

Saskia Coenen Snyder
Professor of Modern Jewish History

Department of History
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Education

Ph.D. in History, University of Michigan (2008), Ann Arbor, MI

Dissertation: “Acculturation and Particularism in the Modern European City: Synagogue Building and Jewish Identity in Northern Europe”

Chair: Professor Todd M. Endelman

Dissertation committee: Professor Scott D. Spector, History

Professor Deborah Dash Moore, History and Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

Professor David M. Scobey, Architecture and Urban Planning

Examination Fields:

Modern Jewish History: Professor Todd M. Endelman

History of the Holocaust and Nazi Germany: Professor Geoff Eley

Urban History: Professor Dario Gaggio

M.A. in History, University of Michigan (2003), Ann Arbor, MI

M.A. in English Language and Literature, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands (1997)

M.A. and B.A. in English Language and Literature

Thesis: “Silence or Speech in Jewish-American Holocaust Fiction” (with distinction)

Thesis Director: Professor Derek Rubin, University of Amsterdam

Academic Appointments

Professor of Modern Jewish History

Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2023 - current

Associate Professor of Modern Jewish History

Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2014-2022

Associate Director, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies

University of South Carolina, 2018-2021

Fellow-in-Residence, Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS), Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2017-2018

Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish History

Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2008-2014

Publications

Books:

Building a Public Judaism: Synagogues and Jewish Identity in Nineteenth-Century Europe (Harvard University Press, 2013). Nominated for 2017 Grawemeyer Award in Religion, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

A Brilliant Commodity: Diamonds and Jews in an Imperial Setting (Oxford University Press, 2022)

War Gems: The Diamond Industry in Nazi-Occupied Europe (in progress)

Edited Journal:

Guest-editor, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*. Special Edition on the Diamond Trade. Vol. 38: 3 (Winter 2020), 1-101

“Introduction: Jews and the Diamond Trade,” *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 38: 3 (Winter 2020): 1-12

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

“An Urban Semiotics of War: Signs and Sounds in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” in Richard Cohen, ed. *Place in Modern Jewish Culture and Society: Studies in Contemporary Jewry* 30 (Oxford University Press, 2018): 56-77.

“As long As It Sparkles!?: The Diamond Industry in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” *Jewish Social Studies* 22:2 (2017): 38-73.

“Not as simple as ‘Bonjour’: Synagogue Building in Nineteenth-Century Paris,” in Zvi Jonathan Kaplan and Nadia Malinovich (eds), *Re-examining the Jews of Modern France: Images and Identities* (Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2016), 286-301

“Space for Reflection: Synagogue Building in Nineteenth-Century Urban Landscapes,” in *Jewish and Non-Jewish Spaces in the Urban Context* (Berlin: Neofelis Verlag, 2015), 165-182

“A Narrative of Absence: Monumental Synagogues in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” *Jewish History* 25:1 (Spring 2011), 43-67

“Madness in a Magnificent Building?: Gentile Responses to Jewish Synagogues in Amsterdam, 1670-1730,” in *City Limits: Interdisciplinary Essays on the Historical European City* (McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2010), 273-299

“A New Mokum: The Jewish Neighborhood in Golden Age Amsterdam,” *Canadian Journal of Netherlandic Studies* 28: 2 (Fall 2007), 165-185

Newspaper Articles

“Stolen Treasures,” *Holocaust Remembered: Stolen Arts and Treasures. A Special Supplement From the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission* 9 (forthcoming April 27, 2022)

“Distinct Voices: Gender and the Holocaust,” *Holocaust Remembered: Women and the Holocaust. A Special Supplement From the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission* 8 (April 2021), 4-5

“Creating National Memory – Finally,” *Holocaust Remembered: 75 Years Since the Holocaust, An Analysis. A Special Supplement From the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission* 7 (April 2020), 12-13

“The Fragility of Dutch Liberalism,” Antisemitism in the Netherlands,” *Holocaust Remembered: Antisemitism Then and Now. A Special Supplement From the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission* 5 (April 6, 2018), 18-19

“‘Wrap Them Up and Get Out’: Child Rescue in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” *Holocaust Remembered: Children of the Holocaust. A Special Supplement From the Columbia Holocaust Education Commission* 4 (April 9, 2017), 12-13

Book Reviews

The Hunger Winter: Fighting Famine in the Occupied Netherlands, 1944–1945, by Ingrid de Zwart, *Journal of Modern History* (forthcoming, 2022)

The Secret Diary of Arnold Douwes: Rescue in the Occupied Netherlands, edited by Bob Moore and Johannes Houwink ten Cate, *European History Quarterly* 51:2 (2021), 273-275

Een Schitterende Erfenis: 125 jaar nalatenschap van de Algemene Nederlandse Diamantbewerkerbond, edited by Karin Hofmeester, *Studia Rosenthaliana: Journal of the History, Culture and Heritage of the Jews in the Netherlands* 46: 1-2 (November 2020), 229-234

Homes Away from Home: Jewish Belonging in Twentieth Century Paris, Berlin, and St. Petersburg, by Sarah Wobick-Segev, *H-France* (March 2020) <https://h-france.net/vol20reviews/vol20no58synder.pdf>

The Escape Line: How the Ordinary Heroes of Dutch-Paris Resisted the Nazi Occupation of Western Europe, by Megan Koreman, *Journal of Modern History* 92: 1 (March 2020), 169-70

Di Gildene Royze: The Turei Zahav Synagogue in L'viv, by Sergey R. Kravtsov, *East European Jewish Affairs* 46:1 (2016), 125-127

The Ambiguity of Virtue: Gertrude van Tijn and the Fate of the Dutch Jews, by Bernard Wasserstein, *Marginalia Review of Books* (September 2015)
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/possible-moralities-in-impossible-times-by-saskia-coenen-snyder/>

The Modernity of Others: Jewish Anti-Catholicism in Germany and France, by Ari Joskowitz, *The American Historical Review* 119: 5 (Fall 2014), 1802-1803

The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times, by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jonathan Karp, *American Jewish History* 94: 4 (Fall 2009), 354-356

Journal Articles in Progress:

“Dutch Masters: Amsterdam-Jewish Diamond Dealers in the Dutch Art Scene”

“Jews, Diamonds, and War: The 1942 Diamond Exchange Raid in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam”

Fellowships, Grants, and Academic Awards

Postdocs

- **Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judaic Studies, Yale University, 2008-2010** (declined: accepted tenure-track position at USC)
- **Ray D. Wolfe Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies, University of Toronto, 2008-2009** (declined)
- **Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2008-2009** (declined)

Fellowships and Awards

- **EXCEL Grant** in Liberal Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Offices of the President, Provost and Vice President for Research, University of South Carolina, 2023
- **Conny Kristel Residential Fellowship, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure**, funded by the European Union, 2022
- Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2020-2021
- Humanities Grant, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, 2018-2020
- **Fellow-in-Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS)**, Amsterdam, 2017-2018
- Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Fellowship, New York, 2016-2017
- **Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Research Grant, The Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advance Holocaust Studies**, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2016
- Digital Humanities Course Development Grant, Center for Digital Humanities and the Center for Teaching Excellence, University of South Carolina, 2016-2017
- **ASPIRE (Advanced Support for Innovative Research Excellence) Grant, Office of the Vice President for Research**, University of South Carolina, 2016-2017
- **Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award, Brandeis University**, 2015
- Humanities Grant, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, 2015-2016
- Walker Institute of International and Area Studies Faculty Research Award, University of South Carolina, 2015
- **Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award, Office of the Provost**, University of South Carolina, 2013-2014
- International Education Grant, Walker Institute of International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina, 2014
- Humanities Grant, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, 2013-2014
- Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts Production Grant for Individuals, Chicago, 2012
- **Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Publication Grant, Yale University**, London, 2012
- **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Grant, NEH**, Washington, 2011
- Department of History Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2007-2008
- Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Fund for Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Jewish Studies, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York, 2006-2007
- Horace H. Rackham Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2006-2007
- **Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Research Fellowship**, NY, 2006
- Horace H. Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2006
- Marshall Weinberg Endowed Fund for Graduate Students, University of Michigan, 2005
- Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Nomination, 2005
- International Institute Pre-Dissertation Research Award, University of Michigan, 2004
- Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture Fellowship, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, 2004

- Department of History Graduate Student Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2003-2004
- Leah (Manya) Eisenberg Scholarship, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, NY, 2002

Travel Grants

- Esther and Louis LaMed Fund for Yiddish Studies, University of Michigan, 2004
- Hewlett International Travel Grant, Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan, 2004
- Horace H. Rackham Research and Travel Grant, University of Michigan, 2004

Conferences and Invited Lectures

“A Brilliant Cut: Diamonds and Jews in an Imperial Setting,” 15th Symposium of the History and Culture of the Jews in the Netherlands, Menasseh ben Israel Institute of Jewish Studies, Amsterdam, June 2022 (accepted)

“Diamonds in Jewish Economic History,” European Social Science History Conference, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, March 24-27, 2021.

“From Mine to Market: Diamonds and 19th Century Transatlantic Trade,” Palmetto Forum, University of South Carolina, February 5, 2020

“Like Dewdrops in the Waving Grass”: Diamonds, Jews, and 19th Century Transatlantic Trade,” Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Center, College of Charleston, January 2020

“Diamonds, Jews and the Expansion of 19th Century Global Trade,” Keynote Address, Heidi Urich Annual Lecture on Jewish Genealogy, Hebrew College and Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, November 17, 2019

“Like Dewdrops in the Waving Grass: Diamonds, Jews, and Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Trade,” Center for European Studies, Harvard University, May 2, 2019

“An Altered Urban Signature: Signs and Sounds in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” John Adams Institute and the Anne Frank House, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, March 14, 2019

“Jews, Diamonds, and War: The 1942 Diamond Exchange Raid in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” Association of Holocaust Organizations 2019 Winter Conference, Charleston, January 10-12, 2019

“Sensory Urban Experiences of War: Signs and Sounds in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” Urban History Association Ninth Biennial Conference, Columbia, SC, November 18-21, 2018

“Dutch Masters: Amsterdam-Jewish Diamond Dealers in the Dutch Art Scene,” Conference on Art Patronage and Jewish Culture, Bar-Ilan University, Israel, June 25-27, 2018

“Agents of Empire?: Jews and the Nineteenth-Century Diamond Trade,” 11th Contact Day Jewish Studies on the Low Countries, Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp, May 22, 2018

“Diasporic Gems: Jews and the Diamond Industry in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” Department of History, University of Chicago, November 20, 2017

“An Urban Semiotics of War: Signs and Sounds in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” Symposium on Symbols of Exclusion: The Semiotics of Race in Public Spaces, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, University of Mississippi, October 23-24, 2014

“Topographies of Exclusion: Spatial Politics and Ghettoization in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, December 2013

“Een Gouden Eeuw in Synagogenbouw?: Architectuurstromingen in 19e Eeuws Europa,” Symposium over de Bouwkunst van Synagogen, Delft, the Netherlands, November 22, 2012

“Space for Reflection: Synagogue Building in Nineteenth-Century Urban Landscapes,” Conference on “Jewish and Non-Jewish Spaces in the Urban Context,” Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, November 5-6, 2012

“Jewish by Design: Gentile Architects and Synagogue Building in Nineteenth-Century Europe,” Conference Honoring Todd Endelman, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 22-23, 2012

“If Only It Were ‘As Simple As Bonjour’: Synagogue Building in Nineteenth-Century Paris,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington D.C., December 2011

“Dishonorable Solidarity? Jewish Soldiers during the Franco-Prussian War,” Invited Lecture at the College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, April 4, 2011

“Synagogues and Solidarity: Jewish Connections between the Caribbean and South Carolina” (commentator), 2nd Annual Carifest Symposium, College of Charleston, June 17, 2010

“Holywell Street vs Jodenbreestraat: Jewish Spaces in the Aesthetic Imagination in Nineteenth Century London and Amsterdam,” Institute of Jewish Studies Conference, University of Antwerp, Belgium, May 2010

“Urban Environments, Synagogues, and Methodological Approaches to Jewish History,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Los Angeles, December 2009

“Romanticizing Jews: Urban Street Scenes in Nineteenth-Century Dutch Art,” International Conference on Romanticism and the City, New York City, November 2009

“Space and Place in Jewish Studies,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Los Angeles, December 2009

“Is the Holocaust Unique?,” Invited Lecture at Furman University, Greenville, SC, April 21, 2009

“German Landscapes, German Cityscapes,” Southeast German Studies Workshop, University of South Carolina, Columbia, March 2009

“A Winter’s Day in the Jewish Neighborhood: Representations of Jewish Life by Gentile Artists in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington D.C., December 2008

“Speklagen in de Pijp: Synagogue Architecture in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” International Conference on Jewish Studies in the Low Countries, the University of Antwerp, Belgium, 2008

“A New *Mokum*: The Jewish Neighborhood in Golden Age Amsterdam,” Netherlands America University League (NAUL) lecture, University of Michigan, March 2007

“From *Café-Chantant* to Jewish House of Worship: Amsterdam Synagogues in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century,” Midwest Jewish Studies Association Conference, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, September 2006

“Madness in a Magnificent Building’: Gentile Responses to Jewish Synagogues in Amsterdam, 1670-1730,” Conference entitled “City Limits? The European City, 1400-1900,” University of Manitoba, Canada, October 2004

“Building Identity: Modern Synagogue Architecture in Rotterdam,” Conference entitled “Jewish Diasporas: Jewish Identity in the Modern World,” Yale University, October 2002

Other Professional Activities

- Chair, Panel on Jewish Architecture Research: From Nationalism to Post-Modernism, “What is Next, Innovative Methods, New Sources and Paradigm Shifts in Jewish Studies,” POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland, October 3-7, 2021
- Fellow, NEH Summer Institute, “Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South,” Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture, College of Charleston, May 26-June 7, 2019
- Netherlands Institute of Advanced Study (NIAS) Fellows’ Seminar: “An Urban Semiotics of War: Signs and Sounds in Nazi-Occupied Amsterdam,” the Netherlands, January 9, 2018
- Faculty Seminar: “The Diamond Industry in Nineteenth-Century Amsterdam,” University of Cape Town, South Africa, June 12, 2017
- Visiting Professor of Modern Jewish History at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, June – July 2015
- Panelist for the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of the Provost’s “Advice for Aspiring Faculty Members: An Afternoon with the 2013-2014 Mungo Award Winners,” October 1, 2014
- National Endowment for the Humanities panelist (to review NEH grants in German & Eastern European Literature), Washington D.C., August 9, 2014
- Participant Maymester Abroad, “Tracing the Holocaust in Eastern Europe,” University of South Carolina and College of Charleston Honors College, May 23-June 7, 2014
- Participant and discussant at the Columbia Jewish Film Festival, February 23, 2014
- “The Holocaust,” Invited Lecture at the Airport High School, West Columbia, South Carolina, April 12, 2011
- National Endowment for the Humanities panelist (to review NEH grants in documentary film: “Bridging Cultures Through Film: International Topics”), Washington D.C., 2010
- Contributor to the ETV documentary “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race,” based on an exhibition at the SC State Museum, August, 2009
- “The Oranienburgerstrasse Synagogue Project in Berlin,” German Studies Workshop, University of South Carolina, September 2009
- Participant and discussant at the Tournées French Film Festival, Columbia College, November 2009
- “The Holocaust in a Comparative Perspective,” Invited Lecture at Hillel, University of South Carolina, April 7, 2009

- Participant in the Jack and Anita Hess Seminar for Faculty, The Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, January 5-9, 2009
- Panelist for the Solomon-Tenenbaum lecture, “Spinoza: Theist, Pantheist, or Atheist?” University of South Carolina, September 10, 2008
- American Academy of Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar. One-week residential seminar at the University of California, San Diego, 2004

Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching

Regular Courses (USC Fall 2008-Present)

- HIST 300: The Historian’s Craft
- HIST 384: Modern Jewish History
- HIST 380: History of the Holocaust
- HIST 102: European Civ. 1500-Present (275 students)
- HIST 497: History of the Holocaust – Senior Seminar
- HIST 498: Salvaged Pages: World War II and Holocaust Diaries – Senior Seminar
- HIST 499: Senior Seminar

Honors College Courses (USC Fall 2008-Present)

- SCHC 326: History of Anne Frank and the Tragedies of the Twentieth Century
- HIST 102: Western Civ. 1500-Present

Graduate Courses (USC Fall 2008-Present)

- HIST 707: Graduate Seminar Nineteenth-Century European History
- HIST 815: Dissertation Prospectus Seminar
- HIST 787: History of Material Culture
- HIST 800: Topics in Historical Research

New Courses

- HIST471: Shalom Y’All: Jewish History in the American South

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic (Visiting Professor June – July 2015)

- HIST 400: Jewish History and Material Culture

University of Michigan (Instructor, Winter 2008)

- HIST 195: German-Jewry in the Age of Emancipation
A writing seminar for incoming freshmen that introduced students to methods of historical analysis and prepared them for college-level writing

University of Michigan (Graduate Student Instructor, 2002-2005)

- HIST 386: History of the Holocaust
- HIST 319: Europe after 1945
- HIST 322: The Origins of Nazism
- HIST 341: Nations and Nationalism

Service

- Director, Jewish Studies Program, University of South Carolina, 2022-present
- Reviewer Fellowship Applications, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York, 2022
- Chair, Search Committee for new Assistant Professor in Public History, 2021-2022
- Member of the Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina, 2021
- Member of the Undergraduate Committee, University of South Carolina, 2021-2022
- Member of the Tenure and Promotion Committee, University of South Carolina, 2020-2022
- Member of the Executive Committee, University of South Carolina, 2018-2020
- Member of the Graduate Committee, University of South Carolina, 2019-2020
- Student International Travel Oversight Committee, Study Abroad Office, University of South Carolina, 2018-2019
- Member of the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), Darla Moore School of Business, University of South Carolina, 2018-2019
- Member of COVE (Conveying Our Value Effectively), Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, 2016-2017
- Associate Director of the Walker Institute for International and Area Studies, University of South Carolina, 2015-2020
- Member of the Faculty Senate, University of South Carolina, 2015-2017
- Member of the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, University of South Carolina, 2014 - 2015
- Member of the Carolina Core Curriculum Committee, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina, 2012-2014
- Member of the Undergraduate Committee, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2013-2014
- Member of the Graduate Committee, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2012-2013
- Member of the Solomon-Tenenbaum Lectureship Committee, University of South Carolina, 2008-2017
- Faculty Representative of Phi Alpha Theta, University of South Carolina, 2012-2014
- Member of the Search Committee for a New Position in Jewish Diasporas, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2011
- Member of the Program Committee of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, 2011-2012
- Member of the Executive Committee, Department of History, University of South Carolina, 2010-2012
- Founding and core member of the University of South Carolina Jewish Studies Program, University of South Carolina, 2008-present
- Coordinator of the Graduate Student Instructor Training Workshop, Department of History, University of Michigan, 2007
- Graduate Student Mentor, Department of History, University of Michigan, 2007
- Coordinator of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Student and Faculty Workshop in Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan, 2005-2007

Languages

Dutch: native
English: fluent

German: good
French: fair

Yiddish: fair
Hebrew: working knowledge

Language Training

Jerusalem Ulpan Modern Hebrew Language Studies, Rothberg International School, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (Summer 2007)

Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, Columbia University and Max Weinreich Center for Advanced Jewish Studies of YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York (summer 2002 and 2004)

References

Todd M. Endelman, Department of History, University of Michigan (endelman@umich.edu)

Theodore Rosengarten, Department of History, College of Charleston (tedrsc@gmail.com)

Richard I. Cohen, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (ycohen@mail.huji.ac.il)

Eugene Avrutin, Department of History, University of Illinois (emavrutin@gmail.com)

Carol Harrison, Department of History, University of South Carolina (ceharris@mailbox.sc.edu)