

JOANNA ZOFIA SPYRA

(s h e / h e r)

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EDUCATION

- 2019 – 2024 (expected) PhD candidate, Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen, Norway
- 2022 (Sep/Oct) - Visiting researcher, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2016 – 2018 M.A., Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (Hornstein program), Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA
- 2010 – 2015 B.A./M.A., Jewish history, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland
- 2015 (Spring) - Visiting student, Columbia University, NYC, USA
- 2010 – 2015 B.A./M.A., International Economic Relations, Cracow University of Economics, Cracow, Poland
- 2014 (Fall) - Exchange student, Roosevelt University, Chicago, USA
 - 2011 (Fall) - Exchange student, University Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain
- 2006 – 2010 Bilingual Spanish – Polish High School (II LO), Katowice, Poland

GENERAL RESEARCH AREAS

Argentine Jewish history; Polish Jewish history; migration studies; gender studies; history of prostitution; transnational history; history of philanthropy; Holocaust education

CONFERENCE PAPERS – INVITED TALKS

- 2023 *Sexual Health and the Making of Modern Maternity in Jewish Medical Journals in Interwar Argentina*. Latin American Jewish Studies Association XX Research Conference (online)
- 2023 *Jews, Sex, and Health in 1930s Argentina*. Colloquium of Latin American History, Institute for Latin American Studies, Free University of Berlin
- 2023 *'Who wants to buy a little girl? Cheap and inexpensive, she costs just a groschen.'* *Sex Work, Yiddish, and Children's Literature in Argentina*. Humour and Sexual Violence Workshop, Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME), Birkbeck, University of London (online)
- 2023 *Dilemmas in Researching Jewish Interwar Argentina*. North Carolina Jewish Studies Seminar (Shatzmiller Fellow), Duke University
- 2022 *Teaching through Film: Refugees* (roundtable), Association for Jewish Studies 54th Annual Conference, Boston
- 2022 *Madness, Sex, and the Medicalization of the Jewish Body in Interwar Argentina*. Symposium on Gender, History, and Sexuality - Department of History, University of Texas at Austin (online)
- 2022 *History Will Teach Us Nothing: Dilemmas in Teaching Migration History*. Nordic Migration Research Conference - RE:MIGRATION - New perspectives on movement, research, and society, University of Copenhagen
- 2022 *The Politics of Sexuality Now and Then: Jews and the Archives between Argentina and Israel*. Refugees and Survivors in National Historiographies and Public History. Archives, Voices and Memories, Malmö University

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- 2022 *The Aftermath of Pokłosie: Holocaust Education and the Pogrom in Jedwabne*. Artistic Representation, Memory, and Narrating Holocaust - Remembering Lost Music. Jewish Cultural Heritage in Scandinavia, Center for Grieg Research, Bergen
- 2022 *Medical Identities of Jewish Immigrants in Argentina*. Medical Identities in Global History, University of Oxford
- 2021 *La salud en la construcción de la nación. Locura como Resistencia: Los inmigrantes judíos en Argentina*. XXXIX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (online)
- 2021 *Eliminating Threats to the State of Argentina: Jewish Degeneration in Time of Crisis*. World in Crisis: Reflections and Responses from Antiquity to the Present, British Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference (online)
- 2021 *Ethics and Truth in Archival Research: The Case Study of Jewish Women in Argentina*. (poster) #DHJewish - Jewish Studies in the Digital Age, University of Luxemburg (online)
- 2019 *Unruly Bodies and Imaginary Enemies: Mental Health of Jewish Immigrant Women in Argentina in the Interwar Period*. Association for Jewish Studies 51st Annual Conference, San Diego
- 2019 *Engendering Activism: The Multiple Impacts of Latin American Jews - Madness as Resistance: Jewish Immigrant Women in Argentina in the 1930s*. Project on Latin American Jewish & Gender Studies (LAJGS), Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Waltham
- 2019 *Ezras Noshim and Unruly Bodies: Disciplining Sexual Behavior of Jewish Immigrant Women in Argentina in 1936*. Latin American Jewish Studies Association 6th Regional Research Conference, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2015 *The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*. 25th Jewish Culture Festival, Cracow
- 2014 *Israelis in Berlin*. 24th Jewish Culture Festival, Cracow
- 2013 *Modern trends in the development of Jewish Studies in Spain*. The Fifth Warsaw Conference for Young Jewish Studies Researchers

FELLOWSHIPS – GRANTS - AWARDS

- 2023/2024 In geveb and Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University grant (*Fizel, Sara, Paja: A Story of Migration to Latin America*)
- 2023/2024 Yiddish Book Center's Wexler Oral History Project Field Fellowship
- 2022/2023 Duke University Joseph Shatzmiller Fellowship in Jewish Studies
- 2022 Taube Philanthropies Travel Grant (*AJS Conference, Boston, 2022*)
- 2022 Mandel School for Advanced Studies in Humanities grant (*Advanced Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies - Crises, Change, and Creativity in Jewish Experience* - Hebrew University of Jerusalem, University of Pennsylvania, University of Antwerp)
- 2022 Naomi Foundation scholarship (*Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University*)
- 2022 Meltzer Research Fund 2022 (*Archival research in Argentina* - 43 000 NOK)
- 2021 Arqus European University Alliance travel grant (*PhD week in Graz, Austria*)
- 2020 Meltzer Research Fund 2020 (*Archival research in Israel/the UK* - 42 000 NOK)
- 2019 Women's Caucus Award (*AJS Conference, San Diego, 2019*)
- 2019 Rosalie Katchen Award (*AJS Conference, San Diego, 2019*)
- 2019 Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe Scholarship (*Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University*)
- 2018 Hadassah Brandeis Student Award for Outstanding Research on Jews and Gender 2018 (*Master's thesis 2018*)
- 2017/2018 iCenter Fellowship for Master's Concentration in Israel Education
- 2017 Latin American and Latino Studies Jane's Travel Grant (*Feminist Perspectives on the Body: The Case of Zwi Migdal in Argentina*)

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- 2016/2017 Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry Graduate Research Award (*A History of Disability: The Deaf-Mute Jewish Population in Poland in the Interwar Period*)
- 2016-2018 Brandeis University NEJS Graduate Student and Faculty Research Grant 2016/ 2017 and 2017/2018
- 2016-2018 Charles R. Bronfman Fellowship and Eugene Ribakoff Fellowship in Jewish Professional Leadership (*full tuition fellowship – Brandeis University*)

PUBLICATIONS

Book reviews:

- 2022 [*The Other/Argentina: Jews, Gender, and Sexuality in the Making of a Modern Nation*](#) by Amy K. Kaminsky. *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women's Studies & Gender Issues*, Volume 41, 2022.
- 2022 [*International Jewish Humanitarianism in the Age of the Great War*](#) by Jaclyn Granick. *Jewish History*, Volume 36, issue 3-4, 2022.
- 2022 [*Polacos in Argentina. Polish Jews, Interwar Migration, and the Emergence of Transatlantic Jewish Culture*](#) by Mariusz Kalczewiak. *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. (online - January 2022)
- 2021 [*Stepchildren of the Shtetl: The Destitute, Disabled, and Mad of Jewish Eastern Europe, 1800-1939*](#) by Natan M. Meir. *Journal of Jewish Identities*, Volume 14, Number 2, 2021.
- 2020 [*Impure Migration: Jews and Sex Work in Golden Age Argentina*](#) by Mir Yarfitz. *American Jewish History* 104, Number 2, 2020.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- 2022 [*religionsoraklene.no, "Hvordan har bar og bat mitzvah ritualet endret seg i moderne tid?"*](#) (video and article)

LANGUAGES

Polish (native); English, Spanish (fluent); Norwegian - bokmål (intermediate/advanced); Hebrew, Yiddish (intermediate - research); Ladino [Judezmo], German, Portuguese (basic)

LANGUAGE TRAINING

- 2023 Ladino Summer School, University College London
- 2022 Naomi Prawer Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 2022 Norwegian Language and Culture for Foreign Language Students, level 3 (B2), University of Bergen, Norway
- 2019 Naomi Prawer Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 2018 Intensive Hebrew Summer Program, University of Haifa, Israel
- 2017 YIVO Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, New York, USA
- 2015 GRE/TOEFL
- 2013 Intensive Hebrew Summer Program, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- 2012 Intensive Hebrew Summer Program, University of Haifa, Israel
- 2012 London Chamber of Commerce and Industry – LCCI English for Business 3
- 2011 9th Warsaw International Summer Seminar in Yiddish Language and Culture
- 2010 Spanish bacalaureate certificate

TEACHING

University of Bergen (2020 – 2023)

- HIS115: *Jewish migrations: Sex, Gender, and Identity, 1880 – 1939*
 - Course designer
 - Instructor (Spring 2020; Spring 2021)

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- RELV360: *Jews and Antisemitism in Modern Europe, 1789-1945* (online Master's program in Religious Minorities)
 - Course co-designer (module: Antisemitism in Poland)
 - Instructor (Spring 2022; Spring 2023)
- BA thesis supervision (Jewish history)
- Grading: EUR103 (*Europe after 1945: Transformations in European Economies and Societies*); SAS13 (*Norwegian Culture and History - Scandinavian Area Studies*); HIS116 (*Modern Environmental History*); HIS115 (*Multicultural Europe: Immigration, Politics and Society, 1945 – today*)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION - LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

2022 – 2024	Book review editor, Nordic Journal of Migration Research, Helsinki University Press
2022/2023	President, UiBdoc (non-profit interest organization for PhDs, Postdocs, and other temporary scientific staff, University of Bergen)
2020 – 2023	Co-leader, Research Group for Transnational History and Cultural Encounters, 1850 – present, University of Bergen
2019 – 2023	Co-Coordinator (2022-2023); Board member, IMER - International Migration and Ethnic Relations Junior Scholar Network, Bergen
2022	Organizing committee member, Norske historiedager 2022, Bergen
2021	Arqus PhD Week for Careers Outside Academia, University of Graz, Austria; Arqus Academic Debate panelist: <i>Where is my (business) mind? How young researchers succeed outside academia</i> (University of Bergen representative)
2020/2021	Chair (2021); Secretary (fall 2020), STIP-HF (interest committee for PhD candidates at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Bergen)

EMPLOYMENT

08.2018 – 02.2019	<i>Polish and Spanish Language Specialist</i> , Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, USA
01.2017 – 05.2018	<i>Research Assistant</i> , Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Waltham, USA
05.2017 – 06.2017	<i>Intern</i> (Archives and Library), YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York City, USA
12.2015 – 07.2016	<i>Executive Search Research Associate</i> , Copers International Search, Warsaw, Poland
05.2015 – 11.2015	<i>Development Associate</i> , Jewish Community Center, Cracow, Poland
02.2014 – 06.2014	<i>Intern</i> (Marketing), Polish Tourist Organization, Berlin, Germany
08.2013	<i>Intern</i> (Political-Economic Section; Consular Section), Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Tel Aviv, Israel
03.2013	<i>Intern</i> (Marketing), Pentair International, Lausanne, Switzerland

Updated: August 2023