

**DMITRY SLEPOVICH (Minsk, New York)**

***PhD, researcher and performer (East European Jewish traditional music)***

I have been involved with Sefer since 2001. My relationship with the Center goes far beyond a formal association with an academic institution. It is more of a life story. Sefer's semi-annual Schools (seminars) in Jewish Studies without a doubt create a great opportunity and motivation for young scholars and high school students to get integrated into the international Jewish academic community. I first enrolled as a student, later being invited to teach mini-courses in Jewish music.

I want to thank Sefer for helping me to open the door to the world of academic Jewish study.