

DIGITAL PROJECTS IN JEWISH STUDIES

Description: The digital world has impacted research in important ways. This session will discuss three institutions working to develop projects that have already had, or will have, a great impact on Jewish studies research: The Natural Language Processing Lab at Stern College (**Josh Waxman**); The Judaica Digital Humanities Project at Penn Libraries (**Emily Esten**); and the DiJeSt Project at Haifa University (**Kepa Rodriguez, Yael Netzer, Sinai Rusenik**).

Joshua Waxman is an Assistant Professor at Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women. He has studied at CUNY Graduate Center (for his PhD in computer science), Revel (for academic Talmudic and Biblical studies) and RIETS (for rabbinic ordination). His interests include Natural Language Processing, the Digital Humanities as well as Biblical philology and Semitic linguistics.

Emily Esten is the Judaica Digital Humanities Project Coordinator at University of Pennsylvania Libraries, where she manages a robust program of projects and tools for digital scholarship using Penn's Judaica collections. She specializes in public projects and digital engagement for cultural institutions.

Kepa J. Rodriguez (PhD) is an independent consultant in the fields of NLP/Data Science and Knowledge Representation. He has been involved in projects related to the use of controlled vocabularies for multilingual data integration and retrieval at the EHRI project, State and University Library of Goettingen (Germany) and Yad Vashem (Israel).

Yael Netzer has a PhD in computer science and an MA in Hebrew literature at Ben Gurion University. She is a teaching fellow in BGU and Haifa University, teaches Digital Humanities for Computer Science and for the Humanities, and works at Dicta, the Israeli Center for Text Analysis. In recent years, Netzer has developed and implemented methods for digital personal archives, and is most interested in knowledge representation for archives, libraries and more.

Sinai Rusinek teaches Digital Humanities at Haifa University's Digital Humanities program and works at Elijah Lab digital humanities laboratory at Haifa University where she is currently leading TraveLab - a project on Digitized Journeys to the Holy Land. Her project Kima, a Hebrew, historical gazetteer, assembles geographical toponyms used throughout Jewish history into an open, linked data resource and tool. Her project "DIJEST: Digitizing Jewish Studies", was supported by a grant from the Rothschild Europe foundation.