

# "Jews and Other Poles": A Tribute to Gershon Hundert (z"l)



This two-day symposium celebrates the remarkable legacy of our dear colleague and friend, Gershon Hundert (1946-2023). Over the course of his 48 years at McGill University, Gershon left an indelible impact on faculty and students. Not only was his scholarship influential but his warmth and generosity as a mentor, colleague, and teacher were legion. Beyond Montreal, scholars across the world recognize Gershon as one of the most significant Jewish historians of his generation. His pioneering research on the Jews of Eastern Europe reshaped our understanding of Jewish history and continues to inspire new generations.

"Jews and Other Poles" brings together some of the most creative and innovative minds in Polish and Eastern European Jewish history to reflect on the state of the field and its future – a fitting tribute to Gershon's enduring influence.

The symposium begins on Sunday, September 22 with a keynote address by Olga Litvak (Cornell University) entitled "Remapping Jewish Modernity: The Legacy of Gershon Hundert." Litvak's talk will set the tone for what promises to be a series of thought-provoking discussions.

On Monday, September 23, the tribute continues with a full day of panels by scholars who have drawn inspiration from Gershon's extraordinary contributions. Together, we will honour Gershon's memory and continue the important conversation he started half a century earlier.

## Sunday, September 22, 2024

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Congregation Dorshei Emet

18 Cleve Rd, Hampstead, Quebec H3X 1A6

## Monday, September 23, 2024

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Faculty Club, Billiard Room, McGill University

Free event, scan the QR code to RSVP

### Session 1 | 9:00-10:30

Borders, Borderlands, and Boundary Crossing in the Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth

#### Chair: John Zucchi

**Adam Teller**, Beeswax and Books: Connections Between Polish-Lithuanian and Ottoman Jews at the End of the Sixteenth Century  
**Mania Cieśla**, Microhistories of Coexistence: Jews and non-Jews in an Urban Context in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth  
**Moshe Rosman**, Two Models of Female Piety: Beyla Falk (Sixteenth Century) vs Leah Horowitz (Eighteenth Century) (delivered remotely)

Coffee Break | 10:30 - 11:00

### Session 2 | 11:00-12:00

Crowns, Courts, and Thrones: Rethinking Jewish Paths to Modernity

#### Chair: Heidi Wendt

**Uriel Gellman**, Tradition in Transition: Social Engagement in Early Hasidism  
**Ofer Dynes**, The Legend of Saul Wahl: A Reconsideration

### Session 3 | 13:00-14:30

Poetry as Memory, Memoires as History

#### Chair: Olga Litvak

**Jeremy Brown**, Textual Discoveries (After the Verbing of Text): Between Modern Poland-Lithuania and Medieval Spain  
**Esther Frank**, The Literary Relation between Memory and History in Rokhl Korn's Village Poetry  
**Israel Bartal**, Each Generation and Its Own Memoirs? The Jewish "Conscious Self" in Three Ashkenazi Ego Documents.

Coffee Break | 14:30 - 15:00

### Session 4 | 15:30-16:30

"Jews and Other Poles" in the Modern Period

#### Chair: Christopher Silver

**Nancy Sinkoff**, Reporting on the Spanish Civil War through Polish Jewish Eyes: S. L. Shneiderman's Krig in Shpanyen: Hinterland  
**Natalie Cornett**, Exploring the Impact of Women's Education on Polish-Jewish Relations in Nineteenth-Century Poland  
**Ula Madej-Krupitski**, Zakopane as a Jewish Space? A Reevaluation of the 1920s and 1930s.

Closing Remarks | 16:45



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Sunday



Monday

