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OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH LANGUAGES LECTURE

Week 5

Professor Nathan Cohen
(Bar-Ilan University)

'Changes in the Yiddish Book Market in Eastern Europe between the Mid-19th Century and WWI'

Nati (Nathan) Cohen is an Associate Professor, and director of the Rena Costa Center for Yiddish Studies at the Department of Literature of the Jewish People at Bar-Ilan University. Since 1998 – associate editor of the bi-annual journal *Yad Vashem Studies*. His main fields of research and teaching are cultural history of the Jews of Eastern Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; book history and the history of reading (in Yiddish); modern Yiddish literature; the Jews of Poland between the two world wars; Yiddish literature and culture during the Holocaust. He is the author of: *Books, writers and Newspapers: The Jewish Cultural Center in Warsaw, 1918-1942*, Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2003, 363pp. (Hebrew) which has been translated into Polish and published by the Jewish historical Institute in 2021; and *Yiddish Transformed: Reading Habits in the Russian Empire, 1860-1914*, New York and Oxford: Berhahn 2023.

Abstract: This lecture aims to present and review changes in the Yiddish book market and their reflection on Yiddish readers from the middle of the 19th century until the outbreak of WWI.

As printed materials in Yiddish became more accessible to the wider public and as the demand for them grew constantly, the Yiddish reading public in Eastern Europe was exposed to an increasing range of publications of various genres, styles and levels. Among these were newspapers and periodicals that contributed significantly to the expansion of knowledge. Growing competition on the readers' attention and taste contributed to the variety of publications.

Tuesday 7 November 2023

**6.00 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom and in-person at the
Catherine Lewis Lecture Theatre, Clarendon Institute**

Please register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudumorDkuHNBbo28Z_ga-Teg0MrFjvXvY

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