

Dubnow

L. Dubnow
Institute

American Jewish Political Thought – At Home and Abroad

Digital Annual Conference
June 15–16, 2021

In Cooperation with
The Goldstein-Goren Center
for American Jewish History
at New York University



Topic

This conference focuses on the history of twentieth-century American Jewish political thought in a transnational dimension. It brings together scholars from the United States, Germany, and Israel to discuss how American Jews articulated in words and deeds the multiple and often conflicting perspectives about their own situation in America and their relationship to the Jewish people worldwide.

Preceded by a lecture series on "American Jewish Political Thought: Transnational Varieties," which took place from April to June 2021, the conference carries forward the exploration of this theme by further looking at the diverse ways in which American Jews, through their communal institutions and organizations, articulated a variety of ideas about their responsibilities for Jews and Jewish life at home and abroad. At the same time, it raises the question of how their actions, in turn, reflected concerns the Jews of the United States had for themselves and their place in American life. Being aware of the wide-ranging varieties of American Jewish political thought, the speakers will emphasize both common concerns among American Jews and widely divergent views of what to do and how.

This joint event of the Dubnow Institute and the Goldstein-Goren Center at New York University will contribute to the broadening of a transnational perspective within the field of American Jewish history. Moreover, the organizers seek to strengthen transatlantic scholarly ties and imagine future cooperation, which will shed new light on American Jewish political thought in so many places around the world.

Program

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

2:30–4:30 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

8:30–10:30 a.m. (New York, UTC -4)

Welcome

Jan Gerber

Introduction

Immanuel Clemens Schmidt

Hasia R. Diner

Interfaith Practice in Transnational Perspective

Chair: Zarin Aschrafi

Randi Storch

Adolph Jellinek, Theodor Herzl, and Thomas Davidson: Transnational Influences on the Interfaith Activism of Stephen Wise

Jessica Cooperman

Exporting Interfaith: American Jews and the Religious Affairs Bureau in American Occupied Germany

Respondent: **Yaakov Ariel**

4:45–6:15 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (New York, UTC -4)

American Jews and the Liberal Faith

Chair: Philipp Graf

Eli Lederhendler

Transnational and Local: American Jews and Liberal Politics

Ludwig Decke

"Hold on to the Faith in American Liberalism!"
Morris R. Cohen and the American Jewish Liberal Imagination during the Nazi Period

Respondent: **Elisabeth Gallas**

6:30–8:00 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

12:30–14:00 p.m. (New York, UTC -4)

Pluralism and American Zionism

Chair: Jakob Stürmann

Immanuel Clemens Schmidt

A Secular Tradition: Horace Kallen on American Democracy in the United States and Israel

Noam Pianko

"We Too Have a Jewish Question": Reconsidering European Zionist Political Thought in the American Context

Respondent: **Nancy Sinkoff**

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

3:00–4:30 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

9:00–10:30 a.m. (New York, UTC -4)

American Jewish Critics of Zion

Chair: Enrico Lucca

Sarah Imhoff

Beyond Social Work: American Zionist Women as Thinkers

Marjorie N. Feld

"The Good Cause for which We Must Martyr Ourselves:" American Jewish Zionism and Coalitions for Justice

Respondent: **Hasia R. Diner**

5:00–6:30 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (New York, UTC -4)

Jewishness, Blackness, and the American Political Scene

Chair: Brett Winestock

Marc Dollinger

Black Power, Jewish Politics: Reinventing the Alliance in the 1960s

Vera Kallenberg

Intersectionality, Jewish Experience, and Black Women's History: Gerda Lerner and the Story of "Black Women in White America" (1972)

Respondent: **Cheryl Lynn Greenberg**

6:30–7:00 p.m. (Leipzig, UTC +2);

12:30–13:00 p.m. (New York, UTC -4)

Concluding Discussion

Participants

Prof. Dr. Yaakov Ariel, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC | **Zarin Aschrafi**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Jessica Cooperman**, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA | **Ludwig Decke**, University of Wisconsin–Madison, WI | **Prof. Dr. Hasia R. Diner**, New York University, NY | **Prof. Dr. Marc Dollinger**, San Francisco State University, CA | **Prof. Dr. Marjorie N. Feld**, Babson College, Wellesley, MA | **Dr. Elisabeth Gallas**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **PD Dr. Jan Gerber**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Philipp Graf**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Cheryl Lynn Greenberg**, Trinity College Hartford, CT | **Prof. Dr. Sarah Imhoff**, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN | **Dr. Vera Kallenberg**, Bielefeld University | **Prof. Dr. Eli Lederhendler**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Dr. Enrico Lucca**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Noam Pianko**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA | **Dr. des. Imanuel Clemens Schmidt**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Nancy Sinkoff**, Rutgers University–New Brunswick, NJ | **Prof. Dr. Randi Storch**, State University of New York College at Cortland, NY | **Jakob Stürmann**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Brett Winestock**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig

Organization

Prof. Dr. Hasia R. Diner (New York University)

Dr. des. Imanuel Clemens Schmidt (Dubnow Institute)

Contact and Registration

The annual conference is taking place digitally. Please register at least one day in advance to receive a link to the digital lecture room.

Please send an email to antwort@dubnow.de with the title of the event "Annual Conference," your name, institution (if applicable) and the email address to which we should send the link.

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Helen Frankenthaler, *New Paths* (detail), 1973,
Acrylic and marker on canvas

54 3/4 x 109 inches (139.1 x 276.9 cm)

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