

# KAREN AUERBACH

University of North Carolina  
Department of History and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies  
412 Hamilton Hall  
CB #3195  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599  
kauerbach@unc.edu  
919-962-5538

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. (2009, Brandeis University).** Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

**B.A. (1996, Rutgers University).** History and political science.

*Fields:* modern Jewish history, East European Jewish history and culture, history of the Holocaust, Polish-Jewish relations, twentieth-century Poland.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.** *Assistant professor and Stuart E. Eizenstat Fellow.* January 2014-present (tenure-track). Department of History/Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

**Monash University (Melbourne, Australia).** Affiliated research fellow in history, December 2013-present.

### *Previous positions:*

**Monash University.** *Kronhill Lecturer in East European Jewish History,* July 2012-November 2013 (tenured). Lecturer, July 2011-July 2012.

**University of Michigan.** *Postdoctoral Fellow,* Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, September 2010-May 2011. Research group on Jewish languages, for a project titled “Jewish Publishers of Polish Literature in Modernizing Poland: Publishing as a Jewish Path to Integration, Polish as a Jewish Language?”

**University of Southampton (U.K.).** *Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in Twentieth-Century Jewish History,* September 2009-June 2010. Department of History and the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations.

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).** *Visiting Assistant Professor,* September 2007-June 2008. Program in Religious Studies. Full-time visiting faculty.

**Brown University,** *Visiting Lecturer,* spring 2006. Program in Judaic Studies/Department of History. Adjunct, part-time faculty teaching a large lecture course on the history of the Holocaust.

**Brandeis University.** *Doctoral Teaching Fellow*, 2002-2003, 2005. Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

**Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.** *Applied Research Scholar*, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., 2008-2009.

**Jewish Historical Institute.** *Graduate Research Fellow*, Warsaw, 2003-2004.

## BOOKS

*The House at Ujazdowskie 16: Jewish Families in Warsaw after the Holocaust.* Indiana University Press, 2013.

*Aftermath: The Politics of Memory* (editor). Under review by Monash University Publishing.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Reconstructed Jewish Spaces of Warsaw after the Holocaust: A Case Study of a Building and Its Residents.”

In *Warsaw: History of a Jewish Metropolis*, ed. by Glenn Dynner and Francois Guesnet. Forthcoming from Brill (2014).

“‘*Nusekh Poyln*’? Communism, Publishing, and Paths to Polishness among the Jewish Parents of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue.”

In *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 24. 2012.

“Memory of the Holocaust in Recent Polish Historiography.”

In *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 35.1. April 2011.

“Insiders-Outsiders: Poles and Jews in Recent Polish-Jewish Fiction and Autobiography.”

Co-author with Antony Polonsky. In *Insiders and Outsiders: Dilemmas of East European Jewry*, edited by Richard Cohen, Jonathan Frankel and Stefani Hoffman, 2010.

“Rodziny żydowskie z domu w Alejach Ujazdowskich 16 w powojennej Warszawie: dylematy etyczne w badaniach nad asymilacją w Polsce Ludowej [The Jewish Families of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue in Postwar Warsaw: Ethical Dilemmas in Research on Assimilation in People’s Poland].”

In *Spoleczność żydowska w PRL przed kampanią antysemitką lat 1967-1968 i po niej* (The Jewish Community in Poland before and after the 1967-1968 Anti-Semitic Campaign). Warsaw: IPN, 2009.

“The Fate of a Yiddish Writer in Communist Eastern Europe: The Case of Naftali Herts Kon in Poland, 1959-1965.”

In *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 21, 2009. Earlier versions of this article were published in *Żydzi a Lewica* [Jews and the Left], edited by August Grabski, Warsaw, 2007; in

Yiddish translation in the New York-based journal *Tsukunft*, 2007; and in shortened Polish translation in the Warsaw-based journal *Midrasz*, 2007.

“ ‘I am an example that it is possible to be both a Pole and a Jew’: Polish Jewish Identity and the 1968 Events in Henryk Grynberg’s *Memorbuch*.”

In *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 19, 2006.

## REFERENCE ARTICLES

“The Biblical City in Literature.” Entry in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, volume 4, eds. Hans-Josef Klauck, et al. W. de Gruyter, 2012.

“Linguistic Integration.” In *Critical Terms in Jewish Language Studies*. Frankel Institute Annual, 2011.

“Warsaw” and “Poland.” Entries in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion and Culture*, edited by Judith R. Baskin. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

“Bibliography of Jewish Women in Eastern Europe.” Annotated bibliography of Yiddish, Hebrew, Polish, and English memoirs and diaries, and bibliography of secondary sources. *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 18, 2005.

## REVIEWS

Scott Ury, *Barricades and Banners: The Revolution of 1905 and the Transformation of Warsaw Jewry*. In progress for *Jewish History*.

Glenn Dynner, *Yankel’s Tavern: Jews, Liquor and Life in the Kingdom of Poland*. In progress for H-German.

Jonathan Webber and Chris Schwarz, *Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia*. H-Judaic, March 2011.

*Farewell to My Country* (Pine Hill Productions, directed by Andrzej Krakowski). *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* 18, 2005.

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Selected articles about Jewish life in contemporary Poland for the *Forward* (N.Y.):

“Poles Planting New Crosses at Auschwitz,” September 11, 1998.

“Polish Shuls Live Again Under New Law: A Process Begins That Could Take Decades,” October 9, 1998.

“Youngsters Rebuild Life in Poland, Then Decamp for Israel, America: A Revival Turns Complicated in a Haunted Land,” December 18, 1998.

“Warsaw, Wroclaw Look to Hire Rabbis: ‘Who Is a Jew?’ Question Influences the First Search in Decades,” March 12, 1999.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2014** Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University, Visiting Scholar Fellowship (July)
- 2013** Faculty of Arts Research Grant, Monash University
- 2012-2013** Faculty of Arts New Appointees Research Grant, Monash University
- 2011** Posen Foundation Travel Grant/Association for Jewish Studies
- 2011** Yad Vashem, International Institute for Holocaust Research, Postdoctoral Fellowship (May to July)
- 2011** Rice University, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish Studies (declined)
- 2010** Syracuse University, Jim Joseph Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship (declined)
- 2010** Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined)
- 2009** Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University, awarded for best dissertation in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- 2007** YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Aleksander and Alicja Hertz Memorial Fellowship
- 2003-2004** Ringelblum Fellowship, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw (16 months)
- 2003** Sachar Scholarship for Research Abroad, Brandeis University
- 2003** YIVO scholarship for summer Yiddish language study
- 2003, 2007** Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, Graduate Research Award
- 2002** American Council of Learned Societies, East European Language Training Grant
- 2002** Kościuszko Foundation scholarship for summer Polish language study
- 1992-1996** Garden State Distinguished Scholar, Rutgers University

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

**Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture (University of Leipzig).** “Language, Community, and National Belonging: Jewish Publishers and the Polish Book in the Nineteenth Century.” July 2014.

**KU Leuven (Brussels).** “Publishing and National Identity in Modern Eastern Europe: The Case of Samuel Orgelbrand’s Polish Encyclopedia and Jewish Publishers of the Polish Book.” Conference: “Cultural mediators in Europe, 1750-1950.” June 5-7, 2014.

**Charles University (Prague).** “Integration and Its Obstacles among Jewish Families in Poland after the Second World War: Education, Secularization and Polish-Jewish Relations in Communist Poland.” Conference and workshop: “Jews and Gentiles in East-Central Europe in the Twentieth Century.” May/June 2014.

**YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.** “*Nusekh Poyln?* Jewish Life in Warsaw after the Second World War. October 2013.

**Association for Jewish Studies.** “Samuel Orgelbrand’s Polish Encyclopedia: Jewish Publishers in the Nineteenth Century.” Annual conference, December 2012.

**University of Sydney.** “Polish-Jewish Relations after the Holocaust: Jewish Integration and Its Obstacles under Communism and in Contemporary Poland.” Conference: “The Holocaust and Legacies of Race in the Postcolonial World, 1945 to the Present.” April 2012.

**Association for Jewish Studies.** “Nineteenth-Century Jewish Publishers of the Polish Book in Modernizing Poland.” Annual conference, December 2011.

**Warsaw University.** “Memory, Identity and the Writing of History: Methodologies of Researching Polish Jewish Life after the Holocaust.” Conference: “Genealogies of Memory in Central and Eastern Europe: Theories and Methods,” November 23-25, 2011.

**Yad Vashem, International Institute for Holocaust Research.** “Yiddish in the Aftermath: Reading Archival Sources on the Holocaust.” Workshop: “Language, Semantics and Discourse in the Shoah,” July 2011 (invited talk).

**Association for Jewish Studies.** “Polish-Jewish Relations after the Holocaust: Jewish Integration and Its Obstacles in Postwar Poland.” Annual conference, December 2010.

**University College London.** “Continuity and Rupture in the Jewish Spaces of Reconstructed Postwar Warsaw.” Conference: “Warsaw – The History of a Jewish Metropolis,” June 2010 (invited talk).

**Oxford University.** “The Polish Book, Polish-Jewish Identifications and Polish-Jewish Relations in Nineteenth-Century Warsaw.” Seminar on East and East-Central European History, May 2010 (invited talk).

**University College London.** “The Jew in Polish Cultural Memory, 1970-2000: Integration and Its Obstacles.” Conference: “Antisemitism in Hungary and Poland: Genealogies, Transitions, Practices, Impact,” May 2010 (invited talk).

**International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry,** Central European University, Budapest. Organized by the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 2009.

**Posen Summer Seminar on Approaches to Jewish Secularism,** Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif., June 2009.

**Mid-Atlantic Slavic Association.** “The Political and the Personal: Jewish Family Life and Memory of the Jewish Past in Warsaw after the Second World War.” Annual Conference, New York, April 2009.

**Indiana University.** “Yiddish in the Aftermath: Archival Sources on the Holocaust from Postwar Poland.” Bloomington, Indiana. U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum seminar on Yiddish language instruction for Holocaust research, July 2008 (invited talk).

**University of Massachusetts at Amherst.** “*Nusekh Poyln*”? Emigration, Repatriation and Anti-Semitism in Polish Jewish Life in Wroclaw, 1956-1960.” Conference: “Wroclaw/Breslau: Poles, Germans, Jews and Their City,” April 2008 (invited talk).

**YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.** “Communism, Publishing, and Paths to Polishness Among the Jewish Families of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue in Postwar Warsaw.” Aleksander and Alicja Hertz Memorial Lecture, March 2008.

**Polish Institute for National Remembrance.** “The Jewish Families of 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue in Postwar Warsaw: Ethical Dilemmas in Research on Assimilation in People’s Poland.”

Conference on “The Jewish Community in Poland Before and After the 1967-1968 Anti-Semitic Campaign,” Warsaw, December 2007 (invited talk).

**Brown University.** “The Fate of a Yiddish Writer in Communist Eastern Europe: The Case of Naftali Herts Kon in Poland, 1959-1965.” Watson Institute for International Studies workshop, “Borderlands: Ethnicity, Identity and Violence in the Shatter-Zone of Empires Since 1848,” May 2005.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

*University of North Carolina:*

Ghettos and Shtetls? Urban Life in East European Jewish History  
Modern East European Jewish History and Culture, 1772 to the Present  
The Search for Modern Jewish Identity  
History of the Holocaust: The Destruction of the European Jews

*Monash University:*

Holocaust in an Age of Genocide  
Final Journey: Remembering the Holocaust (study-abroad trip to Europe)  
Behind the Iron Curtain: Everyday Life in Communist Eastern Europe  
History and Memory (co-taught)

*Virginia Tech:*

Introduction to Jewish History, Culture and Heritage  
History of the Holocaust  
The City in Russian and East European Jewish History and Culture

*University of Southampton:*

Seminar on the History of the Holocaust  
Responses to the Holocaust

*Brown University:*

History of the Holocaust

## **LANGUAGES**

Polish and Yiddish  
Reading proficiency in Modern Hebrew.