

Curriculum Vitae
Beth A. Berkowitz
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2017

Employment

Barnard College

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

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America

Associate Professor, Department of Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures
2004-2012

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

Publications: Books

Animals and Animality in the Babylonian Talmud. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

Religious Studies and Rabbinitics, co-edited with Elizabeth Shanks Alexander. Routledge Jewish Studies Series, forthcoming.

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.

Publications: Articles

“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 Rabbinitics.” In *Religious Studies and Rabbinitics*. Edited by Elizabeth Shanks Alexander and Beth Berkowitz. Routledge, forthcoming.

“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, forthcoming.

“Mishnah Tractate Sanhedrin.” *Oxford Annotated Mishnah*. Edited by Shaye Cohen and Hayim Lapin. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“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.

“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.

“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.

“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 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. At <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,” at
<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 Annual Meeting

- 2015: “Teaching Rabbinic Texts.” Pedagogy Panel. Round Table.
- 2014: “The Human/Animal Binary from the Talmud to the Shoah and Beyond: Jewish Studies and the New Posthumanities.” Session Organizer and Presenter.
- 2014: “Examining Ritual: Passover, Prayer, and the Meaning of Intention.” Session Chair.
- 2013: “Different ‘Religions’? Definitions in Religious Studies and Rabbis.”
- 2012: “Rabbinic Hermeneutics of Violence.” Session Chair.
- 2011: “Animals as Legal Subjects in Roman and Rabbinic Law.”
- 2010: “Beyond the Binary of Ethnicity and Religion: Constructions of Jewishness in Leviticus Rabbah 23.”
- 2010: Roundtable: Gender Studies Methodology: The Key to a Critical Category of “Jewishness”? Session Chair.
- 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.” Session Chair.

Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting

- 2017: Chair of panel: “Beyond Law.” Rabbinic Literature Unit.
- 2017: Participant in panel: “Six Things about Late Antiquity.” Religious World of Late Antiquity Unit.
- 2016: “Feminism Is for Everybody: Strategizing Pedagogy and Practice,” Graduate Student organized panel. Faculty representing field of antiquity.
- 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.” Session Organizer and Chair.
- 2000: “Rabbinic Execution, Ritualization, and Redemptive Hegemony.”

Other Conferences

- **Modern Language Association Annual National Conference**
Participant in proposed panel. “The Badly Behaved Donkey and the Fiction of Discipline in Talmud Tractate Shabbat.” Representing the Nonhuman in Jewish and Hebrew Literature. January 2018.
- **Bard College**
“Rabbinics and Posthumanism.” Workshop: Make It New Again: New Possibilities for Classical Jewish Texts in Scholarship and Literature. April 2017.
- **Jewish Law Association Regional Conference, Yeshiva University**
“Discipline and Pleasure: Animal Accessories in Babylonian Talmud Tractate Shabbat Chapter Five.” March 2017.
- **New York University**
“Professionalization Session on Publishing.” Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. March 2017.
- **Harvard University Law School**
“Bad Cats and Bad Rabbis: Deconstructing Discourses of Animal Danger in the Babylonian Talmud.” Workshop on Animals, Law, and Religion. May 2016.

- **University of Michigan, Institute for Research on Women and Gender**
“Introduction to Theory: Critical Animal Studies.” Conference: Talmud Interrupted. March 2016.
- **American Academy of Anthropology Annual Meeting**
“Subjectivity and Sex with Animals in Talmudic Legal Discourse.” Panel on Rabbinic Anthropologies: Theoretical Exchange between Indigenous and Academic Traditions. November 2015.
- **Northwestern University**
“Rabbinic Literature and the New Posthumanities.” At the Crossroads: New Directions in the Study of Rabbinic Literature. May 2015.
- **Columbia University**
“Sex and Money.” Religion Department Graduate Student Conference. Session on “Ritualizing Porous Bodies.” Respondent. April 2016.

Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar. Respondent. March 2015.

“History of Religions, Part II.” Religion Department Graduate Student Conference. Session on “The Practice of History.” Respondent. March 2014.
- **University of Toronto**
Presentation of work-in-progress on the Legal Personhood of Animals in Jewish and Islamic Law. October 2013.
- **University of Virginia**
“Different Religions? Definitions in Rabbis and Religious Studies.” Religious Studies and Rabbis Conference. February 2013.
- **The Jewish Theological Seminary of America**
“Lost in Translation: Multiple Meanings, Midrash, and Making Jewish Identities.” Keynote Address. Lost Texts: A Graduate Student Conference. April 2012.

“New Currents in Jewish Studies.” Faculty Retreat. June 2006.
- **Concordia University**
“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. Montreal, May 2011.
- **NYU Law School**
“‘And in Their Laws You Shall Not Go’: Anxieties of Identity in Jewish and Christian Bible Reading.” Tikvah Center. October 2009.

- **University of Pennsylvania**
 “Allegorizing Ethnicity: Philo and Clement on Leviticus 18:3.” Conference: Imperialism in Late Antiquity. Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. May 2008.

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

 “Gay Marriage or Gladiators? Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness (and Non-Jewishness.” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. October 2007.
- **Brandeis University**
 “The Cultural Studies Orientation.” Respondent. Conference: Teaching Rabbinic Literature: Bridging Scholarship and Pedagogy. Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education. January 2008.
- **University of Minnesota**
 “Violent Readings by the Rabbis: Hermeneutics and the Arts of Resistance.”
 Conference: Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions: Discourse, Ritual, Community. October 2007.
- **Yale University**
 Discussion of Current Research. Yale Ancient Judaism Workshop, December 2013.
 Discussion of Current Research. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Judaism. April 2011.
 Discussion of *Execution and Invention*. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Christianity. April 2007.
 Discussion of *Execution and Invention*. Graduate Seminar on Ancient Christianity. May 2005.
- **Villanova University**
 “Rabbinic Constructions of Self and Other: The Midrashic Career of Leviticus 18:3.”
 Plenary Lecture. Conference: Living in Antiquity: Jews, Greeks, and Christians. October 2005.
- **Tribute to David Weiss Halivni**
 “Peshat and Derash Revisited: A Case Study in Interpreting Rabbinic Interpretation.”
 May 2005.

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 (Junior's Colloquium in Religion)

- **The Jewish Theological Seminary**
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)

Professional Activities

- **Editorial Activities**
Co-editor, special issue of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*, 2016-present
- **Academic Conference Activities**

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

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

Columbia University

Co-organizer, Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, March 2015
Co-chair, “The Past – and Future – of Jewish Storytelling,” 2013

Brandeis University

Workshop in Talmud Pedagogy, “Learning to Read Talmud: What It Looks Like and How It Happens,” 2013-2014

University of Virginia

Co-chair, “Religious Studies and Rabbinics,” 2013

Association of Jewish Studies

Division Chair, Theorizing Jewish Difference, 2016

Legacy Heritage Dissertation Fellowships Review Committee, Spring 2016 and 2017

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

Board Nominating Committee, 2014-2015

Chair, Rabbinics Division, 2011-2014

AJS Board Member, 2010-2014

AJS Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2013

American Academy of Religion

Steering Committee, History of Judaism, 2009-2014

University of Toronto

Working group on Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning, 2009-2013

University of Michigan

Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, Frankel Center, May 2007

- **Review Activities**

Prooftexts, Board Member, 2008-present

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

- **Administrative Activities at Barnard College and Columbia University**

Barnard Religion Department, Chair, 2017-

Columbia Religion Department, Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2017

Barnard Internal Grants Committee, Elected Committee, 2016-2018

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 Committee on the Senior Experience, 2013-2015

Columbia Religion Department’s Dissertation Workshop Advisor, 2013-2014

Job Search Committee: Witten Chair of Jewish Studies, Columbia Religion Department, 2012-2014; American Religion position, Barnard Religion Department, 2014
Barnard Center for Research on Women and Gender, Steering Committee, 2012-2013

- **Administrative Activities 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
Director for MA in Talmud, Fall 2010
Search Committee, Dean of the Rabbinical School, 2006-2007
Dissertation Defense Committees, Department of Talmud, 2006-present
Examiner for M.A. and Ph.D. exams in Ancient Judaism and Talmud, 2005-present
Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, 2005-2006, 2010-2011

- **Memberships**

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

- **Relevant Professional Activities**

Advisory Board, Herbert D. Katz Center for Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2016-present
Advisory Board, Institute for Religion and Public Life, Columbia University, 2017-present
Review Committee for the Salo Baron Dissertation Prize in Jewish Studies, Columbia University, 2016
Dissertation Advisor, Hebrew University, Department of Political Science, 2013-present
Advisor, Tikvah Fellow, Project on Conceptions of Liberty in the Talmud, 2012-2013
Dissertation Defense Committee, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Religion, 2010
Scholar in Residence, Drisha Institute, New York, NY, 1997-1998
Editorial Assistant, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, summer 1996

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

- **Graduate School Awards**

Association of Jewish Studies Travel Scholarship, 2001
Irene C. Fromer Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Columbia University, 1999-2000
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 Lectures and Speaking Engagements

- **Brandeis University**

“Seeing Animal Suffering in Rabbinic Sources.” Jewish Studies Colloquium. January 2016.

- **University of Chicago**

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

- **Association of Jewish Studies**

“Landing an Academic Job.” Paula Hyman Memorial Mentoring Workshop. Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore. December 2014, December 2015.

- **Barnard College**

“Frontiers in Jewish Studies: The Clever Ox, the Escaping Elephant, and Other Rabbinic Animalities.” Inaugural Lecture for the Rennert Chair of Jewish Studies. October 2013.

- **Middlebury College**

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

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

- **University of Pennsylvania**

“Gay Marriage or Gladiators? Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness.” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Board Retreat. November 2007.

- **Rutgers University**
 “Interpreting Rabbinic Texts.” Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Anniversary Event. October 2006.

 “History or Hermeneutics? Searching for the Origins of Rabbinic Law.” Judaic Studies Department. February 2002.
- **Yale University**
 “Portraits of Sages Who Kill: Execution and Invention.” Colloquium of the Judaic Studies Program. May 2002.

 “And You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself, Leviticus 19:18: Early Rabbinic and Christian Interpretations.” Yale Divinity School, Judaic Studies Series. April 2002.
- **University of Minnesota**
 “The Politics of Burial: Power and Performance in Ancient Jewish Criminal Execution.” Department of Classics and Near Eastern Studies. February 2003.
- **Brooklyn College**
 “Elisha ben Abuya: Biography of a Renegade Sage.” Department of Jewish Studies. March 2002.
- **The Jewish Theological Seminary**
 Discussion of Yair Lorberbaum, *Image of God*. Library Series on New Books. October 2015.

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

 Discussion of *Execution and Invention*. Library Series on New Books. November 2006.

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

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

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

 “Leviticus 18:3, Boundary-Making and Boundary-Breaking.” Lecture to faculty. Spring 2004.
- **Columbia University**
 “Live/Stock: The Conceptual Conundrum of Animals in the Babylonian Talmud.” Religion Unwound. PhD Student Workshop. April 2013.

“American Religion Then and Now.” Interfaith Panel. April 2013.

“How to Cut Off a Head: Rabbinic Execution and Roman Execution.” Religion Department Annual Colloquium. April 2001.

- **Synagogue/Jewish Organization Lectures**

Rabbi for Human Rights, Summer Fellowship Program, New York, NY.

“Criminal Justice and the Problem of Evidence: Biblical and Rabbinic Approaches.” July 2014 and July 2015.

“Prisons in Jewish Law.” July 2012 and July 2013.

Sutton Place Synagogue

“Finding A Jewish Self.” New York, NY. March 2011.

Stephen Wise Free Synagogue

“Jews and Christians Imagining Difference: Leviticus 18 and ‘Their Laws.’”

Five Scholars on Five Books of the Torah. New York, NY. April 2010.

Park Synagogue

“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?” Cleveland, Ohio. February 2010.

Germantown Jewish Center

“Ancient Rabbinic Controversies about Jewishness.” Mt. Airy, PA. Spring 2008.

Har Zion Temple

“Capital Punishment and Rabbinic Culture.” Penn Valley, PA. May 2008.

Temple Beth Shalom

“The Concept of Covenant in Rabbinic Midrash.” Roslyn, NY. March 2007.

Town and Village Synagogue

“The ‘Death Team’ in Rabbinic Criminal Law.” New York, NY. Young Scholars on the Cutting Edge Series. April 2002.

Congregation Bnai Israel

“Why Study Talmud.” Toms River, NJ. January 2002.

Languages

- Ancient Languages
Biblical Hebrew; Rabbinic Aramaic; Koine Greek
- Modern Languages
Hebrew; Reading knowledge of French and German

Main Areas of Research

Rabbinic literature; Bible exegesis; Jewish difference; critical animal studies