

Russian Jewish Migration Across Borders, Across Time October 15–16, Columbia University

Kraft Center, 5th-floor auditorium
606 W 115th Street, New York, NY

In the nineteenth century Imperial Russia was home to the largest Jewish community in the world. Over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, millions of Russian Jews migrated to new homes scattered throughout the globe transforming the demographic centers of world Jewry. From the United States to Argentina to Palestine, Russian Jewish immigrants transformed the politics and cultures of their new host countries. This conference looks at the various waves of this emigration from Russia in order to ask how singular this population shift is. It will compare it with some other population shifts in the region and will highlight the most recent wave, by looking at the autobiographical materials they have produced.

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THE LEONID NEVZLIN RESEARCH CENTER FOR RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN JEWRY AT THE
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Monday, October 15

3:30 PM–5:30 PM: Crafting the Narrative of Russian Migration

Chair: Zvi Gitelman

Olga Gershenson (U of Massachusetts, Amherst)	“Immigration through the Lens of Soviet and Post-Soviet Cinema”
Rafi Tsirkin-Sadan (Hebrew U)	“From Particular to Universal: Hebrew Literature by Post-Soviet Immigrants”
Alan Timberlake (Columbia U)	“Narrating Migration: Genre and Singularity”
Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew U of Jerusalem)	“Russian-Jewish Migration: A Historical Overview”

7:00 PM–9:00 PM: The Voices of the Fourth Wave

Chair: Rebecca Kobrin

Rebecca Kobrin (Columbia U)	“Remarks on the Narrative Contest”
Helen Mashevich	“Моя автобиография”/ “My Autobiography” [with translation]
Natasha Geilman	“БЫТЬ еврейкой (Зарисовки из моей жизни)”/ “To be a Jew (Sketches from My Life)” [with translation]
Olga Goldberger	“That’s What I Did: Reflections”
Zvi Gitelman	“Soviet, Successful and Silent: Remarks on the Russian-speaking Jewish Immigration to the United States.”

Tuesday, October 16

Russian/Soviet Migration across the Twentieth Century

10:00 AM–12:00 PM: Displacement, Deportation and Internal Migration, 1914–1949

Chair: Elise Giuliano

Atina Grossmann
(Cooper Union)

“Remapping Death and Survival from the Margins: Flight, Displacement, and Jewish Holocaust Refugees in the Soviet Union and Iran”

Anna Lipphardt (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)

“‘Communities on the Move: Reassessing DP-History as Bewegungsgeschichte,’ The Case of the Vilner Landsmannschaften Networks”

Jeff Veidlinger (Indiana U)

“One doesn't Make out Much with Furs in Palestine: Ideology and Practicalities in Jewish Migration”

Anna Shternshis (U Toronto)

“On a Journey from Soviet Citizen to Jewish Refugee: Jewish Perceptions of the First Months of the Great Patriotic War”

1:30PM-3:30PM: The Problematics and Politics of Overseas Russian Migration between the Wars

Chair: Alan Timberlake

Eli Lederhendler
(Hebrew U of Jerusalem)

“Migration and Jews in the Interwar Period: Changing Patterns in Traditional Destination Countries”

Kenneth Moss
(Johns Hopkins U)

“Polish-Jewish Politics of Emigration in the 1930s”

Tammy Razi
(Tel Aviv U & Sapir College)

“Immigration as Trauma? Mental Health Specialists and the Treatment of ‘Problem Children’ in Mandatory Palestine”

Frank Wolff
(Universität Osnabrück)

“Global Walls and Global Movement: New Destinations in Jewish Migration, 1918-1939”

4:00 PM—6:00 PM Soviet and Post-Soviet Migration, 1989-2000

Chair: Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Larissa Remennick (Bar-Ilan U) “The Tale of the Two Waves: The Soviet and the Post-Soviet Immigration of Russian Jews to Israel”

Evgenii Tartakovskii
(Tel Aviv U) “Values, Social Belief and Cultural Identities among Jewish Re-immigrants to Russia”
