



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Office of Communications and Public Relations**

**Press Release**

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**AUTHOR YASCHA MOUNK TO DISCUSS JEWISH LIFE IN TODAY'S  
GERMANY AT TEMPLE ISRAEL OF RIDGEWOOD**

(MAHWAH, NJ) –Yascha Mounk, an instructor of political science and writing at Harvard University and a Jeff and Cal Leonard Fellow at the New America Foundation, will discuss his recent book, *Stranger in My Own Country: A Jewish Family in Modern Germany*, on Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Temple Israel (475 Grove Street in Ridgewood, N.J.). The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey is a co-sponsor of the event.

*Stranger in My Own Country* examines the contours of Jewish life in a country struggling with the legacy of the Third Reich. The book portrays those who continue to live in its shadow. Mounk surveys his countrymen's responses to "the Jewish question." Through his family and childhood, the author shows that anti-Semitism and far-right extremism have long coexisted in postwar Germany.

Mounk received his bachelor's in history and a master's in philosophy in political thought from Trinity College, Cambridge. After working as a theater director, Mounk studied political theory at Columbia University and in Paris. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate at Harvard University. His dissertation examines the role of moral responsibility in contemporary North American and Western European politics.

Born in Germany to Polish parents, he now lives in Montelaterone, Italy. Mounk is the founding editor of *The Utopian*, a cutting-edge magazine on philosophy, politics and culture. He has published articles in newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Nation*, *Foreign Policy*, *Slate*, the *London Review of Books'* blog, *Die Zeit*, *Unità*, *n+1* and the *Paris Review (Daily)*. He has also appeared on *CNN International*, *ZDF* and *Radio France*.

For more information, visit the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at <http://www.ramapo.edu/holocaust/> or call 201.684.7409. Information on the talk can also be found at Temple Israel at <http://www.synagogue.org> or call 201.444.9320.

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as sixth in the Best Regional Universities North category for public institutions, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,008 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers seven graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.