

## PARIS SITÉ PARIS SITÉ





## Salvaging Jewish Cultural Property: the Story of Lucy S. Dawidowicz (1915-1990)

## **Description:**

This lecture will examine the role played by a young American-born Jewish immigrant daughter, Lucy Schildkret (later the renowned historian of the Holocaust, Lucy S. Dawidowicz), in the rescue of Jewish cultural property during and after World War II. Schildkret had been an *aspirant* (a research fellow) at the YIVO, the Yiddish Scientific Institute, in Vilna, Poland between August 1938–August 1939. Fleeing Europe only days before the outbreak of World War II, she returned to New York City. There, she worked directly with Max Weinreich, YIVO's director, in the American branch of the institute, privy to his negotiations to rescue what remained of Vilna's Jewish cultural treasures. She continued this tireless work in the American Zone of Occupied Germany in 1946–47 when there appeared to be little hope that the communities of European Jewry would be restored. This lecture will not only assess Weinreich's and Schildkret's successful efforts to salvage Polish Jewry's cultural property and ship it to the United States, but will also explore the challenges, constraints, and contestations of those efforts.

Une conférence ouverte avec Nancy Sinkoff, professeur des études juives à Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Le 15 mars 2023 15h30-18h

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