

# JESSICA KIRZANE

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Jewish Studies Scholar, Literary Translator,  
Editor, Yiddish Instructor

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[Jessicakirzane.com](http://Jessicakirzane.com)

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2018-present **Assistant Instructional Professor in Yiddish, University of Chicago**

## EDUCATION

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2017 **Ph.D. Yiddish Studies, Columbia University**

Dissertation: "The Melting Plot: Interethnic Romance in American Jewish Fiction in the Early Twentieth Century"; Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Dauber

2013 **M. Phil., Yiddish Studies, Columbia University**

2011 **M.A., Yiddish Studies, Columbia University**

2008 **B. A., English Literature and Jewish Studies, University of Virginia**

## EDITORIAL POSITIONS

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2018-present **Editor-in-Chief, *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies***

2016-2018 **Pedagogy Editor/Managing Editor, *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies***

2017 **Contributing Editor, Teach Great Jewish Books, a website of the Yiddish Book Center**

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

*Diary of a Lonely Girl, or the Battle Against Free Love.* by Miriam Karpilove, trans. and with an introduction by Jessica Kirzane (Syracuse University Press, 2020).

*A Provincial Newspaper, and Other Stories by Miriam Karpilove.* Trans. and with an introduction by Jessica Kirzane (manuscript under review).

### Essays in Edited Volumes

"Emma Wolf" in the *Shalvi-Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women* (Jewish Women's Archive, forthcoming).

"The 'Yiddish Gaze': American Yiddish Literary Representations of Black Bodies and their Torture." *Race with Jewish Ethics.* Jonathan Crane, ed. (Penn State University Press, 2020).

"Kansas Jewish Literature." *Kansas Jews: People and Places. An Encyclopedia of Kansas Jewish History, 1854-1954.* (forthcoming)

"Afterward" (with Ellen Cassedy) to *On the Landing: Collected Stories of Yenta Mash.* Trans. Ellen Cassedy. University of New Mexico Press, 2019.

“‘What Kind of a Man are You?’: The Sexualization of Race and the Trope of Alienation in Yiddish American Narratives of Interethnic Sexual Encounter.” *The Sacred Encounter: Jewish Perspectives on Sexuality*. Lisa Grushcow, ed. CCAR Press, 2014, pp. 195-208.

## Refereed Journal Articles

“Women, Love, and the Reform Jewish Mission: Jewish-Christian Marriage in Emma Wolf’s *Other Things Being Equal* and its Literary Successors” (*American Jewish History*, forthcoming).

“Ambivalent Attitudes Toward Inter marriage in the Forverts, 1905-1920.” *Journal of Jewish Identities* 8:1 (January 2015), pp. 23-47.

“‘This is How a Generation Grows:’ Lynching as a Site of Ethical Loss in Yiddish Literature.” *Zutot* 9 (2012), pp. 59-71. Reprinted in *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*.

## Translations

“Monday Blue” and “Prairie Suns” by Shloyme Shvarts (Selwyn Schwartz), *AzonaL*, 2020.

“Chicago,” by Miriam Karpilove, *Another Chicago Magazine*, 2020.

Excerpt from *Yudis* by Miriam Karpilove, *Pakn Treger 2020 Translation Issue*.

“Father of the Whole World,” by Elyash, *Jewish Currents*, 2020.

“Recollections about N. M. Shaykevitch Shomer” by Dora Schulner, *Pakn Treger*, 2019.

“Theatre: A Sketch” by Miriam Karpilove, *Digital Yiddish Theatre Project*, 2019.

Excerpt from “A Provincial Newspaper” by Miriam Karpilove, *Pakn Treger 2019 Translation Issue*.

“The Small Opinions of Great Men” by Getsl Zelikovits, *Pakn Treger 2019 Translation Issue*, with Jonah Lubin, Matthew Johnson and Corbin Allardice

“New York’s First Time Women Voters” by Miriam Karpilove, *Jewish Currents*, 2019.

“Freydl” by Miriam Karpilove *Columbia Journal*, 2019.

“Elul” by Y. Adler. *CCAR Journal*, December 2018.

“Mutual Consent,” excerpt from *Diary of a Lonely Girl or the Battle Against Free Love* by Miriam Karpilove. *Your Impossible Voice*, Spring 2018.

Excerpt from *Diary of a Lonely Girl or the Battle Against Free Love* by Miriam Karpilove. *Queen Mob’s Teahouse, Queer Translations Issue*. June 2018.

“An Old Woman with Young Dreams” by Yenta Serdatsky. *Pakn Treger 2018 Translation Issue*.

“Blessed is the True Judge” by Leon Kobrin. *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. May 2018.

“The Yom Kippur Light Went Out” and “Ne’ilah” by Rosa Palatnik. Website of the Yiddish Book Center. September 2017.

“The Institute for Facial Reform” by Getsl Selikovich. Website of the Yiddish Book Center. November 2016. Reprinted in *Funny Ha, Ha*, Paul Merton, ed. London: Head of Zeus, 2019.

“She Waits,” “The Young Widow,” and “The Loyal Cousin” by Yente Serdatsky. *Have I Got a Story For You: More than*

*a Century of Yiddish Fiction from the Forward*. W.W. Norton, 2016.

"A Lynching" by Joseph Opatoshu. *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. June 2016.

"California" from Peretz Hirschbein's *Iber Amerike*. *Recovering Yiddish Culture in Los Angeles*. May 2016.

Excerpt from *Diary of a Lonely Girl or the Battle Against Free Love* by Miriam Karpilov. *In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. Jan. 2016.

"Elisheva the Poet" by Hava Shapiro. *'The Mother of All Living' and the Birth of Modern Hebrew Literature: From the Writings of Hava Shapiro (1878-1943)*. Ed. Carole Balin and Wendy Zierler. Wayne State University Press, 2014. (with Sonia Gollance).

"Platonic Love" by Yente Sardatsky. *Jewishfiction.net* (Pesach 2013).

"Search for the Woman" by Yente Sardatsky. *Pakn Treger 2014 Translation Issue*. (November 2014). Reprinted in *The Abandoned Book: A New Collection of Yiddish Translations*. Yiddish Book Center, 2017.

"New York" from Peretz Hirschbein's *Iber Amerike*. In *Pakn Treger*, No. 67 (Summer 2013) pp. 39-40. Reprinted in *The Abandoned Book: A New Collection of Yiddish Translations*, edited by Eitan Kensky. Yiddish Book Center, 2017 and *How Yiddish Changed America and How America Changed Yiddish*, edited by Josh Lambert and Ilan Stavans, Restless Books, 2020.

"Yiddish" from Peretz Hirschbein's *Iber Amerike*. In *Trinity Journal of Literary Translation*, Vol. 1 (April 2013) pp. 172-183.

### **Pedagogical Resources (selected)**

Resource Kits on Teach Great Jewish Books, a website of the Yiddish Book Center: [A Cultural History Chanukah Gelt](#); [Rosh Chodesh and the Transformation of Ritual](#); [A Million Matzo Balls \(with Rachel B. Gross\)](#); [Abraham Cahan's Yek!](#); [The Sukkah in Modern Jewish Literature and Culture](#); [Esther: A Heroine For Our Time?](#); [Sacrilige and Sacredness on Yom Kippur](#); [Gluckel of Hameln: The Life of an Early Modern Jewish Woman \(with Julie Rezmovic-Tonti\)](#); [This is the Moment I Trained for in Hebrew School and Kol Nidre: Variations on a Theme](#); [Miriam Karpilove's Dairy of a Lonely Girl](#); [Yenta Mash's "A Seder in the Taiga"](#)

"[Improvisational Performance in the Language Classroom: An Example from a Yiddish Class](#)," *In geveb*, March 2020.

"[Teaching Guide to Erotic Yiddish Poetry](#)," *In geveb*, April 2019.

"[Teaching Yiddish Through Song](#)," *In geveb*. February, 2019.

"[From Kansas to Kentucky in a Jewish Literature Classroom: A "Creative Option" for Reflection Papers](#)," *In geveb*. November, 2017.

"[Teaching Guide for Kerler's "Old Man" and "The Sea" \(trans. Evrona\)](#)," *In geveb*. January 2017.

"[Teaching Guide for Dik's 'Slavery or Serfdom' \(Trans. Rosenblatt\)](#)," *In geveb*. October 2016.

"[In geveb in the Classroom: Getting to Know the Best Dressed Better](#)," *In geveb*. February 2016.

"[Games for Small Groups](#)," *In Geveb*. November 2015.

### **Reviews**

Molodovsky, Kadya, *A Jewish Refugee in New York: Rivke Zilberg's Journal*, trans. Anita Norich. *The Empty Mirror*, September 2019.

Engel, Laura Eve, *Things That Go. Jewish Currents*, January 2019.

Anctil, Pierre, *Jacob Isaac Segal: A Montreal Yiddish Poet and His Milieu*. Trans. Vivian Felson. *Canadian Jewish Studies*, 2019.

Portnoy, Eddy, *Bad Rabbi, And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press*. H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews. January, 2018.

Lempel, Blume, *Oedipus in Brooklyn, and Other Stories*, trans. Ellen Cassedy and Yermiyahu Ahron Taub. Jewish Book Council, 2017.

### **Other (selected)**

"Translating Miriam Karpove's *Diary of a Lonely Girl*," Jewish Women's Archive, February 2020.

"Oh, Give Me a Home: Jewish American Literature Beyond the City." *Paper Brigade*, vol. 3., January 2019.

"Weaving in Yiddish: An Interview with Michael Bass and Berit Engen on Yiddish Community and Creativity in Oak Park, IL." *In geveb*. October, 2018.

"Yiddish Linguistics and Digital Humanities: A Conversation with Michelle Chesner about the Language and Culture Atlas of Ashkenazi Jewry." *In geveb*. February 2018.

"A Jewish Autobiography in T-Shirts." *Hidden in Plain Sight: T-Shirts and the Creation of Ethnic Identity*. New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative.

"Rose Rosenberg: A Young Jewish Woman Behind the Scenes of No. 10 Downing Street." *Blog: Jewesses With Attitude (Jewish Women's Archive)*. Feb. 2015.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)**

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Panels Organized	"Gender and Genre: Power and Proscriptivism of Form in Modern Jewish Poetry and Prose." Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 16-18, 2018.
	"Intergroup Relations in the Jewish Literary Imagination." Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 15-17, 2013.
Roundtables	"Compendia, Handbooks and Documentary Collections: Trends in Jewish studies Publications and their Implications for Libraries, Teaching and Scholarship." Association for Jewish Libraries, Evanston, IL, June 30, 2020 (discussant). CANCELED DUE TO COVID
	"Publish or Perish? Rethinking Academic Journals for Graduate Students and Contingent Scholars" Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 15-17, 2019. (Organized and served as discussant)
	"Teaching Jewish Studies through Food Studies" Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 15-17, 2019. (Moderator)
	"Teaching in Translation, Teaching as Translation." Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 16-18, 2018. (Co-organized and served as chair)
	"Sex in Yiddish Literature and Culture." Association for Jewish Studies, San Francisco,

December 18-20, 2016. (Organized and served as discussant)

“‘Fievel Goes West’: Jewish Literature in the American West.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 13-15, 2015. (Discussant)

Papers Presented

“Against the ‘Science’ of Free Love in Yiddish Popular Fiction.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 16-18, 2018.

“The Battle Against Free Love: Literature and Journalism about Romance in *Di Varheit* During World War I.” Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, December 17-19, 2017.

“The State of Inter marriage in Contemporary American Jewish Literature.” Midwest Jewish Studies Association, Springfield, MO, September 11-12, 2016.

“Gender in Opatoshu’s Inter marriage Stories in *Der Tog*.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 13-15, 2015.

“Inter marriage and the Uncanny in the Literary Imagination of *Di Yunge*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference. Atlanta, Georgia. November 21-23, 2015.

“The Ethics of Inter marriage in *The American Jewess, 1895-1899*.” Society for Jewish Ethics, Chicago. January 10-11, 2015.

“Inter marriage as a Site of Women’s Liberation in Early Twentieth Century Jewish American Fiction.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 15-17, 2013.

“Getsl Zelikovich and the Questioning of Racial and Literary Hierarchies.” Scheler Family Humanities Forum: Law and Comedy in Jewish Textual Traditions, Lehigh University. September 27, 2012.

Panels Moderated

Panel on Writers in German Performing Linguistic Defiance. Linguistic Homelands: Modern Hebrew, Yiddish, German. The University of Chicago, November 26-27, 2018.

“American Jewish Culture.” The Materials of Jewish Studies, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies Young Scholars Conference, Columbia University, May 28-29, 2014.

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND INVITED LECTURES (SELECTED)

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“The Costs of Free Love: Miriam Karpilove’s *Diary of a Lonely Girl*,” Chicago YIVO Society Summer Yiddish Festival, June 25, 2019; Lafayette College, October 2019; University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March 2020; Yidish Vokh (virtual), July 2020 (in Yiddish).

“Collaborative Digital Open Access Publishing and Community Building: In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies,” Digital Humanities Lab of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March 12, 2020.

“The House that Yankl Built” talkback discussion about Sholem Ash’s *God of Vengeance* following a staged reading. Victory Gardens Theater, Chicago. September 6, 2018.

“Kansas Jewish Literature.” Day of Discovery, Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, August 2017.

“Philip Roth’s *Everyman* as Ethnic American Literature,” delivered to a class on Ethnic American Literature. Missouri Valley College. April 27, 2016.

“American Yiddish Literary Representations of African Americans.” Day of Discovery, Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, August 2016.

“Women Writers of Yiddish Literature.” (series) The Temple, Congregation B’nai Jehudah, Overland Park, KS. January 17-19, 2016.

“Classic Yiddish Writers.” Day of Discovery, Rabbinical Association of Greater Kansas City, August 2015.

“Using American Jewish Primary Source Documents to Teach About Jewish Holidays.” *Jewish Women’s Archive New York Workshop*, July 2014.

“Highlights of the Yiddish Theater.” (series) Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York City. January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 2013.

“The Opposite of Yom Kippur?: Transgressive Expressions of Yom Kippur in Yiddish Literature and Culture.” Temple Emmanu-El-Beth Sholom, Montreal. September 26, 2012.

“The Literature of Sholom Aleichem.” (series) Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York City. October 25; November 1, 15, 22, 2011.

## UNIVERSITY LEVEL COURSES TAUGHT

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Elementary Yiddish I, II, III (University of Chicago)  
Intermediate Yiddish I (University of Chicago)  
Intermediate Yiddish II: Archival Skills (University of Chicago)  
Yiddish Literature in America (University of Chicago)  
Readings in World Literature: Autobiographies (University of Chicago)  
Readings in World Literature: Epics (University of Chicago)  
American Jewish Literature and Culture (The University of Kansas)  
Contemporary Jewish Identities (The University of Kansas)  
Elementary Yiddish I and II (Columbia University)

## OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Summer 2019	Advanced Yiddish Reading Circle: Yiddish Literature of Chicago, Chicago YIVO Society
2017-2018	World History I (8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> grade), Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, Overland Park, KS
Fall 2012, Spring 2015	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , “Jewish Humor,” Columbia University
Spring 2012	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced Yiddish, Columbia University
2011-2015	<b>High School Supplemental School Teacher</b> , Rebecca and Israel Ivry Prozdor Hebrew High School at the Jewish Theological Seminary

## PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

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Summer 2020 **Participant, Mellon Test Design and Development Workshop, University of Chicago Language Center**

- Summer 2019 **Participant, Jumpstart Your Teaching Pedagogy Institute, University of Chicago**
- Summer 2019 **Participant, Workshop on Teaching Yiddish, YIVO**
- Summer 2019 **ACTFL 4-Day Oral Proficiency Interview Assessment Workshop, University of Chicago Language Center**
- 2018-2019 **Pedagogy Fellow, Yiddish Book Center**
- Spring 2014 **Certification in Collaborative Learning: Workshop Series, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Teaching Center**
- Summer 2012 **Participant, "The Power of our Stories: Institute for Educators," Jewish Women's Archive**
- Summer 2011 **Participant, Yiddish Teacher's Seminar, Yugntruf: Youth for Yiddish**

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Translator/Research Assistant: Composed footnotes for Lori Harrison-Kahan and Barbara Cantalupo's edited re-issue of Emma Wolf's novel *Heirs of Yesterday*. June 2019.

Research Assistant: Archival research in American Jewish history for Professor James Loeffler, University of Virginia. 2010-2014.

Research Assistant: Archival research in Jewish literary history for Professors Carole Balin and Wendy Zierler, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. 2012-2013.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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- 2019-present Member, Governance Committee of the Association for Jewish Studies
- 2019-present Referee/Reviewer: Syracuse University Press
- 2018-present Referee/Reviewer: *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies; Jewish Social Studies*
- 2017-present Member, Advisory Committee, Teach Great Jewish Books, Yiddish Book Center
- 2016, 2017 Participant, Selection Committee for The Natalia Twersky Jewish Educator Award, Jewish Women's Archive
- 2015-present Member, Education Working Group, Jewish Women's Archive
- 2013-2014 Chair, Jewish Studies Graduate Student Association, Columbia University
- April 19, 2013 Conference Co-Chair, Columbia University Institute for Comparative Literature and Society Graduate Student Conference: "Measurement"

## AWARDS

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- 2018 Cashmere Subvention Award in Jewish Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies, awarded by the Women's Caucus of the AJS for my manuscript, a translation of Miriam Karpilove's *Diary of a*

*Lonely Girl or the Battle Against Free Love.*

2017	Rosalie Katchen Award of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute to attend the AJS Conference
2017	Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellowship
2015-2016	Irene C. Fromer Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Columbia University
2015	Adrienne Asch Scholarship to attend the SJE Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois
2013	Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Research Award (\$2000)
2013	Association for Jewish Studies Women's Caucus Travel Grant to attend the AJS Conference

## ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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2020-present **American Literary Translators Association**

2011 - present **Association for Jewish Studies**

2011 - present **League for Yiddish**

## LANGUAGES

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Speaking and Reading Fluency: Yiddish

Reading Knowledge: Hebrew, German, French