**Photographing Jewish Life in Muslim Central Asia, 1870**

Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2012

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In the late 1860s, as large regions of Central Asia were coming under Tsarist control, Russian authorities commissioned Orientalist scholars to assist with the imperial colonial project. Among the historians, archeologists and ethnographers, was A. L. Kun, a photographer who amassed 1,200 photographs of the region. Included in his surviving work, *Turkestan Album* (1870), are some 40 images of the local Jews (who are today referred to as Bukharan Jews). These photographs provide a rare window into Jewish life prior to extensive colonial penetration in the region. This paper provides a close comparison between the photographs that portray Jewish life, and those that portray the life of other local peoples. Analysis sheds light on the Jews’ position in the predominantly Muslim society in which they lived, and on the nature of their relationships with their Muslim neighbors.