

Jewish Relief Organizations in pre-World War II Europe: A Comparative Perspective

Co-Sponsored by:

The Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU

The American Joint Distribution Committee, Inc.

The Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

World ORT

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

9:30 - 10:30

Keynote Lecture

David Engel (New York University)

11:00-12:45

From Philanthropy to Self-Help

Chair: Yanni Kotsonis (New York University)

Gennady Estraiikh (New York University), Helping Jewish Artisans in Imperial Russia

Valerii Dymshits (European University, St Petersburg), Traditional Forms of Jewish Communal Philanthropy: An Anthropological Take on the Problem

Nahum Karlinsky (Ben-Gurion University), From “Relief Work to Self Help”: The JDC and the Social Engineering of East European Jews between the Two World Wars

2:15-4:00

Regional Jewish Relief Organizations in Eastern Europe

Chair: Henry Feingold (City University of New York)

Natan Meir (University of Southampton, U.K), Jewish Marginals and Jewish Relief Organizations in Eastern Europe

Kalman Weiser (York University, Toronto), Who is in Need? Noah Prylucki – Central Ukrainian Relief Committee (early 1920s)

Dmitry Tartakovsky (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Hanging by a Thread: Local and International Jewish Philanthropy in Rumania and Bessarabia

4:15-6:00

West Helps East

Chair: Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union)

Nadav Davidovitch (Ben-Gurion University) and Rakefet Zalashik (New York University), New Location, New Discourse?: OZE’s Headquarters in Berlin

Sam Johnson (Manchester Metropolitan University), Breaking the Silence: British Jews and East European Jewish Relief in the Great War and its Aftermath

Gudrun Maierhof (University of Applied Sciences, Frankfurt / Main), Support for the Jews from Eastern Europe: Activities of the *Hilfsverein der Juden* and the League of Jewish Women before 1933

Thursday, April 17, 2008

9:30-11:15

Trans-Atlantic Movement of Ideas, People and Activities

Chair: Hasia Diner (New York University)

Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew University), Mapping Problems of Jewish Transnational Philanthropy

Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia University), Empire of Charity: American Jewish Philanthropists, Poland and Perceptions of American Imperialism (1920s)

Michael Beizer (Hebrew University and AJJDC, Jerusalem), I Seek my Brethren from Afar: Problems of Aid by Remote Control. The AJJDC in Russia

1:00-2:45

Cooperation Across Ideological Lines

Chair: Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University)

Valery Bazarov (HIAS, New York), HIAS in Pre-war Europe: New Models in Rescuing Jews

Alexander Ivanov (European University, St Petersburg), Participation of the ORT Union in the Development of Birobidzhan and the Problem of German-Jewish Refugees in Europe, 1934-1937

Mikhail Mitsel (AJJDC, New York), The Final Chapter: Agro-Joint Workers - Victims of the Great Terror in the USSR, 1937-1939

3:00-4:00

Concluding Remarks

David Engel (New York University)

All sessions will take place at The Bronfman Center, 7 East 10th Street (between 5th Ave and University Place). Please RSVP to gsas.hebrewjudaic@nyu.edu if you would like to attend.

Conference Committee:

Gennady Estraikh (New York University)

Rakefet Zalashik (New York University)

Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew University)