

GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN

CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL

Greenfield Summer Institute

**Jews and Politics:
America, Israel, Europe**

July 19-22, 2021

University of Wisconsin-Madison



CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Greenfield Summer Institute

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Jews and Politics: America, Israel, Europe

This year's Greenfield Summer Institute will take place on the heels of an exceptionally eventful period in politics. The year 2020 witnessed great social unrest, a sharply politicized pandemic, and a contentious U.S. presidential election. In early 2021, a new administration set a dramatically different course for America, while Israel prepared for another national election—its fourth in two years. Throughout these changes, Jews and issues of Jewish concern have been highly visible. To help us make sense of these developments, Greenfield 2021 will focus on the political history of Jews in America, Israel, and Europe. What role have Jews played in modern politics? Is there a distinctly Jewish political identity? How do Jewish politics vary across time and place? Join us in exploring these and similar questions with distinguished scholars from across fields.

Important Note Regarding the Format

This year's Greenfield Summer Institute will be held online via Zoom. To accommodate the different schedules of our attendees, we are offering a variety of registrations options. We hope that you will be able to join us for the whole conference. Or, you may select a package of four or six lectures.

Next year we plan to return to the usual format with a four-day conference in Madison.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Center for Jewish Studies by email (greenfield@cjs.wisc.edu) or phone (608-890-3572). Please note that our staff members are still working remotely and as a result will be able to respond more quickly to an email than a phone call or voice message.

About the Greenfield Summer Institute

As the premier outreach event of the George L. Mosse/Laurence A. Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, the Greenfield Summer Institute demonstrates our commitment to lifelong learning and testifies to the vision, legacy, and generosity of Center founders Laurence Weinstein and George Mosse. The Greenfield Summer Institute was the brainchild of Lawrence (Larry) Greenfield, a member of the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies Board of Visitors, who first proposed the idea of an adult summer institute in the mid-1990s. The first Greenfield Summer Institute, held in 2000, brought together people from the Madison community and beyond to participate in a unique blend of continuing education, entertainment, and fellowship. Now underwritten by the generosity of Larry and Ros Greenfield, the Institute showcases the research of UW–Madison faculty and acclaimed Jewish studies scholars from around the country. Each year the Institute's lectures center around a theme. Recent themes have included business, entertainment, the arts, and science.

Can't attend the whole Institute?

You can register for a smaller package of 4 or 6 lectures!

Online registration: cjs.wisc.edu/greenfield

The Greenfield Summer Institute is sponsored by the Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies through the generosity of Larry and Roslyn Greenfield.

ALL TIMES GIVEN ARE CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME (CDT).

For those who live in other time zones, please be sure to adjust for the difference.

MONDAY, JULY 19

11:00 a.m. (CDT)

The Puzzling Politics of American Jews

Kenneth Wald (University of Florida)

The prevailing liberalism of American Jews contradicts nearly everything we know about how people vote. If economic self-interest largely drives political choices, why does such an affluent community overwhelmingly favor the more liberal political party? This lecture explores that intriguing and timely question.

1:15 p.m. (CDT)

American and Israeli Jews: Brothers from Different Planets

Michael Barnett (George Washington University)

Is there a growing split between American Jews and Israel? If so, what caused it and can it be repaired? This lecture will address these questions through an exploration of Jews and their foreign policy beliefs.

TUESDAY, JULY 20

11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Emma Lazarus and Her Critics: A Forgotten Episode in American Jewish Politics

Annie Polland (Tenement Museum)

Today Emma Lazarus is best known as the author of the “New Colossus,” the verse affixed to the base of the Statue of Liberty. However, in her lifetime she was far more famous than the poem itself. Well regarded and widely published in the American press, she wrote poems, essays, and plays. In 1883 Philip Cowen, the editor of the *American Hebrew*, was thrilled to sign Lazarus as a feature writer with a column: Epistle to the Hebrews. The Epistles challenged American Jewry on a number of counts and allowed Lazarus to express her sometimes controversial views on the politics of antisemitism, Jewish communal responsibility, and Zionism.

1:15 p.m. (CDT)

Bella Abzug from Labor Zionism to Capitol Hill

Leandra Zarnow (University of Houston)

This talk will trace New York Representative Bella Abzug from her Bronx beginnings and her time as a Zionist scout in Hashomer Hatzair during the Great Depression through her work as a changemaker on Capitol Hill in the 1970s. Campaigning as a Jewish congresswoman, Abzug emerged as a strong champion of Jewish interests. She made a fact-finding trip to Israel, strongly defended the human rights of Soviet Jewry, and invited the first woman Jewish rabbi to deliver the opening prayer in the House of Representatives. Abzug's political legacy is deeply tied to her heritage and her unwavering commitment to *tikkun olam*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Emancipation Then and Now, 1550-2020

David Sorkin (Yale University)

Jewish emancipation, the quest for equal civil and political rights, has been at the heart of Jewish experience for the past five centuries. This lecture will explore the centrality of the emancipation process and the varieties of politics it generated. It will focus on the Jews' relationship to the modern state in the diaspora as well as in the State of Israel. It will conclude with remarks about the political situation of Jews today.

1:15 p.m. (CDT)

Jewish Lawyers and Judicial Politics

Britt Tevis (University of Pennsylvania)

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, many Jews entered the legal profession in the United States. In court, Jewish lawyers encountered a predominantly non-Jewish judiciary, which viewed Jews as outsiders. This lecture explores the complicated relationship between Jewish lawyers and

non-Jewish judges that ensued and illuminates how late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Jewish lawyers developed new strategies to advance communal political aims.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Four Elections in Two Years! What's Going On?

Nadav Shelef (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

As of March 2021, Israel will have experienced four national elections in the span of twenty-four months. This talk will explore the causes and consequences of this unprecedented deadlock and the implications for the issues facing Israeli society.

1:15 p.m. (CDT)

Why Is Zionism Such a Problem for the Left?

Susie Linfield (New York University)

Zionism—the movement for national sovereignty of the Jewish people—has always divided and, indeed, tormented leftists; the British socialist Mervyn Jones described it as “a labyrinth.” At the same time, many if not most of the early Zionists—those who built the future state—came out of socialist movements, and envisioned Zionism and socialism as inextricable. And while Israel, at the time of its founding, was championed by many on the Left, it is today the Left’s prime *bête noire*. This lecture will attempt to disentangle these paradoxes.

REGISTRATION/PAYMENT INFORMATION

Fees

The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is \$85 for all programming, which includes access to all 8 lectures.

À la Carte Pricing

\$50 to attend any 4 lectures

\$70 to attend any 6 lectures

Registration Online

Register and pay online with a credit card at cjs.wisc.edu/greenfield

*For registration questions, call 608-890-3572
or email greenfield@cjs.wisc.edu*

Please be sure to register only once!

After your registration has been processed, you will receive confirmation of your registration and information about how to join the event via Zoom.



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Twenty-First Annual Greenfield Summer Institute

Jews and Politics:

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