

Joanna Spyra

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EDUCATION:

UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN, Bergen, Norway

PhD candidate (doctoral research fellowship), Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion

March 2019 – present

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY, Waltham, MA, USA

Master of Arts, Jewish Professional Leadership and Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (Hornstein program)

(thesis topic: *Ezras Noshim and Unruly Bodies: Disciplining Sexual Behavior of Jewish Immigrant Women in Argentina in 1936* – Awarded “Hadassah – Brandeis Institute Graduate Student Prize for Outstanding Research on Jews and Gender 2018”)

August 2016 - May 2018

JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, Cracow, Poland

Master of Arts, Jewish History

(thesis topic: *The image of the JCC as Jewish organizations in Poland and the United States - a comparative study*)

October 2013 - July 2015

Bachelor of Arts, Jewish History

(thesis topic: *Modern trends in the development of Jewish Studies in Spain*)

October 2010 – July 2013

CRACOW UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS, Cracow, Poland

Master of Arts, International Relations, specialization: Eastern studies

(thesis topic: *The Israel Lobby and U.S. foreign policy*)

October 2013 - December 2015

Bachelor of Arts, International Economic Relations, specialization: Foreign Trade

(thesis topic: *Internationalization Strategies in Large Commercial Chains – the case of INDITEX Group*)

October 2010 – June 2013

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK, New York, USA
Visiting student, The Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies

January – March 2015

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY, Chicago, USA
International Relations, (study abroad program)

August 2014 – December 2014

UNIVERSIDAD PABLO DE OLAVIDE, Seville, Spain
International Economic Relations, (study abroad program – Erasmus scholarship)

September 2012 – February 2013

BILINGUAL SPANISH – POLISH COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, Katowice, Poland
Obtained Spanish and Polish baccalaureate certificate

September 2006- May 2010

LANGUAGE PROGRAMS:

YIVO – BARD SUMMER PROGRAM, New York, USA

The Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture (scholarship)

June – August 2017

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY, Tel Aviv, Israel

Summer Program – Intensive Hebrew course

July – September 2013

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA, Haifa, Israel

Summer Program – Intensive Hebrew course

July - August 2012

July 2018

The 9th International Summer Seminar in Yiddish Language and Culture, Warsaw, Poland

Yiddish course (scholarship – The Shalom Foundation)

July 2011

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS:

- Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe Scholarship (The Naomi Praver Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program at Tel Aviv University 2019)
- Charles R. Bronfman Scholarship in Jewish Professional Leadership and Eugene Ribakoff Fellowship 2016-2018 (full tuition fellowship – Brandeis University)
- Hadassah – Brandeis Student Award for Outstanding Research on Jews and Gender 2018 (Master’s thesis 2018)
- iCenter Fellowship for Master's Concentration in Israel Education 2017/2018
- The Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry – Graduate Research Award 2016/2017 ("A History of Disability: The Deaf-Mute Jewish Population in Poland in the Interwar Period")
- The Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) - Jane's Travel Grant 2017 (“Feminist Perspectives on the Body: The Case of Zwi Migdal in Argentina”)
- Brandeis University NEJS Graduate Student and Faculty Research Grants 2016/ 2017 (YIVO – Bard Summer Program); 2017/2018 (The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem – Master’s Thesis Research)
- Erasmus scholarship (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Seville, Spain - 2012/2013)
- Erasmus + scholarship (Polish Tourism Organization, Berlin, Germany - 2014)
- The Shalom Foundation scholarship (Summer Seminar in Yiddish Languages, Warsaw, Poland, 2011)

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS:

- Conference Paper: “The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy”, The Sixth Warsaw Conference for Young Jewish Studies Researchers, Warsaw, Poland, 2015.
- Conference Paper: “The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy”, Jewish Culture Festival, Cracow, Poland, 2015.
- Conference Paper: “Israelis in Berlin”, Jewish Culture Festival, Cracow, Poland, 2014.
- Conference Paper: “Modern trends in the development of Jewish Studies in Spain”, The Fifth Warsaw Conference for Young Jewish Studies Researchers, Warsaw, Poland, 2013.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- ❖ **Hadassah – Brandeis Institute, Waltham, MA, USA**
 - Research Associate
 - October 2018 – July 2019
- ❖ **Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, USA**
 - Polish and Spanish Language Specialist
 - Identified, translated, subtitled Polish and Spanish language interviews into English for use in web, print, and other outlets
 - September 2018 – February 2019
- ❖ **The Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Waltham, USA**
 - Research Assistant
 - Performed a variety of duties in conducting surveys (projects that contribute to scholarly and policy-relevant research on the US Jewish community)
 - January 2017 – May 2018
- ❖ **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York City, USA**
 - Intern
 - Performed a variety of duties, including: cataloged archival and library collections, translations (Polish – English)
 - May- June 2017
- ❖ **Copers International Search, Warsaw, Poland**
 - Executive Search Research Associate
 - Participated in the entire lifecycle of the executive search process including market research and analysis, candidate identification, interviews, client status calls and client meetings.
 - December 2015 – July 2016
- ❖ **Jewish Community Center, Cracow, Poland**
 - Development Associate
 - Performed a variety of duties, including: office support and host for international guests; coordination of international environmental project Adam Adamah
 - May 2015 – November 2015
- ❖ **Polish Tourist Organization, Berlin, Germany**
 - Intern
 - Gained practical experience in the marketing department (Erasmus scholarship)
 - February 2014 – May 2014
- ❖ **Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tel Aviv, Tel Aviv, Israel**
 - Intern
 - Gained practical experience in the Political and Economic Section and Consular Department
 - August 2013
- ❖ **Pentair International Sarl, Lausanne, Switzerland**
 - Intern
 - Gained practical experience in doing market analysis; made the project “Pump wholesalers in EU countries”
 - March 2013
- ❖ **Jewish Community Center, Cracow, Poland**
 - Spanish Teacher
 - Instructed adult students in both grammar and conversation
 - October 2011 – June 2012

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

- ❖ **JCC – Jewish Community Centre, Cracow, Poland**
 - Volunteer
 - Performed a variety of duties, including: office support and host for international guests; organized integration workshops for youth groups from Israel, USA, and Poland; coordinated meetings with Israeli Defense Force representatives; prepared Jewish Holiday celebratory events for attendees; worked as a Sunday school teacher; coordinated Israeli Discussion Club; curated photography exhibition “Polanim Chadashim – The Chosen Land”; moderated meeting with Ela Sidi – Polish-Israeli writer; gave a lecture Israelis in Berlin
 - January 2011 – November 2015
- ❖ **The European Maccabi Games, Berlin, Germany**
 - Volunteer
 - Performed variety of duties in education and logistics projects
 - August 2015
- ❖ **Erasmus Student Network, Cracow, Poland**
 - Member of student organization
 - Coordinator of ESN Social Section (June 2011 – June 2012)
 - Assisted foreign students with academic, social, and practical integration Developed charity, cultural, and ecological projects
 - October 2010 – December 2013

LANGUAGES:

Polish	Native language
	Fluent (TOEFL, LCCI
English	English for Business, GRE)
Spanish	Fluent
Yiddish	Intermediate
Hebrew	Intermediate
Portuguese	Basic/Intermediate
German	Basic/Intermediate

ASSOCIATIONS:

- Association for Jewish Studies
- Erasmus Student Network Alumni Association