Editor's Introduction

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This issue represents the beginning of our new relationship with Springer Publications, a connection that we hope will lead to more readers, easier access (including an online presence), and three issues a year. We now are backed up by the staff and facilities at Springer and have all the impact of their wide advertising network and experience with journals. In addition, our new Managing Editor, Dr. Yoel Finkelman, has been doing a fist-rate job in handling the myriad details of getting our journal out.

The current issue 29:1 offers a fascinating collection of papers. Nathaniel Deutsch explores the tension among the haredi Orthodox between access to innovative technology that they embrace and the perceived cultural dangers that come with such access. He finds the fact that haredim are sometimes the purveyors of that technology worthy of analysis. Deutsch helps us understand how this tension is handled and the implications of the social process behind it. Nancy Isserman in her "Political Tolerance and Intolerance: Using Qualitative Interviews to Understand the Attitudes of Holocaust Survivors" provides us with some insights into how to explain the political attitudes and worldviews of those who survived the Nazi firestorm. Her research, part of the "Transcending Trauma Project," offers a sociological key to understanding the varying responses toward the world and those who were associated with the perpetrators of the persecutions and murders. In his cyber-ethnography, "What are they Talking About? Listserv Discussion as a Window on the Concerns of Jewish Educators," Alex Pomson gives an overview and analysis of what online discussions can tell us about the matters that are on the mind of those who participate in them. He investigates the question of whether there has been a so-called "slide to the right" and how either the perception or reality of this plays itself out in the back and forth of Jewish educators in the Orthodox world. His innovative choice of a field of observation provides a chance to get inside a

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discussion that in the past might have been shielded from outside observers and analysts.

Barry Chiswick's Sklare Award address, which looks with an economist's eye at the question the waxing and waning of Jews teaching in the college and universities in the United States from 1890 until the twenty-first century, affords a thought-provoking analysis of what has happened in a field that many see synonymous with the Jewish move into the intelligentsia. Using data on Ph.D.'s awarded and the Distinctive Jewish Names criteria for identifying Jews, he had developed an algorithm that enables readers to watch this rise and fall and a way to make sense of the pattern. Jonathan Sarna's response points to the fact that the question that Chiswick has asked is really not only whether Jews have been moving *away* from the academy but whether Jewish intellectualism and the whole Jewish quest for success may be ebbing. The interaction of an economist and an historian on this question makes for fascinating reading.

I hope you will agree with me that this issue offers a feast for the mind. In the months ahead you will I believe find more that informs and engages you. Our next issue on population and demographic issues, a future issue on secular Judaism, as well as a wide array of articles on the broad range of social science issues that are of interest to contemporary Jewry will make this journal a must-read for all of those interested in our field. If your library still does not subscribe, this is an opportunity to again speak to those in charge and ask them to sign on. But we want our ideas spread beyond the halls of academe. We believe that the more that intelligent readers are exposed to our ideas, the better will we be able to contribute to the life of contemporary Jewry.

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