

COLLEGE of CHARLESTON

October 10, 2011

President P. George Benson
66 George Street
Charleston, SC 29424

Dear President Benson,

I am applying for a sabbatical leave for the full 2012-13 academic year. I will be using the leave to work full time on my second book-length project, entitled "The Jewish Club: Europe's First Jewish Parliamentary Faction." (My first book, *Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish Identity in Habsburg Galicia*, appears this winter with Cambridge University Press.) This is a project that I have already started this year, with generous funding from the Leo Baeck Institute Career Development Fellowship as well as some summer support from the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs. This year's award includes funding for research trips to Vienna and Jerusalem, which I will undertake during the early summer. I plan to spend the sabbatical leave completing my research as well as a substantial draft of the manuscript. The Leo Baeck award is a two-year fellowship, which pays up to \$20,000 per year. I intend to use the second year of funding as supplementary pay to enable me to afford this sabbatical.

I have also received the full support of Jewish Studies. In fact, the Jewish Studies program has been awarded a full-time replacement for 2012-13 by the Schusterman Foundation. A visiting scholar in Israel Studies will be teaching full time at the College, including courses in Israel Studies as well as other courses in Jewish Studies, during my proposed absence.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
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The Jewish Club: Europe's First Jewish Parliamentary Faction

In 1907, as a result of Austria's first parliamentary elections based on universal male suffrage, voters in Galicia – the largest of the Habsburg Empire's provinces – and Bukowina elected four Jewish nationalist delegates to the *Reichsrat*. As promised during the campaign, the four refused to join any of the existing national factions (known as "clubs") and instead constituted a "Jewish Club," Europe's first parliamentary faction in which Jews served *qua* Jews, as a party devoted to Jewish national interests. I propose during my sabbatical year to complete my research and produce a rough manuscript for a book-length project on this party, which will fill a critical lacuna in the existing scholarship. It is a natural continuation of my first book (*Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish Identity in Habsburg Galicia*), which is due to be published by Cambridge University Press this winter.

Although short lived – electoral chicanery cost the party all but one of its seats in the subsequent 1911 elections – this brief experiment anticipated a wide array of Jewish national parties in interwar Europe. The election forced Jewish nationalists for the first time to move beyond rhetoric and engage in practical political decision-making. It dramatically raised a variety of questions that had heretofore remained mostly theoretical. What was the meaning and future of Jewish national life in the Diaspora, which Zionism had traditionally regarded as a dead end? Which nationalist goals warranted expending the most political capital, and where was compromise possible? With which parties – and with which nations – should Jews ally themselves, and what does this suggest about the nature of interethnic relations and German-Jewish identity in a heterogeneous imperial context? And how should Jews maintain party unity, which proved difficult even in such a small faction as this? This research project will explore these questions with a detailed examination of the history and activity of this party, from its election in 1907 through its ousting four years later.

Despite its importance, scholarship on the Jewish Club is surprisingly threadbare. Scholars of both Habsburg and modern Jewish history frequently reference its existence. Yet not a single one has analyzed the history of this group in any depth whatsoever. For example, Adolf Gaisbauer's magisterial *Davidstern und Doppeladler* (Vienna, 1988), one of the most comprehensive works on Cisleithanian Zionism, barely discussed the Jewish Club, despite a large subsection on Diaspora nationalism. On the Habsburg Studies side, Harald Binder's comprehensive analysis of Galician delegates to the Viennese parliament, *Galizien in Wien: Parteien, Wahlen, Fraktionen und Abgeordnete im Übergang zur Massenpolitik* (Vienna, 2005), devotes just a handful of its 741 pages to the club.

I am in a unique position to fill this niche. My first book ends with the story of the election that brought the Jewish Club to parliament. I am intimately familiar with all of the key players and the context of nationalist politics both in Vienna and Galicia. I am likewise aware of the core materials in

German, Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish that are necessary for the project, starting with the minutes of all parliamentary sessions (available in the United States) as well as a number of key newspapers, many of which have been scanned and are available online. (This group includes the paper which virtually became the party organ, the *Jüdische Zeitung*.) The newspapers establish the context of their activities, but also served as the voice of the club members to their supporters, their opponents and to each other. In many ways, when read properly, they are more revealing sources than the constructed narratives presented in memoirs decades later.

This project has direct relevance to several fields. First and foremost, it will make a critical contribution to the history of Habsburg Jewry. What did it mean for a Jew to operate in German in the Viennese *Reichsrat* while representing Galician (and Bukowinan) Jews and defending Jewish national rights throughout the Empire? Equally, how did the club's close working relationship with the Ukrainian delegates affect their political and cultural identity as Habsburg citizens? Understanding the nature and types of modern Jewish identities across national boundaries currently occupies a central place in scholarly agendas. The experience of the club also speaks to the history of Jewish nationalism. Recent scholarship has increasingly emphasized the extent to which Jewish nationalists – even self-described “Zionists” – were far more interested in nationalizing (or ethnicizing) Jewish identity and securing Jewish national rights in the Diaspora than they were in establishing a Jewish state in Palestine. The Jewish Club is perhaps the most dramatic example of this phenomenon. Finally, its relevance is hardly limited to Jewish Studies. Study of the club will fill an important gap in Habsburg historiography while revisiting the larger question of how Jewish nationalism emerged and developed in its Central European context. It challenges the dominant Zionist narrative by demonstrating that Jewish nationalism was part and parcel of the rising nationalist movements in Europe. As such, it will be of broad interest in Jewish Studies, Habsburg Studies, and the history of nationalism. My final book-length work will include chapters on the biographical background of the major players, multiple chapters on their politics and activities during their parliamentary service, as well as an examination of the party's collapse in 1911 and its legacy. (One member died in 1910, but the others remained key players in interwar Zionist politics.)

My initial funding this year is enabling me to position myself to take excellent advantage of sabbatical leave next year. Funding from the School of Languages, Cultures and World Affairs, and most especially from the Leo Baeck Institute Career Development Fellowship, means that I will begin my sabbatical with a critical mass of research either completed or else photocopied, organized and ready for analysis. This award includes funding for research trips to Vienna and Jerusalem,

which I intend to undertake in the early summer. I expect to have a completed manuscript ready for submission to publishers by the end of my sabbatical leave.

Thank you.

JOSHUA SHANES

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EDUCATION

- 1994-2002 University of Wisconsin, Madison**
Ph.D. in History (2002). Passed departmental comprehensive examinations with distinction (1998). Dissertation: "National Regeneration in the Diaspora: Zionism, Politics and Jewish Identity in Late Habsburg Galicia 1883-1907." David Sorkin, advisor.
- 1993-4, 2000-2 Hebrew University, Jerusalem**
Visiting graduate student
- 1989-93 University of Illinois, Urbana**
B.A. in History (1993), *cum laude*.

TEACHING

- 2006-present College of Charleston, Charleston, SC**
Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program
- 2003-2005 University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI**
Visiting Professor, Department of History
- 2002-2007 Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL**
Instructor
- 1999, 2005-6 University of Illinois, Urbana, IL**
Visiting Professor, Department of History

COURSES TAUGHT

FYSM 142: Understanding Israel (Freshman Seminar)
FYSM 142: Jewish Spirituality (Freshman Seminar)
JWST 200: Introduction to Judaism (Introductory Survey)
JWST 210: Jewish History I: Origins to 1700 (Introductory Survey)
JWST 215: Jewish History II: 1700-present (Introductory Survey)
HIST 102: Modern Europe (Introductory Survey)
HONS 130: Western Civilization II (Honors College Seminar)
JWST 325: Jewish Mysticism (Advanced Research Seminar)
JWST 335: Modern Jewish Politics (Advanced Research Seminar)
JWST 300: Zionism (Advanced Reading Seminar)
East European Jewish Experience (Advanced Reading Seminar)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *The Jewish Club: Europe's First Jewish Parliamentary Faction* (in preparation)
- *Diaspora Nationalism and Jewish Identity in Habsburg Galicia*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012

Journal Articles

- "Ahron Marcus: Portrait of a Zionist Hasid," *Jewish Social Studies* 16.3 (Spring/Summer, 2010): 116-161
- "An Unlikely Alliance: The 1907 Ukrainian-Jewish Electoral Coalition" (co-authored with Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern), *Nations and Nationalism* 15.3 (July, 2009): 483-505
- "The Transformation of Zionist Religious Rhetoric as Seen Through Its Yiddish-Language Propaganda: The Case of Galicia," *Studies in Jewish Civilization* 16 (2005): 285-296
- "Papers for the *Folk*: Jewish Nationalism and the Birth of the Yiddish Press in Galicia," *Polin* 16 (2003): 167-187
- "Neither Germans nor Poles: Jewish Nationalism in Galicia before Herzl, 1883-1897," *Austrian History Yearbook* 34 (2003): 191-214
- "Yiddish and Jewish Diaspora Nationalism," *Monatshefte* 90, no.2 (Summer, 1998): 178-88

Chapters in books

- "Galicia" and "Bund" in Judith Baskin, ed., *Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011
- "Joseph Bloch," "Mikra Kodesh," "Żydowska Partja Socjalistyczna," "Buczacz," "Ivano-Frankivsk," "Kolomyja" and "Nathan Birnbaum" in Gershon Hundert, ed., *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2007
- "National Regeneration in the Ghetto: The Jewish *Turnbewegung* in Galicia," in Jack Kugelmass, ed., *Jews, Sports and the Rites of Citizenship*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2007
- "Fort mit den Hausjuden! Jewish Nationalists Engage Mass Politics," in Michael Berkowitz, ed., *Nationalism, Zionism, and Ethnic Mobilization*. Leiden: Brill, 2004: 152-78

Book Reviews

- Stanislawski, Michael, *A Murder in Lemberg: Politics, Religion, and Violence in Modern Jewish History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007 in *Journal of Modern History* 81.2 (2009)

- Unger, Shabtai, *Poale-Zion in the Austrian Empire 1904-1914* (Hebrew). Tel-Aviv: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 2001 in *Gal-Ed* 19 (2004)
- Rozenblit, Marsha, *Reconstructing a National Identity: The Jews of Habsburg Austria during World War I*. Studies in Jewish History. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001 in *The Historian* 65.5 (2003)
- Vital, David, *A People Apart. A Political History of the Jews in Europe, 1789-1939*. Oxford History of Modern Europe. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999 in *Nations and Nationalism* 9.2 (April 2003)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Leo Baeck Institute, Career Development Fellowship, 2011-2012
- Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Summer Institute Fellow, 2011
- School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs Faculty Research and Development Grant, 2009, 2010, 2011
- American Academy for Jewish Research, Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, University of Michigan Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, 2007
- Visiting Scholar, Northwestern University, 2003-4, 2005-6
- Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2004-5
- Fellow, International Forum of Young Scholars on East European Jewry, 2004
- Martin Gruss Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003
- National Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Fellowship, 2001-2
- George L. Mosse Graduate Exchange Program, University of Wisconsin, 2000-2002
- Fulbright Fellowship for dissertation research in Vienna, Austria, 1999-2000
- Schrag Award for German-Jewish Studies, University of Wisconsin, 1999
- American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Seminar, 1999
- Jacob Javits Fellowship, 1994-8
- Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Yiddish language study, 1998
- Robert and Beverly Natelson Scholarship, University of Wisconsin, 1997
- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship, 1993-4
- Phi Beta Kappa, 1993

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Religious Zionist Options at the Fin-de-Siècle" to be presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2011
- "*Der Emes'r Yid*: Orthodox Politics and Journalism in Fin-de-Siècle Galicia" presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, December 2009

- “Ahron Marcus: Portrait of a Zionist Hasid,” poster session designed for Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2008
- Organized Panel, “Constructed Identities: Jewish Responses to Habsburg Multinationalism” for Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2005
- “Between Assimilationism and Zionism: The Parliamentary Contests of J.S Bloch and Emil Byk” presented at the Seventeenth Annual Conference of the Midwest Jewish Studies Association, Madison, Wisconsin, September 2005
- “The Nationalization of Orthodoxy in Eastern Europe: The Case of Galicia” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2004
- “Laibel Taubes: Orthodox Populism and Jewish Nationalism before the First World War,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2003
- “The Transformation of Zionist Religious Rhetoric as Seen Through Its Yiddish-Language Propaganda: The Case of Galicia,” presented at the Klutznick-Harris Symposium, “The Jews of Eastern Europe,” in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the Midwest Jewish Studies Association, Omaha, September 2003
- “The Yiddish Populist Press in Galicia,” presented at “The Jewish Press – Research in Progress,” an international interdisciplinary conference hosted by German Studies at the Queen’s University of Belfast, May 2003
- “National Regeneration in the Diaspora: Zionism, Politics and Jewish Identity in Late Habsburg Galicia,” presented at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Weekly Colloquium, March, 2003
- “Fort mit den Hausjuden! Jewish Nationalists Engage Mass Politics,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, December 2002
- “Neither German nor Pole: Jewish Nationalist Politics in Galicia before Herzl,” presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, New York, April 2001
- “National Regeneration in the Ghetto: The Jewish *Turnbewegung* in Galicia,” presented at “Joining the Club: Jews, Sports and the Rites of Citizenship,” an international conference hosted by the Jewish Studies Program at Arizona State University, Phoenix, February 2001
- “Yiddish and Jewish Diaspora Nationalism,” presented at “Yiddish Studies: Celebrating a Millennium of Jewish Culture,” an international conference hosted by the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 1996

SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Zionism: Ancient Dream or Modern Revolution,” to be presented at Ohio State University, March 7, 2012
- “Using My Religion: Jewish Nationalism’s Ambiguous Relationship to Orthodoxy” at *Rethinking the History of Jewish Nationalism: An International Symposium*, UCLA, January 30-31, 2011
- “The First Ukrainian-Jewish Rapprochement: 1907 Parliamentary Elections in Galicia,” Watson Institute for International Studies, Brown University, May 24, 2006
- “The Case for Israel,” Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 14, 2005
- “Zionism in Israel” Oakland Community College, Skokie, IL, May 5, 2005
- “The Nationalization of Jewish Identity: The Case of Galicia,” Indiana University, Bloomington, March 11, 2004
- “Culture, Politics and Jewish Nationalism in Late Habsburg Galicia,” Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA), University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 12, 2003

PROFESSIONAL

- Midwest Jewish Studies Association: Vice-president and Program Chair, 2003-2006; President 2006-2009. Organized 2004, 2005, and 2006 annual conferences, co-organized 2007 and 2008 conferences.

LANGUAGES: Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Polish (basic reading)

REFERENCES

1. Professor David Sorkin, University of Wisconsin. djsorkin@gmail.com
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2. Professor Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern. yps@northwestern.edu
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