

Post-Doc: Jewish History and Culture in Eastern Europe (U.Penn. 02/03)

Benjamin Nathans

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CENTER FOR ADVANCED JUDAIC STUDIES University of Pennsylvania
Post-Doctoral Fellowships 2002-2003
Application Deadline November 15, 2001

JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE IN EASTERN EUROPE, 1600-2000

For much of the modern period, the Jews of Eastern Europe constituted the human reservoir of Jewish civilization, the source of many of the currents that shape Jewish life even today. Scholars of literature and religion, historians, and experts in allied fields, stimulated in part by the new accessibility of long-hidden archival materials in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, have begun to re-envision East European Jewry and its place in modern Jewish history and culture. In 2002-2003, the CAJS will sponsor an interdisciplinary seminar devoted to assembling and placing in perspective the fruits of the new scholarship.

Among the possible questions the seminar will consider are: What are the limits of "crisis" as an explanatory model for individual and collective change among East European Jews? In what ways did East European Jewry remain a coherent entity across the periodic recastings of political boundaries in the region? What were the lines of influence between Jews and their mostly Slavic neighbors? The seminar will also consider neglected issues of gender and economic life among East European Jews. What historical contexts made possible the rise in Eastern Europe of Jewish cultural modernism, with the ideal of the emancipated (male or female) self at its center? How have the pioneering figures of Jewish scholarship in Eastern Europe, with their pronounced populist bent, shaped the field's intellectual lineage? How can attention to the intersection of elite and popular culture illuminate such epochal developments as the rise of Hasidism as a mass movement, the political mobilization of the Jewish "silent majority" at the beginning of the 20th century, and the renewal of Jewish national identity in the USSR during the Cold War?

The Center invites applications from post-doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences. Outstanding graduate students in the final stages of writing their dissertations may also apply. Stipend amounts are based on a Fellows' academic standing and financial need with a maximum of \$32,000 for the academic year. A contribution may also be made towards travel expenses. Application deadline is November 15, 2001. Awards will be announced on January 15, 2002.

For more information and application forms:

<http://www.cjs.upenn.edu/Program/2002-2003/announce.html>

Or contact Sheila Allen: allenshe@sas.upenn.edu

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