

SARAH ELLEN ZARROW

Department of History
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-present Endowed Professor of Jewish History/Associate Professor, Department of History, Western Washington University
- 2017-2021 Endowed Professor of Jewish History/Assistant Professor, Department of History, Western Washington University
- 2016-2017 International Fellow, New Europe College Institute for Advanced Study (Bucharest, Romania)
- 2015-2016 Visiting Scholar, Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, New York University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Departments of Hebrew & Judaic Studies and History (joint program), New York University

Dissertation: “Collecting Themselves: Jewish Documentation and Display in Interwar Poland”

Committee: David Engel (chair), Larry Wolff, Gennady Estraikh, Katherine Fleming, Stephen Gross

M.Phil Department of Hebrew & Judaic Studies, New York University

M.A. William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education, Jewish Theological Seminary

A.B. Religion, Music History (minor), Vassar College

PUBLICATIONS

In progress

In Their Own Hands: Jewishness and Patriotism at a Girls' Vocational School (manuscript in progress)

“Jewish Life in Poland as Documented on Film: Continuities and Ruptures” (journal article in progress)

Monographs

Spring 2025 *Jewish Heritage, Polish Homeland: Jewish Collection and Display in Poland, 1890-1941* (in press with Cornell University Press)

Journal articles (peer reviewed)

2022 “Imagining and Reimagining the Encounter between Max Weinreich and Regina Lilientalowa: Gender, Geography, and the Concept of ‘Yiddishland’,” *Yearbook of the Simon Dubnow Institute* 18 (2019), 73-96

2024 “Cecylja Kłafienowa’s Vision for Jewish Orphans in Interwar Lwów: From Relief to Emancipation,” *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 36 (2024), 291-308

Journal articles (editor reviewed)

2023 “Moving Images, Static Lives: Interwar Polish Jewish Documentary Films,” *New Europe College Yearbook 2016-2017* (2023), 155-183

2016 “Object Lessons: Art Collection and Display as Historical Practice in Interwar Lwów.” *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 29: Writing Jewish History in Eastern Europe (December 2016), 157-176

Book chapters

2016 “‘Sacred Collection Work’: YIVO’s Relationship with its *Zamlers*,” in *Going to the People: Jews and the Ethnographic Impulse*, ed. Jeffrey Veidlinger (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana UP, 2016), 146-163

Book reviews

2023 Review of *An Unchosen People: Jewish Political Reckoning in Interwar Poland*, by Kenneth B. Moss. *The Journal of Social History* 56.3 (Spring 2023), 700-702

2017 “Coordinated Movement?: Vladimir Jabotinsky and Polish Jewish Youth.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (October 2017) [Review of *Jabotinsky’s Children: Polish Jews and the Rise of Right-Wing Zionism*, by Daniel Kupfert Heller]

2017 Review of *Interpreting Difficult History at Museums and Historic Sites*, by Julia Rose. *The Public Historian* 39.2 (May 2017), 127-129

- 2017 Review of *The 1915 Diary of S. An-sky: A Russian Jewish Writer at the Eastern Front*, by S. A. An-sky, introduction and translated by Polly Zavadvivker. *History* 102 (April 2017), 328-329
- 2016 Review of *Jewish Poland Revisited: Heritage Tourism in Unquiet Places*, by Erica T. Lehrer, and *Klezmer's Afterlife: An Ethnography of the Jewish Music Revival in Poland and Germany*, by Magdalena Waligórska. *East European Jewish Affairs* 46.1 (May 2016): 129-130

Public writing

- 2023 “Why We are Teaching the Holocaust Wrong.” *Forward* (April 17, 2023)
- 2019 “Beyond Fiddler: Teaching Representations of Jewish Easton Europe on Film.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (November 2017)
- 2017 “The Jewish Museum in Lemberg/Lwów/Lviv.” Exhibit text (physical and online) for *Fragments of Memory: A Multimedia Project in and About Lviv* (September 2017)
- 2017 “The Digital Yiddish Classroom: Reflections on Teaching Yiddish in the Digital Age.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (March 2017)
- 2016 ““Conversion through language”: Mo Pareles on Yiddish, Old English, and the Temporal Other.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (November 2016)
- 2016 “Radical, Rational Eating: Eve Jochnowitz on Eastern European Vegetarians, Jewish Politics, and Translating *The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook*.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (September 2016)
- 2016 “Jews in the Archives: A Conversation with Gennady Estraiikh.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (May 2016)
- 2016 “The Jew Box: An Interview with Eddy Portnoy.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (April 2016)
- 2016 “Vilne? Vilna? Wilno? Vilnius?: Place Names in Yiddish.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies* (March 2016) (co-authored)

FELLOWSHIPS and AWARDS

- 2024 Manuscript Preparation Grant, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Western Washington University
- 2024 Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award
- 2024 Faculty sabbatical award (competitive)
- 2024 Fred and Ellen Lewis/JDC Archives Fellowship
- 2023 Summer Teaching Grant, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Western Washington University

- 2022 Summer Research Grant, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Western Washington University
- 2021 Manuscript Preparation Grant, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Western Washington University
- 2020 Hatter Research Award, History Department, Western Washington University
- 2020 (Spring)* Fellow, Imre Kertész Kolleg (Jena, Germany)
- 2019 (Summer) European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) Fellow, Jewish Historical Institute (Warsaw, Poland)
- 2018 (August) Visiting Scholar, Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University (Leipzig, Germany)
- 2017 (January) Fellow-in-Residence, Center for Urban History of East Central Europe (Lviv, Ukraine)
- 2014-2015 Dean's Dissertation Fellow, New York University
- 2013-2014 Graduate Research Fellow (Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellowship in Jewish Culture), Center for Jewish History
- 2013-2014 Doctoral Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 2013 (Fall) Research Fellow in Polish Jewish Studies, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
- 2013 (Fall) Doctoral Fellow, Remarque Institute
- 2013 (August) Research and Travel Grantee, Taub Center for Israel Studies
- 2012 (July) Pre-Dissertation Research Fellow, Council for European Studies
- 2012 (July) Predoctoral Summer Fellow, New York University
- 2011 (July) East European Language Training Grantee, American Council of Learned Societies

*postponed indefinitely

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY and TALKS

Invited Talks

- 2024 "The Joint and Women's Vocational Education: A Case Study of the Handicrafts Workshops for Jewish Girls in Lwów in the 1920s," JDC Archives Webinar, July 8
- 2024 "The 20/20 Vision of Holocaust Education: Engaging with Immersive Survivor Testimony" (moderator/discussant), Association for Jewish Studies Conversation Series Webinar, February 5
- 2022 "Jewish Museums in Poland," Department of Modern Languages and Literatures (course: Museums and Identity), Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., September 12
- 2020 "Forging a New Polish Jewish Woman: The Jewish Girls' Vocational School of Lwów," Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash., July 14 (virtual talk)
- 2019 "Holocaust Memorialization in Europe: Trends and Pedagogical Possibilities," Inaugural Regional Institute for the Study of the Holocaust (Holocaust Educational Foundation), Bellingham, Wash., May 11

- 2015 “Jewish Museums before the Holocaust,” German Program, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., February 26
- 2014 “Collection and Ethnography as Politics by Other Means,” 10th Lavy International Conference—“The Polish Jewish Condition? Polish Jewish Social Thought and the 1930s,” Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., December 1-2
- 2014 “Polish Jewish Ethnographers and Jews ‘in the Provinces,’” Center for Jewish History, New York, N.Y., September 9
- 2014 “Collecting in the New Capital: Warsaw and Jewish/Yiddish Collection,” 16th Mendel Friedman Conference on Yiddish Studies –“Three ‘Yiddish’ Cities: St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Warsaw,” Oxford University, Oxford, UK, August 5-7
- 2013 “‘Traces of the Past and the Future of Jewish Creativity’: Interwar Jewish Ethnography in Wilno,” YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, N.Y., November 13
- 2013 “The Jewish Witness in Interwar Poland,” History Department (seminar visit), Columbia University, New York, N.Y., February 20

Panels Organized

- 2022 “Jewish Studies and Ethnic Studies—Engaging Dynamics of Power, Privilege, and Identity” (moderator), Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 18-20
- 2018 “Religion and Jewish Education in Poland, 1915-1939,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 16-18
- 2016 “Teaching Yiddish in the Digital Age,” Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, Calif., December 18-20
- 2015 “The Jewish Studies Classroom: Pedagogy, Ideology, and Identity,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 13-15
- 2014 “‘Holy Collection Work’: The Relationship between YIVO and its *zamlers*,” Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, Md., December 14-16

Papers and Presentations

- 2024 “Beyond Moscow: Eastern Europeans vis-à-vis the Liberation Movements in the Global South” (discussant), Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, Boston, Mass., November 21-24

- 2023 “For Future’s Sake: Jewish Children in Times of Crisis, Genocide and War” (chair/respondent), Association for Jewish Studies, San Francisco, Calif., December 17-19
- 2022 “The Visual Idiom of Youthful Engagement,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 18-20
- 2022 “Representing Marginalized Groups in Contemporary Museums” (roundtable), Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, Chicago, Ill., November 10-13
- 2022 “Jewish Life in Poland as Documented on Film: Continuities and Ruptures,” Bridging Divides. Rupture and Continuity in Polish Jewish History, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, Poland, May 23-26
- 2019 “Gender and Geography: An Analysis of Engagé Jewish Women Ethnographers in Poland,” Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, San Francisco, Calif, November 23-26
- 2019 “Engaging Approaches to Teaching Central-Eastern Europe and Russia II” (roundtable), Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, San Francisco, Calif, November 23-26
- 2019 “Jewish Communal and Educational Perspectives on the Lwów Pogrom,” Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York, N.Y., May 2-4
- 2018 “The Role of Judaism in Jewish Girls’ Technical Education in Lwów,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 16-18
- 2018 “The Development of Girls’ Technical Education in Lwów: National Values, Feminist Emancipation, and Civic Belonging,” Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, Boston, Mass., December 6-9
- 2018 “The Jewish Museum as City Museum: The Case of Lemberg,” “Exhibiting Cities - City museums in the Emerging cities of East Central and Northern Europe, 1880-1939,” Herder Institute for Historical Research for East Central Europe, Marburg, Germany, October 15-16
- 2018 “The Uses of Traditional Crafts in Girls’ Technical Education in Lwów,” 5th Annual Polish Jewish Studies Workshop—“Centering the Periphery: Polish Jewish Cultural Production Beyond the Capital,” Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., March 5-6
- 2017 “Poland through a Jewish Lens: Documentary Film and Home Movies, 1924-1939,” New Europe College, Bucharest, Romania, April 5

- 2016 “On Not Assigning Papers: Between Real and Imagined Communities in the Jewish Studies Classroom” (roundtable), Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, Calif., December 18-20
- 2015 “Jewish Ethnography and the Changing Politics of Interwar Poland,” Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, Philadelphia, Penn., November 19-22
- 2015 “Three Histories? Revisiting Polish/Jewish Historiography” (roundtable), Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies, Philadelphia, Penn., November 19-22
- 2015 “Art and High Art, Past, Present, and Future: The Collection and Display of Art in Lwów,” International Scientific Conference—“Jewish Ethnography and Folkloristics in Poland before 1945,” State Ethnographic Museum, Warsaw, Poland, September 1-3
- 2013 “The Way to Our Youth? Young People and Ethnographic Practice in Interwar Poland,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass., December 15-17
- 2013 Participant, Nevzlin International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry, Odesa, Ukraine, July 1-4
- 2012 “Preserving the Past, Creating the Future: Jewish Art Collection and Display in Interwar Poland,” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, Ill., December 16-18
- 2012 “‘Jewish Cultural Monuments’ and ‘Jewish Creativity:’ The Founding of Lwów’s Jewish Museum,” Council for European Studies, Boston, Mass., March 22-24
- 2010 “Renewal of Body: The Meanings of Traditional Ashkenazi Dance for Modern Practitioners,” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, St. Louis, Mo., March 31-April 3

Campus Events and Community Engagement

- May 2022 “What we Need to Understand about Ukrainian History,” AP U.S. History presentation at Sehome High School (Bellingham, Wash.)
- May 2022 “Shvueslekh,” Tikkun Leil Shavuot presentation, Congregation Beth Israel (Bellingham, Wash.)
- April 2022 Roundtable participant, World Issues Forum discussion on Ukraine and Russia, Western Washington University
- March 2022 Participant, Flash Teach-in on Ukraine, University of British Columbia

TEACHING and GRADUATE COMMITTEES

Western Washington University, Primary Instructor

Research Seminar (Graduate)
Historical Theory and Method (Graduate)
Coming to Terms with the Holocaust (Honors)
Beyond Fiddler: Representing East European Jews on Film
History of the Holocaust
History of the Jews before the Modern Era
History of the Jews in the Modern Era
Jewish Nationalisms
Polish-Jewish Encounters
The Holocaust and Local History
Women and Gender in Judaism

Brooklyn College, Primary Instructor

Jewish Diaspora (Spring 2016)

Cooper Union, Primary Instructor

The Making of Modern Society (Fall 2015)

Eugene Lang College/The New School, Primary Instructor

Jewish History (Spring 2014)

New York University, Primary Instructor

History 101—Europe at War: The 20th Century (Fall 2013)

New York University, Preceptor

Texts & Ideas: Antiquity and Enlightenment (Spring 2013, Spring 2010)
Texts & Ideas: Antiquity and the 19th Century (Fall 2012)
Israel and American Jewry (Spring 2011)
Zionism and the State of Israel (Fall 2010)

History Department Thesis Committees

Pheonix Booth, M.A. thesis, Supervisor (current)
Seth Frow, M.A. by papers, Committee member (current)
Joel Carson, M.A. thesis, Committee member (current)
Brian Fleming-Bleed, M.A. thesis, Committee member (current)
Peter Munsterman, M.A. thesis, Committee member (current)
Kristina Kelehan, M.A. thesis, Committee member (2022)
Erin Escobar, M.A. thesis, Supervisor (2021)
Jessey Roy, M.A. by papers, Supervisor (2019)
Nate Christensen, M.A. thesis, Committee member (2018)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE and SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2018-present Departmental Service: Exec (2018-2019, 2022-2023); Undergraduate Program Committee (2019-2022; 2021-2022 UPC Chair)
- 2017-present Faculty Advisory Committee Member/Curriculum Committee Member, Ray Wolpov Institute for the Study of Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity, Western Washington University
- 2016-present Editorial Board member, *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*
- 2023 (Spring) Member, Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Course Evaluations
- 2022 Phi Alpha Theta Program Committee Member for Regional Conference
- 2019-2022 Pedagogy and Professional Practice Division Chair, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2018-2022 Member, Committee on Undergraduate Education (University service)
- 2018-2020 Diversity and Inclusion Task Force/Committee member, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2019 (Spring) Search Committee Member, Modern Middle East VAP
- 2016 Project Manager/Assistant Producer, "Jewish Folklore" (online course), YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, N.Y.
- 2014-2016 Managing Editor/Chief Financial Officer, *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*
- 2016 Curriculum Writer, "Chasing Freedom," Council of Jewish Émigré Community Organizations, New York, N.Y.
- 2015 Curriculum Developer and Project Consultant, "Discovering Ashkenaz" (online course), YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, N.Y.
- 2015 Consultant, Ephemera collection, Blavatnik Archive, New York, N.Y.
- 2013 Consultant, Polin Academy Summer Seminar, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland
- 2012 Team Assistant, Education Department and Core Exhibitions teams, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland

MEDIA

2022 “Jewish Life in Poland: Professor Sarah Ellen Zarrow on why Jewish Poles thrived, the challenges they faced and life just before World War II,” interview for *All About History* 125 (December)

LANGUAGES

English: Native
Yiddish: Advanced reading, writing, speaking
German: Advanced reading, writing, speaking
Hebrew: Research language, intermediate speaking
Polish: Advanced reading, writing, intermediate speaking

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of Nationalities, 2018-present
Romanian Studies Association, 2016-present
Polish Studies Association, 2012-present
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 2011-present
American History Association, 2009-present
Association for Jewish Studies, 2008-present
Conference Group for Central European History, 2012-2015