The Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry is devoted to the study of modern European Jewish history, thought, culture and society. It has a special interest in studying the Holocaust and its aftermath within the context of modern European intellectual, political and social history. The institute is organized on a multidisciplinary basis with the participation of scholars in Jewish studies, history, philosophy, political science, sociology, literature and other disciplines. The institute was founded in 1980 as a result of a major benefaction by Dr. Laszlo N. Tauber and is named in honor of his parents.

The Brandeis-Genesis Institute for Russian Jewry (BGI) holds the mission of galvanizing the Russian-speaking Jewish community around the world by empowering young adults to actively engage in Jewish life, nurturing a cadre of effective communal professionals and strengthening the field of Russian Jewish studies.

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The Genesis Philanthropy Group’s mission is to develop and enhance a sense of Jewish identity among Russian-speaking Jews worldwide, with a particular emphasis on the former Soviet Union, North America, and Israel, where up to three million Russian-speaking Jews reside. It is committed to supporting and launching projects, programming, and institutions that are focused on ensuring that Jewish culture, heritage, and values are preserved in Russian-speaking Jewish communities across the globe.

The Valya and Robert Shapiro Endowment supports programs and publications in the fields of Eastern European Jewish history and culture and Sephardi studies.

The Department of German, Russian and Asian Languages and Literature includes the German Studies Program, the Russian Studies Program, the Chinese Language Program, and the Japanese Language Program, as well as language courses in Hindi and Korean.

New Directions in Russian Jewish Studies: A Scholars Workshop
Sunday, April 3 and Monday, April 4, 2016
Brandeis University Faculty Club

Sunday, April 3, 2016
9:30 am – 12:00 noon
Introductory Remarks: ChaeRan Y. Freeze (Brandeis University)

I. In the Storm: Guns, Blood, and Steel
Discussant/Moderator: Eugene Avrutin (University of Illinois)
• Mihaly Kalman (Harvard University), “A Pogromless City: Jewish Paramilitaries in Civil War Odessa”
• Jeffrey Veidlinger (University of Michigan), “Six Million Jews in Peril: The Pogroms of the Civil War Period”
• Elissa Bemporad (Queens College), “On the Politics and Memory of the Pogroms of the Russian Civil War”

12:00 noon-12:45
–Lunch Buffet–

1:00 – 3:00 pm
II. Seekers of Happiness: Soviet Jewish Culture
Discussant/Moderator: Elizabeth Wood (MIT)
• Harriet Murav (University of Illinois), “Bergelson and Bolshevism: Judgment Delayed is not Justice Denied”
• Sasha Senderovich (University of Colorado, Boulder), “Seekers of Happiness: Mobility, Culture, and the Creation of the Soviet Jew”

Monday, April 4, 2016
9:30 am-12:00 noon

III. Life and Fate: World War II
Discussant/Moderator: Gennady Estraikh (New York University)
• Oleg Budnitskii (National Research University-Higher School of Economics), “Letters from the Front Line: A Soviet Jewish Family in War and Peace”
• Kiril Feferman (Ariel University), “Placing Religion in the Context of Jewish Survival in the Occupied Soviet Territories”
• Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto), “Grieving on Mothers’ Graves and Fighting with Machine Guns: Soviet Yiddish Folksongs of World War II”

12:00 noon – 12:45 pm
–Lunch Buffet–

1:00 – 3:00 pm
V. Windows: Post-Soviet Jewish Culture
Discussant/Moderator: ChaeRan Freeze (Brandeis University)
• Klavdia Smola (Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald), “Russian Jewish Writing in Germany: Poetics of Hybridity and the Reinvention of Jewish Tradition”
• Mikhail Krutikov (University of Michigan), “Between Yerusholayim d’Lite and Yehupets: Imagining Jewish Urban Space in Post-Soviet Literature”
• Anna Katsnelson (Medgar Evers College), “The Joy and Sadness of Russian Jewish Cooking: Food in Recent Immigrant Texts”