



**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

**WE ARE GRATEFUL
TO THE FOLLOWING
INSTITUTIONS AND
INDIVIDUALS FOR
THEIR GENEROUS
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The Covenant Foundation

**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**

NRJE

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, 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 and Conversation in Memory of Lee Shulman

TUESDAY, JUNE 10

- 8:00am** Registration, 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

3:30pm 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) - *Educators of Other Faiths (EOFs) in ECJE: A Qualitative Exploration*
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) - <i>“He took my trip from really good to amazing” – Greater Clarity About the Paraprofessional Contribution to the Israel Experience</i> Annie Jollymore (Rosov Consulting) - <i>In a Difficult Place – Coming Face to Face with Israel Today at Har Herzl</i> 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) Adam Naftalin-Kelman (UC Berkeley Hillel) Discussant: Meir Muller (University of South Carolina) | Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor |
| S 3.2 PAPER SESSION - Teaching Jewish Texts: Identity, Interpretation, and Instruction | Chair: Barry Holtz (Jewish Theological Seminary) Reuven Margrett (Michigan State University) - <i>From the Depths: What Jewish Studies Teachers Really Think About the Texts They Teach</i> Joshua Krug (HFJS) - <i>Who is Text that Thou art Mindful of Him? Teachers as Text (People) in Abraham Joshua Heschel</i> Esther Friedman (CASJE) - <i>When Challenge Leads to Change: How Ideological Tensions Shape Orthodox Bible Teachers</i> | 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 |

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 | Chair: Meir Muller (University of South Carolina) Laura Novak Winer (Hebrew Union College) - <i>Yediat Yisrael: A New Paradigm for Israel Education</i> Ofra Arieli Backenroth (Jewish Theological Seminary) - <i>Response to October 7 Trauma: Facebook Community of Reflection</i> Benji Davis (George Mason University) - <i>Israel in American Jewish Education: Vision to Practice</i> | Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor |
| S 4.2 ROUNDTABLE - NRJE: Rethinking Jewish Text Study | 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) | Classroom 1st Floor |
| S 4.3 PAPER SESSION - Hebrew as Heritage Language: Identity and Language Learning | Ziva Hassenfeld (Brandeis University) - <i>The Crash of Hebrews</i> Sharon Avni (CUNY-BMCC) - <i>The Hebrew Language Classroom and Its Role in Navigating the American College Campus after 10/7</i> Sarah Bunin Benor (Hebrew Union College) - <i>Infusion of Diaspora Jewish Languages in American Jewish Part-Time Schools</i> | Moadon 3rd Floor |
| S 4.4 PRACTITIONER RESEARCH SESSION - Learning and Teaching about What Matters: A Collaborative Study with Jewish Children and Their Educators | Sivan Zakai (Hebrew Union College) Lauren Applebaum (Hebrew Union College) | Cohn Conference Room 3rd Floor |
| S 4.5 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Supplementary Education and Practitioner Inquiry | Chair: Roberta Goodman (North Shore Congregation Israel) Esther Friedman (CASJE) - <i>Let's Ask the Kids: Amplifying Student Voice to Reimagine Jewish Congregational Learning</i> Mindy Gold (Gold Learning Solutions) - <i>Sensemaking of Community Assets through Photovoice: A New Approach to Teacher Recruitment in Jewish Supplementary Schools</i> | Dov Den Lounge 1st Floor |
| 4:45pm - 6:15pm | Session Block 5 | |
| S 5.1 PAPER SESSION - Campus Life, Antisemitism, and Jewish Identity | Chair: Benji Davis (George Mason University) Jonathan Krasner (Brandeis University) - <i>Jewish College Students Confront the Israel-Gaza Conflict, Antisemitism, and Campus Divides</i> Sandy Greene (University of South Carolina) - <i>Recommendations from a Comics - Based on a Research Study on the Experiences of Jewish College Students Navigating Antisemitism</i> Tal Vaizman (CASJE) - <i>Youth Culture in Jewish Summer Camps: Technology, Sounds, and Socialization in Wartime</i> | Rodan Beit Midrash 3rd Floor |

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) - *Minimization, Hypervigilance, Isolation, and Masking: Jewish Fraternity and Sorority Members' Responses to Antisemitism*

Yael Silverstein (Teachers College, Columbia University) - *Ambient Antisemitism and the Struggle for Belonging: Insights into University Environments*

Lindsay Metzker-Epstein (Temple University) - *God Makes No Mistakes: Contextualizing LGBTQ+ Student Positionalities and the Symbolic Value of Communal Cohesion at Yeshiva University*

Discussant: 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) - *Jewish Education in New York : A Comprehensive Analysis*

Scott Aaron (Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership) - *Bread Before Schools: Understanding the Historical Relationship Between American Federations and Jewish Education*

Nadia Beider (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) - *Antisemitism and Jewish Day School Enrollment: A Response to Rising Prejudice*

S 5.4 PAPER SESSION - Extending the Table: Key Findings from a Research-Practice Partnership Exploring Jewish Engagement Through the Lens of Social Connectedness

Cohn Conference Room
3rd Floor

Arielle Levites (CASJE) - *Extending the Table: Shabbat Dinner as a Lever for Social Connectedness*

Gage Gorsky (Stanford University) - *Engaging with Engagement: Social Connectedness as a Tool to Understand and Measure Jewish Engagement*

Julia Logan Labow (OneTable) - *The Promise of Research-Practice Partnerships for Jewish Engagement and Education: Lessons from Extending the Table*

S 5.5 PAPER SESSION - Jewish Community and Educational Belonging

Dov Den Lounge
1st Floor

Chair: Meir Muller (University of South Carolina)

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

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

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

Bakar Auditorium

6:15pm Dinner and Session in Memory of Lee Shulman: A Session Honoring His Legacy in Jewish Education, facilitated by Ari Y Kelman (Stanford University) and Jon Levisohn (Brandeis University)

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)

PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 (continued)

LOCATION

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

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

Classroom
1st Floor

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

Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz (Rosov Consulting) - *Economic Vulnerability and Constraints on Providing Jewish Education to Children*
Ilana Horwitz (Tulane University) - *Who Gets to Learn? Economic Vulnerability, Life Course Diversity, and Access to Jewish Education*
Allison Magagnosc (Rosov Consulting) - *The Samis Foundation's Day School Affordability Initiative: Supporting Families and Jewish Day Schools*
Discussant: Jon Levisohn (Brandeis University)

Moadon
3rd Floor

S 6.4 PAPER SESSION - A Jewish Community Online? Challenges and Possibilities

Zohar Rotem (Rosov Consulting)
Talia 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: TBD
Nila Rosen (Foundation for Jewish Camp) - *Fortifying the Next Generation: How Adolescents Perceive Their Character Growth and Development at Jewish Overnight Camp*
Talia Hurwich (The Jewish Education Project) - *How is Information about the Israel-Hamas War Shared on Jewish Social Media?*
Tal Vaizman (CASJE) - *Culture and Values via Music Mentoring: Religious Jewish Mothers Educating a New Generation of Listeners in Times of Infinite Availability*

Classroom
1st Floor

S 7.3 PAPER SESSION - Holocaust Memory and Pedagogical Complexity

Chair: Barry Holtz (Jewish Theological Seminary)
Doug Winkelstein (Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago) - *Perpetrator in the Mirror: Difficult Knowledge, Holocaust Research and Implications for Pedagogy*
Meredith Katz (Queens College), Rebecca Shargel (Towson University) and Michael Fahy - *Jewish Day School Students Confront Holocaust Denial in An Online Simulation: A Case of Contained Risk-Taking*

Moadon
3rd Floor

12:15pm Lunch

Bakar Auditorium

1:00pm Luggage Pick-up and Departures

Thanks for joining us! We'll see you again next year.