

MIGRATION AND JEWISH IDENTITY IN NORTH AMERICA AND ISRAEL

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

**ELLIS ISLAND MUSEUM
NEW YORK, NY
Association for Canadian Studies**

SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

10:00 – 11:15 am Evolving Migration Patterns between North America and Israel

Chair: The Honourable Herbert Marx

- **Karin Amit**, The Institute for Immigration and Social Integration, Ruppin Academic Center
- **Barry Kosmin**, Director, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture; Research Professor in Public Policy and Law, Trinity College
- **Ariela Keysar**, Associate Director, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture; Associate Research Professor in Public Policy and Law, Trinity College
- **Jack Jedwab**, Executive Director, Association for Canadian Studies

11:15 – 11:30 am Break

11:30 – 12:45 pm The Changing Importance of Jewish Ethnic and Religious Identity in North America and Israel

Chair: Roberta Rosenberg Farber, Department of Sociology, Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University

- **Steven M. Cohen**, Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy, Jewish Social Policy, Hebrew Union College
- **Avi Picard**, Visiting Professor for Israel Studies, Taub Center for Israel Studies, New York University
- **Charles Kadushin**, Distinguished Scholar, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies; Visiting Research Professor of Sociology, Brandeis University
- **James Torczyner**, School of Social Work, McGill University

12: 45 – 1: 45 pm Lunch

1: 45 – 3:15 pm Jews, Multiculturalism and Transnationalism

- **Moshe Shokeid**, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Tel Aviv University
- **Maxyne Finkelstein**, Executive Vice President, Jewish Agency for Israel-North America
- **Irving Abella**, Professor, Department of History, York University (invited)
- **Ronald W. Zweig**, Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University

BIOGRAPHIES OF PARTICIPANTS

Karin Amit has a PhD in Labour Studies. Is a lecturer in the Department of Business Administration at Ruppin Academic Center, and serves as the Academic Committee Coordinator of The Institute for Immigration & Social Integration at Ruppin Academic Center. Her research interests are: Immigration & leadership. She is a member of the Metropolis International Steering Committee.

Moshe Shokeid (Ph.D., University of Manchester, UK) is Professor of Anthropology. He taught for many years at Tel Aviv University and currently is chair of the MA Program in Immigration and Integration Studies at the Ruppin Academic Center. He started his professional career as rural sociologist at the Jewish Agency Land Settlement Department and participated in development projects in Iran, Nicaragua, and Peru. His books and articles present the fieldwork studies he conducted among North African immigrants in Israeli farming communities, Arabs in Jaffa, Israeli immigrants in the United States, and other social minorities in New York.

Maxyne Finkelstein is the CEO of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), North America. This position serves as the senior JAFI professional in North America and is responsible for resource development, representation and coordination of services. Maxyne Finkelstein brings more than twenty five years of experience in the field of Jewish communal service to her current position. She previously served as the Executive Vice President (CEO) of UIA Federations Canada from July 2000. Previous to this position, she served as a Senior Executive (Executive Director) at Federation CJA of Montreal. She joined the staff of the Montreal Federation in 1985.

Ariela Keysar, a demographer, is Associate Research Professor of Public Policy and Law and the Associate Director of the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture (ISSSC) at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. She is a principal investigator of the American Religious Identification Survey 2008, the largest survey of religion in the U.S., covering over 50,000 respondents. She is also a principal investigator of the ISSSC web survey of Indian scientists, which is the first in a series of studies of worldviews and opinions of scientists around the world. Ariela Keysar was the study director of the American Jewish Identity Survey 2001. Dr. Keysar is the co-editor of *Secularism and Science in the 21st Century* and *Secularism & Secularity: Contemporary International Perspectives* as well as co-author of *Religion in a Free Market* and *The Next Generation: Jewish Children and Adolescents*.

Barry A. Kosmin, a sociologist, is research professor in public policy and law at Trinity College. Principal investigator of the 2001 American Religious Identification Survey, he is co-author of *One Nation Under God* and of *Religion in a Free Market*.

Avi Picard is a visiting professor for Israel studies at the Taub Center at NYU. He served as a Schusterman professor for Israel studies at the University of Maryland and at Rutgers University. His specialty is Israeli society with an emphasis on ethnicity. He published academic articles on immigration, development towns in Israel and about the Shas political movement (Sephardic ultra-orthodox party). He is working now on a book about the immigration from North Africa to Israel in the 1950's and the way it was absorbed into Israeli society.

Charles Kadushin is Distinguished Scholar, Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, and Visiting Research Professor, Sociology, Brandeis University. He has taught at Columbia University in the Sociology and Social Psychology Departments, at Yale University in the School of Management and in Graduate Sociology, and at the Graduate Center of the City University. He holds Ph.D. in sociology from Columbia University and an AB from Columbia College. One of the

founders of the social network field, and an expert on survey research, he is the author of five books including *The American Intellectual Elite*. Boston: Little Brown, 1974, which has been republished with a new introduction by Transaction Press in 2005, as well as many journal articles. Along with various projects at the Cohen Center, he is at work on a book on social network theory to be published by Oxford University Press.

Ronald W. Zweig is the holder of the Marilyn and Henry Taub Chair in Israel Studies and Director of the Taub Center for Israel Studies in the Skirball Department for Hebrew and Judaic Studies at NYU. He was Junior Fellow in Modern History at the Oxford University Center for Hebrew Studies, after which he joined the Department of International Relations of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem from 1978-1983. In 1983 he transferred to the Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University, and from 1990-1993 was director of the Institute for Research in the History of Zionism. He resigned as Chair of the Department of Jewish History in order to join NYU from September 2004. He is a member of the Historical Advisory Panel to the National Archives in Washington, DC, and has been a consultant expert to the US Dept. of Justice.

Jack Jedwab is the Executive Director of the Association for Canadian Studies. From 1994-1998 he served as Executive Director of the Quebec Region of the Canadian Jewish Congress. From 1989-96 he was Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology at McGill and currently lectures at the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada. His particular interests include demography, national identity and multiculturalism. He is the founding editor of *Canadian Diversity Magazine* and the *Canadian-American Research Series*. Widely published in newspapers and academic reviews, he is Canada's most quoted social researcher. In 2002, he published *Immigration and the Vitality of Canada's Official Language Communities: Policy, Demography and Identity*.

Jim Torczyner joined the faculty at McGill University in 1973 after obtaining his M.S.W. and D.S.W. degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. Professor Torczyner has been directly involved in social work, human rights education and the development of social movements for thirty-five years. In 1975, Professor Torczyner founded Montreal's Project Genesis. Project Genesis is a community-based, grassroots organization that empowers people from diverse backgrounds to advocate for entitlements, to change social policy and to develop alternative community organizations. Professor Torczyner also founded the McGill Consortium for Ethnicity and Strategic Social Planning in 1981 to assist ethnic groups in Canada in highlighting community needs and awareness through demographic research. He also directs the Montreal Consortium for Human Rights Advocacy Training (MCHRAT), which he founded in 1990. In 1993, Professor Torczyner brought the model he developed at Project Genesis to Israel and founded Community Advocacy which independently operates a network of storefront advocacy, outreach, and community organizing services. In 1994, MCHRAT refocused its attention primarily on the Middle East and established The McGill Middle East Program in Civil Society and Peace Building.