RA‘ANAN SHAUL BOUSTAN

Yale Divinity School
Yale University
409 Prospect Street
New Haven, CT 06511
raanan.boustan@yale.edu

EDUCATION

2004 Ph.D., Religion, Princeton University (Ancient Mediterranean Religions)
2000 M.A., Religion, Princeton University (Ancient Mediterranean Religions)
1995 Vrij Doctoraal Letteren, University of Amsterdam (Classics and Religion)
1994 A.B., Brown University (Classics)

PRIMARY ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025– Associate Professor, Yale Divinity School, Yale University (with secondary appointments in the Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Religious Studies)
2017–25 Research Scholar, Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University
2010–18 Associate Professor, History, University of California at Los Angeles
2006–10 Assistant Professor, History and NELC, University of California at Los Angeles
2004–6 Assistant Professor, Classical & Near Eastern Studies, University of Minnesota

VISITING ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024–25 Presidential Visiting Fellow, Yale Divinity School, Yale University
2015 Lecturer, Summer School at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem (July 5–9)
2011–12 Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellow, Department of Religious Studies, UT Austin
2010 Lecturer, Department of Medieval Studies, Central European University, Budapest (March)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

2009–12 Director, UCLA Center for the Study of Religion
2009–12 Chair, UCLA Study of Religion Undergraduate Program

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Editorial Board member, The Anchor Yale Bible Series, 2025–
Editorial Board member, *Quotidiana: Journal for the Study of Lived Religion*, 2024–
Editor-in-Chief, *Studies in Late Antiquity: A Journal*, 2021–
Editor-in-Chief, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, 2016–25
Associate Editor, Book series: *Archaeology, Culture & History of the Ancient Near East* (Routledge), 2015–
Associate Editor, Book series: *Martyrdom and Literature* (Harrassowitz Verlag), 2015–
Editorial Board member, *Journal of Religion and Violence*, 2017–
Editorial Board member, *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting*, 2014–
Associate Editor, *Studies in Late Antiquity: A Journal*, 2016–20
Editorial Committee member, University of California Press, 2014–17
Editorial Board member, *Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies*, 2004–6

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Books and monographs

With Karen Britt. *The Elephant Mosaic Panel in the Synagogue at Huqoq: Official Publication and Initial Interpretations*, JRA Supplementary Series 106 (Portsmouth, R.I.: Journal of Roman Archaeology, 2017).

From Martyr to Mystic: Rabbinic Martyrology and the Making of Merkavah Mysticism, Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 112 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005).

Edited volumes

With Eve Krakowski and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra. *Rabbinization and Diversity: Dynamics of Difference and Hegemony from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages*, double special issue of *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 32.3–4 (2025): 185–372.

With David Frankfurter and Annette Yoshiko Reed. *Above, Below, Before, and After: Studies on Judaism and Christianity in Dialogue with Martha Himmelfarb* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023).

With Jacco Dieleman and Joseph E. Sanzo. *Authoritative Traditions and Ritual Power in the Ancient World*, special issue of *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 16 (2015): 3–125.

With Adam H. Becker. *Matter of Contention: Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions*, special issue of *Material Religion* 10.4 (2014): 408–525.

With Martha Himmelfarb and Peter Schäfer. *Hekhalot Literature in Context: Between Byzantium and Babylonia*, Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 153 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013).

With Reimund Leicht, Klaus Herrmann, Annette Yoshiko Reed, and Giuseppe Veltri. *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion His 70th Birthday*, 2 vols. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013).

With Oren Kosansky and Marina Rustow. *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

With Alex Jassen and Calvin Roetzel. *Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practice in Early Judaism and Christianity* (Leiden: Brill, 2010). Paperback reprint with new Preface, Forward, and Indices of special issue of *Biblical Interpretation* 17.1–2 (2009): 1–264.

With Annette Yoshiko Reed. *Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities in Late Antiquity*, special issue of *Henoch* 30.2 (2008): 229–364.

With Annette Yoshiko Reed. *Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004). Paperback reprint, 2009.

Articles in journals

With Karen Britt. "Biblical Wilderness as Urban Utopia: The Elim Mosaic in the Huqoq Synagogue." Under Review.

With Karen Britt. "Jonah and the Three Fish in the Synagogue at Huqoq: Between Mosaic and Midrash," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 32.4 (2025): 322–55.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. "Huqoq–2023: Preliminary Report" (Hebrew and English), *Hadashot Arkheologiyot – Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 136 (2024), published on 8/25/2024 at: https://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/Report_Detail_Eng.aspx?id=26541

With Karen Britt. "Samson in the Galilee—and Beyond: How New Mosaic Discoveries in the Huqoq Synagogue Have Revised What We Thought We Knew," *Studies in Late Antiquity* 8.4 (2024): 481–504.

With Karen Britt. "War and Peace in the Elephant Mosaic from Huqoq: Synagogue Art, Classical Historiography, and Roman Imperial Monuments." *Mediterranean Studies* 31.2 (2023): 139–79.

- Winner of the Frank A. Dutra Annual Award for best article published in *Mediterranean Studies* in 2023.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. "Huqoq–2022: Preliminary Report" (Hebrew and English), *Hadashot Arkheologiyot – Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 135 (2023), published on 7/9/2023 at: http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=26377&mag_id=135.

With Karen Britt. "Scenes in Stone: Newly Discovered Biblical Mosaics from the North Aisle in the Huqoq Synagogue." *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5.4 (2021): 509–79.

With Karen Britt. "Historical Scenes in Mosaics from Late Roman Syria and Palestine: Building on the Seleucid Past in Late Antiquity," *Journal of Late Antiquity* 14.2 (2021): 335–74.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. "Huqoq–2019: Preliminary Report" (Hebrew and English), *Hadashot Arkheologiyot – Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 132 (2020), published on 12/31/2020 at: http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=25880&mag_id=128

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. "Huqoq–2018: Preliminary Report" (Hebrew and English), *Hadashot Arkheologiyot – Excavations and Surveys in Israel* 131 (2019), published on 12/31/2019 at: http://www.hadashot-esi.org.il/report_detail_eng.aspx?id=25653&mag_id=127

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. "The Huqoq Excavation Project: 2014–2017 Interim Report," *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 380 (2018): 61–131.

With Joseph E. Sanzo. "Christian Magicians, Jewish Magic, and the Shared Magical Culture of Late Antiquity," *Harvard Theological Review* 110.2 (2017): 217–40.

With Michael Beshay. "Sealing the Demons, Once and For All: The Ring of Solomon, the Cross of Christ, and the Power of Biblical Kingship," *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 16 (2015): 99–129.

"Secrets without Mystery: Esotericism in Early Jewish Mysticism," *Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism* 15.1 (2015): 10–15.

With Marie-Thérèse Champagne. "Walking in the Shadows of the Past: The Jewish Experience of Rome in the Twelfth Century," *Medieval Encounters* 17.4–5 (2011): 462–92.

"Rabbinization and the Making of Early Jewish Mysticism," *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 101.4 (2011): 482–501.

"Augustine as Revolutionary? Reflections on Continuity and Rupture in Jewish–Christian Relations in Paula Fredriksen's *Augustine and the Jews*," *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 99.1 (2009): 74–87.

"Immolating Emperors: Spectacles of Imperial Suffering and the Making of a Jewish Minority Culture in Late Antiquity," *Biblical Interpretation* 17.1–2 (2009): 207–38.

With Annette Yoshiko Reed. "Blood and Atonement in the Pseudo-Clementines and *The Story of the Ten Martyrs*: The Problem of Selection in the Study of Ancient Judaism and Christianity," *Henoch* 30.2 (2008): 333–64.

"The Study of Heikhalot Literature—Between Religious Experience and Textual Artifact," *Currents in Biblical Research* 6.1 (2007): 130–60.

"The Emergence of Pseudonymous Attribution in Heikhalot Literature: Empirical Evidence from the Jewish 'Magical' Corpora," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 14.1 (2007): 18–38.

"A Hebrew Hymn of Praise for a High-priestly Rabbinic Martyr: A Note on the Relationship between the Synagogue Liturgy and Rabbinic Literary Culture," *Zutot* 4 (2004): 28–35.

Editorial introductions in journals

With Eve Krakowski and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra, "Rabbinization and Diversity in Jewish Culture and Society, from Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages: Introduction," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 32.3 (2025) 185–88.

"National Borders and the Contours of Historical Knowledge," *Studies in Late Antiquity* 7.1 (2023): 1–4.

"Everyday Life *in extremis*," *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6.3 (2022): 385–90.

"On Shaky Ground: Elites and their Discontents," *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6.1 (2022): 1–4.

"Entanglements of Religion and Empire," *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5.3 (2021): 287–91.

"Centers and Peripheries?" *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5.1 (2021): 1–5.

With Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, Emily Albu, Michele Salzman, and Edward Watts. "Why Does the World Need a New Journal in Late Antiquity?" *Studies in Late Antiquity* 1.1 (2017): 1–3.

With Kimberly Stratton. “Children and Violence in Jewish and Christian Traditions,” *Journal of Religion and Violence* 4.3 (2016): 305–16.

With Jacco Dieleman and Joseph E. Sanzo. “Authoritative Traditions and Ritual Power in the Ancient World: Introduction,” *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 16 (2015): 3–10.

With Adam H. Becker. “Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions,” *Material Religion* 10.4 (2014): 408–10.

With Alex Jassen and Calvin Roetzel. “Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practice in Early Judaism and Christianity,” *Biblical Interpretation* 17.1–2 (2009): 1–11.

With Annette Yoshiko Reed. “Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities in Late Antiquity,” *Henoch* 30.2 (2008): 231–42.

Articles in multi-authored books (including introductions to edited volumes)

With Karen Britt. “Deborah and Yael in Mosaic and Manuscript: A Biblical Narrative between Roman Palestine and Medieval Europe,” in *The Proceedings of the XVIth Conference of the Association Internationale pour l’Étude de la Mosaïque Antique: Mosaics between East and West*, ed. Amina-Aïcha Malek et al. Forthcoming.

With Karen Britt. “Making Space: The Viewing Experience of the Huqoq Synagogue Mosaics,” in *The Proceedings of the XVth Conference of the Association Internationale pour l’Étude de la Mosaïque Antique: Mosaics in Context*, ed. Amina-Aïcha Malek et al. (Paris: Éditions Hermann, 2024), 95–103.

“Hekhalot Literature, Scholastic Ritual, and Intercessory Prayer in *Midrash Mishle*,” in *Above, Below, Before and After: Studies on Judaism and Christianity in Dialogue with Martha Himmelfarb*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan, David Frankfurter, and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023), 475–91.

With David Frankfurter and Annette Yoshiko Reed, “Introduction: Tours by the Light of Martha Himmelfarb,” in *Above, Below, Before and After: Studies on Judaism and Christianity in Dialogue with Martha Himmelfarb* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023), 1–12.

With Karen Britt and Jonathan J. Price. “Ḥuqoq,” in *Corpus Inscriptionum Iudaeae/Palaestinae*, vol. 5.1*: Galilee*, ed. Walter Ameling et al. (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2023), 406–20. [Uncredited publication]

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. “The Ḥuqoq Synagogue Excavations: Report on the 2011–2018 Seasons,” in *Ancient Synagogues Revealed 2*, ed. Lee I. Levine, Zeev Weiss, and Uzi Leibner (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2023), 48–65.

With Karen Britt. “Jerusalem in Galilee: Urban Architecture and Communal Belonging in a Mosaic from a Rural Synagogue,” in *Pushing Sacred Boundaries in Early Judaism and the Ancient Mediterranean: Essays in Honor of Jodi Magness*, ed. Dennis Mizzi, Tine Rasalle, and Matthew Grey (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 581–620.

“Afterword: Rabbinization and the Persistence of Diversity in Jewish Culture in Late Antiquity,” in *Diversity and Rabbinization: Jewish Texts and Societies between 400 and 1000 CE*, ed. Gavin McDowell, Ron Naiweld, and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra (Cambridge: OpenEdition Books, 2021), 427–49.

“Jewish Veneration of the ‘Special Dead’ in Late Antiquity and Beyond,” in *Saints and Sacred Matter: The Cult of Relics in Byzantium and Beyond*, ed. Cynthia Hahn and Holger Klein (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2015), 61–81.

With Joseph E. Sanzo. “Mediterranean Jews in a Christianizing Empire,” in *The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Attila*, ed. Michael Maas (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 360–76.

With Patrick G. McCullough. “Apocalyptic Literature and the Study of Early Jewish Mysticism,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Apocalyptic Literature*, ed. John J. Collins (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 85–103.

“Israelite Kingship, Christian Rome, and the Jewish Imperial Imagination: Midrashic Precursors to the Medieval ‘Throne of Solomon,’” in *Jews, Christians, and the Roman Empire: The Poetics of Power in Late Antiquity*, ed. Natalie Dohrmann and Annette Yoshiko Reed (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013), 167–82, notes 319–24.

“Introduction: Hekhalot Literature at the Intersections of Jewish Regional Cultures,” in *Hekhalot Literature in Context: Between Byzantium and Babylonia*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan, Martha Himmelfarb, and Peter Schäfer (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), XI–XXIV.

“The Contested Reception of the *Story of the Ten Martyrs* in Medieval Midrash,” in *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion His 70th Birthday*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan et al., 2 vols. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), 1:369–94.

With Reimund Leicht, Klaus Herrmann, Annette Yoshiko Reed, and Giuseppe Veltri. “Introduction: *Imre Shefer*,” in *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion His 70th Birthday*, ed. Ra‘anan Boustan et al., 2 vols. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), 1:XVII–XXVIII.

“Confounding Blood: Jewish Narratives of Sacrifice and Violence in Late Antiquity,” in *Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean: Images, Acts, Meanings*, ed. Jennifer Wright Knust and Zsuzsanna Várhelyi (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), 265–86.

“The Dislocation of the Temple Vessels: Mobile Sanctity and Rabbinic Rhetorics of Space,” in *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition*, ed. Ra‘anan S. Boustan, Oren Kosansky, and Marina Rustow (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), 135–46, notes 365–70.

With Oren Kosansky and Marina Rustow. “Introduction: Anthropology, History, and the Remaking of Jewish Studies,” in *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition*, ed. Ra‘anan S. Boustan, Oren Kosansky and Marina Rustow (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), 1–28, notes 335–45.

“The Spoils of the Jerusalem Temple at Rome and Constantinople: Jewish Counter-Geography in a Christianizing Empire,” in *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World*, ed. Gregg Gardner and Kevin Osterloh (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008), 327–72.

“Competing Attitudes toward Rabbi Ishmael’s Priestly Genealogy in Heikhalot Literature,” in *Paradise Now: Essays on Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism*, ed. April DeConick (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006), 127–41.

“Angels in the Architecture: Temple Art and the Poetics of Praise in the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice,” in *Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, ed. Ra‘anan S. Boustan and Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 195–212.

With Annette Yoshiko Reed. “Introduction: ‘In Heaven as It is on Earth,’” in *Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, ed. Ra‘anan S. Boustan and Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 1–15.

“Circumcision and Castration in Roman Law and Culture under the Early Empire,” in *The Covenant of Circumcision: New Perspectives on an Ancient Jewish Rite*, ed. Elizabeth Wyner Mark (Boston: University Press of New England, 2003), 75–86, notes 220–23.

“Seven-fold Hymns in the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice and the Hekhalot Literature: Formalism, Hierarchy, and the Limits of Human Participation,” in *The Dead Sea Scrolls as Background to Post-Biblical Judaism and Early Christianity*, ed. James R. Davila, STDJ 46 (Leiden: Brill, 2003), 220–47.

“Rabbi Ishmael’s Miraculous Conception: Jewish Redemption History in Anti-Christian Polemic,” in *The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, ed. Adam H. Becker and Annette Yoshiko Reed, TSAJ 95 (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007; repr. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003), 307–43.

“Negotiating Difference: Genital Mutilation in Roman Slave Law and the History of the Bar Kokhba Revolt,” in *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered*, ed. Peter Schäfer, TSAJ 100 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003), 71–91.

“Eunuchs and Gender Transformation: Philo’s Exegesis of the Joseph Narrative,” in *Eunuchs in Antiquity and Beyond*, ed. Shaun Tougher (London: Duckworth, 2002), 103–21.

With Jan Willem van Henten. “The Depiction of the Jews as Typhonians and Josephus’ Strategy of Refutation in *Contra Apionem*,” in *Josephus’* Contra Apionem*: Studies in its Character and Context*, ed. Louis H. Feldman and John R. Levison, AGJU 34 (Leiden: Brill, 1996), 271–309.

Essays in magazines or popular periodicals

With Karen Britt. “The Mosaics in the North Aisle of the Synagogue at Huqoq” (Hebrew), *Qadmoniot: A Journal for the Antiquities of Eretz-Israel and Bible Lands* 166 (2023): 31–39.

With Karen Britt. “Warrior Women: Deborah and Yael Found at Huqoq,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 49.4 (Winter 2023): 54–59.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. “The Huqoq Excavations: Interim Report on the 2011–2017 Seasons” (Arabic), *Cornerstone* 7 (2021): 34–52.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al., “Mehr als nur Mosaike: Die antike Synagoge in Huqoq im Israelischen Galiläa,” *Antike Welt: Zeitschrift für Archäologie und Kulturgeschichte* 51.1 (2020): 74–83.

With Karen Britt. “Artistic Influences in Synagogue Mosaics: Putting the Huqoq Synagogue in Context,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 45.3 (May/June 2019): 39–45, 68.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. “Inside the Huqoq Synagogue,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 45.3 (May/June 2019): 24–38.

With Karen Britt and Jodi Magness et al. “Bible Stories in the Mosaic Floor of the Huqoq Synagogue: Interim Report on the 2011–2017 Seasons” (Hebrew), *Qadmoniot: A Journal for the Antiquities of Eretz-Israel and Bible Lands* 156 (2018): 66–83.

“Imperialisms in Jewish History, From Pre- to Post-Modern,” *Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies* (Fall 2005): 8–10.

Book reviews

Review of Friedrich Avemarie, Jan Willem van Henten, and Yair Furstenberg. *Jewish Martyrdom in Antiquity: From the Books of Maccabees to the Babylonian Talmud* (Leiden: Brill, 2023), in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 56 (2025): 229–37.

Review of Rachel Neis, *The Sense of Sight in Rabbinic Culture: Jewish Ways of Seeing in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), in *Images* 10 (2017): 140–42.

Review of Steven D. Fraade, *Legal Fictions: Studies of Law and Narrative in the Discursive Worlds of Ancient Jewish Sectarians and Sages* (Leiden: Brill, 2011), in *AJS Review* 38.2 (2014): 358–60.

With Henry Gruber. Review of Eyal Ben-Eliyahu, Yehudah Cohn, and Fergus Millar, eds., *Handbook of Jewish Literature from Late Antiquity, 135–700 C.E.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press/The British Academy, 2012), in *Journal of Late Antiquity* 7.2 (2014): 360–62.

Review of Andrew S. Jacobs, *Christ Circumcised: A Study in Early Christian History and Difference* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012), in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 81.3 (2013): 868–73.

Review of Jonathan Klawans, *Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple: Symbolism and Supersessionism in the Study of Ancient Judaism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), in *AJS Review* 32.1 (2008): 169–72.

Review of Pieter W. van der Horst, *Het vroege jodendom van A tot Z: Een kleine encyclopedie over de eerste duizend jaar (ca. 350 v.Chr.–650 n.Chr.)* (Zoetermeer: Meinema, 2006), in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 38.3 (2007): 436–38.

Review of Andreas Lehnardt, *Qaddish: Untersuchungen zur Entstehung und Rezeption eines rabbinischen Gebetes* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2002), in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 97.2 (2007): 65–69.

Review of Daniel Boyarin, *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004), in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 96.3 (2006): 441–46.

Review of Vita Daphna Arbel, *Beholders of Divine Secrets: Mysticism and Myth in the Hekhalot and Merkavah Literature* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003), in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 125.1 (2005): 123–26.

Review of Erich S. Gruen, *Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), in *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 5 (2003): 379–83.

Entries in reference works

“3 Enoch,” in *The Textual History of the Bible*, vol. 2B: *The Deuterocanonical Scriptures*, ed. Frank Feder and Matthias Henze (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 379–85.

“Martyr, Martyrdom | Rabbinic Judaism,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et. al., 30 vols. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009–), 17:1071–74.

“Yohanan ben Nappaha,” in *The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*, ed. Oliver Nicholson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 1603.

“Heikhalot literature,” in *The Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity*, ed. Oliver Nicholson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018), 704–5.

“Metatron,” in *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, ed. Lisbeth Fried, Jennifer Knust, Eric Orlin, Michael Pregill, Michael Satlow (New York: Routledge, 2015), 594–95.

“Hekhalot/Merkabah literature,” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Roger S. Bagnall et al. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 3099–101.

“Shi‘ur Qomah (Jewish mystical texts),” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Roger S. Bagnall et al. (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), 6227–28.

“Second Temple,” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011), 590–91.

“Hekhalot literature,” in *The Dictionary of Early Judaism*, ed. Dan Harlow and John J. Collins (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2010), 719–21.

“R. Ishmael,” in *The Dictionary of Early Judaism*, ed. Dan Harlow and John J. Collins (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2010), 778–79.

“R. Yohanan ben Zakkai,” in *The Dictionary of Early Judaism*, ed. Dan Harlow and John J. Collins (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2010), 1355–56.

“Heaven | Rabbinic Judaism,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et. al., 30 vols. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009–), 12:553–55.

“Ascension | Rabbinic and Medieval Judaism,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et. al., 30 vols. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009–), 2:889–90.

Internet Publications

“Jews and Christians: Embracing the Wide Spectrum,” in *Ancient Jew Review* (December 18, 2014).

"The Relics of Rabbi Ishmael in *The Story of the Ten Martyrs*," in *Jewish Understandings of the Other: An Annotated Sourcebook*, Boston College Center for Jewish–Christian Learning (2006).

Invited lectures (not including regular conference presentations)

"Biblical Wilderness as Urban Utopia: The Elim Mosaic in the Huqoq Synagogue"
- Brown University, Cultures and Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean Seminar, December 2026

"Visualizing Resistance: Scenes of Battle in Jewish Art from Roman Palestine"
- University of California, Riverside, Department of History, December 2025

"Jerusalem in Rome and Galilee: Encountering the Holy City in Jewish and Christian Mosaics"
- Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, University of Washington, February 2024
- The Montefiore Lecture, Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton, February 2024

"Warrior Women: Deborah & Yael in the Synagogue Mosaic from Huqoq"
- Yale Divinity School, Yale University, January 2024
- Department of History and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies, The Ohio State University, January 2024
- Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University, October 2023

"Biblical Wilderness as Urban Utopia: The Elim Mosaic in the Huqoq Synagogue"
- Mandel Scholion Research Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2022

"Making Space: The Huqoq Synagogue Mosaics and the Viewing Experience"
- Department of Classical and Mediterranean Studies, Pennsylvania State University, December 2022
- University College London, Institute of Jewish Studies, December 2022

"Dreams of the Big City: Depictions of Urban Spaces in Rural Churches and Synagogues"
- Biblical Archaeology Society, 25th Annual Bible and Archaeology Fest, October 2022

"The Apocalyptic Tradition in Late Antique Judaism: The Dynamics of Rabbinization, from Neutralization to New Creation"
- Keynote lecture at 11th Enoch Seminar / LMU Munich Congress on Apocalypticism in Antiquity, May 2021

"Scenes in Stone: Newly Discovered Biblical Mosaics from the North Aisle in the Huqoq Synagogue"
- Department of History, University of Haifa, Departmental Seminar, March 2021
- Oriel College, University of Oxford, Early Biblical Interpretation Seminar, February 2021

"Visualizing Resistance: From Conflict to Concord in a Synagogue Mosaic"
- Valley Beit Midrash, Scottsdale, Az., January 2020
- University of Washington, Seattle, Samuel & Althea Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, May 2019

"Blood on the Floor: Mosaic Art, Violent Imagery, and Militant Piety in a Galilean Synagogue"
- Princeton University, Program in Judaic Studies, March 2018
- University of British Columbia, Department of Classical, Near Eastern, and Religious Studies, March 2017

"The City of Rome as Storehouse of Jewish Artifacts"
- Centro Primo Levi, New York, November 2017

"Greek Kings and Judaean Priests in the Late Antique Synagogue at Huqoq"
- Center for Jewish Studies, The Graduate Center, CUNY, May 2017
- Medieval History Workshop, Harvard University, March 2017
- Zeisler Lectureship, University of British Columbia & the American Institute of Archaeology, March 2017
- Casden Faculty and Graduate Student Research Seminar, University of Southern California, April 2016
- Center for Religion, Culture, and Community, DePaul University, February 2016

"Matter of Contention: Tokens of Cult and Kingship between Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity"
- The Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, January 2015

"Novelistic Digressions in Josephus' *Jewish Antiquities* 18 and 20"
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, March 2014

"Mediterranean Jews in a Christianizing Empire: Changing Dynamics of Intercommunal Violence"
- Yeshiva University, Department of Jewish History, March 2014
- Tel Aviv University, "Summer Program: Jewish–Christian Encounters in the Early Centuries," August 2013

"Jewish Studies between the Disciplines"
- Western Association for Jewish Studies, Key note address, April 2013

"The Ring of Solomon, the Cross of Christ, and the Power of Biblical Kingship."
- Williams College, Classics and Jewish Studies, April 2014
- Yale University, Seminar on Ancient Judaism, April 2013
- Centre Février for the Study of the Ancient & Medieval Mediterranean (Aix-en-Provence), December 2012

"Jewish Martyrology and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities in Late Antiquity"
- University of West Florida, Department of History, March 2012

"Rabbinization and the Making of Early Jewish Mysticism"
- Cornell University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Culture, March 2011
- The Ohio State University, Center for the Study of Religion, February 2011
- Reed College, Department of Religion, December 2010

"From Heterogeneity to Hegemony: The Limits of Pluralism in the Study of Early Judaism"
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, November 2010

"The Rabbinic Sage as Martyred Saint: Transformations of Jewish Narrative in Late Antiquity"
- University of California, Santa Barbara, Ancient Mediterranean Studies Seminar, May 2010
- Stanford University, Ho Center for Buddhist Studies and Taube Center for Jewish Studies, April 2010

"The Blood of Zechariah between Jews & Christians: Sacrifice as Murder from Antiquity to René Girard"
- Graduate Theological Union, Center for Jewish Studies, February 2009

"The Uses of Roman Law for Social and Cultural History: The Case of the Alleged Ban on Circumcision"
- University of Southern California, Department of Classics, November 2008

"Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities" (with Annette Yoshiko Reed)
- University of California, Riverside, Department of Religion, April 2007

"The Foundation of Rome in Jewish Apocalyptic and Rabbinic Literature"
- University of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Studies, February 2007

"Jewish Counter-Geography in a Christianizing Empire"
- Princeton University, Department of Religion, February 2005

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Undergraduate courses taught

Art and Judaism in Antiquity
End Times: Apocalyptic Visions, Ancient and Modern
Great Books of the Jewish Tradition: Exodus and Its Echoes
Roman History in Late Antiquity: Transformation of the Mediterranean World
Jewish Civilization: The Encounter with Great World Cultures
Martyrdom and Religious Violence in the Graeco-Roman World
Jewish Mysticism, Magic, and Kabbalah
Ancient Jewish History: From Israelite Origins to the Rise of Rabbinic Judaism
Introduction to Judaism

Graduate courses taught

Jews and/as the Other
Introduction to Judaism for Divinity Students
Jewish Art and Visual Culture in Late Antiquity
Late Antique Jewish Texts and Material Culture in Christian Context
Jewish–Christian Relations in Antiquity: History and Historiography
Images of Power and the Power of Images in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages
Theory and Method in the Study of Religion
Critical Approaches to Social Forms: Nation, Value, Religion
Jews, Gentiles, and Christians in the Roman World
Wisdom and Apocalyptic in Second Temple Judaism and Beyond
Esotericism and Mysticism in Rabbinic and Related Literatures

Prayer and Liturgical Poetry at Qumran
Advanced Classical Hebrew: Post-biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew
Advanced Classical Hebrew: Hebrew in the Second Temple Period

Doctoral advising

Committee chair

2019 Chris Bingley (UCLA, History)
2012 Joseph Sanzo (UCLA, History), Faculty member, Università Ca' Foscari, Venice

Committee member

2025 Michele Scarlassara (Università Ca' Foscari, Venice, Asian and North African Studies)
2023 Nomi Schneck (Princeton University, Art & Archaeology)
2023 Yitz Landes (Princeton University, Religion), Faculty member, Jewish Theological Seminary
2022 Alyssa Cady (Princeton University, Religion)
2021 Elena Dugan (Princeton University, Religion), Faculty member, Phillips Academy Andover
2020 Michail Kitsos (University of Michigan, NELC)
2020 Jillian Stinchcomb (University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies), Faculty member, Towson University
2018 Noa Bar (UCLA, Comparative Literature)
2018 Megan Smith (UCLA, English)
2016 Lisa Cleath (UCLA, NELC), Faculty member, Princeton Theological Seminary
2016 Suzanne Lye (UCLA, Classics), Faculty member, UNC Chapel Hill
2016 Josiah Chappell (UCLA, NELC), Lecturer, Azusa Pacific University
2015 Melissa Ramos (UCLA, NELC), Faculty member, George Fox University
2015 Mik Larson (UCLA, History), Lecturer, California State University, Long Beach
2014 Jennifer Pantoja (UCLA, NELC)
2013 Allegra Iafrate (Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Art History)
2013 James Petitfils (UCLA, History), Faculty member, Biola University
2013 Sue Russell (UCLA, History), Faculty member, Asbury Theological Seminary
2012 Kevin Scull (UCLA, History)
2011 Jason Mokhtarian (UCLA, NELC), Faculty member, Cornell University
2010 Peter Lanfer (UCLA, NELC), Faculty member, Occidental College

Undergraduate advising

Faculty Adviser, Yeh College, Princeton University, 2022–2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Advisory capacities

Member, Advisory Committee, Center for the Study of Lived Religion at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, 2023–
Member, Advisory Committee, ERC Starting Grant on Jewish and Christian Magic, 2021–
Member, Honors and Awards Committee, American Schools of Oriental Research, 2021–
Member, Steering Committee, Violence & Representations of Violence Section, SBL, 2009–12, 2015–2020
Member, Steering Committee, California Consortium for the Study of Late Antiquity, 2008–17
Co-chair, Religious Worlds of Late Antiquity Group, SBL, 2015–16
Member, Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies, 2013–16
Co-chair, Violence & Representations of Violence Section, Society of Biblical Literature, 2012–15
Member, Steering Committee, Religious Worlds of Late Antiquity Group, SBL, 2010–15
Member, Steering Committee, Multi-Campus Research Group on Ancient Mediterranean Borderlands, 2010–15
Member, Steering Committee, Hellenistic Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature, 2008–14

Conference planning and other organizing activities

"Rabbinization and Diversity: Methods, Models, and Manifestations" (Paris & Princeton, March 2022)

“Materializing Ancient Judaism” (University of Michigan, April 9–10, 2018)

“Jews and the Material in Antiquity” (Research group successfully proposed to the Frankel Institute for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, for 2017–18)

“Jewish Sub-cultures in Late Antiquity” (Zikhron Ya‘akov, Israel, August 4–5, 2013)

“Authoritative Traditions and Ritual Power in the Ancient World” (UCLA, October 22, 2012)

“Matter of Contention: Relics and Other Sacred Objects at the Crossroads of Religious Traditions” (University of Texas at Austin, April, 23–24, 2012)

“Picking Up the Pieces: Refiguring Jerusalem and Rome in Late Antiquity” (UT Austin, March 26, 2012)

“Hekhalot Literature in Context: From Byzantium to Babylonia” (Princeton University, November, 14–16, 2010)

“Violence, Authority, and Subversion in Late Antique Jewish Culture” (Zikhron Ya‘akov, Israel, August 8–9, 2009)

“Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity” (Research group successfully proposed to the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, for 2007–8)

“Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions: Discourse, Ritual, Community” (University of Minnesota, October 6–8, 2007)

“In Heaven as it is on Earth: Imagined Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions” (Princeton University, January 14–15, 2001)

Co-founder, Program in the Ancient World Graduate Student Colloquium (Princeton University, 2000–1)

Peer-reviewing, grant assessment, and dissertation evaluation

Aries: Journal for the Study of Western Esotericism; Ars Judaica; Brill; Cambridge University Press; Critical Research on Religion; Foundation for Jewish Culture; Harvard Theological Review; Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Historical Interactions of Religious Cultures; *Israel Institute for Advanced Studies; Israel Science Foundation; The Jewish Quarterly Review; Jewish Social Studies; Jewish Studies: Journal of the World Union of Jewish Studies; Jewish Studies Quarterly; Journal of the American Academy of Religion; Journal of Ancient Judaism; Journal of Early Christian Studies; Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting; Journal of Jewish Studies; Journal of Late Antiquity; Journal of Near Eastern Studies; Journal for the Study of Judaism; Maarav; Mada‘ei ha-Yahadut: Journal of the World Union of Jewish Studies; Mandel Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa; Studies in Late Antiquity; Te‘udah; University of California Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; Wiener Jahrbuch für Theologie; Zion.*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

Short-term Fellowship, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2026–27

Frank A. Dutra Annual Award for the best article published in *Mediterranean Studies* during the 2023 calendar year, May 2024.

Research Fellowship, Tikvah Center for Law & Jewish Civilization, New York University, Spring 2014

Donald D. Harrington Faculty Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, 2011–12

Internal grants, UCLA: Faculty Research Grant, 2011–12; Research Enabling Grant, 2010–11; Faculty Research Grant, 2009–10; Sol Leshin Program for UCLA/BGU Academic Cooperation, 2009; Faculty Career Development Award, 2008–9

Research Fellowship, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2007–8

Internal grants, University of Minnesota: McKnight Summer Research Fellowship, 2005; Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, 2005; McKnight International Travel Award, 2005; Office of International Programs Faculty Grant, 2005

Research Fellowship, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003–4

Dissertation fellowships: National Foundation for Jewish Culture, 2002–3; Whiting Foundation, 2001–2; Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2001–2

Dorot Leadership Program in Israel, Dorot Foundation, 1996–7
Fulbright Fellowship, The Netherlands, 1994–5
James Aldridge Pirce Prize for Outstanding Senior Thesis, Classics Department, Brown University, 1994
Workman–Driscoll Premium for Exemplary Service, Classics Department, Brown University, 1994
Magna Cum Laude (highest Latin honors awarded), Brown University, 1994
Phi Beta Kappa (Junior year), Brown University, 1993

Last updated: September 2026