

ERIN FAIGIN

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin, Madison. Ph.D. American History, 2024

University of Wisconsin, Madison. M.A. American History, 2019

University of California, Berkeley. B.A. *magna cum laude*, 2016

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025-	Friedman Postdoctoral Scholar, Washington University in St. Louis
2025	Lecturer, University of Wisconsin, Madison
2024-2025	Visiting Assistant Instructor, Ripon College

DISSERTATION AND ADVISORS

“Fer Sure!”: The Valley Girl, the Jewish American Princess, and the Limits of Jewish American Upward Mobility in the Suburban Age (2024)

Advisors: Professors Tony Michels (UW-Madison), Sunny Yudkoff (UW-Madison), Emma Kuby (UW-Madison) and Paige Glotzer (University of Florida)

PUBLICATIONS AND PROJECTS

PEER REVIEWED

“‘There Are No Cultural Islands like Ceshinsky’s’: Ceshinsky’s Community Bookstore and Intellectual Space in Chicago, 1922–1966.” *Middle West Review* 8, no. 2 (2022): 15–30. [doi:10.1353/mwr.2022.0017](https://doi.org/10.1353/mwr.2022.0017).

NON-REFEREED ARTICLES AND PUBLIC HISTORY PROJECTS

Review of *Imagining Early American Jews* by Michael Hoberman. *Western States Jewish History*. Forthcoming.

“The Right to Choose and the Housewife Who Got Elected.” *Oasis: The Magazine of the Skirball Cultural Center*. Spring 2023. <https://www.skirball.org/2022-23-recipient-friedman-prize>

Review of *A Hundred Acres of America: The Geography of Jewish American Literary History*, by Michael Hoberman. *Studies in American Jewish Literature* 39, no. 2 (2020): 245-247. muse.jhu.edu/article/763637.

“The Wandering You: Jewish and American Identity.” Review of *Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America* by Shari Rabin. *The Marginalia Review*. November 23, 2018. <https://themarginaliareview.com/wandering-jewish-american-identity/>

“The Latest in Yiddish Studies in English: 2017.” Coauthored with Rachelle Grossman, Saul Noam Zaritt and Jessica Kirzane. *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*, April 2018. <https://ingeveb.org/blog/the-latest-in-yiddish-studies-in-english-2017>

“Where Text Meets Sweat: Reading Yiddish Utopia on the Utah Landscape.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*, December 2017. <https://ingeveb.org/blog/where-text-meets-sweat-reading-yiddish-utopia-in-the-utah-landscape>

“A History of the Louchheim School of Judaic Studies,” Summer 2017. <https://louchheimhistory.wordpress.com/>

“*Lernen Yidish Far Sholem*: Teaching Yiddish in a Secular Jewish School.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*, March 2017. <https://ingeveb.org/pedagogy/lernen-yiddish-far-sholem-teaching-yiddish-in-a-secular-jewish-school>

“Reflections on Space in Learning Yiddish.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*, December 2015. <https://ingeveb.org/pedagogy/reflections-on-space-in-learning-yiddish>

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2025	Member of AJS Paula Hyman Mentorship Program. Develop mentorship relationship with leading scholar in field and receive professional development.
2025	NEH Grant Program Participant at Ripon College, developing new courses in the humanities. Received \$500 to design new course in the humanities.
2024	AAJR Professional Development Workshop for Early Career Scholars at Williams College.
2024	UW Madison History Department Fellowship. Received a full semester of write-up fellowship.
2024	Charles and Gayle Mazursky Award, Mosse-Weinsteim Center for Jewish Studies. Received \$1,050 to attend AJHS Biennial Scholars Conference in New York City.
2023	Howard I. Friedman Memorial Graduate Essay Prize, Skirball Museum. Recognizes exceptional graduate student work on the American Jewish experience. Prize winners receive \$5,000, as well as publication in the Skirball annual <i>Oasis</i> magazine, and an invitation to participate in the Friedman Memorial Lecture Program.

2023	Baron Award, WSJS Association. Best graduate student paper presented at the Western States Jewish Studies Conference. Received \$200 prize.
2023	David Sorkin Graduate Research Award in Modern Jewish History, Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. Received \$750 grant to attend the WSJS Conference at UNLV and conduct research at Stanford, Cal State Northridge, and USC.
2022	Walter and Chaya H. Roth Fellow, American Jewish Archives. Received \$2,000 grant to conduct research at the American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati.
2022	Summer Fellow, Jack Miller Center for America's Founding Principles and History. Received \$1,500 to participate in the annual Summer Institute.
2022	UW Madison History Department Fellowship. Received a full semester of support to conduct research during the 2022-2023 academic year.
2020	UW Madison History Department Summer Funding Award. Received grant to study Yiddish at the Warsaw Yiddish Center and conduct archival research at YIVO in New York. Unable to attend because of COVID-19.
2019	Ida and Isaac B. Lipton Domestic Study Award, Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. Received grant to study Yiddish at the YIVO-Bard Summer Language Program.
2018	Ida and Isaac B. Lipton Domestic Study Award, Mosse-Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies. Received grant to study Modern Hebrew at the Middlebury Language Institute.
2017	Julie A. and Peter M. Weil Distinguished Graduate Fellowship. Received five years of financial support, including Peter M. Weil dissertation fellowship.
2016	Matilda Morrison Miller Prize for Western History, UC Berkeley History Department. Best senior thesis on the history of the Western United States. Received \$1,200 prize.
2015	Helix Project Pell Fellow. Fully funded participant in travel-based education experience exploring Jewish life and culture in Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania.
2015	Undergraduate Research Apprentice Summer Award. Received grant of \$1,500 to continue cataloging and digitizing the Magnes Sheet Music Collection.
2014	Steiner Summer Program Steeger Grant, Yiddish Book Center. Sponsored study of Yiddish language and culture; received stipend of \$1,000 for Book Department Internship.

PRESENTATIONS

2024	Association of Jewish Studies Conference, "Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982-2022."
2024	Levy Summer Seminar, Madison, WI. Invited Lecture, "Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982-2022."
2024	Men of Temple Ahavat Shalom, Northridge, California. Invited Lecture (virtual), "Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982-2022."
2024	American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholars Conference, "The Geographic Unbinding of the Jewish American Princess."

2023 Western States Jewish History Conference, “Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982-2022.”

2023 American Jewish Archives. Invited Lecture, “Misogyny, Suburbanization, and the Rise and Fall of the Valley Girl, 1982–2022.”

2021 Mellon-Sawyer Seminar, Jewish Multilingualism in the Midwest: Yiddish Translations of Urban Experience. Invited Participant. “Centers and Provinces: H. Leivick & I. I. Segal.”

2020 University of Chicago Jewish Studies Workshop. Invited Participant. “Cultural Islands and American Provinces: Locating Midwestern Yiddish Culture.”

2019 Midwestern History Association Conference. “Creating Yiddishland in Chicagoland: Ceshinsky’s Community Bookstore, Jewish Intellectual Space, and Regional Identity in Chicago, 1922-1961.”

2018 Modern Language Association Conference. “*Tsvishn nit Eygene* and Becoming California Colored.”

2018 Graduate Student German Studies Conference: Engagement and the German Tradition at the University of Toronto. “*Doikayt* and Los Angeles Yiddish Literature.”

2016 Pop-Up Exhibit, The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life. “Mapping Yiddish Books in California.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington University in St. Louis

2026 JIMES 3042. Jews and American Capitalism

2025 JIMES 341. Jews and American Popular Culture

Ripon College

2025 History 300. Inclusion and Exclusion in US History

2025 History 263. Women in US History

2025 History 242. History of the United States, 1914 – Present

2024 History 200. History of the American Road Through Film

University of Wisconsin, Madison

2025 History 213. Jews and American Popular Culture

2024 History 201. The Suburb in American History

2023 History 219. American Jewish Experience (TA)

2023 History 227. Race in the Upper Midwest (online)

2022 History 227. Race in the Upper Midwest (online)

2022 History 201. The Suburb in American History

2021 History 227. Race in the Upper Midwest (online)

2020 History 219. American Jewish Experience (online) (TA)

2020 History 102. American History Since 1850 (TA)

2019 History 219. American Jewish Experience (TA)
2019 History 152. American West Since 1850 (TA)
2018 History 219. American Jewish Experience (TA)

University of Southern California
2022 JS 100. Introduction to Jewish History (TA)

COMMUNAL TEACHING

2022-2024 K-12 Teacher at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
2020 Adult Ed Course, "Yiddish Culture" at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
2018-2020 Yiddish Language and Culture courses offered at UW Madison Hillel
2018 "Yiddish" at Jewish Federation of Madison Hebrew High
2018-2020 K-12 Teacher at Congregation Shaarei Shamayim
2017 Adult Ed Course, "Yiddish Language and Literature" at Kol Tikvah Temple
2016-2017 Led Yiddish Reading Group at the Los Angeles Workmen's Circle
2016-2017 Student Teacher at the Sholem Community

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024 Project Assistant, UW Madison History Department
Completed triannual assessment of student learning for the department. Evaluated all student papers produced for core history courses to determine the extent to which students are meeting desired learning outcomes. Produced official report outlining student learning and effectiveness of pedagogy.

2022 Research Assistant, Portland State University
Assisted Professor Nina Spiegel with Yiddish language research for chapter related to the Jewish choreographer Nathan Vizovsky's choreography for the Zionist pageant "The Romance of a People" at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933.

2021 Project Assistant, UW Madison History Department
Assisted Professor Kathryn Ciancia with research for book manuscript. Duties included scanning, organizing, and summarizing documents. Some digital mapping projects.

2017-2019 Copy Cataloger, Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Catalog new acquisitions in Yiddish, including books, periodicals, and ephemera according to OCLC and LC standards.

2016-2017 Administrative Assistant, Louchheim School for Judaic Studies, HUC-LA
Maintain smooth operation of department. Create promotional material, manage social media, plan, and execute events. Researched and composed history of department for future development projects.

SERVICE

2023- Skirball Museum Friedman Essay Prize Committee

INTENSIVE LANGUAGE TRAINING

2018 – National Yiddish Book Center Pedagogy Program
2018 – YIVO Summer Language Program, Advanced, Yiddish
2017 – Middlebury Language School, Level 2.5, Hebrew
2015 – Vilnius Yiddish Institute, Level IV, Yiddish
2014 – Steiner Program at the National Yiddish Book Center, Intermediate, Yiddish

LANGUAGES

English – fluent
Yiddish – advanced
Hebrew, French, German – basic reading comprehension

REFERENCES

Tony Michels (aemichels@wisc.edu)
Emma Kuby (emma.kuby@wisc.edu)
Rebecca Matske (matzker@ripon.edu)