

**JESSICA COOPERMAN**  
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**CURRENT POSITION**

**Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA**  
**Associate Professor and Chair**, Department of Religion Studies  
**Director**, Jewish Studies Program

**EDUCATION**

**New York University, New York, NY**  
**Joint Doctoral Program in European History and Hebrew and Judaic Studies**  
Ph.D. in Modern Jewish History  
Dissertation Title: *“A Little Army Discipline Would Improve the Whole House of Israel.”*  
*The Jewish Welfare Board, State Power and the Shaping of Jewish Identity in WWI America.* Dissertation  
Advisor: Professor Hasia Diner.  
  
M.A. in Hebrew and Judaic Studies - Modern Jewish History  
M.A. in Modern European History  
**University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**  
B.A. in Philosophy, Concentration in Art History

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

American Judaism, interfaith movements, Jewish and Christian interfaith rituals, post-World War II  
American religious policy, World War I, the Progressive Era, American Zionism, gender and  
masculinity, citizenship, Holocaust studies, military history, religion in the United States, modern  
Jewish History, nationalisms.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books**

*Making Judaism Safe for America: World War I and the Origins of American Religious Pluralism* (New York  
University Press, 2018). Finalist for the Saul Viener Prize in American Jewish History.

**Articles and Chapters**

“Christian Passover Seders and other sites of Jewish-Christian dialogue in post-war America.”  
Article in progress

“Shaping post-war Jewish-Christian Dialogue in the US and Germany: The Religious Affairs Branch  
of the Office of Military Government US.” Article in progress

“The Impact of World War I and World War II on American Jewish History”. Revised and  
Resubmitted

“American Jews and World War I,” Revised and Resubmitted

“The Balfour Declaration in the American Military,” Submitted for Final Review

“Jews in the US Armed Forces.” Submitted for Review

“Fighting for American Judaism: World War I and American Religious Pluralism” in *World War I and the Jews*, eds. Marsha Rozenblit and Jonathan Karp (Berghahn Press, 2017).

“World War I Jewish Soldiers Welfare Services and the Origins of American Religious Pluralism,” *American Jewish History*, Vol. 98, No. 4 (October, 2014).

“Jewish Immigration 1870-1940,” co-authored with Shira Kohn, in *Immigrants in American History: Arrival, Adaptation, and Integration*, ed. Elliott Barkan (Santa Barbara: ABC-Clio, 2013).

“The Great Migration and the Transformation of American Jewry,” in *History of Jews and Judaism*, ed. Alan Levenson (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

## Reviews

*Enlisting Faith: How the Military Chaplaincy Shaped Religion and State in Modern America* by Ronit Stahl, *American Jewish History*, Volume 103, Number 2, (April 2019).

*A Deadly Legacy German Jews and the Great War* by Tim Grady, *AJS Review*, Volume 43 Issue 1 (April 2019).

*Louis Marshall and the Rise of Jewish Ethnicity in America*, by M.M. Silver, in *Journal of Jewish Identities*, Issue 8, No. 1 (January 2015).

*Henry Ford's War on Jews and the Legal Battle against Hate Speech*, by Victoria Saker Woeste, in *American Studies*, Vol.52, No.3 (Fall 2013).

*Translating a Tradition: Studies in American Jewish History*, by Ira Robinson, in *The Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, Vol. 11, issue 2 (July 2012).

*Jewish Preaching in Times of War, 1800-2001*, by Marc Saperstein, in *American Jewish Archives Journal*, Vol. 62, No.1 (October 2010).

*Forward: Immigrants, Socialism and Jewish Politics in New York, 1890-1917*, by Ehud Manor, in *American Jewish History*, Vol. 95, No.3 (September 2009).

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Interfaith: Jewish-Christian Relations and Post-War America, Luce Lecture in College Chaplaincy, **New York University**, *Scheduled for October 2021*

“Seders Innovations in 20th and 21st Century America” Roundtable discussion at **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, on-line, December 2020.

“Jewish-Christian Dialogue and the Influences of the American State,” panel on Jews and the State. **2020 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History**, on-line, June 2020

“Passover Seders as Sites of Jewish-Christian Engagement in Postwar America,” **Center for Jewish History and Fordham University**, on-line, April 2020

“Passover Seders and Jewish-Christian Understanding in Post-Holocaust America,” **University of Colorado**, Boulder, CO, March 2020

“Reassessing Interfaith Relations in American Jewish Studies,” Roundtable discussion at **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, San Diego, CA, December 2019.

"Transatlantic Conversations between Jews and Christians after the Holocaust." **Entanglements of American and European Jewries in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Joint Workshops of New York University and University of Potsdam**, May 2019 and Scheduled for June 2020.

“American Maccabees: The Jewish Legion, the Fight for Palestine, and World War I America” **Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies**, Boston, December 2018.

Jews, Gender, and Difference in the US Armed Forces: A Historical Discussion, **Michigan State University**, November 2018

“Real Jews’, ‘Poor Jehudas’ and Ideals of Jewish Masculinity in the World War I American Expeditionary Forces,” **Oxford Summer Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism: Gender and Judaism: Perspectives from the Study of Comparative Religion and Transnationalism**, Oxford University Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, July 2018.

“American Jewish Responses to the Balfour Declaration,” **Re-Thinking the Balfour Declaration of 1917: Zionism, American Jews, and World War I in Historical Perspective**, the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, OH May 2018.

“The Balfour Declaration in the American Military,” **The Balfour Declaration in Jewish History**, Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies, November 2017.

“Mr. Smith, Meet Mr. Cohen:” Rabbi Lee Levinger’s Lessons in American History.” **Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History**, The Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, June 2016.

“The New Normal? Contingent Employment in Jewish Studies” (Organizer/Moderator). **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Boston, MA, December 2015.

“Parents, Children, Partners, and Colleagues: Balancing Personal and Professional Obligations” (Session Organizer and Moderator). **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Baltimore, MD, December 2014.

“The US Military in World War I and American Religious Pluralism.” **Conference on World War I and the Jews**, organized by New York University and The Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, November 2014.

“Advancing Academic Careers: An Interactive Roundtable” (Session Organizer and Participant). **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Boston, MA, December 2013.

“The State of Jewish Women's and Gender Studies” (Session Organizer and Moderator). **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Boston, MA, December 2013.

“Jews and the Creation of the USO.” **Presentation to the Board of Directors of the American Jewish Historical Society**, Center for Jewish History, NYC, June 2012.

“World War I Jewish Soldiers’ Welfare Services and the Origins of American Religious Pluralism.” **Conference on the Politics of Military Service in Jewish History**, Emory University, May 2012.

“Gearing Up for a Fight: the JWB and Jewish Preparation for WWII.” **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Boston, MA, December 2011.

“The Faiths of Democracy: World War I and the Origins of a Judeo-Christian America.” **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Boston, MA, December 2010.

“The Same Ideal that was handed down to us from Mt. Sinai: The Jewish Welfare Board, Progressive era Politics, and the Discourses of Democracy.” **Conference of the Organization of American Historians**, Washington, DC, April 2010.

“The Representative of the Jewry of America: The WWI Jewish Welfare Board and the Power of the State.” **Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies**, Los Angeles, CA, December 2009.

### **SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA**

- Associate Professor 2018-Present
- Assistant Professor 2013-2017
- Visiting Assistant Professor 2012-2013
- Instructor 2007-2012

Courses developed and taught include: Religion in America, Religion and Violence, The Holocaust: The Third Reich and the Jews, Jewish Experience in a Secular Age: A History of Jews in Modern Europe, American Jewish Life and Culture, From Zion to Zionism: A History of Jewish Nationalism, Jewish Women’s History, Jews and Money: Economics and Modern Jewish Life, 1917: The Year that Changed the World (First Year Seminar), and Fashioning Identity (First Year Seminar).

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

**Co-Chair, Future Tense: 2020 Biennial Scholars Conference on American Jewish History,**  
Center for Jewish History, New York, NY May- June 2020

**Member, Executive Committee of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society** January 2020-present

**Member, Governance Committee of the Association for Jewish Studies** 2018 - present

**Co-Chair of the Women’s Caucus of the Association for Jewish Studies** 2013- 2015

- Organized and moderated or participated in four conference roundtables sponsored by the Women’s Caucus.
- Help to organize the awarding of grants and awards sponsored by the Women’s Caucus.
- Helped to create and implement the Paula Hyman Mentorship Program in cooperation with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Hebrew Union College, and the Association for Jewish Studies.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND WORKSHOPS

- Katz Center for Advance Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania** Spring 2021  
Spring Fellow for the Katz Center program on America's Jewish Questions
- Center for Jewish History-Fordham University Research Fellowship** 2019-2020  
For research on Jewish-Christian relations using collections housed at the Center for Jewish History and Fordham University.
- Jim and Diane Shneer Fellow in Post-Holocaust American Judaism**, at the University of Colorado Boulder. 2019-2020  
For research examining Judaism and the Jewish experience from the late 1940s to the present.
- Entanglements of American and European Jewries in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Joint Workshops of New York University and University of Potsdam**, May 2019 and Scheduled for June 2020.
- Faculty Summer Grant** 2019, 2014  
Awarded by the Muhlenberg College Provost's Office and the Faculty Development and Scholarship Committee to support work on book project.
- New Chairs Workshop** December 2014  
Workshop for New Chairs of Jewish Studies Departments and Directors of Jewish Studies Programs; sponsored and organized by the Association for Jewish Studies and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan.
- Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project** 2012-2014  
Awarded two consecutive grants to create and fund two and half years of events and lectures at Muhlenberg College and throughout the Lehigh Valley. This grant is part of a national program intended to promote on-going Jewish studies programming in small to mid-sized cities, and to foster creative and productive relationships between Jewish Studies scholars and the wider communities in which they work.
- The America Jewish Archives, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio** 2003-2004  
Received a Jacob Rader Marcus Fellowship to conduct dissertation research using the extensive collection of materials on American Jewry at the American Jewish Archives.
- Trans-Atlantic Summer Institute, University of Minnesota,** Summer 2003  
**Ludwig Maximilian Universität, Munich, Germany, DAAD.**  
Invited to Munich to participate in a seminar on German Citizenship in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- The Center for Jewish History, New York, NY** 2002-2003  
Granted a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship to conduct research at the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society and the Leo Baeck Institute.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Jewish Studies, American Academy of Religion, Organization of American Historians, Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society.