

Barry Trachtenberg, Ph.D.
Judaic Studies Department HU-355E
University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12222

office: (518) 442-3078
fax: (518) 442-4136
btrachtenberg@albany.edu

Assistant Professor, Judaic Studies Department, University at Albany; Affiliate Faculty, History
Fellow, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan (Sp. 2009)

• Education

2008. Hess Faculty Seminar, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Washington, DC.

2004. Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles. European Jewish History.
Dissertation: "From *Zhargon* to *Visnshaft*: The Generation of 1905 and the Transformation of Yiddish." Specializing in Modern Jewish history, Nazi Holocaust, Jewish Nationalism, Yiddish Culture.

-Academic Years 2000-01, 1997-98. Visiting Research Fellow, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

-Summer 2000. Goethe Institut, Berlin.

-Summer 1999. International Research Seminar in Yiddish Culture, Jerusalem & Tel Aviv.

-Summer 1998. Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies.

-Summer 1996. YIVO Uriel Weinreich Program at Columbia University.

May 1995. Post-Graduate Diploma in Jewish Studies. Oxford University, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Dissertation: "Stereotypes: History and Representation of the Jews During the Holocaust." Specializing in Holocaust, Modern Jewish History, Yiddish language and literature.

May 1993. Master of Arts in History. The University of Vermont.

Thesis: "Voices of Dissent: Christian Rescuers in the United States During the Nazi Regime." Specializing in Modern United States History, Holocaust.

May 1991. Bachelor of Arts in English. Glassboro State College (Now Rowan University of New Jersey).

• Employment

January 2004-Present. The University at Albany, SUNY, Assistant Professor.

Fall 2003. The University at Albany, SUNY, Lecturer.

1999-2000. The University of California, Los Angeles, Teaching Associate.

Fall 1993, Summer 1994, Summer 1997. The University of Vermont, Adjunct Lecturer.

Spring 1994. Champlain College, Adjunct Lecturer.

January 1993-August 1994, 1995-96 (Academic Years). Community College of Vermont, Lecturer.

• **Courses Taught:**

University at Albany, “Secular Jewish Identity and Culture” (JST/REL 145)

University at Albany, “Jewish Civilization: From the Birth of the Israelites until the Present” (JST 150)

University at Albany, “Imagining the Jewish Nation” (JST 245)

University at Albany, “Holocaust in History” (JST/HIS 250)

University at Albany, “Medieval Jewish History” (JST/REL 253/343/343z)

University at Albany, “The Jews in the Modern World” (JST/REL 254/344/344z)

University at Albany, “Radical Jews” (JST/HIS 258)

University at Albany, “The Holocaust: Lessons and Legacies” (JST/HIS 255)

University at Albany, “World Jewry Since the Holocaust: The Question of Faith” (JST/REL 256)

University at Albany, “Antisemitism in Historical Perspective” (JST/HIS 275)

University at Albany, “Writing and Rewriting the Holocaust in the Twenty-First Century (JST 499/HIS 531)

University of Vermont, “European Jewish History”

University of Vermont, “Modern Eastern European Jewish History”

University of Vermont, “United States since 1876”

Champlain College, “Modern European History”

Community College of Vermont, “Dimensions of Learning I”

Community College of Vermont, “Dimensions of Learning II”

• **Monograph**

The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish, 1903-1917 (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2008)

• **Articles in Refereed Journals**

“Ber Borochov's “The Tasks of Yiddish Philology” *Science in Context* 20 (June 2007): 341-352.

“From Edification to Commemoration: *Di Algemeyne Entsiklopedye*, the Holocaust, and the Collapse of Eastern European Jewish Life” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* Vol. 5, No. 3 (Nov. 2006): 285-300.

• **Book Chapters**

“The Revolutionary Origins of Yiddish Scholarship.” in Stephanie Hoffman and Ezra Mendelsohn, eds. *The Revolution of 1905 and Russia's Jews* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008) 174-184.

“Inscribing the Yiddish Past: Inter-war Explorations of Old Yiddish Texts.” *Yiddish and the Left: Papers of the Third Mendel Friedman International Conference on Yiddish*. ed. by Gennady Estraiikh and Misha Krutikov, (Oxford, 2001) 208-225.

“Dissenting Voices: US Gentile Rescuers in Service Organizations During the Holocaust.” *Confronting the Holocaust: A Mandate for the 21st Century-Part Two, Studies in the Shoah Volume XX*. Ed. by Stephen C. Feinstein, *et al.* (Lanham, MD, 1998) 169-181.

• **Encyclopedia Entries**

Entries “Ashkenazic Jews” and “Sephardic Jews” in *World Book Encyclopedia*. (2008)

Revised entries “Max Erik” and “Shmuel Niger” in *Encyclopedia Judaica*, 2nd ed. Fred Skolnik, Editor-in-Chief. (2006)

• **Book Reviews**

Review of Jan L. Feldman. *Lubavitchers as Citizens: A Paradox of Liberal Democracy*. (Ithaca: 2003). *Jewish Quarterly Review*. Vol. 95, No. 2 (Spring 2005) 390-393.

“Nostalgia and Yearning: Yiddish Then and Now,” Review of Leonard Jay Greenspoon, ed., *Yiddish Language and Culture: Then and Now, Studies in Jewish Civilization 9*. (Omaha, Ne., 1998). *East European Jewry* Spring 2000.

• **Professional Talks/Conferences:**

October 2008. “Write and Record! The Yiddish Encyclopedia and the Holocaust.” German Studies Association. St. Paul, Minnesota.

July 2008. “The Holocaust in Yiddish.” Summer Workshop in Slavic, East European and Central Asian Languages at Indiana University, co-sponsored with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. (Invited Lecture).

July 2008. “The Yiddish Encyclopedia and the Holocaust” Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, New York University, co-sponsored the YIVO Institute of Jewish Research. (Invited Lecture).

December 2007. “*Tsvishn toyt un lebn*: Metaphors of Death and Life in Yiddish Nationalist Discourse.” INST Conference, “KCTOS: Knowledge, Creativity and Transformations of Societies.” Vienna.

May 2007. “Laying the Cornerstones of Yiddish Scholarship.” “Scholarship On and In Yiddish: Fifth Annual Yiddish Studies Conference.” University of California, Berkeley. (Invited Panelist).

March 2007. “From Edification to Memorialization: *Di Algemeyne Entsiklopedye*, the Holocaust, and the Changing Tasks of Modern Yiddish Scholarship.” State University College at Oneonta. (Invited Lecture).

April 2006. “Ber Borochov and Romantic Yiddishism.” Maria Salit-Gitelson Tell Memorial

- Lecture, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York.
- March 2006. "Yiddishism, Philology, and the Nationalization of Russian Jewry." Association for the Study of Nationalism. Columbia University.
- February 2006. Chair, "Responses to the Holocaust." Yiddish/Jewish Cultures: Literature, History, Thought in Eastern European Diasporas. New York University.
- November 2005. "'Ber Borochov and the Task of *Yidishe Visnshaft*.'" "Looking Backward—Looking Forward: A Conference Commemorating the Centenary of the Birth of Dr. Shlomo Noble." Ohio State University.
- October 2005. "The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish." "The Russian Revolution of 1905: Impacts, Effects, "Shock Waves." Moscow, Russia.
- September 2005. "The Revolutionary Roots of Yiddish Scholarship." Williams College.
- August 2005. "Mixed Blessing: Insularity and Accommodation in Kiryas Joel." 14th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.
- June 2005. "Post-Holocaust Reconstruction of Hasidic Life in the United States." Sixth Biennial Conference of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Boca Raton.
- December 2004. "Shmuel Niger and the Canonization of Yiddish Literature." Modern Language Association. Philadelphia.
- October 2004. Panel Chair & Respondent. "*Lang lebn zol yidish: Has Yiddish Said Its Last Word?*" Conference in Honor of Janet Hadda at University of California, Los Angeles.
- October 2004. "The Revolutionary Origins of Yiddish Scholarship." Inaugural Lecture for the Professorship in European Jewish Studies with Expertise in the Holocaust, University at Albany.
- May 2004. "The Revolutionary Origins of Modern Yiddish: 1903-1913." "The Revolution of 1905—A Turning Point in Jewish History?" Jerusalem.
- April 2004. "Opening Remarks and Respondent." Scholars' Symposium—Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. University at Albany.
- December 2003. "Society and Politics in Contemporary Kiryas Joel." Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston.
- December 2002. "Revolutionary Scholarship: The Political Origins of *Yidishe Visnshaft*." Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Los Angeles.
- November 2001. "The Generation of 1905: The Founders of Modern Yiddish Scholarship." "Beyond the *Shtetl*: Yiddish Language and Culture in Twentieth Century," Indiana University, Bloomington.

June 2000. "Secularizing the Jewish Past: The Yiddishist Turn to History." Annual Abraham and Rachela Melezin Lecture, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York City.

December 2000. "Inscribing the Yiddish Past: Interwar Explorations of Old Yiddish Texts." Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston.

March 1996. "Dissenting Voices: US Gentile Rescuers in Service Organizations During the Holocaust." 26th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, Minneapolis.

• **Community Lectures**

May 2008. Guest Speaker. "The World that was Destroyed: European Jewry on the Eve of the Holocaust" Yom Ha'Shoah Lecture. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York.

January 2007. Guest Speaker. "Live and Become" Schenectady Jewish Community Center Film Festival.

April 2005. Guest Speaker. "Jewishfilm.2005: From Auschwitz to America and Israel." Talk given on the film "In Satmar Custody." Brandeis University.

March 2005. "What We Talk About When We Talk About Antisemitism." Agudah Achim Syna-gogue, Schenectady, NY.

January 2005. "Times Like Those: Nazism, Conformism, and the Invention of Enemies." Capital Repertory Theater, Albany, NY.

January 2005. Panel Discussant with the Actors/Director of John O'Keefe's play "Times Like These." Capital Repertory Theater, Albany, NY.

May 2004. "Contemporary Life in Kiryas Joel." Albany Jewish Community Center. Albany.

April 2004. "Moral Responsibility after the Holocaust." University at Albany. Albany.

January 2004. "Kiryas Joel." University at Albany's Center for Jewish Studies. Albany.

March 1994. "The Ultimate Ethical Question." Panel Discussant, University of Vermont.

• **Manuscripts/Proposals Reviewed**

2005, 2008. Manuscripts for SUNY Press.

2007. Reissue for Thompson Wadsworth.

2005. Reissue for Routledge Press.

2005. Proposal for Routledge Press.

2004. Proposal for Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

2004. Manuscript for University of Nebraska Press.

• **Special Events/Symposia Organized**

March 2004. Jewish Studies Symposium: “Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*: Scholars’ Perspective.” University at Albany.

• **Grants, Awards, Honors:**

2008. National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Research Grant

2008 & 2005. Faculty Research Award Program (B), University at Albany

2007, 2005, & 2004. Travel Award: College of Arts and Sciences, University at Albany

2007 & 2005. Individual Development Award, New York State/United University Professions

2006. Release-Time Program: College of Arts and Sciences, University at Albany

2005. Maria Salit-Gitelson Tell Memorial Fellowship, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

2002. Dissertation Fellowship: National Foundation for Jewish Culture

2001 & 2002. Dissertation Fellowship: Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture

2000-01, Academic Year. Pre-Dissertation Fellowship: University of California, Los Angeles,
Department of History

2000. Inter-university Fellowship for study in Jerusalem

2000. Abraham and Rachela Melezin Fellow, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

2000. Marks and Brown Fellowship, Israel Experience Committee, Jewish Federation of L.A.

2000. Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst Fellowship (DAAD) for study in Germany