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*Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures*  
*University of California, Los Angeles*  
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### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D. 2000	Jewish Theological Seminary (Talmud and Rabbinics)
M.Phil. 1994	Jewish Theological Seminary (Talmud and Rabbinics)
M.T.S. 1992	Harvard University (Theology, Scripture and Interpretation)
B.A. 1988	Boston College ( <i>summa cum laude</i> , English Literature and Philosophy)
1987	University College Cork (English Literature and Philosophy)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2014-present:	Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles
2006-2014:	Associate Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles
2011:	Sally Preisand Visiting Scholar, Hebrew Union College
2002- 2005:	Assistant Professor of f Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles
2000-2002:	Assistant Professor of Religion, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
1998-1999:	Visiting Instructor of Religion, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont
1998:	Visiting Adjunct Professor, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York
1997:	Adjunct Instructor, New York Theological Seminary, New York, New York
1997-1998:	Adjunct Assistant Professor, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, New York
1995:	Lecturer, Jewish Community Education for Professionals, Queens, New York

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

UCLA Faculty Research Grant, 2010  
New Directions Mellon Fellowship (Visiting Fellow of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, 2006)

CrossCurrents Research Colloquium, Coolidge Fellow, Summer 2005  
Koret Foundation publishing grant for *Ishmael on the Border*, 2004  
UCLA Senate Grant, 2003-2005 and 2011-2012  
UCLA Faculty Development Award, 2003  
Ade Howe Kent Research Grant, 2000  
Student Teacher Appreciation Award, 2000  
Memorial Foundation Grant, 1998  
Awarded the Lady Davis Fellowship, 1998  
Jewish Theological Seminary Graduate Fellowship, 1992-93; 1995-98  
Roberta C. Rudin Fellowship, 1994  
Professor Saul Lieberman and Dr. Judith Berlin Lieberman Fellowship, 1993-95  
Interuniversity Fellowship, 1994  
Dorot Travel Grant, 1992, 1994  
Charles and Ruth Samson Lefkowitz Award, 1993

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books and Edited Volumes**

*Islam and its Past: Jahiliyya and Late Antiquity in Early Muslim Sources*, co-edited with Michael Cook (Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming).

*The Family of Abraham: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Interpretations* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014)  
Translated into Turkish (Istanbul: Tekin Yayinevi, 2015)

*The Talmud in its Iranian Context*, co-edited with Rahim Shayegan (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010).

*Ishmael on the Border: Rabbinic Portrayals of the First Arab* (New York: SUNY Press, 2006).

*Current Trends in the Study of Midrash*, Edited volume (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2006).

*Judaism in its Hellenistic Context*, Edited volume (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2004).

## Articles, Essays, Book Chapters

"Scriptural Interpretation," in *The Oxford Handbook of Abrahamic Religions* (Oxford University Press, 2015), eds. Guy Stroumsa and Adam Silverstein.

"Imagining the Family of Abraham in Genesis Rabbah," in *Genesis Rabbah: Text and Context* (tentative title), eds. Martha Himmelfarb, Peter Schaefer, Sarit Katan Gribetz and David Grossberg (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, forthcoming).

"Reading Against the Grain: Humor and Subversion in Midrashic Literature," in *Narratology, Hermeneutics, and Midrash*, eds. Gerhard Langer and Constanza Cordoni (Göttingen : V&R Unipress, 2014).

"Genesis, the Qur'ān and Islamic Interpretation." In *The Book of Genesis: Composition, Reception, and Interpretation*, eds. Craig A. Evans, Joel N. Lohr and David L. Petersen (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2012), 607-632.

"Call Me Ishmael, Then Again, Maybe Not," *AJS Perspectives*, Spring 2012, 9-11.

"Orality and Writing." In *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Daily Life in Roman Palestine*, ed. Catherine Hezser (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 482-499.

"Jewish, Christian and Muslim Attitudes toward Animals." In *Comparative Islamic Studies* 5.2 (2009): 177-219.

"Jewish Midrashic Interpretation in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages." In *A History of Biblical Interpretation: The Medieval through the Reformation Periods*. Vol. 2, eds. A. Hauser and D. Watson (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2009), 113-140.

"Esau in der apokalyptischen Literatur." In *Esau-Bruder und Feind*, ed. Gerhard Langer (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Reprecht, 2009), 107-120.

"Recent Trends in the Study of Midrash and Rabbinic Literature," *Catholic Biblical Review* 7.2 (2009): 272-293.

"Figuring (out) Esau: The Rabbis and Their Others." *Journal of Jewish Studies*, Vol. 58.2 (2007): 250-262.

"Abraham Visits Ishmael: A Revisit," *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, Vol. 38 (2007): 553-580.

"Method(ological) Matters in the Study of Midrash." In *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash*, ed. C. Bakhos (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2006).

"The Talmud." In *World Literature and Its Times 6: Middle Eastern Literatures and Their Times*, ed. Joyce Moss (Detroit: Gale Group, 2004).

### **Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries**

"Midrash." Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies (oxfordbibliographies.com)

"Midrash." In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Biblical Interpretation*, ed. John Kaltner, and John McKenzie (in press).

"Midrash." In *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

"Ishmael in Rabbinic Literature." In *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

"Portrayals of Biblical Figures in the Islamic Tradition." In *New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 5* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009).

"Portrayal of Ishmael in the Islamic Tradition." In *New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 5* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009).

"Midrash." In *Dictionary of Early Judaism*, eds. Dan Harlow and John Collins (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2011).

Post-biblical Commentary on Parashat Tol'dot and Parashat Vayyeshev. In *The New Women of Reform Judaism Women's Commentary on the Torah* (New York: Women of Reform Judaism, 2007).

"Midrash." In *Encyclopedia Judaica, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, ed. Fred Skolnik (Detroit: Macmillan, 2007).

"Tannaitic Depictions of Ishmael." In *Proceedings of the Rabbinical Assembly 2003* (New York: Rabbinical Assembly Press, 2006). [non-peer reviewed]

"Midrash Aggadah." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism* (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000).

## Book Reviews and Book Review Essays

Lieve M. Teugels and Rivka Ulmer, eds. *Recent Developments in Midrash Research* (Judaism in Context 2; Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2005). In *Henoch* 1 (2009): 185-189.

*Hagar, Sarah, and Their Children: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives*, eds. Phyllis Tribble and Letty M. Russell (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006). In *Hebrew Political Studies* 4.1 (2009): 84-90.

Marc S. Bernstein, *Stories of Joseph: Narrative Migrations between Judaism and Islam*. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2006). In *AJS Review* 7.2 (2009): 272-293.

David Goodblatt, *Elements of Ancient Jewish Nationalism* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006). In *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 10.56 (2007).

Instone-Brewer, David, *The Traditions of the Rabbis from the Era of the New Testament: Prayer and Agriculture* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2004). In *Review of Biblical Literature* (August, 2007).

Jon D. Levenson, *Resurrection and the Restoration of Israel: The Ultimate Victory of the God of Life* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2006). In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75.2 ( May, 2007): 423-427.

William Horbury, *Jews and Christians: In Contact and Controversy* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1998). In *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 59 ( March, 2006).

Günter Stemberger, *Jews and Christians in the Holy Land: Palestine in the Fourth Century* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2000). In *Scottish Journal of Theology*, Vol. 59 (March, 2006).

Alon Goshen-Gottstein, *The Sinner and the Amnesiac: The Rabbinic Invention of Elisha Ben Abuya and Eleazar Ben Arach* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000). In *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* Vol. 70 (Winter, 2003).

Etienne Nodet, *A Search for the Origins of Judaism: From Joshua to the Mishnah* (Sheffield: Sheffield Press, 1997). In *Journal of Law*, Vol. XVII (2002).

Shaye Cohen, ed., *The Synoptic Problem in Rabbinic Literature* (Providence: Brown Judaic Press, 2000) and Jeffrey Rubenstein, *Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition and Culture* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1999). In *Journal of Biblical Literature* Vol.120, Winter 2001.

Karen Armstrong's *In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996) and Levi Meier's *Ancient Secrets* (New York: Villard, 1996). In *Citara* (St. Bonaventure University, Spring 1997).

## PRESENTATIONS

"Reinventing Hagar and Ishmael in Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature annual conference, Atlanta, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.

"The Case of al-Kisā'ī." Delivered at the Tales of the Prophets conference, Naples, Italy, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

"Rethinking the Family of Abraham." Delivered at the University of California, Irvine, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

"Politicizing the Wives of Abraham." Delivered at Middlebury College, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

"Transmitting Early Jewish Literature: The Case of Jubilees in Medieval Jewish and Islamic Sources. Delivered at the European Association for Jewish Studies, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Paris, France.

"The Idea of Jerusalem in the Hearts of Those Who Call Out 'Lord' or 'Allah' or 'Adonai.'" Delivered at American Jewish University Program on Jerusalem, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

"Arabs in Postbiblical Traditions." Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2013 in Baltimore.

"The Sons of Abraham in Jewish, Christian and Muslim Internecine Debates." Delivered at the International Society of Biblical Literature in St. Andrews, Scotland, July 2013.

"Imagining the Family of Abraham in Genesis Rabbah." Delivered at "Genesis Rabbah: Texts and Contexts" conference, Princeton University, March 2013.

"What is Abrahamic about Judaism, Christianity and Islam?: Exploring Terminological Limits." Delivered in Chicago, SBL, 2012.

"Second Temple Judaism and the Aftermath." Delivered at Ohr HaTorah Synagogue, December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.

"The Family of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Delivered at Temple Or Ami, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

"The Role of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Delivered at the Institute for Signifying Scripture, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

"Reading Against the Grain: Humor and Subversion in Midrashic Literature." Delivered at the Narratology, Hermeneutics and Midrash Symposium at the University of Vienna. October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

"What's Abrahamic about Judaism, Christianity and Islam?" Delivered at UCLA, May 2011.

"Ishmael in the Jewish and Muslim Imagination." Delivered at Princeton, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010.

"Jews, Secularism and the Post-Denominational Age." Delivered at the Globalization and Cultural Pluralism Conference, Nanjing, China, August, 2010.

"World of the Rabbis: Fact and/or Fiction." Delivered February 10<sup>th</sup> at 2010 Plenary Session of the Midwest AOS, ASOR and SBL Regional Meeting.

"The Flood from the Perspective of the Fauna." Delivered in Rome, International SBL 2009.

"The Story of the Flood in the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Exegetical Traditions." Delivered in Boston, SBL, 2008.

"Apocalyptic Imagery and the Emergence of Islam in Jewish Thought." Delivered at Princeton, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

"The Rise of Islam in Jewish Apocalyptic Literature." Delivered at "From Tragedy to Text Symposium," UC Berkeley, March 6, 2008.

"Saint or Sinner? Joseph from the Jewish, Christian and Muslim Perspectives." Delivered at Temple Ner Tamid, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

"Ishmael on the Border between Judaism and Islam." Delivered at the University of Arizona, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

"The Representation of Ishmael in Medieval Muslim Societies." Delivered at the Association of Jewish Studies, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

"The Arab Genealogy of Ishmael in Judaism and Islam." Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature, November, 2007.

"Siblings or Rivals? A Comparative View of Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Delivered at the Center for Inquiry, Amherst, NY, September, 2007.

"Goodblatt's *Elements of Ancient Jewish Nationalism*." Delivered at International Society of Biblical Literature, Vienna, Austria, 2007.

"Common Roots and Multiple Perspectives: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam." Delivered at Los Angeles County of Education Symposium on Teaching about Religion in Public Schools, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

"The Religious Roots of Anti-Semitism." Delivered at Panel Discussion sponsored by the Center for Inquiry Transnational, Los Angeles, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

"Ishmael in post-Qur'anic Islam." Delivered at Rutgers University, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

"Madmen and Sages at the Center of Peripheries." Delivered at Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, 2005.

"Arabs, Caravans and Marauders." Delivered at International Society of Biblical Literature, Groningen, Netherlands, 2004.

"Josephus, Ishmael and the Arabs." Revson 25 Conference at the Jewish Theological Seminary, May 23-25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

"Ishmael and His Alter-Ego: Talmudic and Islamic Views on the Son of Abraham." Delivered at Temple Emanu-El of Palm Beach, on March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

"Reflections on Leviticus Rabbah." Delivered to Women Rabbis of Greater Los Angeles at Sinai Temple, Los Angeles, December 11, 2003.

"Tannaitic Depictions of Ishmael" Delivered at the Rabbinical Assembly of the Conservative Movement, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003.

"Figuring (Out) Esau: A Reconsideration of Esau as Rome in Rabbinic Literature." Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

"The Story of Abraham's Visits to Ishmael." Delivered at Bucknell University in February, 2002.

"Teaching Religion in a Secular Setting." Delivered at the Jewish Theological Seminary, April, 2000.

"Hagar in Biblical Theology." Panelist at the Session on Hagar, the Society Biblical Literature Conference, November, 2000.



“Double Identity: Hagar in Rabbinic Literature.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, November, 2000.

“Silence and Violence in Biblical Literature.” Delivered at the Mid-Atlantic Society of Biblical Literature Conference, March, 2000.

“History and Exegesis in the Study of Midrash.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, November, 1998.

“Ishmael in Midrash and Hadith.” Delivered at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference, December, 1997.

“Rabbinic and Islamic Portraits of Ishmael.” Delivered at the American Academy of Religion Conference, November, 1997.

“Ishmael and Esau: Marginalized Men of the Bible and Their Rabbinic Interpreters.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, November, 1997.

#### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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|--------------|--|
| 2015         | Co-editor of the <i>AJS Review</i> Journal   |
| 2014—present | Co-Chair of the Bible and Qur’an section, SBL  |
| As of 2012   | Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture</i>  |
| As of 2011   | Member of the Editorial Board of Poetics-Exegesis-Narrative (PEN):<br>Studies in Jewish Literature and Art Series, Vandenhoeck & Reuprecht |
| As of 2009   | Member of the Editorial Board of <i>AJS Perspectives</i>   |
| As of 2011   | Member of the Editorial Board of the Oxford Online Bibliography of<br>Jewish Studies   |
| 2013         | Vice President of Membership and Outreach, Association for Jewish<br>Studies   |
| 2010         | Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Mathal/Mashal: Journal of Judaic and<br/>Islamic Multidisciplinary Studies</i>                         |
| 2007-2013    | Member of the Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies   |
| 2010--2015   | Co-Chair of Early History and Literature of Rabbinic Judaism section,<br>SBL   |
| 2010         | Member of the History of Interpretation SBL Steering Committee   |
| 2007-2009    | Chair of History of Interpretation SBL Steering Committee  |

#### **Service at UCLA (Select)**

- 2014—present Member of the UCLA Senate Committee on Planning and Budget  
2013--present Member of the University Religious Conference Board of Directors

2013--present Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Near Eastern Studies

2012--present Chair of Interdisciplinary Program in the Study of Religion

2012--present Director of Center for the Study of Religion

2010--present Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Israel Studies

2012 Chair of Humanities Residential College Advisory Committee

2011-2012 Acting Chair of the UCLA Study of Religion Program

2011—present Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

2011 Member of Dean of the Humanities Search Committee

2011 Program Reviews Committee

2011-2013 Member of the UCLA Senate Executive Board

2009-10 Acting Director of UCLA Center for Jewish Studies

2010 Member of Advisory Committee to the EVC and Chancellor on Campus Life and Civic Discourse

2010 Member of ad hoc committee to review UCLA's Foundations of Arts and Humanities GE Curriculum

2009 Member of Humanities Task Force Committee

2007-2010 Member of the UCLA Graduate Council

2003--present Member of Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for the Center for Jewish Studies

2003-present Member of Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for the Study of Religion

2003-2009 Member of Steering Committee, Middle East and North African Studies Program

2007-2010 Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Near Eastern Studies

2005, 2007 Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Israel Studies