

Daniel Schwartz is a professor of modern Jewish intellectual and cultural history at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is the author of *The First Modern Jew: Spinoza and the History of an Image* (Princeton, 2012), which won the Salo W. Baron Prize (American Academy for Jewish Research) for the best first book in Jewish Studies and was named a National Jewish Book Award finalist in the category of history; *Spinoza's Challenge to Jewish Thought: Writings on His Life, Philosophy, and Legacy* (Brandeis, 2019); and most recently *Ghetto: The History of a Word* (Harvard, 2019). He is currently working on two book projects, a collective biography and ethnography of postwar New York Jewish intellectuals from the 1940s to the 1970s called *The Upper West Side Intellectuals and the Making of the New York Jew*, and a history of the various meanings of “diaspora” in Jewish contexts and beyond titled *Diaspora: A Traveling Concept*. His scholarship deals with the challenge modernity posed to Jews, the various ways Jews responded to that challenge, and how Jews came, ironically, to be seen as principal shapers and symbols of the modern. At GW, Dr. Schwartz teaches courses on Jewish civilization from the Bible to the present, antisemitism, the ghetto, modern Jewish intellectuals, philosophies of history, and modernity and its critics. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and three children.

(4) Hope in Hopeless Times: A Jewish Perspective

We live in a moment when there is a general sense that things are bad and will only continue to get worse. Surveys show a sharp decline of popular trust in institutions and growing anxiety about democracy, the economy, social media, new technologies like AI, and the future of the planet. Many American Jews fear the growing illiberalism on both the right and the left and are starting to wonder whether the United States will continue to be a true home for them. What role should hope play at such times? Is there a distinctively Jewish idea of hope? How can we hold onto—and model—hope in dark and dispiriting times?