



Supporting psychological approaches to enhancing Jewish identity and defeating antisemitism

Association of Jewish Psychologists Board of Directors. July 29, 2026. S.L. Friedman presentation

AJP Research Group

Our Mission:

The AJP Research Group was established to bring together scientists, practitioners and students who are interested in learning about and contributing to the emerging psychological science of Jewish identity, Jewish socialization, and antisemitism.

The Research Group includes some 60 people many of whom did not know each other before. They are mostly from the US, but we also have members from England, Poland, Germany, Denmark and Israel. We provide our members with opportunities that are not available to them at their own institutions or at the scientific organizations that they belong to.

Our Work:

The group meets bi-weekly to listen to scientific presentations and discuss them. Sometimes, we discuss new research directions. Less frequently, we embark on new scientific projects.

Members of the Group initiated work toward the creation of an American Psychological Foundation (APF) Award for research on antisemitism. Since the creation of the Fund, two annual Awards were already given. The recipient of the second award will be presenting to us on July 16 at 2 PM. If you wish to attend, please let me know.

Three members of the AJP Research Group (Carol K. Sigelman of George Washington University, Jon D. Lane of Vanderbilt University and I) initiated and published in 2026 a review of the literature titled Negative beliefs, sentiments, and discriminatory behavior toward Jews: A developmental review. It was published in Review of General Psychology.

The AJP Research Group initiated three research projects, which are currently at different stages of development. These are:

(1) Parent-child conversations about Jewish identity and antisemitism (Jonathan D. Lane, Vanderbilt University, is the lead investigator), Data was collected, coded for content and valence and analyzed. We will be able to tell where children from over 1200 families, mostly non-Jewish and



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from across the US learn about Jewish people and related topics. We will also be able to tell if and how parents interact with their children over the information children bring into the conversation.

(2) Defining antisemitism from a psychological perspective (Lead Investigator: Jeffrey Sherman, University of California, Davis). Here the focus is on the extent to which hate, bias against and discrimination of Jews is psychologically different than hate etc. of other ethnic minority groups.

(3) Jewish identity (Lead investigator: Rob Weisskirch, California State University, Monterey Bay). This work focuses on the structure of Jewish identity of highly educated, professional Jews and how this is related to their demographic, political and psychological characteristics.

Our Work includes Mentoring Students:

Students have been involved in literature searches, in coding of data and in conducting preliminary analyses. Some students worked on projects of Professors not affiliated with the students' university. One student, Erin Moran of Fordham University, presented at a conference on diversity (Moran E. and Friedman SL April 25, 2025). Others will be co-authors on a paper we are working on.

In Conclusion

The AJP Research Group fills a unique place in cultivating psychological research on Jewish identity and antisemitism.