Editor's Introduction to v40(2)

Harriet Hartman¹

Published online: 24 September 2020
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In this turbulent time of uncertainty and fluctuation the world over, perhaps it is comforting that this issue of *Contemporary Jewry* presents some constants for contemporary Jewry. We begin the issue with the Marshall Sklare Award address delivered (in person!) at the Association of Jewish Studies in December 2019. For those of you not familiar with it, the Marshall Sklare Award is an annual honor of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (ASSJ), which recognizes with this award a senior scholar who has made a significant scholarly contribution to the social scientific study of Jewry. This year marked the 28th such award. I was humbled and honored to be the recipient, and you will find my contribution to the study of gender and family as the first article. I am hoping that the framing of the study of family and gender discussed in the article will enable progress in comparative studies within the study of contemporary Jewry, not only as applied to families but also to other social institutions and aspects of Jewish life globally and nationally. The respondents to the address, Sylvia Barack Fishman, Judith Bokser Liwerant, and Ira M. Sheskin have each expanded the ideas presented in different ways, which we hope you will find interesting.

The next group of articles also address a constant in Jewish life, unfortunately: antisemitism. It is so constant, that many will wonder what else there is to study and say about it. I hope you will find these articles as interesting and thought-provoking as I and the peer reviewers did. Appropriately, the articles address antisemitism across the world and over time: in the US, in Great Britain, and in Hungary. The first of these, by Forster, Sheskin and Wald, considers the impact of surviving the trauma of the Holocaust on attachment to Israel. There is considerable literature documenting long-lasting effects of experiencing trauma, including domestic violence, pandemics like the coronavirus, political war and the Holocaust; while none is identical to the other, it is clear that trauma survivors and often their descendants are impacted in multiple ways, including political and emotional. Using data from selected Jewish communities in the US, the authors show that emotional attachment to Israel is related to Holocaust survival and is carried by family members of Holocaust survivors as well.

✉ Harriet Hartman
hartman@rowan.edu

¹ Rowan University, Glassboro, USA

The next two articles grapple with the relationship between antisemitism and anti-Israel attitudes (“the new antisemitism,” according to some). Kopstein’s article focuses on one college campus in California, trying to tease out the relationship between antisemitism and anti-Israel attitudes on campus. Staetsky’s article focuses on Great Britain, and “The Left, the Right, Christians, Muslims and Detractors of Israel” and how they compare in terms of antisemitic and anti-Israel political convictions using the JPR (Jewish Policy Research) Antisemitism survey of 2017. These articles answer the questions and raise others, which should result in additional clarification through continued research.

The final article on antisemitism focuses on unlikely alliances between antisemitic and Orthodox leaders fashioning laws in post-war Hungary. Hartman shows how context is key to understanding political and legal cooperation, not always in intuitive ways.

The issue concludes with two more staples of Contemporary Jewry: research updates, and a book review, followed by a list of books received.

Enjoy, stay safe and be well, and best wishes for a happy, healthy Shana Tovah for 5781.

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