GEORGE L. MOSSE/LAURENCE A. WEINSTEIN
CENTER FOR JEWISH STUDIES

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL
Greenfield Summer Institute

The Jewish Family across Time and Place

July 11-14, 2022
University of Wisconsin–Madison
What does Jewish law say about the obligations of parents, children, husbands, and wives? How do Jewish rituals help maintain families? How have kinship bonds evolved from the Hebrew Bible to the present? Join us at the 2022 Greenfield Summer Institute as historians, social scientists, and scholars of religion gather to explore the changing nature of Jewish families and their interactions with the larger societies they inhabit. Speakers will discuss such wide-ranging subjects as race and diversity in the family context; dating, marriage, and sex in the Orthodox world; the portrayal of Jewish families in film and television; and one extended Jewish family’s role in defeating Nazi forces in North Africa during World War II. With topics ranging from the Israelite cult of dead kin to the “myth” of the Jewish wedding, this year’s Greenfield will offer a richer understanding of the phrase le-Dor va-Dor—from generation to generation.

Space is limited, so please register early.

**Can’t make it for the whole Institute?** You can register for each day’s lectures and events separately!

**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 lectures will be held at Grainger Hall, 975 University Avenue.
MONDAY, JULY 11

8:00 a.m.
Coffee Service and Registration

9:00 a.m.
Opening Breakfast
Sit-down breakfast and opening remarks by CJS Director Tony Michels

10:30 a.m.
Life and Death in the Israelite Household
Kerry Sonia (Colby College)

The cult of dead kin in the ancient Near East was a complex of practices in which the living offered care to the dead in the form of food and drink offerings, commemorative monuments, invocation of the names of the dead, and the protection and, when necessary, repatriation of human remains. This cultic care negotiated the ongoing relationships between the living and the dead and, in doing so, helped structure social, political, and topographical landscapes in terms of the past. This talk examines the nature of the Israelite cult of dead kin, focusing on its role within the family and its relationship to the Jerusalem temple cult.

1:30 p.m.
Looking Below the Numbers: Race, Color, and Jewish Diversity
Bruce Haynes (University of California, Davis)

Based on sociological research on the lived experiences of Jews of African descent and their families in America, this talk asks the foundational question: What makes a Jew? Blending historical analysis and oral history, this presentation traces the history of Jews of African descent in America and the counter-narratives they have put forward as they stake their claims to Jewishness. What’s the meaning of color in Jewish families? This lecture challenges the dominant western paradigm of Jews as of Ashkenazi descent.
‘To Jewish Daughters:’ Yiddish Cookbooks and Recipes
Annie Polland (Tenement Museum)

In 1901 the first Yiddish cookbook written by a woman hit the bookstores and pushcarts of the Lower East Side. The author, former restaurateur Hinde Amhanitski, promised “Jewish daughters” that her book would be economical and would enrich their family lives. Mysteriously, a subsequent “improved” edition came out in 1918, also bearing Amhanitski’s name. Yet she had died in 1910. Join us as we compare the two versions, gaining insight on the expectations of Jewish mothers and how they changed over time.

TUESDAY, JULY 12

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
The/Jewish Families
Jonathan Boyarin (Cornell University)

From Abraham and Sarah to Bridget and Bernie, Jews and others all love to talk about the Jewish family. But what, if anything, really links notions and formations of “family” so vastly separated in time and space? Perhaps the key factor here is the underlying sense that Jews are some kind of family—with adoptees, favorite children, black sheep and all. This talk will explore why it makes sense both to think that there is something called “the Jewish family,” and to understand why Jewish families are and should be just as varied as everybody else’s.

10:45 a.m.
We are Family: The Imagined Ancestries of Blacks, Jews, and Others on TV
Shaina Hammerman (Stanford University)

On an episode of the 1990s sitcom The Nanny, the character Fran Fine comes to believe her biological mother is Black. In
Sanford & Son, the Black junk dealer Fred Sanford comes to believe he is descended from African Jewish royalty. In both cases, language and behavior change following the newly imagined lineage. The episodes conclude with—spoiler alert—the characters learning that they were wrong and returning to their respective, predetermined places. But whether true or fantastical, what does it mean for Black and/or Jewish performers to “adopt” new lineages?

1:30 p.m.
Dear Editor: Finding Family through the American Yiddish Press
Ayelet Brinn (Hadassah-Brandeis Institute)

At the turn of the twentieth century, American Yiddish newspapers overflowed with advice columns offering implicit and explicit guidance to help readers navigate personal tribulations, American political infrastructures, or Jewish communal life. Editors and publishers introduced these features to entertain readers and increase circulation. But these features also encouraged audiences previously unaccustomed to reading newspapers to view these publications as central sources for information and guidance. This talk will explore the crucial role of advice columns in the development of the Yiddish press and American Jewish life. It will highlight how these columns shaped the relationships between newspapers and their readers and the roles they served in helping readers connect with family through the pages of the Yiddish press.

3:15 p.m.
Family Obligations in Rabbinic Literature
Jordan Rosenblum (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

In rabbinic literature, being a member of a family is not just about being related; it is also about being obligated to one another in many ways. From the profound (e.g., mourning rituals) to the mundane (e.g., a parent teaching a child to swim), these relationships are defined through a series of legal obligations. In this talk, we will explore rabbinic texts that discuss what being a member of a family requires of various family members. Taken together, these traditions help us
understand how rabbinic texts imagine family members to be connected through a series of social, economic, and ritual obligations.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 13**

8:00 a.m.  
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.  
**Be Fruitful and Multiply: Dating, Marriage, and Sex in the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox World**  
Joshua Shanes (College of Charleston)

Orthodox Jews have become a hot topic in popular culture, and sex, gender, and marriage practices seem to be front and center in these stories. From *Shtisel*, to *Unorthodox*, to the hit reality series *My Unorthodox Life*, Orthodox dating practices are exoticized, fetishized, and at times condemned. How realistic are these portrayals? How do Orthodox Jews date and marry, and what are the differences between the various communities? This lecture will go beyond the popular dramatization and explore the true story of Orthodox sex and marriage.

10:45 a.m.  
**Jewish Birth Traditions**  
Cara Rock-Singer (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Scholars and practitioners alike often take for granted that Judaism is a text-centered tradition maintained by authoritative rabbis. Yet ethnographic research in the United States and Israel reveals another set of elites: midwives who don’t attend yeshivas or seminaries, but attain knowledge and experience by helping women give birth. This presentation will show how birth attendants have developed Jewish traditions over which they claim authority as interpreters, teachers, and reformers. These traditions emerge from both Jewish law and culture as well as American feminist movements. This lecture will reveal a range of women’s traditions that are central to reproducing the Jewish family but have often gone unrecognized.
1:30 p.m.
Myths of the Jewish Wedding
Vanessa Ochs (University of Virginia)

Many believe that the Jewish wedding traditions we are familiar with are ancient, going back to the Bible. Not so! The very practices considered quintessentially Jewish—huppa, the broken glass, wedding rings, the illuminated ketubah—were all inspired by the national and religious cultures Jews lived in. Knowing that Jewish wedding traditions have been changing and adapting all along helps us better reflect upon innovations in current Jewish and Jewish/interfaith weddings.

3:15 p.m.
Fifty Ways to Leave an Heirloom:
Jewish American Families and Crafting
Jodi Eichler-Levine (Lehigh University)

Challah covers. Prayer shawls. Yarmulkes. These are just a few of the handcrafted objects that we find among Jewish families. For over three years, Eichler-Levine interviewed Jewish crafters and artists in their homes, at stitching conventions, and at synagogue knitting circles. The stories of these Jewish Americans and their objects give us new ways to understand how the phrase “l’dor v’dor”—from generation to generation—is enacted not just in words, but also in thread.

5:30 p.m.
Closing Dinner
Grainger Hall
975 University Avenue
THURSDAY, JULY 14

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
The Origins of Israeli Cinema and Its New Jewish Family
Rachel Harris (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

This lecture examines depictions of the family in Israeli film. Filmmakers from the 1940s and 1950s saw the family as an extension of the land and its fecundity: The heroic male would work the land and be fruitful and women were rarely seen without children. Eventually, the family was reimagined and the havura, a group of friends, came to replace the traditional family unit. It was only with a turn towards representing immigrants from North Africa and the Middle East that depictions of a more conventional family unit returned to the screen. Often set in contrast to other units like the kibbutz or the army, the family came to serve as a sign of traditionalism, affection, and conflict. In this talk we will consider the development of Israeli cinema through the lens of the evolving Israeli family.

10:45 a.m.
Persian Jewish Music from My Family Tradition
Galeet Dardashti (Indiana University)

We will explore the Judeo-Persian musical tradition through both recorded and live music examples. Dr. Galeet Dardashti’s grandfather, Younes Dardashti, was one of the most famous singers of Persian classical music. Galeet’s family history and her own artistic work are central to this session.

12:00 p.m.
Closing Lunch
REGISTRATION/PAYMENT INFORMATION

Fees

The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is **$215 for all programming**, including the opening sit-down breakfast, banquet dinner, and closing lunch. Registration received after June 27 will be subject to a fee increase. For information about programming please contact the Center for Jewish Studies by email or phone (listed below).

A la carte pricing

$55 to attend lectures and activities on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday  
$35 to attend lectures and activities on Thursday  
$30 to attend opening breakfast OR banquet dinner  
$20 to attend closing lunch

Registration Online

Registration information can be found online at cjs.wisc.edu/greenfield. Payment by credit card or check is possible through the online registration form. Please note that you will still need to register online even if you choose to pay by sending a check through the mail.

Please be sure to register only once!  
Confirmation of your registration will be sent to you via email after your registration has been processed. If you have questions about your registration status, please email us.

Registration /payment information continues on next page
Parking
Underground parking is available in Grainger Hall but should be purchased ahead of time. Information about access to parking can be found on our website.

Lodging
The Institute has blocked rooms at three nearby hotels:

- Graduate Madison ($179)
- Park Hotel ($169+ dependent on room type)
- Hampton Inn & Suites ($169)

Reservations in these room blocks can be made over the phone or online. Please visit the Greenfield webpage for more information on the amenities and locations of each hotel as well as to find the phone numbers and online booking links for these hotels.

Questions?
You can reach us by phone or email
Phone: 608.890.3572
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Twenty-Second Annual
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