

BETH A. BERKOWITZ

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EMPLOYMENT

- **Barnard College**

Ingeborg Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies, Professor, Department of Religion, 2014-present

Ingeborg Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies, Associate Professor, Department of Religion, 2012-2014

- **The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**

Associate Professor, Department of Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures, 2010-2012

Assistant Professor, Department of Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures, 2004-2010

EDUCATION

PhD: Department of Religion, with distinction, Columbia University, May 2001

MA: University of Chicago Divinity School, June 1994

BA: Religion Major, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia College, May 1992

BOOKS

- *What Animals Teach Us About Families: Kinship and Species in the Bible and Rabbinic Literature*. University of California Press, under contract.
- *Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- *Religious Studies and Rabbinics*. Co-edited with Elizabeth Shanks Alexander. *Routledge Jewish Studies Series*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2017.
- *Defining Jewish Difference: From Antiquity to the Present*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.
- *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006. Awarded Salo Baron Prize for Outstanding First Book in Jewish Studies, 2007.

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

- “Biblical Animals in Early Rabbinic Texts.” In *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and Animals*, edited by Suzanna Millar. Oxford: Oxford University Press, under contract, in planning phases, due Summer 2024.
- “Animal Studies and the Talmud.” In *Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Talmud*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, submitted April 2023.
- “‘A Nation Like a Donkey’: Natal Alienation of Animals and Slaves in Midrash and Talmud.” In *The Corporeal Consequences, Operative Mechanisms, and Reverberations of Discursive Violence: A Festschrift in Honor of Elizabeth Castelli*, edited by Todd Berzon and Jennifer Knust, completed but not yet submitted.
- “Animal Families in the Biblical Tradition.” In *Animals and Religion*, edited by Dave Aftandilian, Barbara Ambros, and Aaron Gross. New York: Routledge, in proofs.
- “The Tall Tales of Babylonian Talmud Bekhorot 57b: Zombie Mothers, Angry Birds, and Egg Drop Soup.” In *Making History: Studies in Rabbinic Literature, History, and Culture in Honor of Richard L. Kalmin*, edited by Carol Bakhos and Alyssa Gray, submitted spring 2022.
- “Appetite for Udders: The Return of the Repressed in Babylonian Talmud Hullin 109a-110b.” In *Reading the Talmud as Ethical Prompt*, edited by Deborah Barer and Ariel Mayse, *Journal of Textual Reasoning*, forthcoming, fall 2023.
- “Udders, Queer Nests, and Animal Family Trees: Kinship as Keyword in Animal Studies in the Bible.” *Biblical Interpretation* 31 (2023): 635-651.
- “A Genealogy of the Jewish Family, Animals Included.” In the *Jewish Law Association Studies XXXII: Jewish Law and the Family: Anatomies of Home and Disruption*, edited by Miryam Segal, 2023, 15-38.
- “Jews and Animals.” *Oxford Bibliographies*. Oxford University Press, 2023.

- “Interpretation in the Anthropocene: Reading the Animal Family Laws of the Pentateuch.” In [Studies in the History of Exegesis](#), edited by Mark W. Elliott, Raleigh C. Heth, and Angela Zautcke, 39-52. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2022.
- [“Birds as Dads, Babysitters, and Hats: An ‘Indistinction’ Approach to the Modern Bird Mitzvah in Deuteronomy 22:6-7.”](#) *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology* 26 (2022): 79-105. See [announcement](#) on Barnard provost’s page.
- “Rhetoric of the Mishnah.” In [What Is the Mishnah? The State of the Field](#), edited by Shaye J.D. Cohen, 187-203. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2023.
- “Mishnah Tractate Sanhedrin.” In [The Oxford Annotated Mishnah](#), edited by Shaye J.D. Cohen, Robert Goldenberg, and Hayim Lapin. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2022.
- “Response.” In [Animals and the Law in Antiquity](#), edited by Saul Olyan and Jordan Rosenblum, 187-198. Providence, RI: Brown Judaic Series, 2021.
- [“Bio-Power, Sabbath Burdens, and the Badly Behaved Donkey in Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat.”](#) In *Studies in Rabbinic Narratives, Volume 1*, edited by Jeffrey R. Rubenstein, 31-46. Providence, RI: Brown Judaic Studies, 2021.
- [“Animals and Ancient Judaism.”](#) *Currents in Biblical Research* 18, no. 1 (2019): 80-111.
- “The Slipperiness of Animal Suffering: Revisiting the Talmud’s Classic Treatment.” In [Jewish Veganism and Vegetarianism](#), edited by Jacob Labendz and Shmuly Yanklowitz, 3-21. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2019.
- [Journal of Jewish Identities](#), special volume contributing editor, 11, no. 1 (January 2018): Gender Theory and Theorizing Jewishness.
- [“Different Religions? Definitions in Religious Studies and Rabbis.”](#) In *Religious Studies and Rabbis*, edited by Elizabeth Shanks Alexander and Beth Berkowitz, 39-53. New York, NY: Routledge, 2017.
- “Revisiting the Anomalous: Animals at the Intersection of Persons and Property in Bavli Sukkah 22b-23b.” In [The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade](#), edited by Christine E. Hayes, Tzvi Novick, and Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, 239-256. Supplements to the Journal of Ancient Judaism, Vol. 22. Göttingen, Germany: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2017.
- [“Approaches to Foreign Law in Biblical Israel and Classical Judaism through the Medieval Period.”](#) In *Judaism and Law: An Introduction*, edited by Christine E. Hayes, 128-156. The Cambridge Companion to Religions Series. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- “The Cowering Calf and the Thirsty Dog: Narrating and Legislating Kindness to Animals in Jewish and Islamic Texts.” Co-authored with Marion Katz. In [Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning](#), edited by Anver M. Emon, 61-112. London: Oneworld Press, 2016.
- [“Stop Making Sense: Using Text Study Guides to Help Students Learn to Read Talmud.”](#) In *Learning to Read Talmud: What It Looks Like and How It Happens*, edited by Marjorie Lehman and Jane Kanarek, 1-34. Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2016. Finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award.
- “Animal.” In [Late Ancient Knowing: Explorations in Intellectual History](#), edited by Catherine Chin and Moulie Vidas, 35-57. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015.
- “The Afterlives of the Hebrew Bible’s Ethnic Language: The Sifra and the Strōmateis on Lev. 18:1-5.” In [Poetics of Power: Jews, Christians, and The Roman Empire](#), edited by Natalie Dohrmann and Annette Yoshiko Reed, 29-42. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.
- [“A Short History of Israel from the Patriarchs to the Messiah: Constructions of Jewish Difference in Leviticus Rabbah 23.”](#) *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 2, no. 2 (2011): 179-205.
- [“A Conversation about Religious Studies and Rabbinic Texts.”](#) *AJS Perspectives, The Religion Issue* (Fall 2011): 16-20.
- [“Reclaiming Halakhah: On the Recent Works of Aharon Shemesh.”](#) Review Essay. *AJS Review* 35, no. 1 (April 2011): 125-135.
- [“Allegory and Ambiguity: Jewish Identity in Philo’s De Congressu.”](#) *Journal of Jewish Studies* 61, no. 1 (Spring 2010): 1-17.
- [“Reconsidering the Book and the Sword: A Rhetoric of Passivity in Rabbinic Hermeneutics.”](#)

Biblical Interpretation 17, nos. 1-2 (2009): 147-176. Published also in *Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practice in Early Judaism and Christianity*, edited by Ra'anana Boustan, Alex Jassen, and Calvin Roetzel, 145-173. Leiden: Brill, 2010.

- [“The Limits of Their Laws’: Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness \(and Non-Jewishness\).”](#) *Jewish Quarterly Review* 99, no. 1 (Winter 2009): 121-157.
- [“Negotiating Violence and the Word in Rabbinic Law.”](#) *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities* 17, no. 1 (Winter 2005): 125-150.
- [“Decapitation and the Discourse of Anti-Syncretism in the Babylonian Talmud.”](#) *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 70, no. 4 (2002): 743–70.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- [“Homicide: Rabbinic Literature.”](#) In *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Law*, edited by Pamela Barmash, Charlotte E. Fonrobert, Clare Rothschild, Jeffrey Stackert, and John Witte, 409-414. New York: Oxford UP, 2016.
- “Babylonian Talmud.” Entry in *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Early Judaism*. Edited by John J. Collins and Daniel C. Harlow, 413-415. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Saul Olyan, *Animal Rights and the Hebrew Bible*. *Modern Jewish Studies*, in process.
- Review of Rafael Rachel Neis, *When a Woman Gives Birth to a Raven: Rabbis and the Reproduction of Species*. *Journal of Religion*, submitted.
- [Review of Patricia Cox Miller, *Eye of the Animal: Zoological Imagination in Ancient Christianity*. *Reading Religion* \(October 22, 2019\).](#)
- [Review of Jay Geller, *Bestiarium Judaicum: Unnatural Histories of the Jews*. *Religion* \(2018\): 723-726.](#)
- [Review of Alexei Sivertsev, *Judaism and Imperial Ideology in Late Antiquity*. *Association of Jewish Studies Review* 37, no. 1 \(April 2013\): 146-149.](#)
- [Review of Jacob Neusner, Bruce D. Chilton, Baruch A. Levine, *Torah Revealed, Torah Fulfilled: Scriptural Laws in Formative Judaism and Earliest Christianity*. *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 72, no. 2 \(2010\): 386-388.](#)
- Review of Calum Carmichael, *Illuminating Leviticus: A Study of its Laws and Institutions*. *Journal of Law and Religion* 23, no. 1 (2007-08): 101-103.
- [Review of Pamela Barmash, *Homicide in the Biblical World*. *Journal of Law and Religion* 21, no. 1 \(2005-2006\): 101-104.](#)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Criminal Execution among Ancient Christians and Jews.” Essay contribution to the program guide for a production of Richard Strauss’s *Salome*, Hamburg State Opera.
- [“Moses Was an Animal, and Other Insights from Animal Studies: Beth Berkowitz Interviews Sébastien Doane and Suzanna Millar, Co-Chairs of the New Bible and Animal Studies Unit of the Society for Biblical Literature.”](#) *Ancient Jew Review*, November 2, 2023.
- [“As Tree of Life Trial Enters Final Phase, 6 Jewish Scholars on What Text and Tradition Say about the Death Penalty.”](#) By Matthew Litman and Jodi Rudoren. Contributor. July 13, 2023. *The Forward*.
- Podcast Interview, Research in Animal Studies, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, by Dakota Straub, 2023.
- [Amici Curiae Brief](#) on Jewish Animal Ethics, co-editor and co-signatory, requested by the Nonhuman Rights Project, to support a New York State lawsuit (Nonhuman Rights Project against James Breheny) seeking the release of Happy, an elephant at the Bronx Zoo.
- [“7 Jewish Texts You Must Read – Profs Choose Their Favorites.”](#) By Alyssa Fisher. Contributor. November 17, 2019. *The Forward*.
- [“Execution and Irony: A Retrospective on Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures.”](#) *Ancient Jew Review*. July 30, 2019.

- [“The Uppity Donkey and the Distaught Rabbi: Critical Animal Studies and the Talmud.”](#) *Ancient Jew Review*. 5/23/2018.
- [“Unexpected Influences.”](#) *Ancient Jew Review*. February 27, 2017.
- [“Divine Law in the Container Store.”](#) *Ancient Jew Review*. December, 2016.
- [Animal Nature and Rabbinic Writings.](#) Interview in Barnard Alumnae magazine, March 6, 2014.
- [“The Assemani Codex of the Sifra.”](#) Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Web Exhibition, “Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity.”

FELLOWSHIPS

- **New York University Law School**
Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Jewish Law and Civilization, 2009-2010
- **University of Pennsylvania**
Herbert Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Pre-Modern Jewish Law, Associate Fellow, 2021-2022
Louis and Hortense Apfelbaum Postdoctoral Fellow, 2007-2008
- **Yale University**
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Fellow in the Program of Judaic Studies
Department of Religious Studies, 2001-2003
- **Columbia University**
Preceptor in Literature Humanities, 1998-2000
Teaching Assistant and Student Adviser, Department of Religion, 1995-1998

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting**
2023: “Syllabus Workshop for Gateway Courses in Jewish Studies: Inspiring the Next Generation of Students, Scholars, and Supporters of Jewish Studies.” Organizer and Discussant.
2023: “Theoretical Models in Rabbis.” Roundtable Speaker.
2022: “New Perspectives on Jewish Gender in Antiquity and Today.” Special Session, Organizer and Chair.
2021: “The Talmud’s Leaky Pipeline: A Roundtable on Gender Equity in the Field of Rabbis.” Organizer and Speaker.
2020: “Eating Udders: A Critical Vegan Perspective on Bavli Hullin 109b-110b.”
2019: “Humanity, Animality, Otherness, and the Study of Jewish Traditions.” Speaker.
2019: Shia-Jewish Legal Reasoning Seminar. Chair.
2018: “Bio-Power and the Badly Behaved Donkey in Bavli Shabbat Chapter Five.”
2018: “Talmud Philology and Source Criticism.” Chair and Respondent.
2015: “Teaching Rabbinic Texts.” Pedagogy Panel. Roundtable Speaker.
2014, 2015: “Landing an Academic Job.” Paula Hyman Memorial Mentoring Workshop.
2014: “The Human/Animal Binary from the Talmud to the Shoah and Beyond: Jewish Studies and the New Posthumanities.” Organizer and Presenter.
2014: “Examining Ritual: Passover, Prayer, and the Meaning of Intention.” Chair.
2013: “Different ‘Religions’? Definitions in Religious Studies and Rabbis.”
2012: “Rabbinic Hermeneutics of Violence.” Chair.
2011: “Animals as Legal Subjects in Roman and Rabbinic Law.”
2010: “Gender Studies Methodology: The Key to a Critical Category of ‘Jewishness’?” Roundtable Chair.
2010: “Beyond the Binary of Ethnicity and Religion: Constructions of Jewishness in Leviticus Rabbah 23.”
2007: “Gentile Laws and Rabbinic Authority: A New Look at Gay Marriage in the Sifra.”
2006: “Judith Hauptman’s Rereading the Mishnah.”
2005: “Self and Other Through an Ancient Lens: The Midrashic Career of Leviticus 18:3.”
2001: “Unreading a Sugya: Rabbinic Authority in Mishnah Sanhedrin 6:6.”

- 2000: "Signifying Women in Classical Texts." Chair.
- **Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting**
- 2023: "Saul Olyan, *Animal Rights and the Hebrew Bible*." Book panel respondent.
- 2023: History and Literature of Early Rabbinic Judaism. Chair.
- 2022: "'A Nation like a Donkey': Slave-Gentile-Animal Slippage in Midrash and Talmud."
- 2021: "Posthumanist Possibilities." Roundtable Speaker.
- 2018: "Interpretation in the Anthropocene: Reading the 'Animal Family' Laws in the Hebrew Bible."
- 2018: Session dedicated to my book *Animals and Animality*. Respondent.
- 2017: "Beyond Law." Chair.
- 2017: "Six Things about Late Antiquity." Presenter.
- 2016: "Feminism Is for Everybody: Strategizing Pedagogy and Practice." Presenter.
- 2016: Response to Christine Hayes, What's So Divine about Divine Law?
- 2008: "Clement's Use of Philo and Assumptions about Jewish/Christian Difference."
- 2004: "You Shall Not Follow Their Statutes": Leviticus 18:3 and the Making of Religious Identity."
- 2002: "How to Love Your Neighbor: Constructions of Authority in Early Rabbinic Judaism and Early Christianity."
- 2001: "Bavli Sanhedrin 52b, 'Since It Is Written in the Torah, We Do Not Learn It from Them': Decapitation and Cultural Accommodation."
- **American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting**
- 2020: "Roundtable on Critical Animal Studies and Jewish Studies: Intersections, Open Questions, New Directions." Organizer and Participant.
- 2013: "Black Cats, Good Luck, and Rabbinic Hierarchies: Exploring Rabbinic Lawmaking in the Babylonian Talmud."
- 2008: "Taking Note of Narrative in Rabbinic Law." Organizer and Chair.
- 2000: "Rabbinic Execution, Ritualization, and Redemptive Hegemony."
- **Modern Language Association Annual National Conference**
- 2018: "The Badly Behaved Donkey and the Fiction of Discipline in Talmud Tractate Shabbat." Representing the Nonhuman in Jewish and Hebrew Literature.
- **American Anthropological Association Annual Conference**
- 2015: "Subjectivity and Sex with Animals in Talmudic Legal Discourse." Rabbinic Anthropologies: Theoretical Exchange between Indigenous and Academic Traditions.
- **Jewish Law Association Regional Annual Conference**
- 2017: "Discipline and Pleasure: Animal Accessories in Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat Chapter Five."
- **Society of Jewish Ethics Annual Conference**
- 2020: "A Species-Inclusive Genealogy of the Jewish Family"

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- **Bard College**
- 2017: "Rabbinics and Posthumanism." Workshop: Make It New Again: New Possibilities for Classical Jewish Texts in Scholarship and Literature.
- **Barnard College**
- 2013: "Frontiers in Jewish Studies: The Clever Ox, the Escaping Elephant, and Other Rabbinic Animalities." Inaugural Lecture for the Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies.
- **Ben Gurion University of the Negev**
- 2021: Inter-University Graduate Student Conference in Talmudic Literature and Halakhah. Respondent.
- **Brandeis University**
- 2016: "Seeing Animal Suffering in Rabbinic Sources." Jewish Studies Colloquium.
- 2008: "The Cultural Studies Orientation." Respondent. Conference: Teaching Rabbinic Literature: Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy. Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education.
- **Brooklyn College**
- 2002: "Elisha ben Abuya: Biography of a Renegade Sage." Department of Jewish Studies.
- **Brown University**

2022: Elga K. Stulman Fund for Judaic Studies Scholar Lecture Series. Three-lecture series.
 "Birds as Architects, Dads, and Hats: The Mother Bird Mitzvah in the Mishnah and Talmud."
 "The Return of the Repressed Mother: Eating Udders in the Babylonian Talmud."
 "A Genealogy of Jewish Families, Animals Included."

2018: Guest Lecturer for Professor Michael Satlow's Graduate Seminar.
 2018: "Bio-Power and the Badly Behaved Donkey in the Babylonian Talmud." Jewish Studies Program.

- **Columbia University**

2024: "Relating to the Other: Animals and Gentiles in the Hebrew Bible and Rabbinic Reception." Co-authored with Rachel Slutsky. Columbia University Seminar in Hebrew Bible Conference.
 2023: "Udders, Queer Nests, and Animal Family Trees: Kinship in Animal Bible Studies." University Seminars in Hebrew Bible.
 2021: Clémence Boulouque, *Another Modernity*. Book talk at the Heyman Center. Panel Discussant.
 2021: Professor Rachel McDermott, Guest Lecture, Religion Department Seminar on Transmission.
 2020, 2021: Professor Isabelle Levy, Guest Lecture, Seminar on Topics in Jewish Studies.
 2019: "Marketing Religion." Center for Teaching and Learning. Speaker.
 2019: "Animal Studies Meets Jewish Studies: New Books in the Arts and Sciences: Celebrating Recent Work by Beth Berkowitz," respondent, with Naama Harel and Sergey Dolgopolski.
 2018: "Bio-Power and the Badly Behaved Donkey in the Babylonian Talmud." University Seminars in Human-Animal Studies.
 2016: "Sex and Money." Religion Department Graduate Student Conference. Session on "Ritualizing Porous Bodies." Respondent.
 2015: Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. Respondent.
 2014: "History of Religions, Part II." Religion Department Graduate Student Conference. Session on "The Practice of History."
 2013: "Live/Stock: The Conceptual Conundrum of Animals in the Babylonian Talmud." Religion Unwound. PhD Student Workshop.
 2013: "American Religion Then and Now." Interfaith Panel.
 2001: "How to Cut Off a Head: Rabbinic Execution and Roman Execution." Religion Department Annual Colloquium.

- **Concordia University**

2011: "A Short History of the People Israel from the Patriarchs to the Messiah: Constructions of Jewish Difference in Leviticus Rabbah 23." Conference: History, Memory, and Jewish Identity.

- **Duke University**

2021: "Appetite for Udders: The Return of the Repressed Mother in Bavli Hullin 109a-11b." North Carolina Jewish Studies Seminar, in conjunction with UNC Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, and NC State.

- **Fordham University**

2023: Book launch panel for Emanuel Fiano's *Three Powers in Heaven: The Emergence of Theology and the Parting of the Ways* (Yale UP, 2023). Sponsored by Fordham Center for Jewish Studies, Fordham Orthodox Christian Studies Center, and Fordham Theology Department.

- **Harvard University**

2023: "Animal Studies and the Talmud." Conference on Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Talmud. The Harvard Center for Jewish Studies and the Julius-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law at Harvard Law School.
 2016: "Bad Cats and Bad Rabbis: Deconstructing Discourses of Animal Danger in the Babylonian Talmud." Conference: Animals, Law, and Religion. Harvard Law School.

- **Hebrew University**

2021: "The Animal Family Laws of the Torah." Jewish Law Workshop.

- **Humanimal Conference**

2023: "Udders, Queer Nests, and Animal Family Trees: Kinship as Keyword in Animal Bible Studies." Keynote Speaker. (online conference)

- **The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**

2022: "Concerning Content" Conference, Participant.
 2015: Discussion of Yair Lorberbaum, *Image of God*. Library Series on New Books.

2012: “Lost in Translation: Multiple Meanings, Midrash, and Making Jewish Identities.” Keynote Address. Lost Texts: A Graduate Student Conference.

2008: “Lost in Translation: The Language of Jewish Ritual.” Women’s Center.

2006: “New Currents in Jewish Studies.” Faculty Retreat.

2006: Discussion of my book *Execution and Invention*. Library Series on New Books.

2006: “Bestiality, Rape, and Murder: Negotiating Mishnah Avodah Zarah 2:1.” Graduate School Orientation Lecture.

2005: “Reproof of One’s Neighbor: Ancient Jewish Interpretations of Leviticus 19:17.” Rabbinical Assembly Convocation.

2005: “Jewish Difference in Late Antique Palestine: Emerging Paradigms and their Impact on Reading the Rabbis.” Seminar in Rabbinics.

2004: “Leviticus 18:3, Boundary-Making and Boundary-Breaking.” Lecture to faculty.

- **Middlebury College**

2011: “The New Historiography of Late Antique Palestine and Its Implications for Reading Rabbinic Literature.” Ancient Judaism Seminar.

2011: “Ambivalent Responses to Thanksgiving: Rabbi Moshe Feinstein on the Status of the Secular in American Jewish Orthodoxy.” Department of Religion.

- **Newberry Library**

2024: “The Families of the Fauna: Medieval Jewish Perspectives on Animal Kinship.” Symposium on Medieval Cosmic Ecologies.

- **New York University**

2018: “Bio-Power and the Badly Behaved Donkey in Bavli Shabbat Chapter Five.” Rabbinic Narratives.

2017: “Professionalization Session on Publishing.” Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar.

2009: “‘And in Their Laws You Shall Not Go’: Anxieties of Identity in Jewish and Christian Bible Reading.” Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization. NYU Law School.

- **Northwestern University**

2015: “Rabbinic Literature and the New Posthumanities.” Conference: At the Crossroads: New Directions in the Study of Rabbinic Literature.

- **Princeton University**

2019: Inaugural Seminar for New Ideas in Rabbinics. Religion Department. Participant.

2018: Ancient Judaism Regional Conference. Respondent.

- **Rutgers University**

2006: “Interpreting Rabbinic Texts.” Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Anniversary Event.

2002: “History or Hermeneutics? Searching for the Origins of Rabbinic Law.” Judaic Studies Department.

- **Union Theological Seminary**

2019: “Animal Families.” Joint Colloquium on Bible for Union Theological Seminary and the Jewish Theological Seminary.

- **University of Chicago**

2015: “The Question of Gentile Bestiality in Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin 55a-b.” Animal Studies Workshop, co-sponsored with Jewish Studies.

- **University of Hamburg**

2023: “Rabbinic Skepticism Regarding Genealogy: Natal Alienation of Slaves and Animals in the Babylonian Talmud. Workshop on “Faith, Skepticism, and Human-Animal Boundaries in Jewish and Christian Religious Cultures.” Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies (MCAS).

- **University of Michigan**

2016: “Introduction to Theory: Critical Animal Studies.” Conference: Talmud Interrupted. Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

- **University of Minnesota**

2007: “Violent Readings by the Rabbis: Hermeneutics and the Arts of Resistance.” Conference: Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions: Discourse, Ritual, Community.

2003: “The Politics of Burial: Power and Performance in Ancient Jewish Criminal Execution.”

Department of Classics and Near Eastern Studies.

- **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

2021: “Birds as Dads, Babysitters, and Hats: An ‘Indistinction’ Approach to the Mother Bird Mitzvah in Deuteronomy 22:6-7.” The Kaplan-Brauer Lecture. Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

- **University of Pennsylvania**

2022: Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. Respondent. (Virtual)

2021: Pre-Modern Jewish Law. Katz Center Opening Panel.

2018: Law as Performance and Play: A Dialogue. Respondent. University of Pennsylvania Law School.

2017: Jews and the Natural World: Bodies, Animal, Evolution. Respondent. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

2008: “Allegorizing Ethnicity: Philo and Clement on Leviticus 18:3.” Conference: Imperialism in Late Antiquity. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

2008: “The Rabbis Reconsidered: A Roundtable.” Jewish Studies Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series.

2007: “Gay Marriage or Gladiators? Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness (and Non-Jewishness.” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies.

- **University of Toronto**

2013: Presentation of work-in-progress on the Legal Personhood of Animals in Jewish and Islamic Law.

- **University of Virginia**

2013: “Different Religions? Definitions in Rabbinics and Religious Studies.” Religious Studies and Rabbinics Conference.

- **Villanova University**

2005: “Rabbinic Constructions of Self and Other: The Midrashic Career of Leviticus 18:3.” Plenary Lecture. Conference: Living in Antiquity: Jews, Greeks, and Christians.

- **Yale University**

2019: Ancient Judaism Regional Conference. Respondent.

2013: Discussion of Current Research. Yale Ancient Judaism Workshop.

2011: Discussion of Current Research. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Judaism.

2007: Discussion of *Execution and Invention*. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Christianity.

2005: Discussion of *Execution and Invention*. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Christianity.

2002: “Portraits of Sages Who Kill: Execution and Invention.” Colloquium of the Judaic Studies Program.

2002: “And You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, Leviticus 19:18: Early Rabbinic and Christian Interpretations.” Yale Divinity School, Judaic Studies Series.

TEACHING

- **Barnard College**

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

Introduction to Rabbinic Literature

Introduction to Talmud Text Study

Introduction to Judaism

Talmudic Narrative

Divine Human Animal

Crime and Punishment in Jewish Culture

The Production of Jewish Difference from Antiquity to the Present

Theory in the Study of Religion

Senior Thesis Seminar in Religion

- **The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**

Introduction to Rabbinic Literature

Introductory; Intermediate; Advanced Talmud

Ritual Language: Chapter Seven of Tractate Sotah

Deciphering a Rabbinic Meal: Chapter Six of Tractate Berakhot

The Politics of Representing the Non-Jew: Chapter Two of Tractate Avodah Zarah

Shame and Injury: Chapter Eight of Bava Kamma
“The Ways of the Gentiles”: The Production of Difference in Rabbinic Culture
Discipline and Punish: Criminal Law in Ancient Jewish Culture
Humans and Other Animals in Talmudic Torts
The Human-Animal Boundary in Rabbinic Literature
Midrash for Majors

- **Yale University**

Ritual and Rabbinic Culture
Capital Punishment in Rabbinic Law
Introduction to the Talmud in Translation

- **Columbia University**

Literature Humanities I and II
Introduction to Judaism (assistant)
Introduction to the New Testament (assistant)
Issues in Modern Jewish Thought (assistant)
Jewish Family Law (guest lecturer)
Plain and Interpreted Meanings in Jewish Exegesis (guest lecturer)

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE

- **Service at Barnard College**

Barnard Jewish Studies Program, Chair, 2012-present
Barnard Religion Department, Chair, 2017-2022
Faculty Diversity and Development New Faculty Mentoring Program, Mentor, 2019-present
Barnard Committee on Programs and Academic Standing, 2023-2025
Columbia University Tenure Review Advisory Committee, Barnard College Representative, 2018 (2 cases), 2019 (3 cases), 2020 (3 cases), 2021 (1 case), 2022 (3 cases)
Barnard Faculty Budget Planning Committee, Elected Committee, 2018-2022
Barnard Double Degree Program with the Jewish Theological Seminary, Faculty Advisor, 2013-present
Barnard Religion Department Senior Thesis Advisor, 2012-present
Barnard Internal Grants Committee, Elected Committee, 2016-2018
Barnard Committee on the Senior Experience, 2013-2015
Barnard Center for Research on Women and Gender, Steering Committee, 2012-2013
Indigenous Religions, Chair of Job Search, Barnard Religion Department, 2017-2018
American Religion position, Job Search Committee, Barnard Religion Department, 2014

- **Barnard Rennert Forum Fund**

Faculty advisory board, organizer, 2018-present
Bais Yaakov School Yiddish Choral Concert, planned with Professor Naomi Seidman, Spring 2020 (postponed due to COVID)
Rennert Remote Internship Program with the Jewish Women’s Archive, organizer, 2020-present
Undergraduate Judaic Studies Conference, co-organizer with student chair, February 2020
Rennert Senior Thesis Prize in Jewish Studies, organizer, awarded annually in celebratory event with reception, 2019-present
Rennert Research Fund in Jewish Studies, organizer, awarded annually, 2019-present
Public lecture, organizer, Professor Elisheva Baumgarten, “Towards a Social History of Medieval Jewish Marriage: Finding Individuals within Communities,” Spring 2018
Student workshop, organizer, Professor Elisheva Baumgarten, “Documents of Practice: Towards a Non-Rabbinic History of Medieval Ashkenaz,” Spring 2018

- **Service at Columbia University**

Columbia Religion Department MA and PhD Student Advisor
Columbia Religion Department Dissertation Defense Committees, 2012-present
Columbia Religion Department PhD Admissions in Judaism, Chair, 2012-2021
Columbia Religion Planning Committee, 2018-2022, 2023-2024
Columbia Program in Classical Studies, affiliate member, 2022-present

Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Core Faculty, 2012-present
Columbia Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Search Committee, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Jewish Thought, 2021-2022
Columbia History Department Dissertation Sponsor, 2018-2019
Columbia History Department Comprehensive Exams Committee, 2019-2020
Columbia Religion Department, Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2017
Columbia Religion Department's Dissertation Workshop Advisor, 2013-2014
Columbia Religion Department Job Search Committee: Witten Chair of Jewish Studies, 2012, 2013, 2014

- **Service at the Jewish Theological Seminary**

Search Committee for Position in Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures, Consultant, 2023
Area Coordinator, Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures, 2011-2012
Program Co-Director, Ancient Judaism, 2004-2012
Faculty Committees: Graduate School, List College, Institutional Development, Faculty Executive, Rabbinical School, Strategic Planning
Dissertation Defense Committees, Department of Talmud, 2006-2012
Examiner for M.A. and Ph.D. exams in Ancient Judaism and Talmud, 2005-2012
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, 2005-2006, 2010-2011

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- **Academic Workshops**

Columbia Bible Seminar, member, 2023-present
Multi-Session Pedagogy Workshop. "Community of Practice on Anti-Racism," Barnard College, 2021-2022
Multi-Session Pedagogy Workshop. "Sustaining Curricula." Barnard College, Spring 2020
Multi-Session Pedagogy Workshop. "Demystifying the Digital Humanities." Barnard College, Fall 2019
Multi-Session Workshop in Talmud Pedagogy: "Learning to Read Talmud: What It Looks Like and How It Happens." Brandeis University, 2013-2014
Multi-Session Working Group on Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning, University of Toronto, 2009-2013
Multi-Day Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, Frankel Center, University of Michigan, 2007

- **Advisory Boards**

Herbert D. Katz Center for Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2016-present
Institute for Religion and Public Life, Columbia University, 2017-present (sub-committees on dissertation fellowships and joint projects; selection committee for Claremont book prize, 2023)

- **American Academy of Religion**

Steering Committee, History of Judaism, 2009-2014

- **Association of Jewish Studies**

AJS Junior Faculty Mentorship Program, Mentor to junior scholar, 2023-2024
AJS Special Task Force for the Program, Chair, 2023-2024
Program Committee, 2021-2024
Steering and Mentors Selection Committee, Paula Hyman Memorial Mentorship Program, 2014-2022
Jordan Schnitzer Jewish Studies Book Award Judge, 2020
Legacy Heritage Dissertation Fellowships Review Committee, 2016-2018
Division Chair, Theorizing Jewish Difference, 2016
Board Nominating Committee, 2014-2015
Chair, Rabbis Division, 2011-2014
AJS Board Member, 2010-2014
AJS Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2013

- **Society for Biblical Literature**

Steering Committee, Rabbinic Literature unit, 2022-present

Steering Committee and Co-Founder, Animal Studies unit, 2022-present

- **Conference Organizing**

Jewish Law Association Conference, “Big Ideas in Jewish Law” co-organizer, 2022

Jewish Law Association Conference, Academic Planning Committee, 2019-2020 (postponed due to COVID)

Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, Faculty Consultant, Columbia University, 2015-2016, 2019-2020 (postponed due to COVID)

“The Past – and Future – of Jewish Storytelling,” Co-chair, Columbia University, 2013

“Grammars of Coherence and Difference: Jewish Studies through the Lens of Gender Studies,” Co-chair, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, 2015

- **Review Activities**

University of Pennsylvania Press, Jewish Cultures and Contexts Series, Coeditor, 2022-present

Prooftexts, Associate Editor, 2008-present

Jewish Quarterly Review, Board Member and Reviewer, 2020-present (elected for second term)

Oqimta, Board Member and Reviewer, 2018-present

Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study, Fellowship Selection Reviewer, 2022-2023

Israel Science Foundation, Grant Reviewer, 2019

Committee for the Salo Baron Dissertation Prize in Jewish Studies, Columbia University, 2016

Peer Reviewer, Journals: *AJS Review*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *History of Religions*, *Jewish Law Annual*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Journal of Religion*, *Nashim*, *Prooftexts*, *Society and Animals*, *Speculum*, *Studies in Religion*

Peer Reviewer, Books: Brown Judaic Studies, Cambridge University Press, Fordham University Press, Harvard University Press, New York University Press, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Routledge, University of California Press, University of Pennsylvania Press

- **External Advising**

Dissertation Proposal Defense Committee, Department of Talmud and Rabbinics, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Fall 2022 (Benjamin Kamine)

Dissertation Prospectus and Defense Committee, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, UCLA, 2020-2021 (Megan Remington)

Dissertation Defense Committee, Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2018-2022 (Miriam Simma-Walfish)

Dissertation Reader, Yale University, Department of Religious Studies, 2020 (Pratima Gopalakrishnan)

Dissertation Advisor, Hebrew University, Department of Political Science, 2013-2018 (Benjamin Schvarcz)

Advisor, Tikvah Fellow, 2012-2013 (Benjamin Schvarcz)

Dissertation Defense Committee, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Religion, 2010 (Tamara Jacobowitz)

AWARDS

- **Publication Awards**

Salo Baron Prize for First Book in Jewish Studies, 2007

Salo Baron Dissertation Prize, Columbia University, Nominee, 2006

- **Dissertation Fellowships**

Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2000-2001

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Fellowship, 2000-2001

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, 2000-2001

Lady Davis Graduate Dissertation Fellowship (declined), 2000-2001

Interuniversity Fellowship in Jewish Studies (declined), 2000-2001

Mellon Fellowship of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 1998
President's Fellowship of the Faculty of the Department of Religion, Columbia University, 1994-8
Fellowship of the Divinity School, University of Chicago, 1993-4

- **Undergraduate Awards**

Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University, 1992
German Language Excellence Award, Columbia University, 1992

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- **Synagogue/Jewish Organization Lectures and Other Activities**

2024: Guest speaker for Compassion Consortium's [Animal Chaplaincy Training](#) program
2022: "Beyond Jewish Environmentalism" Conference Participant. Sponsored by the Shalom Hartman Institute of North America.
2022: Consultant to journalist Bethany Brookshire for her book on the history of pests, to be published by Ecco, an imprint of Harper Collins
2021: LEAP Conference Workshop on Jewish Law for Rabbis, hosted by the Herbert Katz Center of Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and CLAL, New York, NY.
2021: "The 'Animal Family' Laws of the Torah: Making Animals a Part of the Jewish Family." Valley Beit Midrash, Scottsdale, Arizona.
2021: "Are Pit Bulls Dangerous? Reflecting on Rabbinic Constructions of Risk. Lucy S. Dawidowicz Lecture. Congregation Or Zarua, New York, NY.
2017: "Ritualization of Punishment." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program, New York, NY.
2014, 2015: "Criminal Justice and the Problem of Evidence: Biblical and Rabbinic Approaches." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program, New York, NY.
2013: "Prisons in Jewish Law." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program.
2011: "Finding A Jewish Self." Sutton Place Synagogue, New York, NY.
2010: "Jews and Christians Imagining Difference: Leviticus 18 and 'Their Laws.'" Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. Five Scholars on Five Books of the Torah. New York, NY.
2010: Lecture Series: "Constructive Criticism or Nosy Neighbors – Is There a Difference?," "Jews and Non-Jews: Are We All Really Created Equal?," "Stoning, Hanging, and The Electric Chair: Does Judaism Believe in the Death Penalty?" Park Synagogue, Cleveland, Ohio.
2008: "Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness." Germantown Jewish Center, Mt. Airy, PA.
2008: "Capital Punishment and Rabbinic Culture." Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA.
2007: "The Concept of Covenant in Rabbinic Midrash." Temple Beth Shalom, Roslyn, NY.
2002: "The 'Death Team' in Rabbinic Criminal Law." Town and Village Synagogue, New York, NY. Young Scholars on the Cutting Edge Series.
2002: "Why Study Talmud." Congregation Bnai Israel, Toms River, NJ.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association of Jewish Studies
Society of Biblical Literature