



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Marketing and Communications
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Shifting Diasporas of Bialystok Jewry to be Discussed at Ramapo College

MAHWAH, N.J. – Dr. Rebecca Kobrin, the Joseph Engel Visiting Professor of American Jewish History at Harvard University, will speak on Tuesday, November 26 at 1:45 p.m. in the Alumni Lounges of the Robert A. Scott Student Center at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The program titled “Competing Diasporas, Shifting Centers: Bialystok's Jews in the Age of World Wars” will be presented under the auspices of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and is free and open to the public.

Kobrin’s talk will be based on the work she began in connection with the publication of her book, *Jewish Bialystok and Its Diaspora*. As in most of Eastern Europe, the period of the world wars transformed the demography and cultural life of the Polish Jewish community Bialystok. It reshaped Jews’ understanding and performance of their diasporic identities to the point that led the migrants to imagine themselves as exiles, not only from Israel but most immediately from their east European homeland.

Kobrin is an American Russell and Bettina Knapp associate professor of American Jewish history at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University and a director of the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. Since July, she has been the Joseph Engel Visiting Professor of American Jewish History at Harvard University. She received her B.A. in 1994 from Yale University and her M.A., M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She serves on the advisory board of the American Jewish Historical Society and on the editorial boards of various journals and publishers, including *Shofar*, *the Jewish Historical Studies: Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England*, and Johns Hopkins University Press. She is a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies and a former fellow of the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

For information or to request disability-related accommodations for this event, please contact holgen@ramapo.edu or call 201-684-7409.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Data Science, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.