillips Casteel](#) is Professor of English at Carleton University, where she is cross-appointed to the Institute of African Studies. She is the author most recently of *Calypso Jews: Jewishness in the Caribbean Literary Imagination* (Columbia University Press, 2016), which won a Canadian Jewish Literary Award, and co-editor of *Caribbean-Jewish Crossings: Literary History and Creative Practice* (University of Virginia Press, 2019). She has held visiting fellowships at the Zentrum Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and this spring she will hold a Potsdam Postcolonial Chair in Global Modernities. Her current book project addresses literary and visual representations of Black victims of Nazi persecution.

[Dara E. Goldman](#) is Associate Professor of Spanish, specializing in contemporary Caribbean and Latin American literatures and cultures, gender and sexualities studies and cultural studies. She is the author of *Out of Bounds: Islands and the Demarcation of Identity in the Hispanic Caribbean* (2008) and is completing a project on recent Cuban cultural production. She has also published articles on Caribbean and Jewish cultural production. Professor Goldman has served as Director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies/Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies and currently chairs the Program in Jewish Culture and Society at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

[Dana Rabin](#) specializes in the history of eighteenth-century Britain with an emphasis on crime, law, gender, and race. Her first book, *Identity, Crime and Legal Responsibility in Eighteenth-Century England* (Palgrave, 2004), examined the language of mental states in the English courtroom. Her recent book *Britain and its Internal Outsiders 1750-1800: Under Rule of Law* (Manchester University Press, 2017) analyzes the intersection of metropole and colony through a study of legal events involving criminal trials, law suits, legislation, and riot that unfolded in London in the second half of the eighteenth century. Rabin's current project, "Jews, Suffrage, and the Color Line in the British Empire, 1740-1858," examines Jewish civil rights throughout the British Empire between passage of the Naturalization Act (or Plantation Act) in 1740 and "Jewish Emancipation" 1858 when Jews received the right to vote in Britain. This multi-sited project takes note of the Empire's metropole and its colonial spaces, plantation societies and settler colonies, to study how definitions of race and religion shaped the lives of Jews and definitions of Jewishness and whiteness. She currently chairs the Department of History, formerly served as the Associate Director of the Program in Jewish Culture & Society, and has been a member of the Program's Executive Committee for many years.

[Stanley Mirvis's](#) research focuses on the social history of Jews in the early modern Atlantic—the "Western Sephardic Diaspora"—dealing largely with issues of Diasporic and creole identity. He contributed the historical essays to photographer Wyatt Gallery's *Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean* (Schiffer Press, 2016) and is the co-editor of *From Catalonia to the Caribbean: The Sephardic Orbit from Medieval to Modern Times* (Brill, 2018), a collection of essays in honor of his doctoral advisor, Jane S. Gerber. His forthcoming monograph is titled *The Jews of Eighteenth-Century Jamaica: A Testamentary History of a Diaspora in Transition* (Yale University Press, 2019), a social historical study of hundreds of last will and testaments exploring the relationship between colonial and metropolitan Jews and the nature of Jewish creolization in the British West Indies. Dr. Mirvis is the Harold and Jean Grossman Chair of Jewish Studies and an assistant professor of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies.