

FALL 2022 LECTURES



JEWES AND LATINOS: UNLIKELY PARTNERS

A lecture by ILAN STAVANS

Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American, and Latino Culture at Amherst College

Wednesday, October 19 at 4:30 PM

Gannett Auditorium in Palamountain Hall at Skidmore College

Reception to follow

Admission is free and open to the public

Attendees must adhere to Skidmore's current [COVID-19 safety guidelines](#). All visitors to campus are **required** to be fully vaccinated, including booster.

About the speaker: Ilan Stavans is the Publisher of Restless Books and the Lewis-Sebring Professor of Humanities, Latin American and Latino Culture at Amherst College. His books include *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish*, *Spanglish*, *Dictionary Days*, [The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature](#), and *A Critic's Journey*. He has edited *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature*,

the three-volume set *Isaac Bashevis Singer: Collected Stories*, *The Poetry of Pablo Neruda*, among dozens of other volumes. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, Chile's Presidential Medal, the International Latino Book Award, and the Jewish Book Award. Stavans's work, translated into twenty languages, has been adapted to the stage and screen. A cofounder of the Great Books Summer Program at Amherst, Stanford, Chicago, Oxford, and Dublin, he is the host of the NPR podcast "In Contrast."

Co-Sponsored with the Dean of Students Office; Office of Special Programs; Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies Program; Office of Religious and Spiritual Life; and The Office of the President/Racial Justice Initiative.



REIMAGINING JEWISH LIFE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, 1800-PRESENT

A lecture by Lior Sternfeld

Associate Professor of History and Jewish Studies at Penn State University

Monday, October 24 at 7 PM

Davis Auditorium in Palamountain Hall at Skidmore College

Reception to follow

Admission is free and open to the public

Attendees must adhere to Skidmore's current [COVID-19 safety guidelines](#). All visitors to campus are **required** to be fully vaccinated, including booster.

About the lecture: How do we narrate Jewish life in the modern Middle East? This is a question that animates my [research](#) as an Israeli historian of the modern Middle East at Penn State University. In this talk I will analyze the intellectual struggle over this question, and focus on an innovative collaborative project, titled "Reimagining Jewish Life in the Middle East and North Africa, 1800-Present," that challenges conventional thinking about the diverse and variegated history of Jews across the region. Writing a comprehensive history that is also attentive to the particularities of space and time motivated myself, Michelle Campos (a historian of the Ottoman Empire), and Orit Bashkin (a historian of Iraq) to create an international workshop that included papers from Jewish studies and Middle Eastern studies scholars from around the world. Out of this workshop, a project consisting of 35 committed scholars—including Murat Yildiz from Skidmore's History Department—was formed. [The National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) has recognized the exciting potential of the project, awarding "Reimagining Jewish Life in the Middle East and North Africa, 1800-Present" a \$250,000 grant. My talk will focus on the stakes of this project and the rewards and challenges of engaging in collaborative, interdisciplinary work about Jewish life in the Middle East.

About the speaker: Lior Sternfeld is an associate professor of history and Jewish Studies. He is a social historian of the modern Middle East with particular interests in the histories of the Jewish people and other minorities of the region. His first book, titled "Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth-Century Iran," (Stanford University Press, 2018) examines, against the backdrop of Iranian nationalism, Zionism, and constitutionalism, the development and integration of Jewish communities in Iran into the nation-building projects of the last century. He is currently working on two book projects: "The Origins of Third Worldism in the Middle East" and a new study of the Iranian-Jewish

Diaspora in the U.S. and Israel. Additionally, he is one of the leading editors of the NEH Funded project on “Reimagining Jewish Life in the Middle East and North Africa, 1800-present.” Lior Sternfeld is author of ***Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth Century Iran*** (Stanford University Press, 2018). His website is <https://sites.psu.edu/liorsternfeld/>.