

*TIJS Graduate Research & Travel Grants
Academic Year 2013-2014*

JASON SCHULMAN, History

jss2110@gmail.com

Advisor: E. Goldstein (History)

Purpose: Four conferences to network with scholars in Jewish Studies and History, hear the latest research in Jewish Studies and interdisciplinary studies, and prepare for entering the job market in the near future: 1. Association of Jewish Studies, Boston, MA - Dec 15-17, 2013 (attending); 2. American Historical Association, Washington DC - Jan 2-5, 2014 (attending); 3. Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North America, Austin, TX - Feb 6-8, 2014 (presenting); 4. Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA - March 10-11, 2014 (presenting)

This academic year (2013-2014) I used a TIJS Grant of \$1,739 to attend four academic conferences between December 2013 and March 2014. These included the Association of Jewish Studies (Boston, MA – December 15-17, 2013); American Historical Association (Washington DC – January 2-5, 2014); Australian and New Zealand Studies Association of North America, Austin, TX (February 6-8, 2014); and the Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, Charlottesville, VA (March 10-11, 2014). The purpose of these conferences was to network with scholars in Jewish Studies and History, hear the latest research in Jewish Studies and interdisciplinary studies, and become familiar with how these conferences operate.

The AJS and AHA are the major conferences in their respective fields. Although I did not present at these two conferences, I learned a great deal about what scholars in these fields are working on. I also met professors and graduate students from other universities, which will, as I become more involved with these two fields, help foster scholarly collaboration. Finally, although I did not have any job interviews this year, I think it was beneficial to see how massive these two enterprises are, so that in the future, the first time will not be so overwhelming. As someone with graduate training in both Jewish Studies and American History, I found these conferences vital for networking, learning about new scholarship, and professional development.

The other conferences I attended, though smaller, were strategically chosen to complement my research interests and goals. First, the ASLCH Conference, which I've attended before, was a great opportunity for me to hear new scholarship and meet other scholars whose work bridges the scholarship of American history and legal culture. I presented a paper at this conference in the past (now it's the fourth chapter of my dissertation), and I am confident that at future meetings I will be able to convince other scholars of the importance of considering Jewish studies in this field as well. This was particularly important because a lot of these scholars (at various stages in their careers) do not attend the AJS. The other was the ANZSANA Conference, which I've attended before, and have presented at before, as well. The thinking behind this is that I would like I am beginning to think about my second project, and I envision a comparative work on American and Australian Jewry, and this conference is one of its kind in North America. It was interesting to meet other scholars working comparatively across the disciplines.

Attending these conferences was crucial at this stage in my academic training. Although I was not able to share my own research formally in a presentation, I informally chatted with other graduate students and professors and mentioned my research interests so that I am beginning to "get my name out there" in terms of my research. As someone whose work attempts to bridge the divide between scholarship in American history, Jewish studies, and legal culture, I think this was an important first step. The 2013-2014 TIJS Grant was invaluable in making these trips possible. I hope I can continue to grow as a scholar at academic conference in the future.