



**NETWORK FOR RESEARCH IN
Jewish Education**

**2025
NRJE
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

**June 8 - 10
UC Berkeley Hillel
Berkeley, CA**

**Meir Muller, Program Chair
Ari Y Kelman, NRJE Chair**

Hosted by UC Berkeley Hillel

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TO THE FOLLOWING
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**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**Meir Muller, Program Chair
Meredith Katz and Benji Davis**

**NRJE CHAIR
Ari Y Kelman**

**NRJE COORDINATOR
Melissa Zalkin Stollman**



WELCOME

We look forward to a stimulating conference as we convene academics, practitioners and researchers from many disciplines and institutions to share the latest studies in the field of Jewish educational research.

SESSION FORMATS

- 1. PAPER SESSIONS:** Presentations of completed or nearly completed work by several researchers and a discussant providing feedback.
- 2. ROUNDTABLE:** Collegial discussion on a shared topic of interest or work in progress.
- 3. SKILLS SESSION:** A session led by a senior scholar where a specific skill is taught and junior scholars have the opportunity to ask questions. This could include something like “how to turn a dissertation into a book/article” or “how to secure a publishing contract.”
- 4. CONSULTATION:** This format has traditionally been geared towards early career students and researchers but we also welcome more established scholars who just need a thought partner to take advantage of this session.
- 5. PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION:** Practitioners, often collaborating with researchers, present research designed to provide practical ideas and strategies for immediate use in educational settings, with time for discussion and feedback.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

- 3:30pm Registration
- 5:00pm Opening Reception
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 6:00pm Keynote

MONDAY, JUNE 9

- 8:00am Journal of Jewish Education Breakfast
- 8:30am Registration
- 8:30am Breakfast and Coffee
- 9:00am Session 1 Block
- 10:45am Session 2 Block
- 12:15pm Lunch and Award Presentations
- 1:15pm Session 3 Block
- 2:45pm Coffee Break
- 3:00pm Session 4 Block
- 4:45pm Session 5 Block
- 6:15pm Dinner

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

- 8:00am Registration
- 8:00am Breakfast and Coffee
- 9:00am Session 6 Block
- 10:45am NRJE Board Meeting
- 10:45am Session 7 Block
- 12:15pm Lunch
- 1:00pm Luggage Pick Up and Departures

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

3:00pm Registration

5:00pm Opening Reception

5:30pm Dinner

6:00pm Keynote - Hanan Alexandar (Professor Emeritus of Philosophy of Education at the University of Haifa)

MONDAY, JUNE 9

8:00am Journal of Jewish Education Breakfast

8:30am Registration

8:30am Breakfast and Coffee

9:00-10:30am Session Block 1

S 1.1 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Jewish Learning Works and the “Special Sauce” of Supporting Jewish Educators

Jenni Mangel (Jewish Learning Works)
Lisa Feldman (Activating Possibilities LLC)

S 1.2 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Jewish Families Today: How Might New Research Make a Difference to Practitioners and Funders?

Alex Pomson (Rosov Consulting, LLC)
Stacie Cherner (Jim Joseph Foundation)
Sharona Israeli-Roth (EarlyJ)
Annie Jollymore (Rosov Consulting, LLC)
Ellen Lefkowitz (Jewish Learning Works)

S 1.3 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Collective Jewish Belonging in Israel Education

Matt Reingold (Independent Scholar)
Ezra Kopelowitz (Research Success Technologies/Center for Jewish Peoplehood Education)
Benji Davis (George Mason University)

S 1.4 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Unlocking New Opportunities: Using Zip Code Data to Identify and Engage Untapped Markets

Bethany Berger (Foundation for Jewish Camp)

S 1.5 PAPER SESSION - Educators and Interventions in Early Childhood Jewish Education

Orna Siegel (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Wendy Rosov (Rosov Consulting)
Zohar Rotem (Rosov Consulting)

10:45am-12:15pm Session Block 2

S 2.1 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Harimu Mikshol: Expanding the Practitioner Research Partnership to Improve Students’ Hebrew Journeys

Andrew Ergas (Hebrew at the Center)
Roberta Goodman (North Shore Congregation Israel)
Nicki Greninger (Temple Isaiah)

LOCATION

Lobby

Deck (outside)

Bakar Auditorium

Bakar Auditorium

3rd Floor Lounge

Lobby

Bakar Auditorium

Rodan Beit Midrash
3rd Floor

Classroom
1st Floor

Moadon
3rd Floor

Cohn Conference Room
3rd Floor

Dov Den Lounge
1st Floor

Rodan Beit Midrash
3rd Floor

PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 9

(continued)

LOCATION

S 2.2 CONSULTANT SESSION - Unpacking Group Level Assessment: Exploring Adaptations and Outcomes of a Participatory Research Process Across Jewish Educational Settings
Miriam Raider-Roth (Mandel Teacher Educator Institute/University of Cincinnati)
Mindy Gold (Gold Learning Solutions)

Classroom
1st Floor

S 2.3 PAPER SESSION - Summer 2024: A Stress Test for the Core Practices of the Israel Experience
Alex Pomson (Rosov Consulting)
Annie Jollymore (Rosov Consulting)
Miri Lieber (RootOne)
Wendy Rosov (Rosov Consulting)

Moadon
3rd Floor

S 2.4 SKILLS SESSION - The Entrepreneurial Scholar: A New Mindset for Success in Academia and Beyond
Ilana Horwitz (Tulane University)

Cohn Conference Room
3rd Floor

S 2.5 PAPER SESSION - Israel Education after October 7th at North American Overnight Camps
Matt Reingold (Independent Scholar)
Nila Rosen (Foundation for Jewish Camp)
Tal Vaizman (CASJE)

Dov Den Lounge
1st Floor

12:15pm - 1:15pm Lunch and Award Presentations

Bakar Auditorium

1:15pm - 2:45pm Session Block 3

S 3.1 ROUNDTABLE SESSION - Moving Forward from Crisis: Antisemitism on US Campuses after the 2023-24 Academic Year
Facilitators: Nicole Samuel (Brandeis University) and Sharon Avni (CUNY-BMCC)
Sara E. Brown (American Jewish Committee)
Gregg Drinkwater (UC Berkeley Antisemitism Education Initiative)
Meir Muller (University of South Carolina)
Adam Naftalin-Kelman (UC Berkeley Hillel)

Rodan Beit Midrash
3rd Floor

S 3.2 PAPER SESSION - Teaching Jewish Texts: Identity, Interpretation, and Instruction
Chair: Barry Holtz (Jewish Theological Seminary)

From the Depths: What Jewish Studies Teachers Really Think About the Texts They Teach - Reuven Margrett (Michigan State University)

Who is Text that Thou art Mindful of Him? Teachers as Text (People) in Abraham Joshua Heschel - Joshua Krug (HFJS)

When Challenge Leads to Change: How Ideological Tensions Shape Orthodox Bible Teachers - Esther Friedman (CASJE)

Classroom
1st Floor

S 3.3 PAPER SESSION - Sephardi/Mizrahi Day School Students in NY and LA: Ideological Tensions, Cultural Integration, and Practical Applications
Elana Riback Rand (CASJE)
Sarah Bunin Benor (Hebrew Union College)
Sarah Levin (JIMENA)

Moadon
3rd Floor

S 3.4 PAPER SESSION - Gratitude as a Protective Factor for Adolescent Resilience, Happiness, Well-Being, and Anxiety
Orly Danino Zarur (Yeshiva University)

Cohn Conference Room
3rd Floor

S 3.5 ROUNDTABLE - Chidushim, the Having of Novel Ideas, and the Future of Jewish Creative Thinking
Miriam Heller Stern (Hebrew Union College)
Dan Glass (The Brandeis School of San Francisco)
Allison Lester (Arizona State University)

Dov Den Lounge
1st Floor

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PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 9 (continued)

LOCATION

2:45pm - 3:00pm Coffee Break		Bakar Auditorium
3:00pm - 4:30pm Session Block 4		
S 4.1 PAPER SESSION - Post-10/7 Reflections and Israel Education		Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor
Chair: Meir Muller (University of South Carolina)		
Yediat Yisrael: A New Paradigm for Israel Education - Laura Novak Winer (Hebrew Union College)		
Response to October 7 Trauma: Facebook Community of Reflection - Ofra Arieli Backenroth (Jewish Theological Seminary)		
Israel in American Jewish Education: Vision to Practice - Benji Davis (George Mason University) -		
S 4.2 ROUNDTABLE - NRJE: Rethinking Jewish Text Study		Classroom 1st Floor
Jon Levisohn (Brandeis University)		
Deena Aranoff (Graduate Theological Union)		
Jane Kanarek (Hebrew College)		
Josh Ladon (Shalom Hartman Institute of North America)		
Ariel Mayse (Stanford University)		
S 4.3 PAPER SESSION - Hebrew as Heritage Language: Identity and Language Learning		Moadon 3rd Floor
Ziva Hassenfeld (Brandeis University)		
Sharon Avni (CUNY-BMCC)		
Sarah Bunin Benor (Hebrew Union College)		
S 4.4 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Learning and Teaching about What Matters: A Collaborative Study with Jewish Children and Their Educators		Cohn Conference Room 3rd Floor
Sivan Zakai (Hebrew Union College)		
Lauren Applebaum (Hebrew Union College)		
S 4.5 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Supplementary Education and Practitioner Inquiry		Dov Den Lounge 1st Floor
Chair: Roberta Goodman (North Shore Congregation Israel)		
Let's Ask the Kids: Amplifying Student Voice to Reimagine Jewish Congregational Learning - Esther Friedman (CASJE)		
Sensemaking of Community Assets through Photovoice: A New Approach to Teacher Recruitment in Jewish Supplementary Schools - Mindy Gold (Gold Learning Solutions)		
Poetry Pedagogy for A Post-Secondary Populace - Laura Wiseman (York University)		
4:45pm - 6:15pm Session Block 5		
S 5.1 PAPER SESSION - Campus Life, Antisemitism, and Jewish Identity		Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor
Chair: Benji Davis (George Mason University)		
Jewish College Students Confront the Israel-Gaza Conflict, Antisemitism, and Campus Divides - Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University)		
Recommendations from a Comics-Based Research Study on the Experiences of Jewish College Students Navigating Antisemitism - Sandy Greene (University of South Carolina)		
Youth Culture in Jewish Summer Camps: Technology, Sounds, and Socialization in Wartime - Tal Vaizman (CASJE)		

PROGRAM

MONDAY, JUNE 9 (continued)

LOCATION

S 5.2 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Identity, Community Belonging, and Antisemitism on American College Campuses

Classroom
1st Floor

Jenny Small (Brandeis University)
Yael Silverstein (Teachers College, Columbia University)
Lindsay Metzker-Epstein (Temple University)
Nicole Samuel (Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University)

S 5.3 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Educational Systems and Historical Trends

Moadon
3rd Floor

Chair: Talia Hurwich (The Jewish Education Project)
Matty Lichtenstein (Florida Atlantic University)
Scott Aaron (Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership)
Nadia Beider (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

S 5.4 ROUNDTABLE SESSION - In Memory of Lee Shulman – A Session Honoring His Legacy in Jewish Education

Cohn Conference Room
3rd Floor

Ari Y Kelman (Stanford University)
Jon Levisohn (Brandeis University)

S 5.5 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Community and Educational Belonging

Dov Den Lounge
1st Floor

Chair: Meir Muller (University of South Carolina)

Teaching Jewish Identity: A Focus on Families - Leah Hibel (University of California, Davis) and Yael Teff-Seker (University of California, Davis)

Reflections on the Biblical Unconscious - Joseph Reimer (Brandeis University)

Fellowship as a Mode of Jewish Education - Daniel Smokler (Brandeis University)

6:15pm Dinner

Bakar Auditorium

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

8:00am Registration

Reception

8:00am Breakfast and Coffee

Bakar Auditorium

9:00am - 10:30am Session Block 6

S 6.1 PAPER SESSION - Using Arts-Based Participatory Research to Make Sense of Desired Teacher Capacities

Rodan Beit Midrash
3rd Floor

Mindy Gold (Gold Learning Solutions)

S 6.2 ROUNDTABLE SESSION - Holding a Space–A Dialogue on Jewish Teaching, Research, and Well-Being in Current Times

Classroom
1st Floor

Meir Muller (University of South Carolina)
Miriam Raider-Roth (Mandel Teacher Educator Institute/University of Cincinnati)

S 6.3 PAPER SESSION - Exploring the Role of Social Class in Access to Jewish Education

Moadon
3rd Floor

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (Rosov Consulting)
Ilana Horwitz (Tulane University)
Allison Magagnosc (Rosov Consulting)
Discussant: Jon Levisohn (Brandeis University)

PROGRAM	LOCATION
TUESDAY, JUNE 10 (continued)	
S 6.4 PAPER SESSION - A Jewish Community Online? Challenges and Possibilities Zohar Rotem (Rosov Consulting) Talía Hurwich (The Jewish Education Project)	Cohn Conference Room 3rd Floor
S 6.5 SKILLS SESSION - Learning How to Publish in the Journal of Jewish Education Sivan Zakai (Hebrew Union College) Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University) Ziva Hassenfeld (Brandeis University)	Dov Den Lounge 1st Floor
10:45am - 12:15pm NRJE Board Meeting	Lapan Conference Suite
10:45am - 12:15pm Session Block 7	
S 7.1 ROUNDTABLE SESSION - Making the Researcher-Practitioner Collaboration Work Facilitator: Arielle Levites (CASJE) Elana Riback Rand (CASJE) Yael Findler (CASJE) Zachary Nichols (CASJE)	Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor
S 7.2 PAPER SESSION - Voices, Values and Cultural Expression Chair: Meredith Katz (Queens College) Fortifying the Next Generation: How Adolescents Perceive Their Character Growth and Development at Jewish Overnight Camp - Nila Rosen (Foundation for Jewish Camp) How is Information about the Israel-Hamas War Shared on Jewish Social Media? - Talía Hurwich (The Jewish Education Project) Culture and Values via Music Mentoring: Religious Jewish Mothers Educating a New Generation of Listeners in Times of Infinite Availability - Tal Vaizman (CASJE)	Classroom 1st Floor
S 7.3 PAPER SESSION - Extending the Table: Key Findings from a Research-Practice Partnership Exploring Jewish Engagement Through the Lens of Social Connectedness Arielle Levites (CASJE) Gage Gorsky (Stanford University) Julia Logan Labow (OneTable)	Moadon 3rd Floor
S 7.4 PAPER SESSION - Holocaust Memory and Pedagogical Complexity Chair: Barry Holtz (Jewish Theological Seminary) Perpetrator in the Mirror: Difficult Knowledge, Holocaust Research and Implications for Pedagogy - Doug Winkelstein (Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago) Jewish Day School Students Confront Holocaust Denial in an Online Simulation: A Case of Contained Risk-Taking - Meredith Katz (Queens College), Rebecca Shargel (Towson University) and Michael Fahy	Dov Den Lounge 1st Floor
12:15pm Lunch	Bakar Auditorium
1:00pm Luggage Pick-up and Departures	
Thanks for joining us! We'll see you again next year.	