

# UCI Jewish Studies

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



As we enter the new academic year, Jewish Studies at UC Irvine has growing momentum. An increasing number of students are signing up for a minor in Jewish Studies, we continue to offer a wide range of courses on many different topics related to the Jewish past and present, and our public speakers' series consistently drew large audiences during the last year, with many more exciting programs to come. (For up-to-date announcements about upcoming lectures check our website or sign up for our e-mail list at <https://maillists.uci.edu/mailman/listinfo/uci-jewish-studies>).

Jewish Studies at UCI is still a young and, compared to many other universities, small program. I am encouraged by the support that our program has received from the dean of the School of Humanities, Georges Van Den Abbeele, and I am confident that with support from the wider community we can build a first-rate program on this campus.

Last year we were particularly fortunate to receive a grant from the Rose Project of the Jewish Federation and Family Services of Orange County, which allowed us to invite three scholars of Israel Studies, who addressed packed rooms of students, faculty, and many guests from the public. The Rose Project has generously agreed to continue this funding also for this coming year and we are excited about this ongoing partnership. We are also grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the Orange County Hillel on programming; we did so for our annual Holocaust lecture last year and we look forward to working together in the future as well.

Education about Jewish history and religion, about antisemitism and the Holocaust, and about Israel and its place in the Middle East continues to be as important and timely as ever. In order to build a stronger program, offer more courses to our students, and continue to engage a broad public through our lecture series and other events, we need support. Please consider becoming a supporter of Jewish Studies at UCI, at whatever level you feel comfortable. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have at [mlehmann@uci.edu](mailto:mlehmann@uci.edu), or discuss the various giving opportunities with the director of development in the School of Humanities, Nicole Balsamo, at [nbalsamo@uci.edu](mailto:nbalsamo@uci.edu). You can also donate online by clicking on the "give now" icon on our website at <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/jewishstudies/>.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthias Lehmann".

Matthias Lehmann, Teller Chair and Director of Jewish Studies

## Upcoming Events 2014-2015



Jeffrey Veidlinger, University of Michigan

*In the Shadow of the Shtetl:  
Small Town Life in Soviet  
Ukraine*

**February 2, 2015 at 5pm**

Jeffrey Veidlinger, Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies, is an expert in modern Russian and Eastern European Jewish history and has published widely on Jewish history and culture in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.



Carol Bakhos, UCLA

*"Who is a Member of the Family  
of Abraham: Problematizing the  
idea of 'Abrahamic Religions'"*

**Monday, April 13, 2015 at 5pm**

Carol Bakhos is Professor of Late Antique Judaism and Jewish Studies and director of the UCLA Center for the Study of Religion.

## A LOOK BACK -

### 2013-2014 JEWISH STUDIES EVENTS

- **Teller Chair Lecture**

Steven Weitzman (Stanford University/University of Pennsylvania): "Mining for Solomon."

- **Argentine Jews in the Twentieth Century**

Adriana Brodsky (St. Mary's College of Maryland): "Between Community and Aliyah: Young Sephardism in the 1960s."

Mollie Lewis Nouwen (University of South Alabama): "Jews in the Buenos Aires Underworld: Local and International Crime Networks, 1900-1930."

- **Focus on Sephardic Studies**

Devin Naar (University of Washington): "Stones That Speak: The Life and Death of the Jewish Cemetery of Salonika."

Julia Cohen (Vanderbilt University): "Modern Sephardi Jews and the Spanish Past."

#### Holocaust Studies Lecture

Barbara Glück (Director of Mauthausen Concentration Camp Memorial, Austria):

"The Mauthausen Concentration Camp System and Present-Day Memorialization of its Victims."

With generous support from the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by the generosity of Alan Solomon, MD, and the Orange County Hillel.

#### Focus on Israel Studies

*with generous support from the Rose Project*

Michael Brenner (University of Munich and American University): "The Concept of a Jewish State: From Herzl to Netanyahu."

Liora Halperin (University of Colorado): "Babel in Zion: Negotiating Language Diversity in Mandate Palestine."

Nina Spiegel (Portland State University): "The Creation of Israeli Culture: Origins and Dilemmas."

#### ROSE PROJECT

 Jewish Federation & Family Services  
ORANGE COUNTY

Thank you for supporting Jewish Studies at UCI!

We are preparing our full event calendar for 2014-2015.

For updates on current and upcoming events, please visit <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/jewishstudies/>





## Classes Offered for the Jewish Studies Minor

Antisemitism, the Longest Hatred	Lehmann	Winter 2014
The Jews of Spain	Lehmann	Spring 2014
Three Religions, Three Thousand Years: History of Jerusalem	Lehmann	Spring 2014
The Afterlife of the Holocaust	Katz	Spring 2014
Global Kafka	Evers	Spring 2014
Hebrew, first year	Parks	All quarters
Hebrew, second year	Parks	Fall 2014, winter 2015, spring 2015
The Holocaust	Moeller	Fall 2014
Modern Jewish History	Lehmann	Fall 2014
World Religions I: Judaism, Christianity, Islam	McKenna	Winter 2014, fall 2014
Italian Holocaust Literature	Chiampi	Fall 2014
Hitler and the Germans	Moeller	Winter 2014, winter 2015
The Modern Middle East	LeVine	Winter 2015
Introduction to Jewish Cultures	Lehmann	Winter 2015

### WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support the Program in Jewish Studies, we now have a “Give Now” button located on the giving information page of our website: [www.humanities.uci.edu/jewishstudies/](http://www.humanities.uci.edu/jewishstudies/). This button will take you directly to an online form through UC Irvine Advancement, earmarked for the Program in Jewish Studies. For more information on giving contact Nicole Balsamo, Director of Development, at 949-824-2923 or [nbalsamo@uci.edu](mailto:nbalsamo@uci.edu).



### 2014-2015 Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor

Mohammed Wattad is a legal scholar specializing in international and comparative criminal law, comparative constitutional law, international law and legal issues surrounding war, torture and terrorism. Prof. Wattad has expertise in the history of Israel and issues of self-image and identity in multi-cultural societies. He has written and spoken extensively on societal challenges confronting the Middle East and Israel, including relations between Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens and Israel's external relations with surrounding Arab states. He is teaching courses in UC Irvine's Department of Political Science and in the School of Law as the 2014-2015 Schusterman Visiting Israel Professor.

## Meet our Students

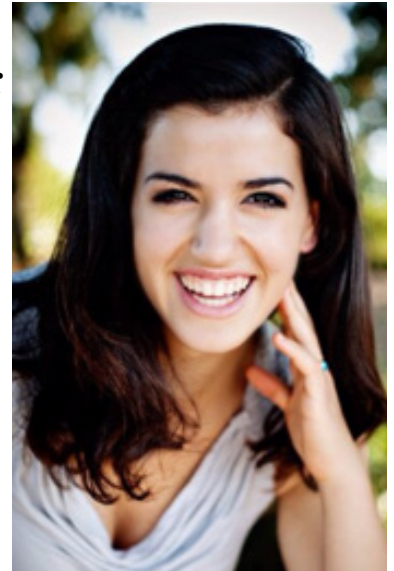


### **Esfir Mittelman**

In the fall of 2013, I transferred to UCI after spending one year at American Jewish University in Los Angeles, California and three years at Saddleback Community College in Mission Viejo, California. I am currently in my final year finishing my degree in Psychology and Social Behavior with a minor in Jewish Studies. Following graduation I hope to attend UCI's School of Education to pursue my Master's in Teaching and elementary credential. Being raised in a Jewish home and participating in numerous Jewish youth organizations in high school, including B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, sparked my interest in pursuing a minor in Jewish Studies. Learning about my heritage through the Jewish Studies courses at UCI has brought me closer to my religion and has solidified my connection to the Jewish community.

### **Lily Wagner**

This is my fourth year at UC Irvine. I am currently studying nursing science, but I spent my first three years studying as a biological science major. Towards the end of my first year at UCI, I got involved with the Jewish community on campus. I've enjoyed being a part of Hillel, Chabad, Anteaters for Israel and the larger Jewish community that I have met through networking with these groups. I initially took a Jewish Studies course to fulfill my last general education requirement, but found myself both engaged and intrigued, and went on to take another course for my own learning. The two courses I took, Jewish Cultures and History of Antisemitism, were thought provoking. They challenged my own ideas about my heritage, encouraging me to explore both my own Judaism and culture as it related to my values and goals. I encourage everyone with an interest in history or religion to take a course offered by the Program in Jewish Studies. There is a breadth of knowledge to be discovered, and for myself, I found these classes to be a wonderful introduction onto this path.



## Meet our Faculty

### **Glenn S. Levine**

Glenn S. Levine is a Professor of German in the Department of European Languages and Studies. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. At UCI he teaches courses on topics in German-Jewish culture and history, Yiddish, education and linguistics. In 2012 he led a study-abroad course through seven cities in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic on the history of the Jews in German-speaking Europe, and he remains a passionate supporter of study-abroad. He has published widely in applied linguistics, as well as in German-Jewish studies. He is the author of the monograph, *Incomplete First-Language Acquisition in the Immigrant Situation: Yiddish in the United States* (Tübingen, Germany: Max Niemeyer Verlag, 2000).