

*TIJS Graduate Research & Travel Grants
Summer 2015*

ADAM STRATER, GDR

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Purpose: Attend the summer course Religious Violence in Global Perspective held July 20-29, 2015 at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary to supplement the interdisciplinary coursework I am doing to prepare for my dissertation, which will analyze ancient Jewish apocalyptic literature using modern sociological methods for studying religious violence.

With the assistance of the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies, I was able to spend two weeks at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary taking part in the seminar Religious Violence in Global Perspective. The course brought together scholars, PhD students, and practitioners interested in religious violence to discuss the way it manifests in different geographical areas and at different times, as well as ways to combat such violence. The course was administered jointly through CEU's Center for Religious Studies and the School of Public Policy, who brought in experts for lectures and discussions on their current research. Lecture topics included, among others, "Apocalyptic Violence and Modern Terror," "Violence and Christian Theology," and "Religious Violence, the Radical Right, and Islam," and discussions covered geographical regions such as the US, Europe, South Asia, and the Middle East. Participants also had the opportunity to present their research in small workshop groups where they gave a synopsis of their work and then had time to discuss things like methodological issues with their peers.

The experience and knowledge I gained while at CEU will be invaluable as I advance toward my dissertation, where I plan to use contemporary social scientific theories and methods for studying religious violence to analyze Jewish apocalyptic literature from the Second Temple period and Late Antiquity. While I have a strong background in Jewish apocalyptic and the methods necessary for analyzing biblical literature, I lack expertise in contemporary religious violence and social scientific methods, and this course supplemented my knowledge greatly. The workshop was particularly meaningful because it forced me to clarify and defend my methodological approach to people well versed in contemporary social scientific methods.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Tam Institute for Jewish Studies for supporting me in my academic development. TIJS' generosity allowed me to live in Budapest and learn from colleagues and experts that I would otherwise never have the opportunity to meet.