

# BETH A. BERKOWITZ

218 Milbank Hall, Barnard College | 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027 | [bberkowi@barnard.edu](mailto:bberkowi@barnard.edu)  
| (212) 854-2597

## EMPLOYMENT

- **Barnard College**

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

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

- **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

- *Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018.
- *Religious Studies and Rabbis*, co-edited with Elizabeth Shanks Alexander. Routledge Jewish Studies Series. New York: 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: Oxford University Press, 2006. Awarded Salo Baron Prize for Outstanding First Book in Jewish Studies, 2007.

## ARTICLES

- "Mishnah Tractate Sanhedrin." *Oxford Annotated Mishnah*. Edited by Shaye Cohen and Hayim Lapin. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.
- *Journal of Jewish Identities*, special volume co-editor, forthcoming.
- "The Slipperiness of Animal Suffering: Revisiting the Talmud's Classic Treatment." In *Jewish Veganism and Vegetarianism*. Edited by Jacob Labendz and Shmuly Yanklowitz. State University of New York Press, forthcoming.
- "Different Religions? Definitions in Religious Studies and Rabbis." In *Religious Studies and Rabbis*. Edited by Elizabeth Shanks Alexander and Beth Berkowitz. New York: Routledge, 2017, pp. 39-53.
- "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. Göttingen, Germany: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, Supplements to the Journal of Ancient Judaism, Vol. 22, 2017, pp. 239-256.

- “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. The Cambridge Companion to Religions Series. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 128-156.
- “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. London: Oneworld Press, 2016, pp. 61-112.
- “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. Academic Studies Press, 2016, pp. 1-34. *Finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award*.
- “Animal.” *Late Ancient Knowing: Explorations in Intellectual History*. Edited by Catherine Chin and Moulie Vidas. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015, pp. 36-57.
- “The Afterlives of the Hebrew Bible’s Ethnic Language: The Sifra and the Strōmateis on Lev. 18:1-5.” *Poetics of Power: Jews, Christians, and The Roman Empire*. Edited by Natalie Dohrmann and Annette Yoshiko Reed. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013, pp. 29-42.
- “A Short History of Israel from the Patriarchs to the Messiah: Constructions of Jewish Difference in Leviticus Rabbah 23.” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 2/2 (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* 35/1 (April 2011): 125-135.
- “Allegory and Ambiguity: Jewish Identity in Philo’s *De Congressu*.” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 61/1 (Spring 2010): 1-17.
- “Reconsidering the Book and the Sword: A Rhetoric of Passivity in Rabbinic Hermeneutics.” *Biblical Interpretation* 17/1-2 (2009): 147-176. Published also in *Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practice in Early Judaism and Christianity*. Edited by Ra’anan Boustan, Alex Jassen, and Calvin Roetzel. Leiden: Brill, 2010. Pp. 145-173.
- “The Limits of ‘Their Laws’: Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness (and Non-Jewishness).” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 99/1 (Winter 2009): 121-157.
- “Negotiating Violence and the Word in Rabbinic Law.” *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities* 17/1 (Winter 2005): 125-150.
- “Decapitation and the Discourse of Anti-Syncretism in the Babylonian Talmud.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 70/4 (2002): 743–70.

## ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

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

## BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of Jay Geller, *Bestiarium Judaicum: Unnatural Histories of the Jews*. *Religion* (2018): <https://doi.org/10.1080/0048721X.2018.1490108>
- Review of Alexei Sivertsev, *Judaism and Imperial Ideology in Late Antiquity*. *Association of Jewish Studies Review* 37/1 (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 (2010): 386-388.

- Review of Calum Carmichael, *Illuminating Leviticus: A Study of its Laws and Institutions*. *Journal of Law and Religion* 23/1 (2007-08): 101-103.
- Review of Pamela Barmash, *Homicide in the Biblical World*. *Journal of Law and Religion* 21/1 (2005-2006): 101-104.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Unexpected Influences.” *Ancient Jew Review*.  
<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2017/2/27/unexpected-influences-beth-berkowitz-and-ishay-rosen-zvi>
- “Divine Law in the Container Store.” *Ancient Jew Review*.  
<http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2016/12/6/divine-law-in-the-container-store>
- “Animal Nature and Rabbinic Writings.” Interview in *Barnard Alumnae* magazine, March 6, 2014.  
<http://barnard.edu/news/animal-natures-and-rabbinic-writings>
- “The Assemani Codex of the Sifra.” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Web Exhibition, “Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity.”  
<http://www.library.upenn.edu/exhibits/cajs/fellows08/cajs2008.html>

## FELLOWSHIPS

- **New York University Law School**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization, 2009-2010
- **University of Pennsylvania**  
Louis and Hortense Apfelbaum Postdoctoral Fellow  
Herbert Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, 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 Meeting**  
2018: “Bio-Power and the Badly Behaved Donkey in Bavli Shabbat Chapter Five.” Proposed session.  
2018: “Talmud Philology and Source Criticism.” Chair and Respondent. Proposed session.  
2015: “Teaching Rabbinic Texts.” Pedagogy Panel. Roundtable.  
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 of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting**

2018: "Interpretation in the Anthropocene: Reading the 'Animal Family' Laws in the Hebrew Bible."

2018: Session dedicated to my book *Animals and Animality*. Respondent. Proposed session.

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**

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 Conference**

2017: "Discipline and Pleasure: Animal Accessories in Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat Chapter Five."

## INVITED LECTURES

- **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.

- **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**

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**

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.

- **Harvard University**

2016: “Bad Cats and Bad Rabbis: Deconstructing Discourses of Animal Danger in the Babylonian Talmud.” Conference: Animals, Law, and Religion. Harvard Law School.

- **The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**

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 *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.

- **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: CONFERENCE FROM MOULIE AND AZZAN  
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.

- **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 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 Pennsylvania**

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

2008: “Allegorizing Ethnicity: Philo and Clement on Leviticus 18:3.” Conference: Imperialism in Late Antiquity. 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**

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 Representation: 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 and Columbia University**

Barnard Jewish Studies Program, Chair, 2012-present  
Barnard Double Degree Program with the Jewish Theological Seminary, Faculty Advisor, 2013-present  
Barnard Religion Department Senior Thesis Advisor, 2012-present  
Columbia Religion Department MA and PhD Student Advisor, 2012-present  
Barnard Religion Department, Chair, 2017-present  
Columbia Religion Department, Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2017  
Barnard Internal Grants Committee, Elected Committee, 2016-2018  
Barnard Committee on the Senior Experience, 2013-2015  
Columbia Religion Department's Dissertation Workshop Advisor, 2013-2014  
Barnard Center for Research on Women and Gender, Steering Committee, 2012-2013  
Job Search Committees:  
Indigenous Religions, Chair of Search, Barnard Religion Department, 2017-2018  
American Religion position, Barnard Religion Department, 2014  
Witten Chair of Jewish Studies, Columbia Religion Department, 2012-2014

- **Service at the Jewish Theological Seminary**

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**

Workshop in Talmud Pedagogy: "Learning to Read Talmud: What It Looks Like and How It Happens." Brandeis University, 2013-2014  
Working group on Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning, University of Toronto, 2009-2013

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

- **American Academy of Religion**

Steering Committee, History of Judaism, 2009-2014

- **Association of Jewish Studies**

Legacy Heritage Dissertation Fellowships Review Committee, 2016-2018

Steering Committee, Paula Hyman Memorial Mentorship Program, 2014-present

Division Chair, Theorizing Jewish Difference, 2016

Board Nominating Committee, 2014-2015

Chair, Rabbinics Division, 2011-2014

AJS Board Member, 2010-2014

AJS Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2013

- **Conference Organizing**

Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, Co-organizer, Columbia University, 2015

“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**

*Oqimta*, Board Member and Reviewer, 2018-present

*Prooftexts*, Board Member and Reviewer, 2008-present

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 Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*, *Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Journal of Religion*, *Nashim*, *Society and Animals*, *Speculum*

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

- **External Advising**

Dissertation Advisor, Hebrew University, Department of Political Science, 2013-2018

Advisor, Tikvah Fellow, Project on Conceptions of Liberty in the Talmud, 2012-2013

Dissertation Defense Committee, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Religion, 2010

## 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**

2017: "Ritualization of Punishment." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program.  
2014, 2015: "Criminal Justice and the Problem of Evidence: Biblical and Rabbinic Approaches." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program.  
2013: "Prisons in Jewish Law." T'ruah, Rabbis for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program.  
2011: "Finding A Jewish Self." Sutton Place Synagogue.  
2010: "Jews and Christians Imagining Difference: Leviticus 18 and 'Their Laws.'" Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. Five Scholars on Five Books of the Torah.  
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