



*The Jacob Rader Marcus Center*  
*of the*  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017**

**4:00pm**

**Mr. Aaron Welt**

Ph.D. candidate  
New York University  
The Loewenstein-Wiener Fellowship



***The Shtarkers of Progressive Era New York:  
Crime, Labor, and Capitalism in an Age of  
Mass Migration  
1890-1945***

This seminar will discuss the role of crime in the mass Jewish migrations of the American Gilded Age and Progressive Era. The *shtarker* (translated from Yiddish as "strong-man") became an ubiquitous figure in the Jewish immigrant economy and politics of early 20<sup>th</sup> century American cities. Throughout many strikes involving Jewish workers and factory owners, different actors employed *shtarker* gangsters to fight for or against the Jewish labor movement. *Shtarkers* and racketeering proved a major dilemma for Jewish progressive activists as they sought to make New York's Jewish immigrant economy more stable and less violent. As Jewish involvement in organized crime spanned most of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, this seminar will discuss larger implications of what this legacy means for American Jewish history.

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***All seminars are held in the Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati Seminar Room,  
located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Jacob Rader Marcus Center  
of the American Jewish Archives, on the Cincinnati campus of:  
Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion  
Cincinnati – New York – Los Angeles – Jerusalem  
3101 Clifton Avenue  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220***