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Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
Study of Religion Interdisciplinary Program
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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

2023-present	Professor of the Study of Religion, University of California, Los Angeles
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 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
1988-90	Corozal Junior College, Corozal, Belize (volunteer)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Teagle Foundation Seed Grant, 2020
NEH Summer Institute Grant for K-12 Educators, 2017
UCLA-HKUST (Religion and Empire: Rome and China), 2013 (co-PI)
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

- Emerging Judaism, 332 BCE-600 CE, Volume 2: Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization* (Yale University Press, with publisher).
- Making History: Studies in Rabbinic History, Literature, and Culture in Honor of Richard L. Kalmin* (Brown Judaica Series, 2024), co-edited with Alyssa M. Gray.
- The Jewish Middle Ages. The Bible and Women Series.* Atlanta: SBL Press (2023), co-edited with Gerhard Langer.
- Die Bibel und Die Frauen: Eine exegetisch-kulturgeschichtliche Enzyklopädie. Das jüdische Mittelalter, Band 4.2,* co-edited with Gerhard Langer (Stuttgart: W. Kholhammer, 2020).
- Islam and its Past: Jahiliyya and Late Antiquity in Early Muslim Sources,* co-edited with Michael Cook (Oxford University Press, 2017).
- 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* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010), co-edited with Rahim Shayegan.
- 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

“David’s Bravado in Light of Sasanian Cultural Practices,” *Making History: Studies in Rabbinic History, Literature, and Culture in Honor of Richard L. Kalmin*, eds. Carol Bakhos and Alyssa M. Gray (Brown Judaica Series, 2024), 87-98.

“Is Abraham/Ibrahim an Ecumenical Figure?,” *The Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures in 5 Minutes*, eds. Philippe Guillame and Diana V. Edelman (Sheffield: Equinox, 2024), 309-13.

“Questioning Scriptural Heritage: Interpreting Abraham,” *Handbook of Religion and Heritage in Contemporary Europe*, eds. Birgit Meyer, Lieke Wijnia and Todd H. Weir (Bloomsbury Press, 2024), 199-205.

“Rabbinic and Patristic Interpretations of the Bible,” *Routledge Handbook of Jews and Judaism in Late Antiquity*, ed. Catherine Hezser (2024).

“The Paradoxes of Religion and Science,” co-authored with Jared Diamond and Alex Joyce-Johnson, *Skeptic* 27 (2022): 4-8.

“Sarah and Hagar in Medieval Jewish Commentaries,” *The Jewish Middle Ages*, Carol Bakhos and Gerhard Langer, eds (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2023), 91-102.

“Nimrod: The Making of a Nemesis,” TheTorah.com (October 8th, 2021)
<https://www.thetorah.com/article/nimrod-the-making-of-a-nemesis>

“Amoraic Literature (ca. 250-650 CE): Talmud and Midrash,” *Judaism II: Literature*, Michael Tilly and Burton Visotzky, eds. (Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 2021), 122-40.

“Sara und Hagar in der mittelalterlichen jüdischen Kommentarliteratur,” *Das jüdische Mittelalter*, Carol Bakhos and Gerhard Langer, eds. (Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer, 2020), 89-101.

“Covenantal Language in the Bible and Qur’an,” *MAARAV, A Journal for the Study of the Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures* 24 (2020): 207-227.

“What’s in a name? The Implications of ‘Abrahamic’ for Jewish, Christian and Muslim Relations,” *Jewish-Muslim Relations: Historical and Contemporary Interactions and Exchanges*, eds. Ednan Aslan and Margaret Rausch (Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 2019), 3-16.

“A Migrating Motif: Abraham and his Adversaries in *Jubilees* and al-Kisā’ī,” *Mizān* 2 (2017).

“Abraham,” *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to the Qur’an* (Second Edition), ed. Andrew Rippin and Jawid Mojaddedi (2017).

“Transmitting Early Jewish Literature: The Case of Jubilees in Medieval Jewish and Islamic Sources,” *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade*, eds. Christine Hayes, Tzvi Novick, Michal Bar-Asher Siegal (JAJ Supplements, 2017).

“Imagining the Family of Abraham in Genesis Rabbah,” *Genesis Rabbah: Text and Context* (tentative title), eds. Martha Himmelfarb, Peter Schaefer, Sarit Katan Gribetz and David Grossberg (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016).

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

“Contribution to Roundtable Discussion on Biblical Studies,” *Expositions 9.1* (2015): 121-124.

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

“Genesis, the Qur’ān and Islamic Interpretation,” *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,” *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,” *Comparative Islamic Studies* 5.2 (2009): 177-219.

“Jewish Midrashic Interpretation in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages,” *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,” *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,” *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash*, ed. C. Bakhos (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2006).

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

Encyclopedia and Dictionary Entries

“[Midrash](#).” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. Oxford University Press, 2015—. Article published December 17, 2020. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.013.994>. [in print, *Oxford Encyclopedia of Literary Theory*, ed., John Frow (2022).

“Nimrod (Rabbinic Literature),” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming 2022).

“Nimrod (Islam),” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming 2022).

“Midrash,” *Routledge Encyclopedia to Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (2016).

“Abraham,” *Routledge Encyclopedia to Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (2016).

“Hagar,” *Routledge Encyclopedia to Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (2016).

“Ishmael,” *Routledge Encyclopedia to Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (2016).

“Hagar: Judaism: Rabbinic Judaism,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016).

“Ishmael (Son of Abraham and Hagar): Judaism: Medieval Judaism,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016).

“Ishmael (Son of Abraham and Hagar): Judaism: Rabbinic Judaism,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2016).

“Midrash,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies* (oxfordbibliographies.com).

“Midrash,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Biblical Interpretation*, ed. John McKenzie, 2013.

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

“Ishmael in Rabbinic Literature,” *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,” *New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 5* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2009).

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

“Midrash,” *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,” *The New Women of Reform Judaism Women’s Commentary on the Torah* (New York: Women of Reform Judaism, 2007).

“Midrash,” *Encyclopedia Judaica*, 2nd Edition, ed. Fred Skolnik (Detroit: Macmillan, 2007).

“Tannaitic Depictions of Ishmael,” *Proceedings of the Rabbinical Assembly 2003* (New York: Rabbinical Assembly Press, 2006).

“Midrash Aggadah,” *Reader’s Guide to Judaism* (Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000).

Book Reviews and Book Review Essays

Annette Hoffmann, ed., *Exodus: Border Crossings in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Texts and Images* (Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2019). In *Review of Biblical Literature* (in progress).

Robert B. Foster, *Renaming Abraham’s Children: Election, Ethnicity, and the Interpretation of Scripture in Romans 9* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016). In *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 81.4 (2019):729-731.

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.

Phyllis Tribble and Letty M. Russell Phyllis, eds. *Hagar, Sarah, and Their Children: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives*, eds. (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, *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* (Spring 1997).

PRESENTATIONS

“Character Flaws: The Case of King David in Biblical and Qur’anic Interpretation.” To be delivered at Pomona College, October 16th, 2024.

“Constituting a community of believers in Paul and the Qur’an.” Delivered at the International Qur’anic Studies Association in London, July, 2024.

Review of *Law Beyond Israel* by Holger Zellentin. Delivered at the International Qur’anic Studies Association Panel in Denver, November 19th, 2022.

“Teaching the Qur’an: Pedagogical Considerations.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference in Denver, November 20th, 2022.

“The Bible and Immigration: Methodological Considerations.” Delivered at Religion and Immigration, Young Scholar’s Workshop, Bar Ilan, June 7th, 2022.

“Immigration and the Biblical Tradition: Uses and Abuses,” INIRE Conference on Immigration and Religion, June 9th, 2022.

“Biblical Prophets of Old, Social Critics of Today.” Delivered at Westwood Presbyterian Church, April 24th, 2022.

“Politicizing Abraham: Contemporary Uses and Abuses of a Common Concept.” Delivered at Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies, March 17th, 2022.

Respondent to papers on panel, "Reading the Qur'an in Biblical and Post-biblical Jewish and Christian Contexts." Society of Biblical Literature annual conference, San Diego, November 25th, 2019.

Discussant on panel, "One City, Three Faiths." Yale University, St. Thomas Moore, Oct. 23rd, 2019.

"Deception and Bravado: Parody and Paradox in Rabbinic Literature." To have been delivered at 'Generations': The Evolution of the Rabbinic Text conference at Bar Ilan University, June 12th, 2019.

"Covenants in Ancient Judaism, Christianity and Islam." Delivered at the University of Maryland, Nov. 28th, 2018.

"The Violence of Silence in the Hebrew Bible: The Stories of Ishmael and Dinah." Delivered at Georgetown University, Oct. 25th, 2018.

"Silent Victims in the Hebrew Bible: The Case of Ishmael and Dinah." Delivered at the International SBL, Helsinki, Finland, August 2nd, 2018.

"Negotiating Religious and Spiritual Practices." Keynote Lecture at the Spirituality Conference: Unity, Health and Hope sponsored by HOAG Presbyterian Hospital. Delivered in Irvine, March 15th, 2018.

"The Implications of 'Abrahamic' for Interfaith Dialogue." The Bill & Frances Julian lecture for Intra-and Interfaith Understanding, University of Indiana. Delivered at the University of Indiana, February 20th, 2018.

Panelist on Review of *Islam and its Past*. Comments delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature conference, Boston, November 2017.

"What's in a Name? The Uses of the Term Abrahamic." Keynote lecture in the Jewish-Muslim relations in Europe: Past, Present and Future conference in Cordoba, Spain, October 21st, 2017.

"A Review of *What's Divine about Divine Law*." Delivered at the 9th Annual Enoch Seminar, Camaldoli, Italy, June 20th, 2017.

"Constituting Community: Biblical and Qur'anic Concepts of Covenant." Delivered at the International Qur'anic Studies Association conference, Tunis, Tunisia (Beit al Hikma), July 6th, 2017.

"Biblical and Qur'anic Conceptions of Covenant." The Brownlee Annual Memorial Lecture, Claremont School of Arts and Humanities. Delivered at Claremont, April 6th, 2017.

"Migrating Motifs: Villains in Jubilees and al-Kisa'i's Tales of the Prophets." Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature annual conference, San Antonio, November 19th, 2016.

"The Family of Abraham." Delivered at Allegheny College, the Samuel Schick Lecture, March 29th, 2016.

“Law and Revelation: Mount Sinai and Mecca.” Delivered at the Mendenhall Symposium on Law, Society and Religion, University of Michigan, October 7th, 2016.

“Reinventing Hagar and Ishmael in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature annual conference, Atlanta, November 22nd, 2015.

“The Case of al-Kisā’ī.” Delivered at the Tales of the Prophets conference, Naples, Italy, October 14th, 2015.

“Jewish, Christian and Muslim Interpretations of Abraham’s Family.” Delivered at the Presbyterian Church, Westwood, Los Angeles, CA, October 4th, 2015.

“Marital Triangulation: Abraham, Sarah and Hagar in Medieval Jewish Commentary.” Delivered at the International Society of Biblical Literature, Buenos Aires, July 23rd, 2015.

“Rethinking the Family of Abraham.” Delivered at the University of California, Irvine, April 13th, 2015.

Panel discussant: *The Family of Abraham: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Interpretations*. UCLA, February 19th, 2015.

“Sarah and Hagar.” Delivered at the “Bible and Women in Jewish Middle Ages” conference, Vienna, Austria, November 2nd, 2014.

“Politicizing the Wives of Abraham.” Delivered at Middlebury College, October 8th, 2014.

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

“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 16th, 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, 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 at the Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, 2012.

“Second Temple Judaism and the Aftermath.” Delivered at Ohr HaTorah Synagogue, December 31st, 2011.

“The Family of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” Delivered at Temple Or Ami, December 10th, 2011.

“The Role of Abraham in Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” Delivered at the Institute for Signifying Scripture, November 3rd, 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 24th, 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 3rd, 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 10th 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 5th, 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 25th, 2008.

“Ishmael on the Border between Judaism and Islam.” Delivered at the University of Arizona, January 7th, 2008.

“The Representation of Ishmael in Medieval Muslim Societies.” Delivered at the Association of Jewish Studies, December 18th, 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 28th, 2007.

“The Religious Roots of Anti-Semitism.” Delivered at Panel Discussion sponsored by the Center for Inquiry Transnational, Los Angeles, January 7th, 2007.

“Ishmael in post-Qur’anic Islam.” Delivered at Rutgers University, November 28th, 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 23-25th, 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 5th and 6th, 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 2nd, 2003.

“Figuring (Out) Esau: A Reconsideration of Esau as Rome in Rabbinic Literature.” Delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, November 23rd, 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.” Delivered at 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

2020-present	Member of International Network for Interreligious Research and Education (INIRE)
2020-2026	Member of IQSA (International Quranic Studies Association) Publications and Research Committee
2015-2019	Co-editor of the <i>AJS Review</i> Journal
2015-2019	Member of the Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies
2018-present	Member of the Board of the Abrahamic Alliance
2014-2019	Co-Chair of the Bible and Qur’an section, SBL
2013-2015	Vice President of Membership and Outreach, Association for Jewish Studies
2012-present	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture</i>
2011-present	Member of the Editorial Board of Poetics-Exegesis-Narrative (PEN): Studies in Jewish Literature and Art Series, Vandenhoeck & Reuprecht
2011-present	Member of the Editorial Board of the Oxford Online Bibliography of Jewish Studies
2010-present	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>Mathal/Mashal: Journal of Judaic and Islamic Multidisciplinary Studies</i>
2009-2015	Co-Chair of Early History and Literature of Rabbinic Judaism section, SBL
2010	Member of the History of Interpretation SBL Steering Committee
2009-2020	Member of the Editorial Board of <i>AJS Perspectives</i>
2007-2013	Member of the Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies
2007-2009	Chair of History of Interpretation SBL Steering Committee

Service at UCLA (Select)

2021--present	Representative of the UCLA Legislative Assembly
2021--2022	UCLA Appointee to the UC Academic Senate Assembly
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
2019	Chair, Review of UCLA, UCDC Program
2018-19	Chair of Search, Gilbert Chair in Israel Studies
2018	Faculty Participant on Chancellor’s DC Campus Climate Trip
2017-18	Chair of Senate Committee on Planning and Budget
2017-2019	Member of the Space Committee
2016-17	Member of the Classroom Committee
2016-2017	Vice-Chair of Senate Committee on Planning and Budget

2014-2019	Member of the UCLA Senate Committee on Planning and Budget
2013-2019	Member of the University Religious Conference Board of Directors
2013-2019	Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Near Eastern Studies
2011-2012	Acting Chair of the UCLA Study of Religion Program
2011--2019	Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies
2012	Chair of Humanities Residential College Advisory Committee
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--2019	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-present	Member of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Israel Studies