



Only the
Audacious

The campaign for an ever bolder Tulane



STUART AND SUZANNE GRANT
**CENTER FOR THE
AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE**



BOLD, AMBITIOUS, AND EXCITING: THE STUART AND SUZANNE GRANT CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

Tulane’s Stuart and Suzanne Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience builds upon the strengths of Tulane University and the Department of Jewish Studies, operating as a world-class hub for exploring the varied and diverse nature of the American Jewish Experience.

The Grant Center contributes richness to the field of American Jewish studies by supporting experimentative, collaborative and interdisciplinary programs and research at the intersections of history, literature, cultural studies, sociology and other disciplines. The Center supports efforts that cross boundaries between academic spaces and the wider ecology of the Jewish world. Through co-curricular programming, research opportunities, and internships, Tulane students both contribute to and benefit from a holistic understanding of the historical and contemporary experience of American Jews. In addition, the Center’s ethos, events, scholarly projects and communications is infused with the eclectic artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy of our home in New Orleans.

CAMPAIGN PILLARS

Building a world-class faculty in American Jewish Studies

Implementing dynamic research, programming, and student enrichment

This is a bold, ambitious, and exciting plan. Tulane could reshape the field and become the undisputed leader for training students in American Jewish Studies.

—PAMELA S. NADELL, PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR, JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM, AMERICAN UNIVERSITY;
AUTHOR OF AMERICAN JEWISH WOMEN FROM THE COLONIAL TIMES TO THE TODAY (2019)

BUILDING A WORLD-CLASS FACULTY

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are already building a world class faculty in Jewish Studies:



DR. MICHAEL COHEN
*Director, Grant Center
Stuart and Suzanne Grant
Professor of the American
Jewish Experience*

Dr. Michael R. Cohen is a Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies. His expertise in Southern Jewish history and economic Jewish history positions Tulane as the undisputed leader in these emerging areas. In addition to being the author of two monographs and one forthcoming, Dr. Cohen is a member of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council of the American Jewish Historical Society, and he serves as the Senior Historical Advisor for the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.



DR. ILANA HORWITZ
*Fields-Rayant Chair in
Contemporary Jewish Life*

Dr. Ilana Horwitz is a sociologist of religion and education who examines how people’s gender, ethnicity, race, social class, and religious upbringing shape their life. Her work connects the American Jewish experience to modern American demographic and social questions, building upon Tulane’s strengths in American Jewish history. She will provide a direct link to the internationally-acclaimed work of Tulane Hillel and its award-winning Tulane Jewish Leaders program through the Audrey G. Ratner Jewish Leadership Course.



DR. GOLAN MOSKOWITZ
*Assistant Professor in
Jewish Literature and Culture*

Golan Moskowitz, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, is a literary scholar, cultural historian, and visual artist. He completed his graduate studies at Brandeis University, where he earned a PhD in Near Eastern & Judaic Studies and a joint MA in Jewish Studies and Women’s & Gender Studies. Holding a BA in Art from Vassar College, Dr. Moskowitz also applies visual studies and creative modes of inquiry to his scholarship and teaching. At Tulane, his courses focus on American Jewish literature, emphasizing such themes as anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, race, gender and sexuality, historical memory, acculturation, and religious life.

We are so grateful to the Grants for their support which will position Tulane as a hub of excellence and the global leader in the study of the American Jewish experience.

—MICHAEL A. FITTS, PRESIDENT OF TULANE UNIVERSITY



We hope that future faculty positions will include:

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
IN AMERICAN JEWISH STUDIES

The unique strengths of the Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience will make this position the top postdoctoral fellowship in the nation for emerging scholars of the American Jewish experience. This scholar will push the Center to move in new directions, innovating in the field while providing new opportunities for student coursework and faculty research collaboration. This position would be awarded to up-and-coming scholars, ensuring fresh new perspectives and cutting-edge scholarship.

FACULTY POSITION(S) IN
LATIN AMERICAN AND/OR
CARIBBEAN JEWISH STUDIES

By drawing from the resources of both the Grant Center for the American Jewish Experience and Tulane’s world-renowned Stone Center for Latin American Studies, this scholar will help to position Tulane as the clear leader in the emergent fields of Caribbean and Latin American Jewish Studies. This professor will expand our understandings of Jewish life in the Caribbean and across the Americas, conducting work in various disciplines such as history, sociology, political science, history, anthropology or the arts.

Tulane’s Department of Jewish Studies has emerged as a national leader through its unique focus on the history and experience of American Jews.

—BRIAN T. EDWARDS, DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS, TULANE UNIVERSITY

EMBRACING THE BREADTH AND DEPTH
OF AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCES

Our programmatic focus is growing around three primary areas:

AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY

By fostering new intellectual connections and crossing disciplinary boundaries, the Grant Center will support a robust array of initiatives that foster vibrant dialogue among the varied approaches to the historical study of American Jews. In place of a singular geography, chronology, or methodology, Center programming and scholarship will explore American Jewish history from multiple, intersecting perspectives, employing a variety of conceptual frameworks and creating new intellectual connections to move the field forward in new directions. Initiatives supported by the Dr. Lawrence Kanter Fund in American Jewish History may include scholarly working groups, conferences, symposia, and other research projects, agendas, and high-profile publications that advance the field of American Jewish history.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARTS AND CULTURE

The Grant Center will build on generate greater scholarly understanding of the contexts and contents of American Jewish art and culture, and inspire new ways of thinking within and between academic and wider cultural landscapes. Initiatives will be developed to enliven the field of Jewish Studies by attending more directly to the vibrant and varied cultural rhythms of the broader American Jewish world through the work of visual artists, creative writers, musicians, filmmakers, performers, designers, and culinary artists. Projects at the intersection of Jewish arts, culture and scholarship will be developed to harness the capacity for scholars, students, and broader publics to experience and consider creative, embodied articulations of the American Jewish experience in its varied iterations.

CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN JEWRY

Center-sponsored research will support creative intersections and intellectual cross-pollinations that add complexity to the study of contemporary American Jewish life. Scholars’ roles as thought leaders will be leveraged in the Jewish communal sector to shift the focus of the Jewish communal conversation toward topics relevant to contemporary American Jews. Research and student programs will focus on issues of class, gender, race, religion, and politics and examine Jewish experiences alongside those of other religious, ethnic and racial groups.

OUR ALUMNI

“The professors in the Jewish Studies Department are among the best at Tulane and made me feel at home from Day 1 on campus through the end of my senior year. Throughout my Jewish Studies minor, they challenged me to improve my critical thinking skills and to become a better reader and writer.”

HANNAH MOSES ’20
Political Organizer

“My Jewish studies degree gave me an understanding of the American Jewish community and Jewish history that made me a great candidate for the jobs I applied for in the Jewish non-profit field. I utilize the skills and knowledge I gained from the program regularly in my position at UJA-Federation.”

RACHEL SARCH ’21
Sr. Development Assistant at UJA-Federation of New York

“Thanks to Tulane’s excellent Jewish Studies program, I was afforded the opportunity to study abroad in Israel, intern with The Jerusalem Post, and most, importantly, become a globally-minded scholar of religion, all experiences I carry with me every day as a religion reporter, covering the very topics I first encountered in classrooms with Tulane’s top-notch professors.”

JOSH AXELROD ’20
Faith & Politics Reporter at The American Independent

“My Jewish Studies degree has provided me with literacy in social justice and gender/sexuality as they have been understood in biblical, historical, and contemporary Judaism. The department gave me the opportunity to produce a multitude of research papers that I still refer to years later, with regard to their relevancy. Choosing to major in Jewish Studies at Tulane University equipped me with the tools I needed to achieve my professional goals of getting better representation of Israel in the U.S.”

JESSICA LEWIS ’20
American Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel

EXPLORE OUR PROGRAMS

Programmatic funding supports a wide range of innovative activities and initiatives, boldly positioning Tulane as a national leader in American Jewish Studies. This allows us to catalyze truly life-changing programming and learning experiences for our students, providing us the opportunity to train a new generation of Jewish leaders.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES
provide opportunities for Tulane students to develop as leaders and thinkers in their own right, through meaningful experiential learning from community practitioners.

The **Audrey G. Ratner Jewish Leadership Course**, sponsored by the TAWANI Foundation, provides a rigorous academic framework for thinking about what it means to be a leader, within and outside of the Jewish community. In conjunction with Hillel’s Tulane Jewish Leaders and the Center for Public Service, students will supplement their coursework with hands on experience with local community partners, including the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the JCC, helping transform them into the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

Our **Dr. Lawrence Kanter Fellow in American Jewish History** supports or facilitates research in American Jewish Studies, either under the guidance of a Tulane faculty member or a relevant institution, such as the Museum of the Southern Jewish Experience.

The **Sylvia R. and Lawrence N. Margolies Student-Faculty Research Fund** supports student research with a faculty mentor, or faculty research with a student component.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS
such as Lectures, seminars, films, and exhibits led by the world’s leading scholars, practitioners and Jewish communal leaders, sharing cutting-edge research in American Jewish Studies with the Tulane community and wider public audiences.

The cornerstone of our public facing programming is the TAWANI Foundation’s **Audrey G. Ratner Speaker series**, which brings internationally renowned experts to build robust conversations about American Jewish culture, history, and ideas. Within this series, the Rottman Family Lecture honors generations of family doctors through an annual lecture on the American Jewish experience. Our collaborative research programs also feature opportunities for public engagement, including public concerts, lectures, and roundtables.

CUTTING EDGE RESEARCH
primarily in the form of conferences, working groups, and convenings, advance and bolster cutting-edge approaches that make the Grant Center a hub of interdisciplinary thought and development.

Our working groups—on topics as diverse as American Jewish Economic History, American Jewish literature, and Jewish Gender Performance and Drag—help break down silos by bringing scholars from across the world and different disciplines into conversation on central issues that shape both how we understand Jewish life and frame the academic study of American Jewry.

Conferences, such as the American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholars’ Conference (May 2022), provide opportunities for experts from all over the world to share research on topics exploring the social, ethnic, regional, and cultural diversity of American Jewish experiences. Our programs are building a community of international scholars from Israel, South Africa, Europe, and elsewhere around the globe, all of whom explore American Jews from a global perspective.



PROGRAM
MANAGER

The Program Manager is responsible for spearheading and organizing the Grant Center’s core programs, ensuring that each program maximizes the Center’s goals.

Ilana McQuinn, PhD, serves as the Grant Center Program Manager. She comes to Tulane from Davidson College, where she was a Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish History. She holds a Ph.D. in Jewish History from the University of Chicago, where she was awarded a Fulbright-Hays grant to conduct research on Holocaust literature and film in the communist bloc. While completing her Ph.D., she was a Humanities Without Walls Fellow and later the Program Manager of the Making History Work program, both of which focused on engaging public audiences with humanistic and social science research.



Tulane University

**GRANT CENTER FOR THE
AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE**

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