JEWS AND THE AMERICAS

FEBRUARY 24 - 26, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Center for Latin American Studies
68th Annual Conference
jointly sponsored by the
Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies and the
Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica
CO-SPONSORED BY
University of Florida Center for Latin American Studies
Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies
Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida
Bacardi Family Endowment
National Endowment for the Humanities
Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University
U.S. Department of Education

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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Associate Professor, Department of History

Mitchell B. Hart
Professor, Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish History, Department of History

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Head, Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, Department of Special and Area Studies Collections

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Head Librarian, Latin American and Caribbean Collection

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Library Coordinator, Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica

Lenny A. Ureña Valerio
Assistant Director for Administration, Center for Latin American Studies

SPECIAL THANKS TO
Magdianis Martinez, conference coordinator
Patricia Alba, website, poster, and program design
Ivette Hernandez, conference support
Anna Rodell, Graduate Assistants and volunteer coordinator
Graduate Assistants in the MA in Latin American Studies Program at UF
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Welcome to the 68th Annual Conference of the UF Center for Latin American Studies

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 68th Annual Conference of the Center for Latin American Studies titled: Jews and the Americas. The conference takes place at various localities in the University of Florida campus from February 24-26, 2019.

This multidisciplinary event aims to explore various facets of the Jewish experience in the Americas from the 16th century until today. The panels investigate the forces that shaped the lives and experiences of Jewish individuals and communities by looking at intra-religious developments as well as relations – actual, spiritual, and imaginary – with Jewish and non-Jewish communities across and outside the Americas. By taking a transnational approach, the presentations look at the political, economic, cultural, and social exchanges that influenced Jewish societies and their representations in the Americas during the past five centuries.

The conference brings together the fields of Latin American and Jewish studies through different disciplinary approaches. Over twenty scholars from Latin America, North America, Germany, and Israel are joining us to present their research for two and a half days, including keynote speakers Tamar Herzog (Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs, Harvard University) and Dana Rabin (Professor, Department of History, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign). Along with gaining new insights into the research being conducted, participants are also invited to join guided tours at the Isser and Rae Price Library’s Judaica Suite, on February 24, and enjoy the Bacardi Scholar concert “Encuentro” by Silviu Ciulei and his Maharajah Trio in the historic Thomas Center, located in Downtown Gainesville, on February 25.

The conference is jointly sponsored by the UF Center for Latin American Studies, the Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies and the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica at the University of Florida. Funding is also provided by the U.S. Department of Education, the Bacardi Family Endowment, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center at Florida International University.

On behalf of the organizing committee, I hope you enjoy your time at the conference, and for those of you visiting us for the first time, welcome to the University of Florida!

Lenny A. Ureña Valerio, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Administration
UF Center for Latin American Studies
Member of the 68th Annual Conference Organizing Committee
University of Florida
J. Wayne Reitz Union

• Third Floor - Rion Ballroom
## THE CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, February 24 | Latin American and Caribbean Collection, Smathers Library, 3rd Floor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30- 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Participant Check-In</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 - 6:45 PM</td>
<td>The Bacardi Scholar Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 - 7:00 PM</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:00 PM</td>
<td>The Bacardi Scholar Opening Address: Tamar Herzog</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>Tours of Judaica Suite (Smathers Library, 2nd Floor)</td>
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### Monday, February 25 | Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast / Participant Check-In / Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:30 AM</td>
<td>Material Culture and Status in the Americas</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 - 10:45 AM</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 AM - 12:15 PM</td>
<td>Sephardim and Crypto Jews</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:15 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:15 PM</td>
<td>Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies Keynote Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 4:00 PM</td>
<td>Perceptions of Jews and Jewishness</td>
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<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<td>4:30 - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>Jewish Argentines, Politics and Identities in Hemispheric Perspective, 1940s-1980s</td>
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### Monday Evening, February 25 | The Thomas Center

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 9:00 PM</td>
<td>‘Encuentro’ – Bacardi Scholar Concert and Dinner</td>
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### Tuesday, February 26 | Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Breakfast / Participant Check-In / Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM - 12:00 PM</td>
<td>Art and Politics of Yiddish</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 - 1:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:30 PM</td>
<td>Communal Ideologies and Language</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 - 3:00 PM</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>Left and Right in Jewish Politics</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 5:00 PM</td>
<td>Closing Remarks</td>
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Latin American and Caribbean Collection, Smathers Library, 3rd Floor

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<td>The Bacardi Scholar Reception</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 - 7:00  PM</td>
<td>Welcome Remarks&lt;br&gt;Dr. Philip J. Williams&lt;br&gt;Director&lt;br&gt;UF Center for Latin American Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:00  PM</td>
<td>The Bacardi Scholar Opening Address&lt;br&gt;Old and New in the Early Modern Hispanic World&lt;br&gt;Tamar Herzog&lt;br&gt;Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs&lt;br&gt;Harvard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 9:00  PM</td>
<td>Tours of Judaica Suite&lt;br&gt;Smathers Library, 2nd Floor</td>
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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor

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<td>Material Culture and Status in the Americas&lt;br&gt;Chair: Nina Caputo (University of Florida)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Chocolate, Freemasons and Integration: The Jews of Bayonne and the Americas in the 18th century&lt;br&gt;Nimrod Mordechai Gaatone&lt;br&gt;Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center in Tel Aviv University</td>
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9:00 – 10:30 AM

- **Gifts from the Center: Gifting and Religious Authority in Colonial Curaçao**  
  Hilit Surowitz-Israel  
  Rutgers University

- **Becoming Illegal: Sephardi Jews in the Transnational Opium Trade**  
  Devi Mays  
  University of Michigan

10:30 - 10:45 AM  
**Coffee Break**

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

**Sephardim and Crypto Jews**  
Chair: Stanley Mirvis (Arizona State University)

- **Life in the Underworld: Inquisitorial Corruption and Prison Codes of Alleged Crypto-Jews (Lima, 1600s)**  
  Ana Schaposchnik  
  DePaul University

- **Sephardic Colonialization and the Ideological Transformation of the New World**  
  Brian Hamm  
  University of Michigan

- **Sephardi Zionist Youth in the Early Years of the New State: Imagining Themselves in Israel, Living in Argentina, 1940s-1950s**  
  Adriana Brodsky  
  St. Mary’s College of Maryland

12:15 - 1:15 PM  
**Lunch**

1:15 – 2:15 PM

**Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies Keynote Lecture: The Struggle for Jewish Naturalization from Jamaica to London, 1748-1753**  
Dana Rabin  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2:30 – 4:00 PM

**Perceptions of Jews and Jewishness**  
Chair: Lois Dubin (Smith College)

- **The Racecraft of Early American Jewish Portraits**  
  Laura Leibman  
  Reed College

- **The Americas Through the Eyes of a Sixteenth-Century Italian Jew**  
  Flora Cassen  
  University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

- **Spectral Jewishness in Argentine Society?**  
  Perla Sneh  
  Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Argentina
**Jewish Argentines, Politics and Identities in Hemispheric Perspective, 1940s-1980s**
*Chair: Lillian Guerra (University of Florida)*

- **Becoming Argentine and Uruguayan: Jewish Women, Antifascism, and Identities, 1941-1947**
  Sandra McGee Deutsch
  University of Texas at El Paso

- **Negotiating Jewish Identity Under Military Rule: The Kidnapping of José Siderman**
  David Sheinin
  Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario

- **Facing Anti-Semitism with a Club in Hand: Jewish Self-Defense in Argentina of the 1960s and the 1970s**
  Raanan Rein
  Tel Aviv University, Israel

**Encuentro (Cultural Encounter)**
*The Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Avenue,*
*Gainesville, FL 32601*

Bacardi Scholar, Silviu Ciulei, and his Maharajah Trio will perform a concert titled: Encuentro. They will be joined by Dr. Welson Tremura (UF Center for Latin American Studies and College of Music).

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26**
*Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor*

**Breakfast**
*Participant Check-In / Registration*
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

- **A Season in Buenos Aires: Yiddish Actors, Their Repertory, and the Critics**  
  Zachary Baker  
  Stanford University

- **Going Where? The Trope of Migration in Yiddish Movies from 1939**  
  Elisa Kriza  
  University of Bamberg, Germany

Lunch  12:00 - 1:00 PM

1:00 - 2:30 PM  
**Communal Ideologies and Language**  
Chair: Rachel Gordan (University of Florida)

- **Judeus Bem Vindos: Reassessing the Language Identities of Jews in the Modern Lusophone World**  
  Barry Stiefel  
  College of Charleston

- **L’Heavek: Wrestling with the Divine in Syrian Jewish Mexico City**  
  Evelyn Dean-Olmstead  
  University of Puerto Rico

- **Inner Organization and Ideological Trends in the Immigrant Jewish Community of Uruguay during the 30’s and 40’s: The Complex Shaping of a Collective Identity**  
  Teresa Porzecanski  
  Universidad de la Republica O. del Uruguay

Coffee Break  2:30 - 3:00 PM

3:00 - 4:30 PM  
**Left and Right in Jewish Politics**  
Chair: Monica Grin (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)

- **Mounting Tensions: Racial Democracy, Anti-Semitism and the Exhibition of Lasar Segall Under Brazil’s Estado Novo**  
  Edith Wolfe  
  Tulane University

- **“Judeu Sionista Não Apoia Fascista!” (Zionist Jews Don’t Support Fascists!): Protest and the End of Community Consensus**  
  Misha Klein  
  University of Oklahoma

- **Political Activism, Leftwing Zionism, and Jewish Identity: Confronting the New-Old Anti-Semitism in Neoliberal Brazil**  
  Michel Gherman  
  Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

4:30 - 5:00 PM  
**Closing Remarks**