

Simon Goldberg

B.A., Yeshiva University, 2012

M.A., Haifa University, 2015

Shirley and Ralph Rose Fellow Simon Goldberg, recipient of the Hilda and Al Kirsch research award, examines documents fashioned in the Kovno (Kaunas) ghetto in Lithuania to explore the broader question of how wartime Jewish elites portrayed life in the ghetto. The texts that survived the war years in Kovno offer rich insights into ghetto life: they include an anonymous history written by Jewish policemen; a report written by members of the ghetto *khevre kedishe* (burial society); and a protocol book detailing the Ältestenrat's wartime deliberations. Yet these documents primarily reflect the perspectives of a select few. Indeed, for decades, scholarship on the Holocaust in Kovno has been dominated by the writings of ghetto elites, relegating the testimonies of Jews who did not occupy positions of authority during the war to the margins. Goldberg's dissertation explores how little-known accounts of the Kovno ghetto both challenge and broaden our understanding of wartime Jewish experience.

At the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Goldberg examined records from the Central States Archives of Lithuania (LCVA). LCVA's vast repository includes protocols, daily reports, arrest records, and meeting minutes that shed light on the institution of the Jewish police in the Kovno ghetto and the chronicle its members wrote in 1942 and 1943. The LCVA materials also include songs and poems that highlight social and cultural aspects of Jewish life across ghetto society. As the 2018-2019 Fellow in Baltic Jewish History at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, Goldberg studied the early historiography of the Kovno ghetto as reflected in the various newspapers and periodicals published in DP camps in Germany and Italy, including *Unzer Weg* and *Ba'Derech*. He also explored the papers held in YIVO's "Territorial Collection: Baltic Countries" that relate to the events of the Holocaust in Lithuania. His fellowship concluded with his Max Weinreich Fellowship Lecture, "Reimagining the History of the Kovno Ghetto," which highlighted Yiddish and Hebrew accounts of the Kovno whose evidentiary value has been minimized or ignored.

Fall 2019 began with a presentation of his dissertation research at the Weiner Library in London as part of the "PhD and a Cup of Tea" series. He also spoke at the Special Lessons & Legacies Conference held in Munich, the first ever such gathering to take place in Europe. During the coming academic year,

Goldberg will be in residence at the USHMM's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies as a Visiting Fellow.