

CONFERENCE
**LIFE AND LITERATURE OF
JEWS FROM THE
FORMER SOVIET UNION:**
AMPLIFYING NEW VOICES IN CANADA

November 18 – 19, 2024

Hosted by
the Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies
York University, Toronto

LOCATION: Room 519, Kaneff Tower
74 York Boulevard, York University, Keele St. Campus

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING:

The York University subway station is located just across from the Kaneff Tower.
Paid parking is available at the Vanier parking lot and the York Lanes Parking Garage.
Please note, the Honk app will have to be downloaded to pay for parking.

CONFERENCE DAY 1

November 18

9:15 am	Welcome, Olga Stein and David Koffman
9:30 am	Opening Address, “Our Fiction: Here and Now,” David Bezmozgis
9:45 am	Panel: Cultural Heritage or Cultural Baggage from the FSU
Moderator: Marat Grinberg	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jonathan A. Boyarin, “David Bezmozgis at the Eighth Street Shul” [Zoom]• Anna Shternshis, “Between ‘I cannot be silent’ and ‘Language fails me’: Narratives of Ukrainian Jewish Refugees of 2022-24”• Gennady Estraiikh, “The Post-Holocaust Generation of Soviet Yiddish Authors” [Zoom]
11:10 am	Reading: Maxim D. Shroyer – “Ukraine, Israel, and Jewish-Soviet Legacy: A Reading from <i>Kinship</i>”
11:40 am	Panel: Is Literature Written by FSU Authors Canadian, Jewish, or Something Else that’s New and a Bit Different?
Moderator: Olga Stein	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruth Panofsky, “From St. Urbain to Goldfinch: Mordecai Richler and David Bezmozgis”• David Rego, “Defamiliarizing the Everyday: David Bezmozgis and Julia Zarankin’s Literary Estrangement of Soviet Jewish Fiction in Canada”• Karolina Krasuska, “Redefining survival: War and the Holocaust in Soviet-Born Writing in North America” [Zoom]
1:00 – 1:45 pm	LUNCH
1:45 pm	Panel: Immigration of Jewry from the FSU Through Historical and Sociological Lenses
Moderator: Ruth Panofsky	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Steven Gold, “Separated by what they share: How contrasting Views of Judaism Shape Russian-speaking Jews’ Relations with the American Jewish Community” [Zoom]• Ze’ev Khanin, “Jewish Emigration from Ukraine and Other FSU Countries in Recent Years, and Their Integration in Israel: Sociological Insights”• Alexandra Zborovsky, “Soviet Jewish Migration and the Wielding of Citizenship (1945–1991)” [Zoom]



3:10 pm **Panel: Archiving the Ex- and Post-Soviet Jewish Experience in Canada: New Directions**

Moderator: Joshua Tapper	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Janice Rosen, "Twenty years of the Russian Jewish Archives Project"• Dara Solomon and Donna Bernardo-Ceriz, "Founding Archives"• Vassili Schedrin and Katya Bishops, "Solomon Mikhoels: Where Memoir and Archive Intersect"• Yuri Daschko, "The Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre: Chronicling and Giving Voice to the Ukrainian Canadian Experience in a Global Context"
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4:20pm **Reading: Marat Grinberg, "Mikhail Goldis, Memoirs of a Jewish District Attorney from Soviet Ukraine"**

5:00 pm **Roundtable: Contemporary Fiction and Film by FSU Authors**

Moderator: Bettina Hofmann	Participants <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Julia Zarankin• Karolina Krasuska [Zoom]• Mikhail Iossel• Yelena Furman [Zoom]• Maxim D. Shrayer
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6:10 pm **Keynote by Ze'ev Khanin: "Future of the Major Post-Soviet Jewish Communities in the Context of Migration and Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East"**

DINNER

CONFERENCE DAY 2

November 19

8:50 am **Coffee, Bagels**

9:15 am **Panel: Transnational Literature – No Single Destination**

Moderator: Natalia Vesselova	Panelists <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bettina Hofmann, "The Country with the Fewest Parades": Destination Canada in David Bezmozgis, <i>The Free World</i>"• Maxim D. Shrayer, "Translingual Pleasures"• Nora Gold, "Depictions of Place and Anti-Semitism, as Reflected in Stories by Jews from the FSU in the Journal Jewish Fiction"
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10:40 am

Panel: Diverse Identities – Gender, Religion, Sexuality

Moderator:

David Koffman

Panelists

- Emile Imanov, “New Identities: The Lived Experiences and the Communication of the Diasporic Former Soviet Union Jews”
- Shlomo Gleibman, “Not Tradition but History”: Queering “Russian”-Canadian Judaism in David Bezmozgis’s “Minyan”
- Amelia Glaser, “Revisiting Identity in Contemporary Ukrainian Poetry” [Zoom]

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm

Roundtable: Antisemitism in the Past and Present

Moderator:

TBA

Participants

- David Bezmozgis
- Maxim D. Shrayer
- Maxim Matusевич [Zoom]
- Marat Grinberg
- Mikhail Iossel

2:30 pm

Panel: Impact of Immigration and War on Identities, as Expressed Through Writing and Reading

Moderator:

Sara R.
Horowitz

Panelists

- Marat Grinberg, “The Soviet Jewish Bookshelf and the Secret Lives of Soviet Jews”
- Vita Shtivelman, “Three Questions Regarding the War in Ukraine”
- Olga Stein, “Reading Maxim. D. Shrayer’s *Immigrant Baggage: Morticians, Purloined Diaries, and Other Theatrics of Exile*”
- Maria Bloshteyn, “The Kopilka Project: The Crucial Role of Translation”

3:50 pm

Moderator:

Joshua Tapper

**Writing Soviet Jewry Between Fiction and History:
A Conversation between David Bezmozgis and Anna Shternshis**

5:00 pm

Entertainment: Misha Rykov on guitar

Closing Statements

Dinner

SSHRC  CRSH

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 Israel and Golda Koschitzky
Centre for Jewish Studies
at York University
המרכז ללימודי היהדות

J. Richard Shiff Chair
for the Study of Canadian Jewry



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