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**HISTORIAN TO DISCUSS BLOOD LIBEL, SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM AT  
RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

(MAHWAH, NJ) – Elissa Bemporad, the Jerry and William Ungar assistant professor of History at Queens College of the City University of New York, will speak at Ramapo College of New Jersey in October under the auspices of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and History Club of Ramapo College.

Bemporad will discuss “The Blood Libel and Soviet Anti-Semitism.”

The blood libel dates from medieval times and deals with the blatantly untrue and defamatory accusation that the Jewish religion calls for the periodic ritual consumption of the blood of Christians. The accusation is intimately intertwined with the history of anti-Semitism.

Although we are well informed about the reappearance of the blood libel canard since the fall of Communism, we know little about how it manifested itself in Soviet times. At least until the late 1930s, anti-Semitism was actively combated, although the war, Nazi occupation, the last years of Stalinism, and support for the Arab side in the Middle East conflict eventually led to its resurrection.

Bemporad, who last spoke at the College in February 2010 on "Nazi Germany and Anti-Semitic Poland Through the Eyes of Soviet Jews," holds a MA in Slavic studies from the Faculty of Humanities at Bologna University, a MA in Modern Jewish Studies from the Graduate School of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and a Ph.D. from the Department of History at Stanford University. Her book *Becoming “Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in a Jewish Metropolis, Minsk 1917-1939,”* will soon be published by Indiana University.

Bemporad will speak on Thursday, October 6 at 1 p.m. in the Robert A. Scott Student Center, Alumni Lounge (SC-138). The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information or to reserve a seat, please call 201.684.7409.

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Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fourth in the Best Regional Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey 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, and as courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers five graduate programs and articulated programs with the University of Medicine and Dentistry 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.

Undergraduate students choose to concentrate their studies in one of five schools with more than 700 course offerings and 40 academic programs. Ramapo College boasts an average student/faculty ratio of 18:1 and average class size of 23, affording students the opportunity to develop close ties to the College's exceptional faculty.