The Wrong Family Holocaust Story
Survival of Polish Jews in Stalin’s Russia

**PRESENTER:** Ellen Friedman
Professor, The College of New Jersey

**RESPONDENT:** Joshua Rubenstein
Associate Director, Major Gifts, Harvard Law School; Center Associate, Davis Center

**Wednesday, February 14 – 4:15-6:00 p.m.**
CGIS South, Concourse Level, Room S020

Ellen G. Friedman’s presentation centers on the largely unknown story of Polish Jews who were saved from Hitler by Stalin. This story is at the center of her new book, *The Seven, A Family Holocaust Story.* Of the 3.3 million Jews in Poland before WWII, only about 350,000 survived, most of them by being banished to remote areas in the USSR. The reasons for the obscurity of this Holocaust narrative relate to its being the “wrong” story. Not about concentration camps, this story was buried by historians and by Polish Jews, themselves, who felt they were low on the “hierarchy of victimhood.” Also, Cold War attitudes towards the Soviet Union discouraged those who wished to immigrate to the United States to expose where they were harbored. As this “wrong” Holocaust story, a story mainly of survival, makes its way into the larger story, how will it affect the Holocaust narrative.

Russian Jews in Italy: 1905-1922

**PRESENTER:** Stefano Garzonio
Professor of Slavic Studies, Pisa University

**RESPONDENT:** Stanley Rabinowitz
Henry Steele Commager Professor, Amherst College; Center Associate, Davis Center

**Wednesday, March 14 – 4:15-6:00 p.m.**
CGIS South, Concourse Level, Room S020

This talk focuses on the presence and the role of Jewish émigrés from Russia in Italy in 1905–1922. During this period many Jewish-Russian intellectuals and revolutionaries found both a shelter and a fertile ground for their activities in Italy—above all in Rome, Naples, Florence, Milan and on the Ligurian coast. Several Jewish representatives of the socialist movement as well as Zionism were able to live and work in Italy. Among Russian exiles there were many Jewish students registered at Italian universities, and a number of painters and writers. One of them, Osip Blinderman (Félyne), became a well-known Italian novelist and playwright. Following the 1917 Revolution many Russian Jews collaborated with the Italian Socialist Party, sometimes working directly with the first Soviet mission in Italy. There were also connections between Russian Jewish expatriates and members of the rising Fascist movement. Russian Jews made a fascinating contribution to the political life of Italy, to its culture, literature and the arts during what was a turbulent period of the country’s history.

Brodsky Among Us: One Book, Two Cultures

**Ellendea Proffer Teasley**
Author; Co-founder, Ardis Publishers and *Russian Literature Triquarterly*

**Wednesday, April 18 – 4:15-6:00 p.m.**
CGIS South, Concourse Level, Room S010

In her personal memoir of Joseph Brodsky, his American friend and publisher Ellendea Proffer Teasley offers much previously unknown material about the great poet’s life in Leningrad, his leaving Russia and his career in the New World. Written in English, Teasley’s book had first come out in Russia to enjoy phenomenal reception and become a bestseller. In 2017 it was finally published in Boston by Academic Studies Press, in a book series on Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe. In her presentation, Dr. Teasley will discuss her book about Brodsky, how she wrote it, and how it was received first in Russia, Brodsky’s native country, and later in the US, his adopted country.

Jewish Odessa: Trade, Community, and Culture in the Port City

**Patricia Herlihy**
Professor Emerita, Brown University; Center Associate, Davis Center

**Wednesday, May 2 – 4:15-6:00 p.m.**
CGIS South, 1st Floor, Room S153

Drawing on *Odessa Recollected,* a new collection of her Odessa articles, the historian Patricia Herlihy will discuss how in many respects Jews adopted Odessa as their city more than did any other inhabitants. Present there only in small numbers at the beginning, Jews came to form one third of Odessa’s population by the 1917 Revolution. While some Greeks and Italians made fortunes in the grain trade, only Jews boasted that one could “live like God in Odessa.” At the same time, pious Jews declared that the fires of hell burned around the city. What were the patterns and products of the Jewish experience? Why did Jews gravitate so much to the port city? Odessa is known for pogroms, Babel’s Moldavanka, Zionism, music, and humor, all part of an intricate myth of the city. Yet there is more to discover about the vibrant urban presence of Jews in Odessa over the past two centuries.

ABOUT THE SERIES

Interdisciplinary in nature and broad in scope, the Project on Russian and Eurasian Jewry features presentations by scholars and authors working at various intersections of Russian/Soviet/Eurasian Studies and Jewish Studies. The Project on Russian and Eurasian Jewry has been made possible with the generous support of Genesis Philanthropy Group.

**CHAIR: Maxim D. Shrayer**
Professor of Russian, English, and Jewish Studies, Boston College; Director, Project on Russian and Eurasian Jewry, Davis Center | shrayerm@bc.edu

All events are free and open to the public.