



# 2019

## YIDDISH CIVILIZATION LECTURE SERIES

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THURSDAY  
JUL 11

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### Myth and History in the Russian Jewish Past

STEVEN ZIPPERSTEIN | *Delivered in English*

For so many Jews, the Russian or East European Jewish past is little more than a miasma of misery. As often as not, the experience is summed up with little more than the word “pogrom” which has come to serve as a sturdy coda for all that transpired in what was, at the turn of the 20th century, the largest demographic concentration of Jews in the world. How consistent these assumptions are with history, how they surfaced and with such persistence and resonance and what else transpired in this culturally diverse, singularly fertile community will be the subject of this talk.

**Steven J. Zipperstein** has written and edited nine books including, most recently, *Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History* (Liveright, WW Norton). He is now at work on a biographical study of Philip Roth.

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### Reading List

STEVEN ZIPPERSTEIN

Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics: Socialism, Nationalism and the Russian Jews, 1862-1917* (1981)

Amos Funkenstein, *Perceptions of Jewish History* (1993)

Lawrence Garvin, *An Obsession with Anne Frank* (1995)

Janet Hadda, *Isaac Bashevis Singer: A Life* (1997)

Eli Lederhendler, *Jewish Immigrants and American Capitalism From 1880-1920* (2009)

Olga Litvak, *Conscription and the Search for Modern Russian Jewry* (2006)

Alan Mintz, *Hurban: Responses to Catastrophe in Hebrew Literature* (1984)

Dan Miron, *The Image of the Shtetl and Other Studies of Modern Jewish Imagination* (2000)

David G. Roskies, *A Bridge of Longing: The Lost Art of Yiddish Storytelling* (1995)

Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, *Zakhor: Jewish History and Jewish Memory* (1982)

Mark Zborowski, *Life is With People: The Culture of the Shtetl* (1995)

Steven J. Zipperstein, *Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism* (1993)

Steven J. Zipperstein, *Imagining Russian Jewry: Memory, History, Identity* (1999)

Steven J. Zipperstein, *Pogrom: Kishinev and the Tilt of History* (2018)

Steven J. Zipperstein: “Underground Man: The Curious Case of Mark Zborowski and the Writing of a Jewish Classic,” *Jewish Review of Books* (Summer 2010)