BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

N|E|J|S

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN AND JUDAIC STUDIES | GRADUATE STUDIES





One of the largest and most diverse programs of its kind, NEJS is dedicated to intellectual openness and engagement with critical questions of history, literature, religion and culture relating to the Bible and the Ancient Near East, Jewish studies and Arabic and Islamic civilizations. At Brandeis, you can pursue a graduate degree with leading scholars dedicated to the finest instruction, mentoring and preparation of students for careers in academia or the professional world.



PHD PROGRAMS

At the PhD level, the department offers three independent tracks.

BIBLE AND ANCIENT NEAR EAST

The Hebrew Bible in its original languages, studied through the rich and varied prisms of Near Eastern texts, languages, histories and religions.

JEWISH STUDIES

The Jewish people's history, religion, literature and thought, from ancient to modern periods and spanning diverse geographical regions.

ARABIC AND ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS

The religions, literatures and intellectual traditions of the Islamic world with a focus on Arabic-speaking regions.



שפייז וועם געווינען דיא קריעג

איהר קומט אהער או געפינען פרייהייט.
יעצט מוזט איהר העלפען זיא צו בעשיצען
מיר מוזען דיא עלליים פערזארגען מיט ווייץ
לאזט קיין זאך נים גיין אין ניוועי

MA PROGRAMS

MA students may choose to concentrate in one of the three tracks of the PhD program or design a personalized curriculum through the diverse areas of expertise among our faculty. In addition to the independent NEJS MA, the department supports three dual-degree programs.

- Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
- > Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Hornstein: the Jewish Professional Leadership Program
- > Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and Coexistence and Conflict Studies



TEXT | CONTEXT | METHOD

The NEJS approach stresses working with texts in their original languages, in their historical contexts, and in dialogue with cutting-edge methods in the humanities and social sciences. Language expertise enables students to hear voices from the past firsthand, opens archives to new discoveries and allows for original research. An emphasis on context underscores that cultural artifacts cannot be understood apart from the worlds in which they were produced. Methodological sophistication strengthens research and prepares students to work with colleagues in the variegated disciplines of history, literature, philosophy, sociology, gender studies and religious studies. With these three cords, NEJS students engage the past while standing at the vanguard of contemporary scholarship.

The threefold cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:12





Interact closely with world-class faculty whose commitment to innovative scholarship, teaching and mentorship has had far-reaching impact. Their work has garnered numerous prestigious awards, including the MacArthur Fellowship, National Jewish Book Award, Martin E. Marty Public Understanding of Religion Award, Marshall Sklare Award, Salo W. Baron Book Prize and Ben Halpern Award for Best Dissertation in Israel Studies, among others. The small student-faculty ratio fosters close advising and strong mentorship relationships. Dedicated faculty train students in their respective fields and provide opportunities for research, teaching experience and professional service.



RECENT DISSERTATIONS

POETIC FEATURES OF THE PRIESTLY NARRATIVE (2013)
JASON GAINES (COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS)

COMMENTARY AND AUTHORITY IN MESOPOTAMIA AND QUMRAN (2015)

BRONSON BROWN-DEVOST (BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY)

LET ALL LIFE BE IN COMMON: JEWISH UNIVERSALISM FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE THROUGH THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD (2015)

MALKA SIMKOVICH (CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION IN CHICAGO)

FINDING A PLACE FOR THE PAST: SEPHARDIC RECONFIGURATIONS OF SPAIN AND PALESTINE (1914-1968) (2015)

ALLYSON GONZALEZ (FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY)

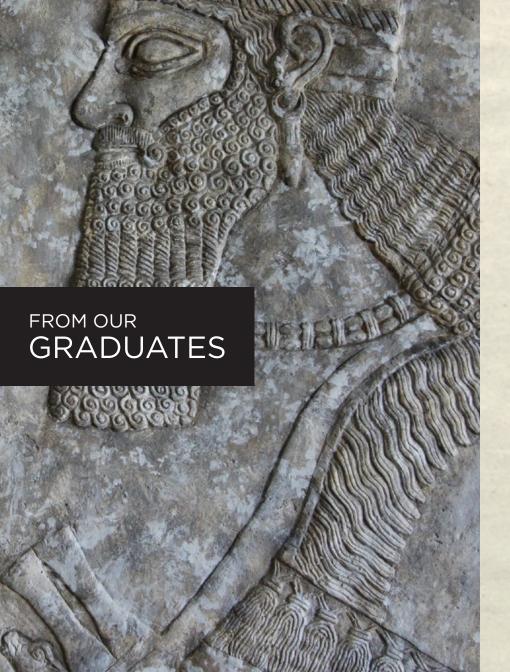
POWER, PULPITS AND PEWS: RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY AND THE FORMATION OF AMERICAN JUDAISM, 1816-1885 (2015) ZEV ELEFF (TOURO COLLEGE AND HEBREW THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE)

JEWS & THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR: THE TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JEWISH POWS, JAPAN AND JACOB H. SCHIFF (2014)

MINA MURAOKA (NATIONAL DEFENSE ACADEMY OF JAPAN)

MAPPING THE NATION: SIMUN SHVILIM AND THE CREATION OF ISRAEL'S HIKING TRAIL NETWORK (2013)

SHAY RABINEAU (BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY)



I am the biggest cheerleader for the Brandeis NEJS department that I know. It is because of my work there that I have become the scholar I wanted to be. I owe a great debt of gratitude to Brandeis.

JEFFREY STACKERT, PHD'06, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HEBREW BIBLE, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO DIVINITY SCHOOL

The NEJS master's program is excellent at focusing on a scholar's strengths and encouraging an internal confidence that allows for one's best performance.

CHELSIE MAY, MA'14, PHD STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

NEJS has a rigorous yet warm atmosphere that is consistently and thoughtfully geared to ensuring student success in producing original scholarship and in multifarious career pursuits. With much thanks to excellent mentorship and generous support, I feel thoroughly prepared for teaching, publishing and engaging in thought leadership in the public sphere.

CELENE IBRAHIM, PHD STUDENT IN NEJS, JOINT MA IN NEJS AND WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES, 2014, SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE AT HEBREW COLLEGE AND ANDOVER NEWTON THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL, CO-DIRECTOR OF CIRCLE, A GLOBAL INTERRELIGIOUS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

NEJS professors are impressive scholars in their fields who are passionate about teaching and student learning. After graduating, I received a Fulbright to study and teach in Morocco. The emphasis that NEJS puts on cultural understanding helped prepare me for living abroad.

HANNAH LEVINGER, MA'13, HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH AND HISTORY TEACHER

As a NEJS student, one receives unmatched attention from academic giants and feels part of a scholarly community that values inclusivity, promotes academic rigor and encourages vigorous debate.

VLAD "JUDAH" KHAYKIN, NEJS-HORNSTEIN, 2011, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AT THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, CENTRAL PACIFIC REGION



Josephus Herodis M. Josephus

Antipater duxit Cipron.

Antipas.

Phalaelus

Phalaelus cui nupsit

Olympiadem Mariamne

duxit

Herodes Magn

xander. Alexandra. Cypros. nupsit

GETTING IN TOUCH

duxit Jotapen filiam Regis Herodis M ex Marianne

Jotape.

Aristobulus

Mariamne

nupta

Alexandri filia

Cypros nupta

Drufilla

Mariamne Archelao Azizo Regi dein Felici Procuratori Tudaca.

& postcaRex Hyrcanus .

Agrippa

Herodi Regi Chalcidis. dein Polemoni Regi Cilicia.

Berenice

Berenice. Agrippinus.

Agrippa

ex Mariamne Pont Simon fil

Salome nugsit Philippo

Regis Chalcidis.

To learn more about the NEJS program at Brandeis University, please visit our website, contact us through phone or email, or stop by our office. We look forward to hearing from you!

brandeis.edu/departments/nejs 781-736-2950 nejs@brandeis.edu Located in Lown 211

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