

LAURA SUZANNE LIEBER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Duke University

Professor of Late Ancient Judaism, Department of Religious Studies, Fall 2016-present
Associate Professor (with tenure), Fall 2011-Spring 2016
Assistant Professor, Fall 2008-Spring 2011
Secondary Appointment, Duke Divinity School
Secondary Appointment, Classical Studies
Secondary Appointment, Germanic Languages and Literatures

Middlebury College

Assistant Professor of Classics and Religion, Fall 2003-Spring 2008

University of Chicago

Instructor in Biblical Hebrew, Divinity School, Fall 2001-Spring 2003

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati)

Instructor in Bible and History of Interpretation (summer terms), 2000-2002
Teaching Assistant in Hebrew Bible and Rabbinics, 1997-1999

University of Cincinnati

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Religion, 1997-1999

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in History of Judaism, University of Chicago Divinity School, August 2003

Dissertation: “‘Let Me Sing for My Beloved’: Transformations of the Song of Songs in Synagogal Poetry.” Advisor: Michael Fishbane; Readers: Menachem Brinker, Tikva Frymer-Kensky, and Joel Kraemer

Rabbinic Ordination, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, June 1999

Rabbinic Thesis: “An Ephraimite Yankee in King David’s Court: Dialect-Switching in the Book of Judges.” Advisor: Stephen Kaufman

M.A. in Hebrew Letters, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, June 1998

B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in English Literature with minors in Classics and Social Work, University of Arkansas, May 1994; Phi Beta Kappa, Fall 1992

Honors Thesis: “Lilith: History of an Archetype.” Advisor: Robert Cochran (English)

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS (DUKE)

Director, Duke Center for Jewish Studies, Fall 2015-present

Co-Director (with Eric Meyers), Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Associate Director, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Assistant Director, Fall 2008-Spring 2013

Director, Duke-UNC Center for Late Ancient Studies, 2011-present

Interim Chair, Germanic Languages and Literatures, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

BOOKS (COMPLETED)

Jewish Aramaic Poetry from Late Antiquity: Translations and Commentary. Cambridge Genizah Series, volume 8 (Leiden: Brill, 2018)

The Vocabulary of Desire: The Song of Songs in the Early Synagogue (Leiden: Brill, 2014).

Interviewed on “Up Close” (The Jewish Channel) Nov. 20, 2014 (link:

<https://twitter.com/tjctv/status/548131123499266048>)

Review: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=43200>

Review: Riikka Tuori, *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 19.1 (2016): 147-149

Review: J. L. Andruska, *Journal of Theological Studies* 67.1 (2016): 208-211

Yannai on Genesis: An Invitation to Piyyut (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2010); e-book
(<http://www.imsearch.com/5948>: JSTOR, 2015).

Review: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=30605>

BOOKS (IN PROCESS)

Classical Samaritan Poetry in Context (under contract: Penn State University Press, 2020)

Staging the Sacred: Performance in Late Ancient Liturgical Poetry (in development)

CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS (IN PROCESS)

Laura Lieber and Willem Smelik (UCL), *The Aramaic Bible: Tosefta Targumim* (Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, in preliminary stages)

CO-EDITED PUBLICATIONS

Jonathan Hess (UNC) and Laura Lieber, eds. *AJS Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies* (Biannual), Spring 2015-Fall 2018 (<http://perspectives.ajsnet.org/>)

Fall 2015: “The Translation Issue”

Spring 2016: “The Sound Issue”

Fall 2016: “The Freedom Issue”

Spring 2017: “The Transgression Issue”

Fall 2017: “The Migration Issue”

Spring 2018: “The Old/New Media Issue”

Fall 2019: “The Fiftieth Anniversary Issue: New Vistas in Jewish Studies”

Lawrence Edwards and Laura Lieber, eds., *The CCAR Journal: The Reform Jewish Quarterly* (Special book review section: Essays on Michael Fishbane, *Sacred Attunement: A Jewish Theology*), Summer 2011.

Deborah Green and Laura Lieber, eds., *Scriptural Exegesis: The Shapes of Culture and Religious Imagination, a Festschrift in Honour of Michael Fishbane* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2009).

JOURNAL ARTICLES (PEER REVIEWED)

“Call and Response: Antiphonal Elements in Jewish Palestinian Aramaic Poetry” in *Aramaic Studies* (forthcoming)

“With One Voice: Elements of Acclamation in Early Jewish Liturgical Poetry,” *Harvard Theological Review* 111.3 (2018): 401–424.

“Daru in the Winehouse: Dancing and Performance in the Jewish East in Late Antiquity,” *Journal of Religion* 98.1 (2018): 90-113.

“Scripture Personified: Torah as Character in the Hymns of Marqah,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 24.2 (2017), 195-217.

“Bitter Waters and Dew of Rest: Corruption and Creation in Two Late Ancient Jewish Hymns,” in *Knowing Bodies, Passionate Souls: Sense Perceptions in Byzantium*, edited by Susan Ashbrook Harvey and Margaret Mullett, special issue of *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* (2017), 171-199.

“Forever Let it be Said: Issues of Authorial Multivocality in a Samaritan Hymn,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 7 (2016): 249-268.

- “On the Road with *Mater Dolorosa*: An Exploration of Maternal-Filial Discourse in Performance,” *The Journal of Early Christian Studies* 24.2 (2016): 265-291.
- “Stages of Grief: Enacting Laments in Late Ancient Hymnography,” *AJS Review* 40.1 (2016): 101-125.
- “Theater of the Holy: Jewish Piyyut, Christian Hymnography, and the Rhetoric of the Late Ancient Stage,” *Harvard Theological Review* 108.4 (2015): 327-355.
- “From the Margins: A Response to ‘Schoeps on Schoeps,’” in *NEXUS: Essays in German Jewish Studies* 2 (2015): 33-36.
- “Telling a Liturgical Tale: Storytelling in Early Jewish Liturgical Poetry,” *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte* 66 (2015): 211-232.
- “The Plot within the Piyyut: Retelling the Story of Balak on the Liturgical Stage,” *Journal of Textual Reasoning* 8.1 (2015): <http://jtr.lib.virginia.edu/volume-8-number-1/the-plot-within-the-piyyut-retelling-the-story-of-balak-on-the-liturgical-stage/>
- “Setting the Stage: The Theatricality of Jewish Aramaic Poetry from Late Antiquity,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 104 (2014): 537-572.
- “The Rhetoric of Participation: The Experiential Elements of Early Hebrew Liturgical Poetry,” *Journal of Religion* 90 (2010): 119-147.
- “Themes and Variations: Yannai on Exodus 3:1 and Deuteronomy 6:4,” *Prooftexts* 30 (2010): 180-216.
- “You Have Been Skirting this Hill Long Enough’: The Tension between History and Rhetoric in a Byzantine Piyyut,” *Hebrew Union College Annual* 80 (2009): 63-114.
- “Portraits of Righteousness: Noah in Early Christian and Jewish Hymnography,” *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte* 61 (2009): 332-355.
- “The Exegesis of Love: Text and Context in the Early Synagogue,” *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 11(2008): 73-99.
- “There is None like You among the Mute: the Theology of *Ein Kamokha Ba-Illemim* in Context, with a New Edition and Translation,” *Crusades* 6 (2007): 15-35.
- “The Generation that Built the Tower: Yannai on Genesis 11,” *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 8 (2005): 161-188.
- “Kissing Cousins: The Relationship of the Mekhilta and Targum Pseudo-Jonathan to *Parashat Mishpatim*,” *The Journal of the Aramaic Bible* 2 (2000): 89-119.

ARTICLES (IN PROCESS)

- “The Good Christian: A Classical Samaritan Circumcision Poem”
- “A Verse Fitly Spoken: Embedded Hymns in *Tibat Marqe*”

INVITED BOOK CHAPTERS AND REFERENCE ARTICLES (REFEREED)

- “The Poet and His Congregation: The Manifold Meaning of Hebrew in Two Samaritan Aramaic Hymns” (a surprise Festschrift for a prominent scholar)
- Multiple Entries in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, eds. Christine Hays and Robert Goldenberg (Berlin: de Gruyter, forthcoming): “Lament and Lamentation in Judaism: Premodern,” “Lament and Lamentation in Judaism: Contemporary,” “Markah,” and “Mourning: Rabbinic”
- “Synagogue and Liturgy: The Construction of Sacred Spaces” in *The Blackwell Companion to Jews and Judaism in Late Antiquity*, eds. Naomi Koltun-Fromm and Gwynn Kessler (Oxford: Blackwell, forthcoming)
- “Jewish Worship,” in *The Dictionary of the Bible in Ancient Media*, eds. Elsie Stern, Ray Person, Chris Keith, and Tom Thatcher (London: T&T Clark, forthcoming)
- “Stage Mothers: Performing the Matriarchs in Genesis Rabbah and Yannai,” in *Genesis Rabbah in Text and Context*, ed. Sarit Kattan Gribetz, David M. Grossman, Martha Himmelfarb, and Peter Schaefer (Berlin/New York: De Gruyter, 2016), 156-173.
- “Kedushah,” in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, eds. Eric Orlin, Lisbeth Fried, Michael Satlow, and Jennifer Knust (New York: Routledge, 2016), 508.

- “Pausing at the Threshold: In Praise of Open Gates,” in *Mishkan ha-Nefesh* (New York: Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2015), xvii-xix.
- “The *Piyyutim le-Hatan* of Qallir and Amittai: Jewish Marriage Customs in Early Byzantium,” in *Talmuda de-Eretz Yisrael: Archaeology and the Rabbis in Late Ancient Palestine*, ed. Steven Fine and Aaron Koller (Berlin/New York: De Gruyter, 2014), 275-299.
- “The Poetry of Creation: Zevadiah and Amittai’s *Yotzerot le-Hatan* (‘Groom’s Yotzers’),” in *Re-Presenting Texts: Jewish and Black Biblical Interpretation: Proceedings of the 2010 and 2011 SBL Midrash Section*, eds. David Nelson and Rikva Ulmer (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias, 2013), 103-138.
- “Piyyut,” *Oxford Bibliographies* in “Jewish Studies.” Ed. David Biale. New York: Oxford University Press, Sep. 4, 2012; rev. Mar. 30, 2015: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199840731/obo-9780199840731-0059.xml>.
- “Piyyut (Jewish Liturgical and Secular Poetry),” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, 13 vols. Eds. Roger S. Bagnall, Kai Brodersen, Craige B. Champion, Andrew Erskine, Sabine R. Huebner (Oxford: Blackwell, 2012), 9:
- “Dew of Rest: The World of Nature in Qallir’s *Gevurot shel Tal*,” in *The Experience of Jewish Liturgy: Studies Dedicated to Menahem Schmelzer*, ed. Debra Reed Blank (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 167-183. See review, which cites this essay at length: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28655/reviews/30951/kahn-blank-experience-jewish-liturgy-studies-dedicated-menahem-shmelzer>
- “Jewish Women,” in *The Blackwell Companion to Women in the Ancient World* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2011), 329-342. (Volume named “**2013 Outstanding Academic Title from 2012**” by American Library Association journal *Choice*; and **PROSE [Association of American Publishers] Award for Professional and Scholarly Excellence—Honorable Mention, 2012, for Single Volume Reference in the Humanities & Social Sciences**)
- “Piyyut” and “Song of Songs” entries, *Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 479-480 and 552-553.
- “Confessing from A-Z: Penitential Forms in Early Synagogue Poetry,” in: Mark J. Boda, Daniel K. Falk, and Rodney Werline, eds., *Penitential Prayer: Origins, Development, and Impact*, vol. 3 (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008), 99-125.
- “Post-Biblical Exegesis: *Parashat Tetzaveh*,” in *WRJ Women’s Commentary on the Torah*. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi, ed. (New York: UAHC, 2007), 490-491.
- “Piyyut,” *The Encyclopedia of Judaism*, Vol. 3. (Leiden: Brill, 2005), 2nd ed., 2000-2019.
- “‘O, my dove in the cranny of the rocks, let me see your face!’ Targum, piyyut, and the literary life of the ancient synagogue,” *Paratext and Megatext in Jewish and Christian Traditions*. A. den Hollander, U. Schmidt, and W.F. Smelik, eds. (Leiden: Brill, 2003), 109-135.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA

- “I will flee to my Helper: A Rosh Hashanah Love Song,” for TheTorah.com: <http://thetorah.com/let-me-flee-to-my-helper-a-rosh-hashanah-love-poem/> (posted September 29, 2016)
- “Tisha b’Av with Queen Esther” for TheTorah.com: <http://thetorah.com/tisha-bav-with-queen-esther/> (posted July 20, 2015; a Mosaic Magazine “pick”: <http://mosaicmagazine.com/picks/2015/07/a-forgotten-connection-between-tisha-bav-and-purim/>)
- “Akdmut Milin” for TheTorah.com: <http://thetorah.com/akdamut-milin/> (posted May 26, 2014)
- Study Guide to the JPS Bible Commentary: Haftarat by Michael Fishbane* (Philadelphia: JPS, 2002).

BOOK REVIEWS

- Yishai Kiel, *Sexuality in the Babylonian Talmud: Christian and Sasanian Contexts in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press, 2016). In: *Religious Studies Review* (forthcoming)
- Dov Weiss, *Pious Irreverence: Confronting God in Rabbinic Judaism* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016). In: *The Journal of Religion* (forthcoming).

- Bruria Bitton-Ashkelony and Derek Krueger, *Prayer and Worship in Eastern Christianities, 5th to 11th Centuries* (London: Routledge, 2017). In: *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2017.11.58): <http://www.bmcreview.org/2017/11/20171158.html>
- Stefan Reif, *Jewish Prayer Texts from the Cairo Genizah* (Leiden: Brill, 2016). In: *Speculum* 93.3 (July 2018): 897-898.
- Karl Shuve, *The Song of Songs and the Fashioning of Identity in Early Latin Christianity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016). In: *The Journal of Early Christian Studies* 26 (2018): 155-158.
- Jonathan Kaplan, *My Perfect One: Typology and Early Rabbinic Interpretation of Song of Songs* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015). In: *The Reviews of the Enoch Seminar* (2017.11.10): <http://enochseminar.org/review/14038>
- Richard Kalmin, *Migrating Tales: The Talmud's Narratives and Their Historical Context* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2014). In: *The Journal of Early Christian Studies* (forthcoming).
- Joseph Blenkinsopp, *Abraham: The Story of a Life* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2015). In: *Interpretation* 71 (2017): 333.
- Jon Levenson, *The Love of God: Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016). In: *The Journal of Religion* 97.3 (2017): 427-428.
- Michael Fishbane, *The Song of Songs: The Traditional Hebrew Text with the New JPS Translation* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2015). In: *Review of Biblical Literature* 5 (2017): https://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/10536_13029.pdf
- Daniel Boyarin, *A Traveling Homeland: The Babylonian Talmud as Diaspora* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015). In: *The Journal of Religion* 97.2 (2017): 267-269.
- Steven Fine, *Art and Judaism in the Greco-Roman World*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010). In: *IMAGES* 6 (2015): 133-135.
- Deborah A. Green, *Aroma of Righteousness: Scent and Seduction in Rabbinic Life and Literature* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2011). In: *Interpretation* 66 (2012): 334-35.
- Geza Vermes, *Jesus in the Jewish World* (Norwich, UK: SCM Canterbury Press, 2010). In: *Theology* 115 (2012): 53-54
- Isa Aron, Steven M. Cohen, Lawrence A. Hoffman, and Ari Y. Kelman, *Sacred Strategies, Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary* (Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2010). In: *Worship* 85 (2011): 270-272
- Susan Ashbrook Harvey, *Song and Memory. Biblical Women in Syriac Tradition* (Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2010). In: *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte*, 62 (2010): 393.
- Michael Satlow, *Creating Judaism: History, Tradition, and Practice* (New York: Columbia UP, 2006). In: *Hebrew Studies* 49 (2008): 329-330.
- Mark Washofsky, *Jewish Living: A Guide to Contemporary Reform Practice* (New York: UAHC, 2001). In: *The Journal of Religion* 82 (2002): 670-671.
- Samuel Balentine, *The Torah's Vision of Worship* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress, 1999). In: *The Journal of Religion* 82 (2002): 269-270.

SELECTED NATIONAL GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), 2015-2016
- Fellow, National Humanities Center, 2015-16
- Alternate, National Humanities Center, 2011-2012
- Littauer Foundation Publication Grant (for Yannai volume), 2008
- Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Fellowship, 2007-2008
- American Philosophical Society Franklin Grant, 2005 (Summer research travel)
- Littauer Foundation Research Grant, 2003-2005 (Summer research)
- Graduate Fellowship, the University of Chicago, 1999-2001
- Fellowship and Appointment as Visiting Researcher, Theologische Universiteit-Kampen, the Netherlands, Summer 1999

Phi Kappa Phi National Graduate Fellowship, 1994

National Security Education Program Graduate Fellowship (one of two nationally; inaugural year), 1994

Phi Beta Kappa Scholar (graduate school fellowship award), 1994

INVITED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Hebrew in Classical Samaritan Hymnography,” European Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference (Krakow), July 2018

“The Performance of Peoplehood: Acclamation in Jewish Palestinian Aramaic Poetry,” International Organization of Targum Studies Conference (London), July 2018

“*Ekphrasis* in Samaritan Hymnography,” Old Testament Figures in Late Antique Poetry Workshop, University of Waterloo (Ontario), June 2018

“Call and Response: Antiphonal Elements in Jewish Palestinian Aramaic Poetry,” Annual AJS Conference (Washington, DC), December 2017

“Praying with One Voice: The Power of Acclamation in the Liturgical Setting,” International SBL / European Association of Biblical Studies Meeting (Berlin, Germany), August 2017

“A Garden of Earthly Delights: The Song of Songs in Early Judaism,” Pacific Lutheran University Jewish Studies Annual Lecture, March 2017

“The Creation of Character in Marqa’s Hymns on Revelation,” Annual AJS Conference (San Diego), December 2016

“The Poetry of Community: The Hymns of Amram, Marqah, and Nana,” Annual AJS Conference (San Diego), December 2016

“Daru in the Winehouse: Dancing in the Babylonian Talmud,” Byzantine Studies Association of North America (Ithaca, NY), October 2016

“Scripture Personified: Torah as Character in the Hymns of Marqa,” Medieval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium (Helsinki), July 2016

Scholar-in-Residence, Colgate University, April 11-13, 2016

“Songs of the Song of Songs: Response to the JPS Commentary on *Shir ha-Shirim*,” Annual SBL/AAR conference (Atlanta), November 2015

“Written in the Stars: Issues of Authorial Multivocality,” European Association of Biblical Studies annual conference (Cordoba, Spain), July 2015

“Insufficient Suffering? An Exploration of Maternal-Filial Discourse in Performance,” Brown University Symposium on Sacred Song in the Late Antique and Byzantine East: Comparative Explorations (Providence, RI), May 2015

“Bringing Death to Life: Personifications of Mortality in Late Ancient & Early Byzantine Hymnography,” at Duke University Symposium: Suspensions: Poetry and Time at the Edge of the Secular, February 6, 2015

“Teaching Jewish Berlin,” German Studies Association Annual Meeting (Kansas City, MO), September 2014

“Performing Vice and Virtue in Early Piyyut,” Barton College Center for Religious Studies (Wilson, NC), May 2014

Invited Presenter, “Singing the Body Organic: Corruption and Creation in Two Late Ancient Hymns,” Dumbarton Oaks Spring Symposium, April 25-27, 2014

“Stages of Grief: Enacting Laments in Late Ancient Hymnography,” Annual AJS Conference (Boston, MA), December 2013

Panelist, “Grants and Application Strategies from the National Endowment for the Humanities,” Annual AAR meeting (Baltimore, MD), November 2013

“Dancing with the Angel of Death: A Portrait of the Suspected Adulteress,” Duke New Testament-Judaic Studies Colloquium, November 2013

Invited Participant, “Workshop in Jewish Subcultures in Late Antiquity,” World Congress for Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), August 2013

- Invited Participant, “The Past—and Present—of Jewish Storytelling,” Columbia University Conference, May 2013
- Invited Panelist, “Is Food Art?” Triangle University Food Studies Group and Southern Food and Beverage Museum Symposium (Durham, NC), April 2013
- “An Invitation to Piyyut,” Inaugural Jewish Studies Program Lecture at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR), March 2013
- “Stage Mothers: Performing the Matriarchs in Genesis Rabbah and Yannai,” presented as part of the symposium, “Genesis Rabbah: Texts and Contexts,” Princeton University, March 3-5, 2013
- “Listen Up! Performance Theory in the World of Jewish Texts,” Ancient Judaism Workshop, Yale University, January 2013
- “Way Off Broadway: Theatricality in Late Ancient Hymnography,” Byzantine Studies Association of North America Conference (Brookline, MA), November 1-4, 2012
- “The Sacred Stage: Liturgy and Prayer as Performance,” Barton College Center for Religious Studies (Wilson, NC), October 2012
- “The Play’s the Thing: Theatricality in Aramaic Piyyutim,” International SBL (Amsterdam), July 2012
- “Tragedy Tomorrow, Comedy Tonight: Scriptural Drama and Biblical Playfulness in Antiquity,” Merrick Lecture, Ohio Wesleyan University, March 2012
- Response to Steven Fraade, *Legal Fictions: Studies of Law and Narrative in the Discursive Worlds of Ancient Jewish Sectarians and Sages*. (Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism 147; Leiden: Brill, 2011), International SBL (London), July 2011
- Selected participant, American Academy for Jewish Research Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies (University of Pennsylvania), May 2011
- “Jewish Marriage in Early Byzantium: Piyyut and Material Culture,” for Talmuda de-Eretz Yisrael: Archaeology and the Rabbis in Late Ancient Palestine (Yeshiva University), March 2011
- “The Poetry of Creation: Zevadiah and Amittai’s *Yotzerot le-Hatan* (“Groom’s Yotzers”),” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (Atlanta) – Consultation on Midrash, November 2010
- “Love and Marriage in the Poetry of Qillir and Amittai,” European Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting (Ravenna, Italy), July 2010
- Hebrew Union College, Open History Seminar, “Poetry of the Early Synagogue” (Cincinnati), April 2010
- “A Vocabulary of Desire: Early Poetry on the Song of Songs,” Middlebury College, May 2009
- “‘You Have Been Skirting this Hill Long Enough’: The Tension between History and Rhetoric in a Byzantine Piyyut,” Duke-Carolina Jewish Studies Seminar, October 2008
- Scholar-in-Residence, “The Making of the Matriarchs: The Mothers of Israel in Early Synagogue Poetry,” Chicago Area Reform Rabbis Annual Kallah, October 28-29, 2007
- Teaching Scholar, “Uncovering and Upsetting the Paradigms of Prayer: Liturgical Innovation from Antiquity to the Present,” Joint Commission for Sustaining Rabbinic Education (Central Conference of American Rabbis and HUC-JIR), Spring 2007
- “Penitential Themes in Early Synagogue Poetry,” Society for Biblical Literature Annual Meeting (Philadelphia) – Consultation on Penitential Prayer, November 2005
- “‘There is None like You Among the Mute’: a Jewish Response to the Second Crusade,” Medieval Symposium at Middlebury College, October 2004
- “Open and Shut: Genesis 49 in Targum and Piyyut,” International Organisation for Targum Studies (Leiden, the Netherlands), July 2004.
- Scholar-in-Residence, “Folklore, Magic, and Mysticism: Fantastic Traditions from Antiquity to Medieval Ashkenaz,” Chicago Area Reform Rabbis Annual Academy (series of four day-long seminars), Spring 2004
- “Liars, Blasphemers, and Translators: the Role of the Targum in the Synagogue of Late Antiquity,” Silberman Symposium at Middlebury College, January 2004
- “The Language and Purpose of *sod* in the Passover *Yotzer* of Simeon bar Isaac,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting (Boston), December 2003
- “Targum and Piyyut: Initial Considerations,” University of Chicago Jewish Studies Workshop, April 30, 2001

“O, My Beloved, Let Me Hear Your Voice: Targum, Piyyut, and the Literary Life of the Ancient Synagogue,” International SBL meeting (Rome), July 2000

POPULAR LECTURES AND RESIDENCIES

“Material Religion: Jewish Foodways in the South,” Fearington Havurah (Chapel Hill, NC), January 9, 2018
Speaker, Jewish Baccalaureate at Duke University, May 13, 2016
Scholar-in-Residence, Temple Shalom of Northwest Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR), October 23-25, 2015
“Feeling Philosophical but Acting Out: Early Jewish Liturgical Performance,” College of Charleston Center for Jewish Studies, October 12, 2014
Presented, “*Avodah*: Ancient Poems for Yom Kippur,” Judea Reform Synagogue, October 3, 2014
“Jewish Ethics: An Overview,” Fearington Havurah (Chapel Hill, NC), April 8, 2014
Presented, “Poetry by the Numbers: Songs of the Ancient Synagogue,” Stephen Wise Free Temple (New York City), May 22, 2013
Presented, “The World of the Ancient Synagogue,” Fayetteville Public Library (Fayetteville, AR), March 13, 2013
Presented, “Feasting and Fasting: Food in the Jewish Tradition,” Wake County Public Library (Cary, NC), February 22, 2013
Presented, “Jewish Marriage Customs in Antiquity,” Beth David Synagogue (Greensboro, NC), January 10, 2013
Presented, “Liturgical Theater in the Ancient Synagogue,” Judea Reform Congregation, September 26, 2012
Presented, “Women in the Liturgy,” Congregation Beth Meyer (Raleigh, NC), January 9, 2012
Presented, “Gems of the Cairo Genizah,” Judea Reform Congregation, October 8, 2011
Presented, “All Scholarship is Autobiography,” College of Charleston, September 4, 2011
Keynote Speaker, Southern Jewish Historical Society (Durham, NC), October 10, 2010
Scholar-in-Residence, “Judaism’s Sacred Seasons,” St. Michael’s Episcopal Church (Raleigh, NC), September 2010
Keynote address, Religion Department Graduate Ceremony, May 2010
Scholar-in-Residence, Fearington Havurah (Chapel Hill, NC), April 13, 2010
Scholar-in-Residence, Temple Beth Or (Raleigh, NC), January 22-23, 2010
Presented, “The Poetry of the Prayerbook,” Judea Reform Synagogue (Durham, NC), August 2008
Keynote address, University of Arkansas Honors College, Seminar on Graduate Education, March 2008
Scholar-in-Residence, “Let’s Talk About It: Exile and Identity” ALA/NextBook series, South Burlington Public Library, Fall 2007
Feen Scholar-in-Residence, “A Marriage Made at Sinai: The Poetry of Revelation,” Congregation Ohavi Zedek (Burlington, VT), April 20-21, 2007
“My Father was a Wandering Aramean,” Reichert Memorial Lecture (Ripton, VT), August 2004
Scholar-in-Residence, “Shavuot: The Day of Israel’s Wedding,” North Shore Congregation Israel (Glencoe, IL; series of four lectures), Spring 2003
McMichael Scholar-in-Residence, “Forgiveness and Atonement in the Jewish Tradition,” Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church of Northwest Arkansas, November 8-10, 2002

SELECTED PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Philanthropy Lab (in support of First Year Seminar, “Values in Action: The Duke Philanthropy Lab”), 2017-18
Top 5% of Undergraduate Instructors (small classes), Spring 2013
Nominee, Lamberti Faculty Appreciation Award for Excellence in Teaching (Middlebury), 2006
Netherlands School for Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion Travel Grant, 2000
Simon Lazarus Memorial Prize (for highest academic standing in ordination class), 1999

Nathan Stern Prize (for top M.A. student), 1998
Nathan Stern Essay Prize in Hebraica, 1998
Herman E. Snyder Alumni Prize for Academic Excellence (HUC-JIR), 1995
Phi Kappa Phi honor society, inducted 1993

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

International Organisation for Targum Studies
Executive Committee, 2018-2021
University of Chicago Divinity School Alumni Council, 2012-present
Society for Biblical Literature
Steering Committee for Section: "History of Biblical Interpretation"
Steering Committee for Section: "Religious Practices and Texts in Antiquity"
Association for Jewish Studies
Distinguished Speaker, 2016-present
Member of Executive Board, 2016-2019
Division Chair for Interdisciplinary, Theoretical and New Approaches (2017-2020)
Member, Nominating Committee, 2017
Central Conference of American Rabbis
External Review Committee, University of Oregon Program in Judaic Studies, February 2016
Board of Directors, Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina

EXTERNAL PROMOTION REVIEWER

Open University of Israel, Department of History, Philosophy, and Judaic Studies (2017)
Princeton University, Center for Judaic Studies (2016, 2017)
Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Rabbinics (2016)
Boston College, Department of Theology (2012)

EDITORIAL BOARDS AND SERVICE

Editorial Board of the *Journal of Religion*, 2014-present
Editorial Board, *Jews and Judaism in Roman Antiquity* series (Academic Studies Press), 2016-present
Editorial Board, *NEXUS: Essays in German-Jewish Studies* (biannual series) (New York: Camden House)
Reviewed Articles for: *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal of Religion*, *Zeitschrift für Religions- und Geistesgeschichte*, *Speculum*, *Journal of Theological Studies*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Andererseits*, *Critical Research on Religion*, and *NEXUS*
Reviewed Book Manuscripts for: Yitzhak Ben-Zvi Institute, *Vetus Testamentum Supplements*, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, and Palgrave Macmillan
Panelist, AAUW Fellowships (2012-present)
Chair of Sub-Panel (Spring 2014-15 and 2015-16)
Panelist, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Board of Canada (SSHRC) (2015)
Panelist, NEH Summer Fellowship Applications (Fall 2011)

MAJOR SERVICE (DUKE)

Member, Appointment, Promotions, and Tenure Committee, Fall 2016-Spring 2019
Certificate Director/Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jewish Studies, Fall 2010-present
Director of Graduate Studies, Jewish Studies, Fall 2012-present
Director of Certificate Program, Jewish Studies, Fall 2011-present

SEARCH COMMITTEES (DUKE)

- Member (External), Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Search Committee for Duke Divinity, 2018-2019
- Chair, Early Christianity Search in Religious Studies, Fall 2014-Spring 2015
(Associate Professor level hire)
- Member, Rabbinic Chaplain Search Committee (Jewish Life @ Duke), Spring 2015
- Ex-Officio*, Germanic Language and Literature searches, Spring 2015
(Two positions at Associate Professor level)
- Chair, Lerner Chair Search Committee, Spring 2014
(Distinguished professor)
- Member, African and African-American Religions Search Committee, Spring 2013-Fall 2014
(Assistant Professor level hire)
- Member (External), Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Search Committee for Duke Divinity, 2010-2011

REAPPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION COMMITTEES (DUKE)

- Member, Appointment/Promotion Committee:
 - Jennifer Knust, 2018-2019 (chair)
 - Mona Hasan, 2017-2018
 - Marc Brettler, 2014-2015
 - Stefani Engelstein (German), 2014-2015
 - Henry Pickford (German), 2014-2015
- Member, Third Year Reappointment Review Committee:
 - Kata Gellen (German), 2015-2016 (chaired)
 - Hwansoo Kim (Religion/AMES), 2011-2012
 - Jakob Norberg (German), 2012-2013
- Member, Reappointment Committee:
 - Shelli Plessner (Hebrew/AMES), 2017
 - Corinna Kahnke (German), 2014

PEDAGOGY AWARDS (DUKE)

- Fellow, Duke Service Learning Program, 2014-15
- “Duke Reader” Course Development Grant, Thompson Center for Writing, Fall 2014
- Course Development Grant, Kenan Ethics Institute (for Biblical Ethics), Fall 2013
- Spencer Foundation Grant for Writing in the Disciplines (Jewish Ethics), Fall 2013
- Fellow, Center for Instructional Technology – Team Based Learning Course Initiative, 2012-2013
(Supports curricular innovation in the undergraduate curriculum)
- ** See: <http://cit.duke.edu/blog/2012/09/what-is-flipping-the-classroom-and-who-is-doing-it/>

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES (DUKE)

- Faculty Director, *Eruditio et Religio* Living and Learning Community, Fall 2018-present
Includes supervision of House Course, “Exploring Religion” (Fall 2018)
- Faculty Director, Interreligious Scholars Program, Fall 2018-present
- Undergraduate Conduct Board, 2017-present
- Senior Faculty Mentor (to recently tenured faculty), 2017-present
- Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty (Humanities Representative), Fall 2016-Spring 2019
(deferred while on APT)
- Duke University Academic Council (Humanities Representative), Fall 2015-present (second term)
- Religions and Public Life Working Group, Kenan Ethics Institute, Fall 2014-present
- Duke Summer Reading Committee, Fall 2011-present

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES (DUKE)

- Graduate Program in Religion *ad hoc* committee on track structures, Fall 2016 (ongoing)

Graduate Program in Religion Executive Committee, Spring 2009, Fall 2018-present
Track Convener (Historical Studies in Judaism), Fall 2012-present
Chair, Curriculum Committee (Religion Department), Fall 2012-present
Chair, Grants and Fellowships Committee (Jewish Studies), Fall 2010-present
Admissions Committee, Graduate Program in Religion, Spring 2013, 2014, 2018
Admissions Committee, Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German, 2014-15
MA Committee (Religion Department), Fall 2012-Spring 2014
MA Admissions Committee (ad hoc, Religion Department), 2011-2014
Majors and Honors Committee (Religion Department), Spring 2009-Spring 2012
Chair, Spring 2009-Fall 2010; Fall 2011-Spring 2012
Rudnick Lecturer Committee (Jewish Studies), Fall 2008-present
Personnel Committee of Department of Religion (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)
Undergraduate Overseas Travel Fellowship competition committee (Spring 2009)

AFFILIATIONS (DUKE)

Kenan Ethics Institute, including Religion in Public Life Initiative
Science and Society Initiative
Duke University Faith Council
Hillel/Jewish Life Advisory Board

STUDENT COMMITTEES (DUKE)

Doctoral Advisees:

Nicholas Wagner
David Orenstein

Dissertation Committees:

Erin Galgay Walsh (Early Christianity)
Annegret Oehme (German; Carolina-Duke Program)
William Babcock (Hebrew Bible)
Adrienne Krone (American Religions)
Lori Baron (New Testament)
Ali Mian (Islamic Studies)
Sean Burrus (History of Judaism)
Alan Todd (History of Judaism)
Ben Gordon (History of Judaism)
Carrie Duncan (UNC, Religions of the Mediterranean World)
Ken Olson (New Testament)

Doctoral Exam Committees:

Brad Erikson (UNC)
Alan Todd
Ben Gordon
Yael Wilfand
Carrie Duncan (UNC)

MA Committees:

Ian Griffin
Ameliah Leonhardt (chaired)
Allison Ginsburg (chaired)
Samantha Benson
Laura Pisoni
Matthew Wiseman (chaired)
Hans Sapochak
Jacob Ritter
Nicholas Wagner

Crystal Reinhardt (chaired)
Katharine Albright (chaired)
Dan Wales (chaired)
Zvia Schwartz
Lauren McCormick
Albert McClure

Senior Honors Theses (primary advisor):

Atif Mahmood (graduated with highest distinction, Spring 2011)
Kathleen Perry (Spring 2013)

Independent Studies:

Ali Mian (Talmud)
Laura Pisoni (Talmud)
Ben Gordon (Rabbinic Literature)
Nicholas Wagner (Rabbinic Literature)
Chase Carpenter (Near Eastern Myths, Divinity)
Andrew Rillera (Rabbinics)
Jocelyn Burney (UNC) (Rabbinics)
Allison Ginsburg

COURSES OFFERED: UNDERGRADUATE

Religiously “Justified” Disenfranchisement and Violence (with Ellen Davis and Abdullah Antepli)
Proposed new “Duke Signature” course (Fall 2019)

Values-in-Action: The Duke Philanthropy Lab (FYS, Service Learning, new course: Fall 2017)
Course selected for support by The Philanthropy Lab (<https://www.thephilanthropylab.org>)

Beyond the Stetl: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe (includes travel to Poland and Lithuania, Spring 2017)
Travel supported by gift from the Gary and Laura Lauder Family Foundation

Jews and Germans (FYS; service learning and “Archives Alive” pilot; new course, Spring 2015)
<https://global.duke.edu/student-designed-app-preserves-holocaust-survivor-stories>

Biblical Ethics (Service Learning, new course, Spring 2014)

Judaism Through Film (new course, Fall 2014)

Reading the Psalms (new course, Spring 2014)

Jewish Ethics (Service Learning, starting Fall 2013)

Judaism and Food (First Year Seminar [FYS])
<http://today.duke.edu/2013/02/flippedclassroom>

Jewish Magic and Mysticism (FYS and regular course)

Messiahs and Messianic Movements (FYS, with Shalom Goldman)

Jewish Berlin (taught as part of Duke Summer in Berlin)

Introduction to Judaism

Introduction to Hebrew Bible/Old Testament

Women in Judaism

Classical Jewish Texts: Theme for Fall 2003: “Joseph and Mrs. Potiphar”
Theme for Fall 2005: “The Song of Songs in Jewish Tradition”

Judaism in the Greco-Roman World

Introduction to Judaism

Exile and Diaspora (seminar)

Women in the Bible (seminar)

Jewish Identity (seminar)

Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Classical Hebrew (full, four-year sequence)

Introduction to Religious Studies

The Good Life: Jewish Moral Philosophy (FYS)

COURSES OFFERED: GRADUATE

Reading Radically: Texts Across the Religious Grain (with Ellen Davis and Menachem Fisch, Fall 2016)
Leviticus in Jewish and Christian Tradition (with Ellen Davis; Fall 2016)
Twice-Told Tales: Biblical Intertextuality and the Renarration of Narratives (with Ellen Davis, Duke Divinity, and Mona Hassan; new for Fall 2014)
Exodus in Jewish and Christian Traditions (with Ellen Davis)
Reading the Song of Songs (with Ellen Davis, Duke Divinity)
Hebrew Exegesis: The Megillot (Festival Scrolls)
Beginning Ugaritic
Intermediate Ugaritic
Rabbinic Bible Commentaries
Exodus in the Jewish and Christian Traditions (with Ellen Davis, Duke Divinity)
The Haftarah Cycle (HUC)
The Succession Narrative of King David (HUC)
Elijah and Elisha (HUC)
Beginning Classical Hebrew (full year sequence; University of Chicago Divinity School)

SELECTED RABBINICAL AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

High Holiday Rabbi, Jewish Life at Duke / Duke Hillel, Fall 2016-present
Text Study (Adult Education) co-leader, Judea Reform Congregation (Durham, NC), Fall 2015-present
Interim Associate Rabbi (part-time), Judea Reform Congregation, July 2013-June 2016
Mentor, HUC-JIR/CCAR Joint Commission for Rabbinic Mentoring, 2007-present
Chair, Ritual Committee, Beth El Congregation of Durham (USCJ), January 2013-May 2014
Rabbi, Temple Shalom (Fayetteville, AR, monthly), Fall 2000-Spring 2003
Visiting Rabbi, Liberal Congregation of Twente (the Netherlands), Summer 1999
Student Rabbi, Temple Adath Israel (Owensboro, KY, tri-weekly), 1998-1999
Student Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel (Clarksdale, MS, bi-weekly), 1996-1998

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Hebrew (Biblical, Rabbinic, and Modern); Aramaic (particularly Jewish Palestinian Aramaic); Syriac; Ugaritic; Akkadian; epigraphic Northwest Semitic texts; Greek; Latin; French (reading); German (reading); Dutch (reading)