



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 12, 2015

Sephardic Scholar Devin E. Naar to deliver keynote at 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Seattle, Washington

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has selected University of Washington Professor Devin E. Naar as the keynote speaker for its 36th Annual Conference to be held from August 7 to 12, 2016 in Seattle, Washington.

Dr. Naar, chair of the UW Sephardic Studies Program and an assistant professor in the UW Department of History, has emerged as one of the most dynamic, charismatic young scholars of Jewish history, particularly the Sephardic experience. The only assistant professor ever elected to the prestigious Academic Advisory Council of the Center for Jewish History in New York, Dr. Naar recently launched a pilot program entitled “Seattle Sephardic Treasures” dedicated to preserving and disseminating the rich cultural and linguistic traditions of Sephardic Judaism.

Dr. Naar is a brilliant scholar and a spellbinding presenter who has received national attention for his work in Ladino language and literature. The Sephardic Experience in the United States will be one of the key topic tracks of the 2016 conference, making Dr. Naar a perfect fit. “Seattle has the third largest Sephardic population in the U.S. after New York and Los Angeles,” notes lead co-chair Janette Silverman. “So it’s an ideal place to focus on this aspect of Jewish heritage.”

The 2016 conference, expected to draw upwards of 1,000 attendees from around the world, will also take in the full global sweep of the Jewish experience, including European migrations, Jewish families in South America, Australia, South Africa, and Israel, as well as Jews in the Western U.S.

Proposals for papers are currently being accepted through the official conference website www.iajgs2016.org. The deadline for submission is midnight, December 15, 2015. For information about proposals and submissions, contact the Program Committee at program@iajgs2016.org.

Early registration will open in January 2016 through the conference website.

For more information about the conference, contact the conference co-chairs Janette Silverman, Phyllis Grossman, and Chuck Weinstein through the conference website www.iajgs2016.org.