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

TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
Greenfield Summer Institute

Jews and Resilience

July 22-25, 2024
University of Wisconsin–Madison
In the face of frequent adversity, how have Jewish communities managed to survive—and sometimes thrive—across the ages? At this year’s Greenfield Summer Institute, we will consider the many answers to this question. From immigration and flight, to witnessing, testimony, and restitution, Jews have developed countless ways to sustain their culture, religion, values, and livelihoods. Join us as speakers from different fields gather in Madison to explore Jewish resourcefulness, resistance, and resilience in a turbulent world.

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!

To register, go to: 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 22

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
“In the Aftermath of Trauma: Risk, Resilience, and PTSD”
Valerie Maine (Madison VA Hospital)

Human beings have a remarkable capacity to withstand adversity and trauma throughout their lives. There are also circumstances that overwhelm an individual’s capacity to cope. While this can vary widely from person to person, this talk will focus on defining risk and protective factors that contribute to resilience or the onset of PTSD in the aftermath of trauma. This session, focusing on the psychology of human resilience, will lay the groundwork for the discussions of Jews and resilience that we will be engaging in throughout the Institute.

10:45 a.m.
“Jews and Resilience: Stigma and Its Discontents”
Ken Koltun-Fromm (Haverford College)

In Civilization and Its Discontents, Sigmund Freud attempts to understand why people in modern societies have made themselves so miserable and discontented. In this talk, Ken Koltun-Fromm raises a similar kind of question: How does stigma make us feel less worthy, more miserable and discontented? And what do we do to resist those kinds of debilitating feelings? Examining images in American Jewish texts, Koltun-Fromm explores potential responses to stigma. Can Jews accept some stigma and even appropriate it for their own purposes? Or should they resist stigma, learn ways to combat it, and thus reject it as a description of their identity?

1:30 p.m.
“Russian Jews and the Cincinnati ‘Tamale Trust’ of the Early 20th Century”
Jonathan Z. S. Pollack (Madison Area Technical College & University of Wisconsin-Madison)

The food business is hard, but many of us can name
delicatessens that have managed to persist through several generations. Others of us can point to enduring kosher (and formerly kosher) purveyors of hot dogs and cold cuts. But tamales? Produced by Jewish immigrants fleeing the Czar? In southern Ohio? In this talk, Jonathan Pollack introduces us to a Russian Jewish student at the turn of the 20th century who struggled to survive in New York City, got tricked into scabbing at a Kentucky coal mine, and then escaped by stowing away on a boxcar. His resilience enabled him to emerge from this ordeal to become part of the Russian-Jewish “tamale trust” in Cincinnati.

3:15 p.m.
“From Yiddish to Hebrew: Holocaust Survivor Filmmakers”
Rachel S. Harris (Florida Atlantic University)

There had once been a thriving Jewish film industry in 1930s Europe, but it was decimated during the war. In the 1940s, a new generation trained at prestigious film schools attempted to rebuild the Yiddish film industry. But haunted by their Holocaust experiences and frightened that they were again witnessing the rise of antisemitism under communism, many fled to Israel. This talk examines the untold story of Polish, Czech, Hungarian, and Yugoslavian Holocaust survivors who came to Israel after the country’s establishment and were instrumental in building the Israeli film industry.

TUESDAY, JULY 23

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
“I Don’t Care What I Am Called:’ Mary Antin, Jewish Resilience, and the Boundaries of Religious Identity”
Rachel B. Gross (San Francisco State University)

Once one of the most famous Jewish women in the United States, writer Mary Antin shaped American conversations about immigration and religious identity with her 1912 autobiography The Promised Land, which depicted her
immigration from Russia to the United States as a religious experience. Rachel B. Gross uses Antin’s celebrity and her spiritual journeys to explore her religious worlds, including the resilience of her Jewish identity. Antin’s wide-ranging spiritual explorations tell us about the possibilities of twentieth-century American Jewish women’s identities and the boundaries of religious communities.

10:45 a.m.
“Ethnicity and Resilience in 1950s Israel”
Aziza Khazzoom (Indiana University Bloomington)

Immigrating to a new country requires resilience. Young Polish and Iraqi Jewish women who immigrated to Israel in the 1950s anticipated disruption, but also expected new opportunities as women and as Jews. Zionist ideology told them that Israel valued gender equality and was less sexually repressed, and that Jews would not experience the educational and occupational obstacles they encountered abroad. However, there were surprises, and the way each woman found her path was dependent on a number of circumstances, including whether she immigrated alone or with family, when she married, and a series of factors related to the communal histories of Iraq and Poland and the production of Israel as a western society.

1:30 p.m.
“Jews and Revolution: Enchantment, Disappointment, and Hope”
Tony Michels (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Few events in the twentieth century attracted more attention from American Jews than the Russian Revolution. Tied to Russia by family connections and political allegiances, Jews in the United States contributed to the revolution in various ways and drew inspiration from it. But, in the eyes of many, the revolution resulted in a colossal failure. What went wrong? Why? Could the original ideals behind the revolution be rescued? This lecture explores the interconnected history of American Jews and the Russian Revolution, and why it matters.
3:15 p.m.
Film Screening: *Black Honey* (2018)
Directed by Uri Barbash
Running time: 76 minutes

This film recounts the extraordinary life of the Yiddish poet Avraham Sutzkever (1913–2010). Sent to the Vilna Ghetto in 1941, Sutzkever led an underground resistance group that hid Jewish texts and art to protect them from destruction at the hands of the Nazis. After escaping to the forests to join Jewish partisans, he was airlifted to Moscow, testified at the Nuremberg Trials, and eventually immigrated to Israel, where he became a leading figure of Yiddish culture. Bringing together rare footage with Sutzkever's own words, *Black Honey* reveals how his life-affirming poetry became a source of strength and vitality amid the darkest times.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24**

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
“From ‘Haus Doranna’ to ‘The Woman in Gold’: The Restitution of Jewish Property in Austria after the Holocaust”
Lisa Silverman (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

This talk will address the complicated issues Jews faced when attempting to obtain the restitution of their and their loved ones’ art and property in Austria after the Holocaust. It will draw upon examples such as Gustav Klimt’s well-known portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer (1903–1907), widely known as “The Woman in Gold,” as well as the efforts of photographer Dora Kallmus (Madame d’Ora) to reclaim her and her sister Anna’s house in the Austrian provinces after 1945.

10:45 a.m.
“Forbidden: A 3,000-Year History of Jews and the Pig”
Jordan Rosenblum (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Jews do not eat pig. This (not always true) observation
has been made by both Jews and non-Jews for more than three thousand years. Over time, the pig became a popular metaphor for Jewish and/or non-Jewish identity. In this talk, we will forage through Jewish history and discover how the pig was used metaphorically—and sometimes literally—both to oppress Jews and as a Jewish symbol of defiance and resilience.

1:30 p.m.
“‘Innovate or Die:’ Constructive Responses to Crisis in Jewish History”
Lauren B. Strauss (American University)

Observers often wonder: How have Jews survived for millennia? Perhaps this is the wrong question. In fact, we might ask, are these the same “Jews” that have existed since Abraham, or have they been so utterly transformed as to become a new nation? We explore four cataclysmic moments stretching from antiquity to the present, unearthing a resilient thread of ingenuity that has preserved the nation’s character, even as it has challenged fundamental aspects of Jewishness. From the embers of the Second Temple to Spain’s Inquisitorial dungeons, from the Nazi ghettos to today, Jewish resilience relies on innovation—and stubbornness.

3:15 p.m.
“Plague, Persistence, and Piety: Disease and Jewish Resilience in Early Modern Europe”
Joshua Teplitzky (University of Pennsylvania)

In premodern Europe, the most pervasive and disruptive threat to Jewish life was often not violence at the hands of neighbors or governments, but rather the destructive power of epidemic disease. In this session, we explore the history of plague epidemics in early modern Jewish life (roughly 1400–1750) to uncover stories of catastrophe and resilience as Jews and their neighbors were affected by and responded to the natural world. We will look at policies, prayers, and practices to learn about how Jews negotiated their fates in turbulent times.
THURSDAY, JULY 25

8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 a.m.
“Lost and Found: The Resilience of the Ten Lost Tribes in the Medieval Jewish Imagination”
David Shyovitz (Northwestern University)

In the pre-modern period, Jews and Christians alike were fascinated by the “Ten Lost Tribes”—the ancient Israelites who had been conquered, dispersed, and ostensibly lost to history during biblical times. But the Ten Tribes had a habit of being “found” in medieval Jewish travel accounts and folktales—and the secret of their remarkable endurance was the subject of much interest and speculation on the part of Jewish authors. In this session, we will carefully analyze a story about the Lost Tribes and their supernatural abilities, and explore what lessons it can teach us about Jewish resilience in the past and in the present.

10:45 a.m.
“Tenement Resilience”
Annie Polland (Tenement Museum)

In the hallway of New York’s 97 Orchard Street, brightly colored murals of rural landscapes punctuate the faded mustard walls. In 1900, over 110 residents walked by these murals. Whether returning home after a day at a garment shop or by the side of a pushcart, immigrants and their children drew on those serene if unexpected images to muster up the strength to continue. Perhaps they reminded the residents of the homes they left behind; perhaps they looked forward to a future American home. Either way, these murals are just one physical sign of the amazing resilience developed by tenement dwellers. This talk follows the trajectories of several past residents—and looks to the community networks, religious rituals, and cultural outlets that they drew upon to strengthen their resilience.

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

Fees
The fee for the Greenfield Summer Institute is $235 for all programming, including the daily continental breakfasts and closing lunch. Registration received after July 8 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
$65 to attend lectures and activities on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday
$45 to attend lectures and activities on Thursday
$25 to attend closing lunch (Thursday)

Online (Zoom) program
As with last year, the program will also be livestreamed (via Zoom) for anyone unable to attend the Institute in person. While online participants will miss out on the social aspects of the Institute, all lectures and activities will be available online. The fee for online attendance is $175 for all programming. If you have questions about the online option, please call or email us.

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. If you need assistance with registration, please give us a call and we will be happy to assist you.

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.
Parking
Underground parking is available in Grainger Hall but must be purchased ahead of time. Information about access to parking can be found on our website.

Lodging
The Institute has blocked rooms at two nearby hotels:
• Fluno Center ($170)
• 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
Email: greenfield@cjs.wisc.edu
Twenty-Fourth Annual
Greenfield Summer Institute
Jews and Resilience