



# JEW S 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

**UF** | Center for  
Latin American Studies  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

**UF** | George A. Smathers Libraries  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA  
Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

Humanities



**ALEXANDER GRASS  
CHAIR IN JEWISH STUDIES**

## 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

Nina Caputo  
Associate Professor, Department of  
History

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

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

Paul Losch  
Head Librarian, Latin American and  
Caribbean Collection

Katalin F. Rac  
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

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Conference Sponsors and Organizers.....2

Welcome Message.....4

Venue Information.....5

Conference at a Glance.....6

Sunday, February 24 Sessions .....7

Monday, February 25 Sessions.....7

Tuesday, February 26 Sessions .....9

Notes.....11

## Welcome to the 68th Annual Conference of the UF Center for Latin American Studies

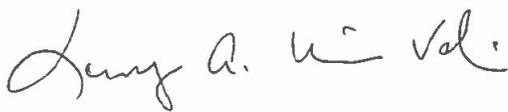
It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 68th Annual Conference of the Center for Latin American Studies titled: *Jews and the Americas*. The conference takes place at various localities in the University of Florida campus from February 24-26, 2019.

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.

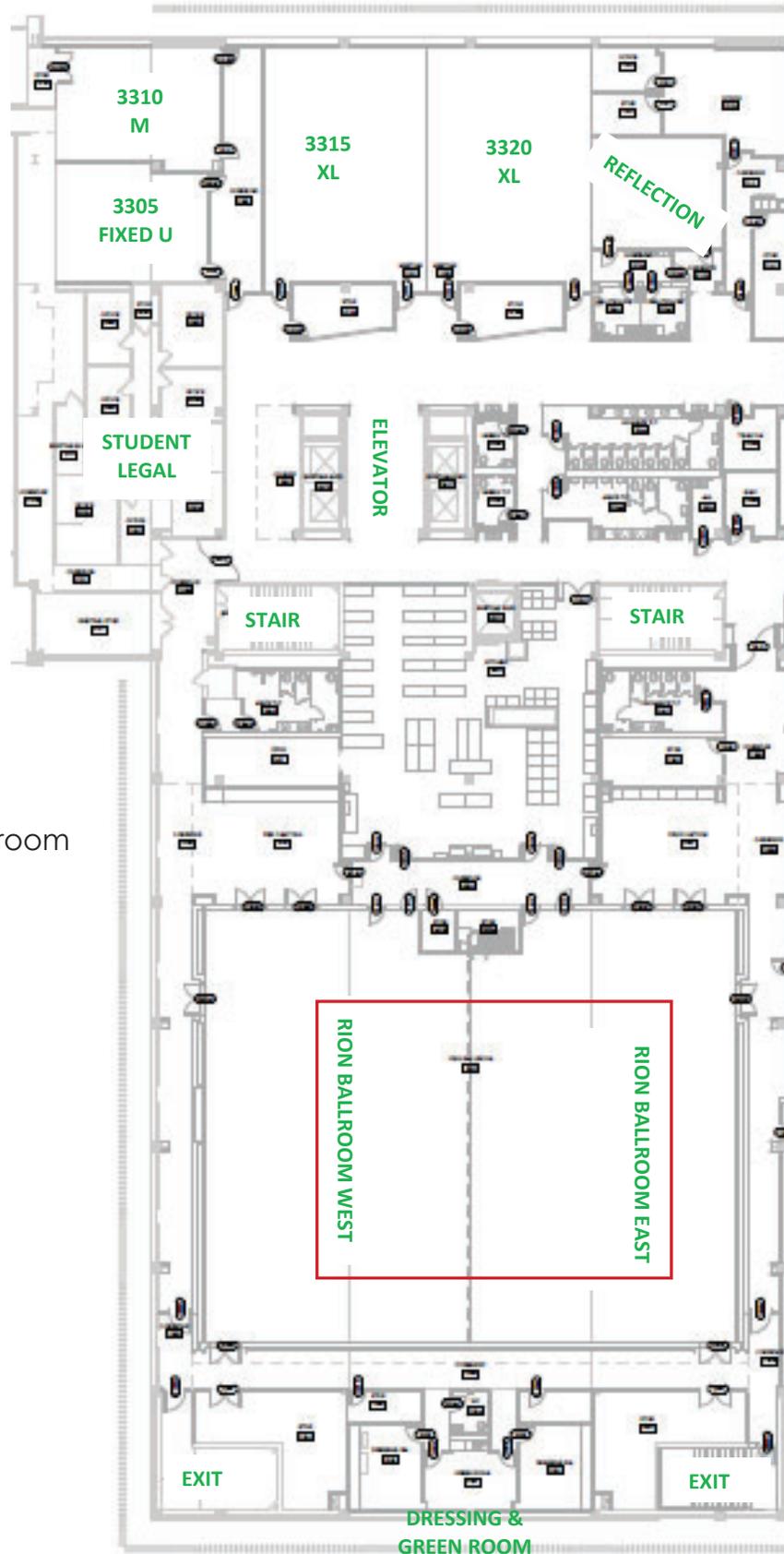
On behalf of the organizing committee, I hope you enjoy your time at the conference, and for those of you visiting us for the first time, welcome to the University of Florida!



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

# VENUE INFORMATION

## THIRD FLOOR – EXISTING



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	
4:30- 5:00 PM	Participant Check-In
5:00 - 6:45 PM	The Bacardi Scholar Reception
6:45 - 7:00 PM	Welcome Remarks
7:00 - 8:00 PM	The Bacardi Scholar Opening Address: Tamar Herzog
8:00 - 9:00 PM	Tours of Judaica Suite (Smathers Library, 2nd Floor)
Monday, February 25   Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor	
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast / Participant Check-In / Registration
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Material Culture and Status in the Americas
10:30 - 10:45 AM	Coffee Break
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Sephardim and Crypto Jews
12:15 - 1:15 PM	Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 PM	Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies Keynote Lecture
2:30 - 4:00 PM	Perceptions of Jews and Jewishness
4:00 - 4:30 PM	Coffee Break
4:30 - 6:00 PM	Jewish Argentines, Politics and Identities in Hemispheric Perspective, 1940s-1980s
Monday Evening, February 25   The Thomas Center	
7:00 - 9:00 PM	'Encuentro' – Bacardi Scholar Concert and Dinner Location: The Thomas Center, 302 NE 6th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601
Tuesday, February 26   Rion Ballroom, J. Wayne Reitz Union, 3rd Floor	
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Breakfast / Participant Check-In / Registration
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Art and Politics of Yiddish
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Communal Ideologies and Language
2:30 - 3:00 PM	Coffee Break
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Left and Right in Jewish Politics
4:30 - 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks

# JEWES AND THE AMERICAS

Center for Latin American Studies  
68th Annual Conference  
February 24 - 26, 2019

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

**4:30 - 9:00 PM**

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

---

**Participant Check-In**

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

5:00 - 6:45 PM

**The Bacardi Scholar Reception**

6:45 - 7:00 PM

**Welcome Remarks**

Dr. Philip J. Williams  
Director  
UF Center for Latin American Studies

7:00 - 8:00 PM

**The Bacardi Scholar Opening Address**

*Old and New in the Early Modern Hispanic World*  
Tamar Herzog  
Monroe Gutman Professor of Latin American Affairs  
Harvard University

8:00 - 9:00 PM

**Tours of Judaica Suite**

Smathers Library, 2nd Floor

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25**

**8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

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

---

**Breakfast**

**8:00 - 9:00 AM**

*Participant Check-In / Registration*

9:00 - 10:30 AM

**Material Culture and Status in the Americas**

*Chair: Nina Caputo (University of Florida)*

- **Chocolate, Freemasons and Integration: The Jews of Bayonne and the Americas in the 18th century**  
Nimrod Mordechai Gaatone  
Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center in Tel Aviv University

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

Coffee Break

10:30 - 10:45 AM

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

Lunch

12:15 - 1:15 PM

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

4:30 – 6:00 PM

**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)**

7:00 - 9:00 PM

*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**

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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

9:00 - 10:00 AM

*Participant Check-In / Registration*

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Art and Politics of Yiddish***Chair: Jack Kugelmass (University of Florida)*

- **The Convergence of Yiddish Poetry and Revolutionary Art in Mexico City**  
William Gertz Runyan  
University of Michigan
- **The Most Mexican of Us All: Yiddish Poetics of Belonging in Post-Revolution Mexico**  
Rachelle Grossman  
Harvard University

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**

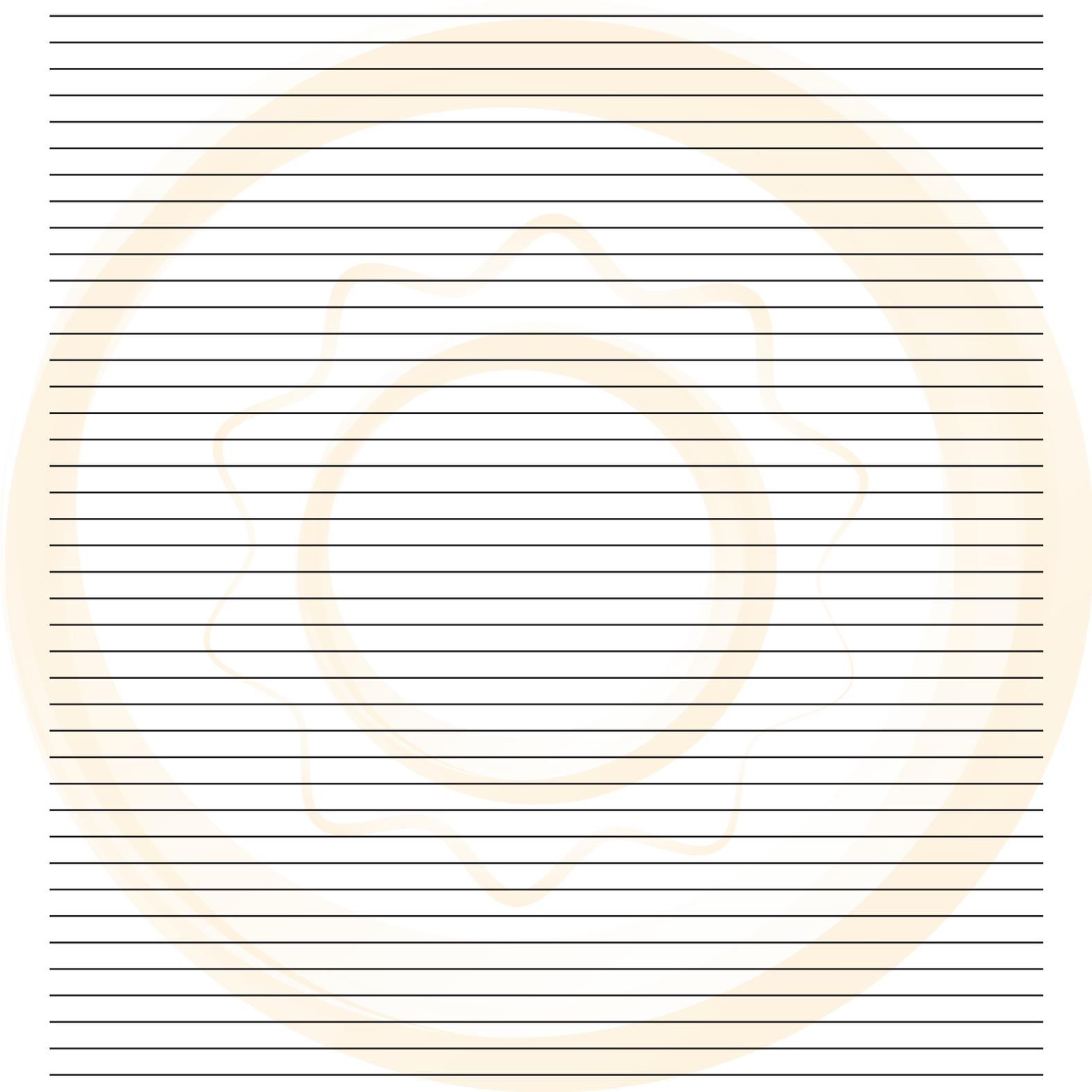
*Chair: Monica Grin (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro)*

- **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**

# NOTES



A page of horizontal lines for writing notes. The page features a large, faint, light-orange circular graphic in the center. This graphic consists of a thick outer ring and a smaller, wavy inner shape that resembles a sun or a stylized flower. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, with the central graphic overlapping them.



**UF** Center for  
Latin American Studies  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

319 Grinter Hall  
PO Box 115530  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5530  
Phone: (352) 392-0375  
Fax: (352) 392-7682  
www.latam.ufl.edu  
communications@latam.ufl.edu

PLAN  
DE LA VILLE DE  
PARAMARIBO  
*Suivant les Plans des Hollandois.*  
Echelle de Quatre Cent Toises.