

CAROLINA CENTER for JEWISH STUDIES

NEWS FROM THE CENTER SPRING 2022

Incoming Center Director

Professor Patricia Rosenmeyer will be the next director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, effective July 1.



Rosenmeyer is the George L. Paddison Distinguished Professor of Classics and has been a member of the Carolina faculty since 2017. She is a scholar of Ancient Greek literature and she is

currently co-editing a volume on modern Jewish engagements with Greek and Roman classical texts. In 2021, she organized a three-day international symposium on Modern Jewish Receptions of Classical Antiquity, including her own biographical research on two German-Jewish refugees who studied classics while in internment camps during World War II.

Ruth von Bernuth has served as director of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies since July 2013.

"I am so grateful to Ruth von Bernuth for her unparalleled leadership of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies," said Elizabeth Engelhardt, senior associate dean for the humanities, College of Arts and Sciences. "She will, of course, remain part of the Center and will resume her research and teaching in her home department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures."

Our next newsletter will introduce you to Dr. Rosenmeyer and highlight the return to Huqoq, summer activities, graduations, grant awards, events, and plans for our 20th.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

A Privilege to Lead the Center

Ruth von Bernuth

Seymour and Carol Levin Distinguished Professor
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While I am writing my director's message, I sit in the Maimonides Centre for Advanced Jewish Studies in Hamburg, Germany, where I will spend the rest of the summer diving into research with other scholars from around the world.

Leading the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies for the last nine years was a huge privilege for me. It provided the opportunity for me to get to know many of you and to learn so much about the Jewish history of UNC, the State of North Carolina, and beyond. It offered opportunities to discuss Jewish history and culture in all aspects, which also included difficult topics and conversations around antisemitism.

The Center's first major conference on this theme in 2016 provided a starting point for continuous talks within the College and beyond and also helped to create the undergraduate course "Confronting Antisemitism," which was taught for the third time this spring semester. I cherish the discussions with the students

whenever I give my guest lecture in this class. (I discussed well-poisoning, blood libel, and host desecration in the Middle Ages, as they offer ways to discuss conspiracy theories now and then as well as Jewish responses to hatred and violence.)

As director, I also enjoyed bringing together different groups like the conference on "Wandering Objects" we organized together with the NC Museum of Art and the recent online discussion on Jewish history and Yiddish culture in Ukraine, with Daniel Kahn. But I equally enjoyed many small talks and encounters I had during my daily work.



Ruth with Professor Yaakov Ariel, associate director of the Center, at a reception to thank her for her many years of leadership and service to the Center.

This brings me back to Hamburg: Part of my travel guide to explore this city while I am here, is an email I received from Patricia Rosenmeyer about her family in Hamburg. I just visited the synagogue in which her father and uncle celebrated their bar mitzvah, and which serves now as a concert hall. History is complicated and the tasks of the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies to teach and research the history, culture, and religious traditions of Jews in their interactions with others promises to be demanding also in the future. I am grateful that I can pass this baton over to Patricia. I wish her and Karen Gajewski, who was just promoted to executive director of the Center, all the best and I thank you for all the support you have given me in the last years.



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SPRING 2022 NEWS FROM THE CENTER

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The Fund for Jewish Studies provides unrestricted support that is essential for the Center to maintain its reputation for excellence while expanding its academic and public outreach programs for future generations. The online giving form is on our website: jewishstudies.unc.edu.



2022–2023 EVENTS

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES and join us next year for our upcoming events program. Details will be posted this summer on our website and our social media sites.

- SEPT 19 ▶ Evans Lecture**
with Naomi Graber, U Georgia
- OCT 24 ▶ Sephardic Studies Lecture**
with poet Ronny Someck
- NOV 7 ▶ Margolis Lecture**
with David Weinfeld, Virginia Commonwealth
- NOV 14 ▶ Emerging Scholars Lecture**
with Emily Branton, UNC CH
- JAN 23 ▶ Emerging Scholars Lecture**
with Joshua Shelly, UNC CH
- JAN 30 ▶ Kaplan Brauer Lecture / Holocaust Remembrance Day Lecture**
with Laura Jockusch, Brandeis
- FEB 20 ▶ Emerging Scholars Lecture**
with Oskar Czendze, UNC CH
- MAR 2 ▶ Heilig Lecture / 20th Anniversary Celebration**
with musician Daniel Zamir

Thanks for joining us in 2021–2022

Many thanks to everyone that joined us online and on campus for our events program this year. Events included our second year hosting the **Emerging Scholars series**, which features Carolina's graduate students, as well as continuation of our **Annual Holocaust Remembrance Day lecture**, held in January, ("How Healers Became Killers: German Physicians and the Nazi 'Euthanasia' Program" with Patricia Heberer-Rice, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum,) and our March **Margolis lecture**, ("Too Long, Too Foreign. . . Too Jewish: Antisemitism, upward mobility, and name changing in New York City, 1917-1945," with Kirsten Fermaglich, Michigan State University.) In April, we held a special online event, "**Reflections in a Time of War: Yiddish Culture and Jewish History in Ukraine,**" featuring a panel of speakers, including musician Daniel Kahn (shown in photo). If you missed these, or other lectures from this year, most are available to view on our YouTube channel (UNC Jewish Studies).

