

Ellie R. Schainker
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Emory University: Assistant Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Fall 2011-present

Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania: Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2010-11

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, PhD, History (2010)

Jacob K. Javits Fellow, Benjamin Franklin Fellow

Fields: Modern Jewish History; Early Modern Jewish History; Modern European History

University of Pennsylvania, BA, Honors in History, *summa cum laude* (2000)

Honors Thesis: *Beis Yaakov: Molding the Educated Woman of Valor*

Rose Award for Undergraduate Research, 2000; Phi Beta Kappa

Midreshet Lindenbaum, Israel (1996-97)

Advanced Studies of Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic texts

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

Confessions of the Shtetl: Converts from Judaism in Imperial Russia, 1817-1906 (Stanford University Press, 2016)

- NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD, 2017

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES:

“Banning Jewish ‘Extremist’ Literature: Conversion and Toleration in Historical Perspective” (*in progress; Soviet and Post-Soviet Review*).

“A Grass Widow in Odessa: Gender and Jewish Law on the Russian Frontier” (forthcoming, *Jewish Quarterly Review*).

“Shtetls, Taverns, and Baptisms”, *AJS Perspectives: Transgression Issue* (Spring 2017), 22-3.

“On Faith and Fanaticism: Converts from Judaism and the Limits of Toleration in Late Imperial Russia”, *Kritika* 17, no. 4 (Fall 2016), 753-80.

“Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth-Century Russia”, *Jewish Social Studies*, n.s. vol. 20, no. 1 (Fall 2013), 1-31.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS:

“When Life Imitates Art: Shtetl Sociability and Conversion in Imperial Russia” in Paweł Maciejko and Theodor Dunkelgrün, eds. *Bastards and Believers: Converts and Conversion between Judaism and Christianity* (University of Pennsylvania Press, *in press*).

EDITED VOLUMES:

“Jerusalem Letters: Vasily Levison’s Ruminations on Faith, Doubt, and Conversion from Judaism to Russian Orthodoxy” in David Ruderman, ed. *Converts of Conviction: Faith and Skepticism in Nineteenth-Century European Jewish Society* (De Gruyter, 2017), 27-40.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES:

Web Exhibit article: “Taking Turns: New Perspectives on Jews and Conversion”—“Conversion in Tsarist Russia” (<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows11/cajs2011.html>)

BOOK REVIEWS:

Adam Teller, *Money, Power, and Influence in Eighteenth-Century Lithuania: The Jews of the Radziwiłł Estates*. *American Historical Review* (submitted, December 2017).

Todd Endelman, *Leaving the Jewish Fold: Conversion and Radical Assimilation in Modern Jewish History*. *Journal of Jewish Studies* LXVIII, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 214-6.

David Ellenson and Daniel Gordis, *Pledges of Jewish Allegiance: Conversion, Law, and Policymaking in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Orthodox Responsa*. *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 15, no. 1 (2016): 168-9.

Raymond Lillevik, *Apostates, Hybrids, or True Jews: Jewish Christians and Jewish Identity in Eastern Europe, 1860-1914*. *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* 67, issue 1 (January 2016): 223-4.

“How Jews are Made in the East”, review of: Eugene Avrutin, *Jews in the Imperial State: Identification Politics in Tsarist Russia*; Eliyana Adler, *In her Hands: the Education of Jewish Girls in Tsarist Russia*. *Jewish Quarterly Review* vol. 103, no. 3 (Summer 2013), 408-414.

Brian Horowitz, *Empire Jews: Jewish Nationalism and Acculturation in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Russia*. *Jewish History* 27:1 (2013), 127-130.

NATIONAL AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, FORUMS

National Jewish Book Award, 2017: JDC-Herbert Katzki Award for Writing Based on Archival Material

Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundation Visiting Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Israel, 2015-2016

Accepted participant and travel grant awardee, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry Summer Seminar, “Secularism,” with Professor Talal Asad, June 2015

Accepted participant, American Academy of Jewish Research, Early Career Workshop, May 2013

Golub Family Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, post-doctoral fellowship, 2010-2011

International Forum for Young Scholars in East European Jewish Studies (Budapest, Hungary), Summer 2009

Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow in Jewish Culture, Center for Jewish History, NY 2007-2008

Dora and Mayer Tendler Fellow, YIVO Institute, NY 2007-2008

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture doctoral scholarship, 2007-2008

Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Doctoral Research Award, Winter 2007

Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 2002-2006: U.S. Department of Education merit fellowship for graduate students (full tuition and stipend)

National Council of Jewish Women Grant, YIVO Yiddish Summer Institute, Columbia University, Summer 2002

INTERNAL GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University Research Council Humanities Grant, Emory University, 2014-2015

Emory Tam Institute of Jewish Studies Evans Faculty Development Grant, 2012, 2013, 2016

History Course Development Grant for new course, "Jews and Capitalism", Fall 2012

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship, Spring 2007

Penn History Department summer research grant and Jewish Studies Program Brenner Award, Spring 2006

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS:

Panelist, "Remembering the 'Bright Future': The Russian Revolution Beyond Russia", Russian, East-European, and Eurasian Studies Program, Emory University (October 2017)

"Jewish Violence and Conversion: Attitudes and Responses to Apostates in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia", Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Ben Gurion University (May 2016)

"Killing Converts: A New Ritual Murder Accusation in Late-Imperial Russia", Inter-University Seminar in East European Studies, Tel Aviv University (April 2016)

"Jerusalem Letters: Vasily Levison's Ruminations on Faith, Doubt, and Conversion from Judaism to Russian Orthodoxy", Maimonides Center for Advanced Studies Conference, "Converts of Conviction: Faith and Skepticism in Nineteenth-Century European Jewish Society", University of Hamburg, Germany (March 2016)

"The Politics of Religious Intimidation: Conversion and Jewish Violence in Late-Imperial Russia", NYU Jordan Center Symposium, "Religion, Governance, and Mass Mobilization in the Late Russian Empire", NYU (October 2013)

"A View of the Confessional State from Below: Converts from Judaism and Confessional Choice in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia", Conference on "Jews and Muslims in the Tsarist Empire and the Soviet Union", Historisches Kolleg, Munich, Germany (June 2013)

Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Emory University, lecture: “Shtetls, Taverns, and Baptisms: Locating Conversions from Judaism in Imperial Russia” (March 2012)

Panelist, Center for Jewish History: “Conversations on Conversion: Conversion in the Jewish World Today” (April 2011)

“Rethinking Jewish-Christian Relations in a ‘Confessional State’: the Case of Jewish Conversion in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia”, University of Scranton (October 2010)

Discussant, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Board Retreat Roundtable Discussion: “Conversion, Inter-marriage, and the American Jewish Community in the 21st Century”, University of Pennsylvania (September 2010)

CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIA, WORKSHOPS:

“Competing Halakhic Guides in Late-Imperial Russia: Law and Reform in the Popular Jewish Press”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C. (December 2017)

“Jewish Religious Reforms in the Twilight Years of the Confessional State”, Religion and Russian Revolution Conference, Moscow, Russia (*paper accepted*, October 2017)

“Rituals of Modernity: Jewish Religious Reforms in Imperial Russia”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (December 2016)

“At Home in Eastern Europe: The Polish and Russian Turns in Jewish History”, moderator of round-table session at the Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Mass. (December 2013)

“The Dangers of Confessional Intimacy: Conversion and Religious Violence in the Shtetls of Imperial Russia”, international symposium, “Micropolitics of Small Town Life in Eastern Europe”, University of Illinois (March 2013)

“Russian-Jewish Underground Networks for Runaway Converts: Challenging Orthodox Hegemony along the Empire’s Western Borders”, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (November 2012)

“Shtetls, Taverns, and Baptisms: Locating Conversions from Judaism in Imperial Russia”, Paper presented at Southeast Workshop on Russian History, Oglethorpe University (January 2012)

“Apostasy or Return? Relapsed Converts from Judaism in Imperial Russia”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C. (December 2011)

“Shtetls, Taverns, and Baptisms: Locating Conversions from Judaism in Imperial Russia”, Conference on “Space and Conversion: Institutions, Urban Stages and Interiority (16th-20th Centuries)”, International workshop at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, Italy (December 2011)

“Bringing Moses Mendelssohn and Yiddish Bibles East: Converts as Creators of a Jewish Mission in Nineteenth-Century Russia”, Gruss Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania (May 2011)

“Jewish Conversion in an Imperial Context: Confessional Choice and Multiple Baptisms in Nineteenth – Century Russia”, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Seminar Paper, University of Pennsylvania (March 2011)

Kochmann Workshop for Graduate Students in European Jewish History, Oxford University (Summer 2009)

“Family Ties: Converts and Community in Imperial Russia”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference (December 2008)

“Converts and Community: Tales from the Vilna Archives”, Center for Jewish History, NY (November 2008)

PANEL AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:

“Religion at the Margins of East European Jewish Society”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, CA (December 2016), co-organizer

“At Home in Eastern Europe: The Polish and Russian Turns in Jewish History”, round-table session at the Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, Mass. (December 2013)

“Jewish Eastern Europe ‘Unbounded’: Individual and Ideological Border Crossings”, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (November 2012)

“Turns and Returns: Narratives of Rapprochement in Modern Jewish History”, Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington D.C. (December 2011)

Co-organizer, “Taking Turns: New Perspectives on Jews and Conversions”, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies 17th Annual Gruss Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania (May 2011)

RESPONDENT:

Commentary for Karen Körber, “Conflicting Memories, Conflicting Identities: Russian Jewish Immigration and the Vision of a New German Jewry”, German Studies Invited Lecture, Emory University (March 2014)

CHAIR:

Panel on Paradigms, “Looking Outward: Reframing Jewish Studies”, Emory University (March 2017)

“Jews Confront a ‘Christian America’”, American Jewish Historical Society Scholars Conference, Emory University (June 2014)

Panel on Jews and the Military in Eastern Europe, “Jews, Military Service and Collective Belonging: From Antiquity to the Present”, Emory University (May 2012)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP:

Limmud SouthEast Invited Speaker, September 1-4, 2017

Podcast on *Confessions of the Shtetl*, New Book Network, January 2017

<http://newbooksnetwork.com/ellie-schinker-confessions-of-the-shtetl-converts-from-judaism-in-imperial-russia-1817-1906-stanford-up-2016/>

Young Israel of Toco Hills Limmud Class, “Blood Libels Old and New”, September 2016

Invited Film Introduction, “Raise the Roof”, Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, February 2015

Young Israel of Toco Hills Limmud Class, “An Agunah in the Crimea: the Case of Sura Gener, 1886”, March 2015

Young Israel of Toco Hills Limmud Class, “Who is *Am Yisrael*? Conversion and Jewish Peoplehood”, June 2014

Invited Lecture at Temple Sinai, Sandy Springs, GA: “Virtual Tour of Jewish Life along the Danube”, May 2012; “Women in Orthodoxy”, January 2014

Young Israel of Toco Hills, GA, adult education lecture: “Passover and Pogroms”, April 2012

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Public Lecture at the National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA: “Family Ties: Converts and Community in Imperial Russia”, February 2011

Victor Center at the University of Miami/Hadassah, Florida Atlantic Region Symposium lecture: “Beyond Genes: The Cultural and Geographic Development of Ashkenazi Jewry”, November 2010

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies/Philadelphia VAAD of Rabbis Lecture: “A Prequel to the Conversion Crisis in Israel: Jewish Apostasy and Identity in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia”, November 2010

Drisha Institute lecture, NY: “Rethinking Modern Jewish Assimilation: Converts and Community in Nineteenth-Century Russia”, July 2010

Mitbachon Leadership Retreat, San Rafael, CA: “Immigrant Jews in Germany and the Burden of Memory”, February 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Emory University, Department of History and Tam Institute of Jewish Studies (Fall 2011- present)

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate Modular Seminar: “Conversion and the Shtetl” (November, 2011)

Rutgers University, Part-Time Lecturer (Spring 2008)

University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant (2003-2005)

Rise and Fall of the Third Reich; Modern Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History; Survey Modern Jewish History; Soviet Century

COURSES TAUGHT:

Undergraduate Courses:

Jewish Society and Civilization II: 1500-1933

HIST 385/JS 371: History of East European Jewry (Fall 2011, Fall 2016)

HIST 285/JS 271: Modern Jewish History (Spring 2012)

JS 497R: Conversions to/from Judaism in Historical Perspective (Spring 2012)

HIST 270/JS 270: Course of Jewish History (Spring 2013)

HIST 495A: Introduction to Historical Interpretation I (Spring 2013, Spring 2014)

HIST/JS/REEES 190 Freshman Seminar: Sex and the Shtetl (Fall 2013)

HIST 202: Making of Modern Europe (Fall 2013, Spring 2017)

JS 101/HIST 185/REL 170: Introduction to Jewish Studies (Spring 2014, Spring 2015)

HIST 385/JS 371: Jews and Capitalism (Spring 2015, Fall 2017)

HIST 190/JS 190 Freshman Seminar: Jews and Conversion: Marranos to Marilyn Monroe (Fall 2016)
HIST 487R/JS 490R JR/SR Colloquium: Gender and Sexuality in Modern Jewish History (Spring 2017)

Graduate Courses:

History 585: Religion, Mission and Empire (Spring 2018)
History 786A: Introduction to College Teaching (Fall 2017)
History 790: Professionalization Seminar (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
History 597R: Directed Reading: East European Jewish History (Spring 2015)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AT EMORY

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE:

Graduate Studies Committee, History (2017-2018)
Co-chair, History Faculty Handbook (2016-17)
Co-chair, JS Community of Scholars Showcase (Fall 2016)
Graduate Studies Committee, Jewish Studies (2014-2015, 2017-2018)
Strategic Planning Committee, Jewish Studies (Spring 2013)
History Honors Instructor (Spring 2013, 2014)
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Jewish Studies (2011-2014)
Undergraduate Studies Committee, History (2011-2012)

COLLEGE SERVICE:

African-American Studies Lecture Series and Search Committee (AY 2016-17)
Emory Scholars Program, Reading Retreat Participant (January 2015)

GRADUATE SERVICE:

Selection Committee, Emory Graduate Diversity Fellowships (Spring 2017)
Selection Committee, Dean's Teaching Fellowships (Spring 2018-Spring 2019)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Center for Faculty Development and Excellence, Peer Mentoring (Spring 2014)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association
Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
Association of Jewish Studies
Center for Jewish History

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Reviewer of Article Manuscripts:
Jewish Quarterly Review
Journal of the History of Ideas
Journal of Jewish History
Slavic Review

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Russian and Hebrew: Reading Fluency and Speaking/Writing Competence
German and Yiddish: Reading Competence