



Center for Urban History  
of East Central Europe

**Jewish History, Common Past and Heritage: Culture, Cities,  
Milieus**

**7<sup>th</sup> Summer School  
July 11 – August 5, 2016**

**PROF. KAROLINA SZYMANIAK**

**SYLLABUS**

**“(DE/RE)CONSTRUCTIONS OF MODERN JEWISH SPACES IN  
EASTERN EUROPE AND THEIR POST-HOLOCAUST  
REPRESENTATIONS. A SHORT INTRODUCTION”**

**LVIV 2016**

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Culture, Cities, Milieus”

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Syllabus

**„(De/Re)Constructions of Modern Jewish Spaces in Eastern Europe and their post-Holocaust Representations. A Short Introduction”**

**Short description:** the course offers a short introduction to some of the key concepts and literary and cultural practices that shaped the representations of modern Jewish spaces in Eastern Europe as well as their contemporary reconstructions and exhibitions. While focusing on (Jewish) Poland and Yiddish culture, this course introduces critical tools for understanding and interpreting modern (Jewish) constructions and experiences of space and place.

**About the instructor:** Karolina Szymaniak is Assistant Professor at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland, where she heads the Yiddish Culture Unit (currently on sabbatical) and at the Wrocław University (Jewish Studies Department). She is a researcher, editor, translator from Yiddish and English, and language instructor with a PhD in literary and cultural studies. Her research interests range across modern Jewish literatures and cultures, Polish-Jewish literary and cultural relations, politics of memory, theories of modernism and of the avant-garde, women's literature and translation studies.

In addition to having taught Yiddish throughout Poland and Europe, she has served as a consultant for the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Museum of Modern Art (Lodz) and other cultural and academic institutions. She is the author and editor of three books, including a monography of Debora Vogel's aesthetics. Her recent edition of Rachel Auerbach's ghetto writings received the „Polityka” Historical Prize for the best edition of historical sources in 2015.

Schedule (unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings before each class)

**Class 1 Making Space Jewish: Between Storytelling and Tourism**

B. Mann, *Makom*, in, B. Mann, *Space and Place in Jewish Studies*, p. 17-25

H. Bar-Itzhak, *The Geography of the Jewish Imagination: Po-lin among Trees with Leaves from the Gemara*, in *Jewish Poland*, in. H. Bar-Itzhak *Legends of Origin. Ethnopoetics and Legendary Chronicles*, Detroit, 2001, p. 27-30, 33-38

S. Kassow, Travel and Local History as a National Mission. Polish Jews and the Landkentenish Movement in the 1920s and 1930s in: *Jewish Topographies: Visions of Space, Traditions of Place*, ed. By J. Brauch, A. Lipphardt, A. Nocke, Ashgate 2008, p. 242-244, 247-261.

### **Class 2 Shtetl – Constructions and Deconstructions**

Lecture (30 min.) + seminar

J. Shandler, Introduction (p.1-6), Talk of the Town, p. 7, 22-49

S. Kassow, Shtetl, YIVO Encyclopedia (on-line)

S. Ash, Shtetl (fragments in the reader), I.M. Weissenberg, Shtetl (fragments in the reader)

Optional:

D. Miron, The Literaty Image of the Shtetl (in the reader)

### **Class 3 Modern Urban Space – Apocalypse, Alientation, Affection**

Lecture (30 min.) + seminar

B. Mann, City, in Mann, Space and Place in Jewish Studies, p. 17-25

I. Rabon, The Street (fragments in the reader)

P. Markish, The Heap (fragments in the reader)

M. Kulbak, Disner Childe Harolde (fragments in the reader)

Optional:

M. Bradbury, The Cities of Modernism, in: *Modernism: A Guide to European Literature, 1890-1930*, ed. By M. Bradbury and J. McFarlane, New York, 1991.

Georg Simmel, Metropolis and the Mental Life (in the reader)

### **Class 4 Cafes and Shopping Widows – gender, body and the spectacles of capitalism**

D. Bergelson, For 12, 000 Bucks He Fasts Forty Days: Scenes of Berlin, in: Dovid Bergelson, *The Shadows of Berlin*, trans. By J. Neugroschel, San Fransisco 2005, p. 57-64.

D. Vogel, Selection of poems (in English translation – in the course reader), in Polish, cf: K. Szymaniak, *Być agentem wiecznej idei...*, p. in Ukrainian , cf: Дебора Фогель Фігури днів. Манекени, переклад Юрія Прохасько, Київ 2015: p. 15, 16, 37, 39, 41, 79, 105, 113, 115, 116, 122, 147-156, *Akacje kwitną* (Acacias bloosom) available in the reader or in D. Vogel, *Akacje kwitną*, Kraków 2006. Ukrainian translation available here: [http://bukvoid.com.ua/library/debora\\_fogel/akatsiya\\_kvitne\\_fragment/1.html](http://bukvoid.com.ua/library/debora_fogel/akatsiya_kvitne_fragment/1.html)

S. Pinsker, *The Urban Literary Cafe and the Geography of Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism in Europe*, in: *The Oxford Handbook of Global Modernisms* (parts: Modernism and the Third Space of the Literary Cafe & Berlin: Romanisches Cafe and the Flowering of Hebrew and Yiddish Modernism)

D. L. Parsons, *Streetwalking the Metropolis: Women, the City, and Modernity*, 2000, p. 39-42, 46-50.

## **Class 5 Reconstructions - representing and exhibiting Jewish places and spaces after the Holocaust**

Materials provided by the instructor to be analyzed during the class

Fragments of Joanna Dylewska's film *Po-lin. Okruchy pamięci*

A Serious Man – opening scene

photo album: R. Vishniak, *A Vanished World* (also available in the Center library prior to the class for consultation)

POLIN Museum – Shtetl and the Jewish Street Galleries

Chmielnik Shtetl Museum

Optional:

J. Shandler, *Shtetl Fabulous*, in: J. Shandler, *Shtetl. A Vernacular Intellectual History*, p.

C. Zemel, *Z'chor! Roman Vishniac's Photo-Eulogy of Eastern European Jews*, in: C. Zemel, *Looking Jewish. Visual Culture and Modern Diaspora*, Bloomington, 2015.