About the Contributors

LISA ANSELL is Associate Director of the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life at the University of Southern California. She received her BA in French and Near East Studies from UCLA and her MA in Middle East Studies from Harvard University. She was the Chair of the World Language Department of New Community Jewish High School for five years before coming to USC in August, 2007. She currently teaches Hebrew language courses at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

LAWRENCE BARON held the Abraham Nasatir Chair in Modern Jewish History at San Diego State University between 1988 and 2012. He was appointed the Ida King Distinguished Visiting Scholar of Holocaust and Genocide Studies by Stockton University for the fall semester of 2015. He has authored Projecting the Holocaust into the Present (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005) and edited The Modern Jewish Experience in World Cinema (Brandeis Univ., 2011).

VINCENT BROOK has a PhD in film and television from the University of California, Los Angeles. He teaches at UCLA, California State University, Los Angeles, and Loyola Marymount University. He has authored or edited seven other books dealing with media subjects, many from a Jewish perspective, including Something Ain’t Kosher Here: The Rise of the “Jewish” Sitcom (Rutgers Univ., 2003), Driven to Darkness: Jewish Émigré Directors and the Rise of Film Noir (Rutgers Univ., 2006) and Woody on Rye: Jewishness in the Films and Plays of Woody Allen (Brandeis Univ., 2014, co-editor).

SHAINA HAMMERMAN holds a PhD in Jewish History and Culture from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Her forthcoming book, Black Hat, Silver Screen: The Hasid in Film, will be published by Indiana University Press in 2017. Her original research and cultural criticism have appeared in both peer-reviewed journals and popular publications. Her next book project is about American television and the limits of diversity.

DAVID ISAACS has worked as a TV and film writer/producer for over forty years. Along with his writing partner Ken Levine he has written multiple episodes and served as producer or creative consultant for series such as M*A*S*H*, Cheers, Wings, Frasier and Becker, and has been nominated for six Emmys with one win for co-producing the
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ROSS MELNICK is an associate professor of film and media studies at University of California, Santa Barbara. His most recent book is *American Showman: Samuel “Roxy” Rothafel and the Birth of the Entertainment Industry* (Columbia Univ., 2012). His work has appeared in *Cinema Journal; Film History; Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television; The Moving Image*; and other journals and edited collections. He is also the co-founder of the exhibition history website “Cinema Treasures.”

JOSHUA LOUIS MOSS is an assistant professor of screenwriting and media studies at California State University, Chico. He holds a PhD and an MA in critical studies from the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Arts and a BFA in film and television production from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. His upcoming book *Why Harry Met Sally: Subversive Jewishness, Anglo-Christian Power, and the Rhetoric of Modern Love* will be published by University of Texas Press in early 2017.

MICHAEL RENOV is the Haskell Wexler Endowed Chair in Documentary and Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at the USC School of Cinematic Arts. He is the author of *Hollywood’s Wartime Woman: Representation and Ideology* (Umi Research, 1988), and *The Subject of Documentary* (Univ. of Minnesota, 2004), editor of *Theorizing Documentary* (Routledge, 2012), and co-editor of *Resolutions: Contemporary Video Practices* (Univ. of Minnesota, 1995), *Collecting Visible Evidence* (Univ. of Minnesota, 1999), *The SAGE Handbook of Film Studies* (SAGE, 2008) and *Cinema’s Alchemist: The Films of Peter Forgacs* (Univ. of Minnesota, 2011). In 1993 Renov co-founded Visible Evidence, a series of international and highly interdisciplinary documentary studies conferences that have, to date, been held on five continents.

HOWARD A. RODMAN wrote the films *Joe Gould’s Secret, Savage Grace, August,* and the novel *Destiny Express.* He is president of the Writers Guild of America West; professor (and former chair) of screenwriting at USC’s School of Cinematic Arts; an artistic director of the Sundance Screenwriting Labs; and a member of the National Film Preservation Board. In 2013 he was named a Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the government of France.

JOEL ROSENBERG is Director of the Program in Judaic Studies at Tufts University and a faculty member in the Tufts Program in International Letters and Visual Studies. His publications include *King and Kin: Political Allegory in the Hebrew Bible* (Indiana Univ., 1986), translations of *Kol Haneshamah* (Reconstructionist prayer books), a commentary on Genesis for *The Harper Collins Study Bible*, the essay ”Jewish Experience on Film: An American Overview” for the 1996 edition of the *American Jewish Year Book,*


**JEFFREY SHANDLER** is Professor and Chair of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. His books include *While America Watches: Televising the Holocaust* (Oxford Univ., 1999), *Adventures in Yiddishland: Postvernacular Language and Culture* (Univ. of California, 2005), *Jews, God, and Videotape: Religion and Media in America* (New York Univ., 2009), and *Shtetl: A Vernacular Intellectual History* (Rutgers Univ., 2014). Shandler has served as president of the Association for Jewish Studies and is a fellow of the American Academy for Jewish Research.