

REBECCA WARTELL, Ph.D.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Program in Jewish Studies • University of Colorado Boulder
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EDUCATION

- 2020** **Ph.D., History**
Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
Dissertation: *'Fleeing the Sword of the Inquisition': Iberian Refugees in Early Modern Rabbinic Texts*
- 2000** **M.A., Theological Studies**
Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 1996** **B.A., Religious Studies**
Hampshire College, Amherst, Massachusetts

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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|---------------------------------|---|
| August 2018-Present | Teaching Assistant Professor |
| January 2023-Present | Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies
Program in Jewish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder |
| January 2013-June 2018 | Teaching Associate
Department of History, Monash University |
| September 2007-June 2012 | Affiliate Faculty
Religious Studies, Regis University |

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- "New Directions in Hispanic Jewish Studies: Early Modern Jewish and *Conversa* Women" *Journal of the Mediterranean Studies Association*, 32:1 (2024).
- "Rabbis on Refugees: Theological Responses to the Treatment of *Converso* Migrants in Sixteenth-Century Candia," *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 34:2 (2019), 165-179.

Encyclopedia Entry

- "Nieto, David." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin-New York: Walter De Gruyter (2022).

Book reviews

- Rescue the Surviving Souls: The Great Jewish Refugee Crisis of the Seventeenth Century*, Adam Teller, *Mediterranean Historical Review*, 2021.
- Refugees or Migrants: Pre-Modern Jewish Population Movement*, Robert Chazan, *H-Judaic Reviews*, 2020.
- Entangled Histories: Knowledge, Authority, and Jewish Culture in the Thirteenth Century*, Elisheva Baumgarten, Ruth Karras, and Katelyn Mesler, eds., *Parergon*, 2019.
- Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era*, Julia Phillips Cohen, *H-Judaic Reviews*, 2017.
- The Secret Faith of Maestre Honoratus: Profayt Duran and Jewish Identity in Late Medieval Iberia*, Maud Kozodoy, *Parergon*, 2016.
- Patronage, Production, and Transmission of Texts in Medieval and Early Modern Jewish Cultures*, Esperanza Alfonso and Jonathan Decker, eds. *Parergon*, 2015.

Works in Progress

“Indian Hobbyists, Youth Recreation, and a Jewish Summer Camp on the Great Plains of Colorado, 1920-1960.” [article under review]

Seek Refuge under the Wings of the Shekhinah: Iberian Jewish Refugees and Rabbis [book proposal in progress]

“The Exiled Bride: Jewish and *Conversa* Widows in Early Modern Sephardic Culture” [chapter in progress]

Peer Reviewer

Mediterranean Historical Review, 1 manuscript, 2022.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Symposia organized

Fourth Biannual Embodied Judaism symposium and permanent exhibit, *Jews Outdoors/Jews Out West: Experiential Judaism in the American West in the post-war era*, University of Colorado Boulder, 7 November 2019.

Third Annual Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies symposium, *Policing the Margins: authority, identity and religious ambiguity amongst Jews, Christians and Muslims in medieval Europe and the Mediterranean*, Monash University, 28 April 2017.

Papers presented

“Beneath the Wings of the *Shekhinah*: The Divine Feminine in Early Modern Sephardic Judaism,” European Academy of Religion, Palermo, Italy, 20-23 May, 2024.

“New Methodologies in Early Modern Jewish Studies,” Kayden Symposium on Pre-Modern Iberia, the Mediterranean & the Atlantic: New Directions, University of Colorado Boulder, 11 April, 2024.

“Mary, Esther, Deborah, Judith: Veneration of the Divine Feminine in Crypto-Judaism,” Society for Crypto-Jewish Studies Annual Conference, El Paso, Texas, 14 August, 2023.

“*The Wandering Bride*: Iberian Jewish and *Converso* Devotion to the Divine Feminine after 1492,” Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, 19-21 May, 2023.

“*Conversos* in the New World: Jewish and Christian References of the Divine Feminine,” Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association, Colorado State University, 13-15 April, 2023.

“*Sequina* or *Shekhinah*?: Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews in the New World,” Mediterranean Seminar Fall Workshop, “The Mediterranean Origins of the West,” University of Colorado Boulder, 22 October, 2022.

“*The Embers of Excommunication*: Fire and Water Symbolism in Early Modern Jewish Conversion,” Mediterranean Seminar Summer 2022 Workshop, “Purity, Pollution, Purification and Defilement,” University of Haifa, 28-30 June, 2022.

“The Exiled Bride: Early Modern Jewish and *Conversa* Widows,” Mediterranean Seminar Symposium, “The Spanish Empire and the Mediterranean: New Directions,” University of Colorado, Boulder, 21 April, 2022.

“The *Conversos*’ Return Home: Modern Trends in Latin American, Spain, and Israel,” Western Jewish Studies Association, University of Oklahoma, 28 March, 2022.

“Metaphorical Sacred Space Beneath the Wings of the *Shekhinah*,” Mediterranean Seminar Winter Workshop, “Sacred Spaces,” Fresno State University, 12 February, 2022.

- "Jews Outdoors: Post-War Jewish Recreation in the Rocky Mountains," Western Jewish Studies Association, virtual conference, 15 March, 2021.
- "Seeking Refuge Under the Wings of the *Shekhinah*: Political and Theological Lexicons of Exile in Sixteenth-Century Sephardi Responsa Texts," American Historical Association, New York City, NY, 5 January, 2020.
- "*Converso* Women and Family Law in Early Modern Ottoman Responsa," Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, 16 December, 2019.
- "*Takkanot Kandiyah*," Early Modern Workshop, Fordham University, New York City, 20 August, 2019.
- "Not like other converts': *Conversos* in early modern Sephardi rabbinic thought," Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, Denver, Colorado, 1 July, 2019
- "Popes and Pirates: New Perspectives on the Ancona Massacre of 1556," Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, D. C., 17 December, 2017.
- "The Ancona Massacre of 1556: Rabbinic perspectives on the Roman Inquisition," Reforming Religions Workshop, Istituto Sangalli, Florence, Italy, 12 September, 2017.
- "The Ancona Massacre: Jewish/Christian Relations in Italy in the Sixteenth Century," Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies symposium, Monash University, 28 April, 2017.
- "Refuge or Refuse?: Venetian Candia and the absorption of Sephardic Jewish refugees in the mid-sixteenth century," Australia-New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies conference, 10 February, 2017.
- '*Excommunication for those who call a repentant an apostate*': *Conversos* and benevolence in three rabbinic letters from *Takanot Candia*, 1567," Association for Jewish Studies conference, San Diego, 18 December, 2016.
- "Escaping the Inquisition: Themes of conversion, expulsion and resettlement in early modern Sephardi rabbinic texts," Historical Studies Conference, Monash University, 2 November, 2016.
- "Edom: *Sephardic Representations of Latin Christendom in Sixteenth Century responsa texts*", at Monash University Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Annual Symposium, 29 April, 2016.
- "Seeking Shelter under the Wings of the *Shekhinah*: Geographical and metaphysical implications of Expulsion in Sixteenth Century Sephardi Responsa Texts," at the *Australia Association for Jewish Studies* conference, Brisbane, 14 February, 2016.
- "The Talmud is Burning: Sephardi Responses to Increased Persecution of Jews in Italy in the Sixteenth Century," at *Monash Prato Medieval and Renaissance Roundtable*, Prato, Italy, 8 December 2015.

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

Faculty Panels

- Panelist, "Explaining Conflict and War in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank: Community Discussions with Faculty Members," University of Colorado Boulder, 29 November, 2023.
- Presenter, "Chained and Cursed Women: Early Modern Marriage and Widowhood in the Sephardic Diaspora," Faculty Works in Progress, Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, 19 September, 2022.
- Respondent, "The Sephardim, Past and Present," Faculty Talk by Prof. Roger Martinez Davila, Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, 15 December, 2021.
- Respondent, "A Prophetic Judgement without Reprieve," Works in Progress for Prof. Sam Boyd, Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, 29 October, 2020.
- "New Faculty Orientation Panel," Faculty Development Program, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder, 23 September, 2020.
- Panelist, "Rethinking the Holocaust," Hampshire College, 1998.

Invited Talks

Miramontes Arts & Sciences Program, "Meet the Professor," University of Colorado Boulder, 11 April, 2019.

"*Dopo il ghetto*: Papal policy and the Jews of Italy," Early Modern Circle, University of Melbourne, 15 May, 2017.

"Escaping the Inquisition: Themes of conversion, expulsion and resettlement in early modern Sephardi rabbinic texts," Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Monash University, 21 October 2016.

"*Responsa Prudentium*: Early Modern Applications of Hebrew *teshuvot* texts and their use as primary sources" Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Monash University, 22 May, 2015.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Public Programs

Host, "The Cotopaxi Hoax: A *Shtetl* Western," play reading with author Sarah Boxer, University of Colorado Boulder, 14 December, 2023.

Exhibit curator: *Jews Out West*: 4th Biannual Embodied Judaism Exhibit, Norlin Library, University of Colorado Boulder. Installation on display from November 2019 – May 2022.

Curriculum writer: *Religious Foundations Project: A Field Guide to Interfaith Dialogue*, Regis University and The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, 2009.

Public Talks

"Jews and *conversos* in the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions," Kavod Senior Life, Denver Jewish Community Center, Denver, CO, 21 February, 2024.

"*Kantika*: A Sephardic Family Saga," Congregation Bonai Shalom, Boulder, CO, 17 January, 2024.

"Understanding Judaism," Grand Valley Middle School, Parachute, CO, 2 online classes, 13 May, 2022.

"Better Widowed than Married: Conversa Women in Early Modern Europe," Peak-to-Peak Lecture Series, University of Colorado, webinar, 24 May, 2021.

"*Conversos* and Spanish Jewry," Congregation Bonai Shalom, Boulder, CO, 6 March, 2020.

"Forced Conversion and Spanish Jewry," Peak-to-Peak Lecture Series, University of Colorado and Sherbino Theater, Ridgway, CO, 11 June, 2019.

"Sephardic Jewry 500 Years after Expulsion," Jeffersonian Dinner, Boulder Jewish Community Center, 7 February, 2019.

RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND SUPERVISION

University of Colorado Boulder, Research Projects

Age of Expulsions in Portugal and Spain: Primary Sources (Spring 2024)

*Supervision of Doctoral Independent Study

Portuguese Inquisition Records Data Collection (2022-2024)*

Archival Research: Torre do Tombo National Archives, Lisbon, Portugal

*Supervision of Undergraduate Research Assistant

Embodied Judaism Biannual Symposium, *Jews Out West*** (2018-2019)

Archival Research: Beck Archives, University of Denver; Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections, University of Colorado Boulder

**Supervision of Graduate Research Assistant

Monash University, Doctoral Research

Archival Research: Jewish Museum of Rome; Municipal Archives of Ancona, Italy (2016-2018)

University of Colorado Boulder, Undergraduate Courses

Capstone Project – Jewish Studies Majors Supervision (Spring/Fall 2022, 2023)

Contemporary Jewish Societies (Fall 2021, Spring 2022 & 2023)
Gender and Sexuality in Jewish Texts and Traditions (Spring 2019, 2021, 2023)
Internship in Jewish Studies (Fall 2020, Spring 2021 & 2023)
*Introduction to Jewish Culture** (Fall 2018; Spring/Fall 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
 *Supervision of Graduate Teaching Assistant each semester
Jews in the American West (Spring 2020, Fall 2021, 2023)
Jews of Spain & Portugal (Spring 2019 & 2021, Fall 2022)
Modern Jewish Literature (Fall 2018 & 2019)
Representing the Holocaust (Fall 2020)

Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, Undergraduate Courses

Renaissance Italy (Semester 2, 2017)
Renaissance Europe (Semester 2, 2015 & 2016)
The Rise and Fall of Nazi Germany (Semester 1, 2015)
Witches and Depravity in the Medieval and Early Modern World (Semester 1, 2014 & 2016)
Fears and Fantasies: Deviance and Criminality in the Modern World (Semester 2, 2014)
Nations at War: Revolution and Empire (Semester 1, 2013)

Regis University, Denver, Colorado, Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Judaism (2007-2012)
Western Religious Traditions (2007-2012)

GRANTS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022	- Art Museum Summer Workshop & stipend, Object-Based Teaching and Experiential Learning, University of Colorado Boulder - Dean of Arts & Sciences Fund for Excellence in Research, University of Colorado Boulder, funding for summer archival research at Torre do Tombo, Lisbon, Portugal - Arts & Sciences Instructor Travel Fund, University of Colorado Boulder - Mediterranean Seminar & University of Haifa conference travel award
2020	Mediterranean Seminar, University of Colorado Boulder, American Historical Association conference funding award
2019	Program in Jewish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, Association for Jewish Studies conference funding award
2016-2018	Faculty of Arts Research Scholarship, Monash University
2017	Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization Grant, Monash University
2017	Phillipa Maddern Postgraduate Travel Bursary, Australia New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies
2016	Knapp Family Foundation Graduate Student Travel Grant, Association for Jewish Studies
2016	Conference Scholarship, Australian Association for Jewish Studies
2015	Bill Kent Prato Fellowship for Research in Italy, Monash University
2010	<i>Religious Foundations Project</i> grant, Regis University and The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado
2000	Parker/Uran Fellow for Study at Hebrew University, Harvard University
1999-2000	Fellowship in Journalism and Publishing, <i>Sh'ma Magazine</i> , Boston, MA

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2023 – present	Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board, Faculty Advisor, University of Colorado Boulder
2021– present	Advisory Board Member, CU Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder
2019 – 2022	Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate, Program Representative for Jewish Studies; Grievance Committee member; University of Colorado Boulder
2019 – 2022	Graduate Studies Committee member, Program in Jewish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2018	Undergraduate Studies Committee member, Program in Jewish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder
2016-2017	Committee Member, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, Monash University
2005	Grant-making Committee Member, Public Good Funds, University of Denver
1999-2000	President, Jewish Graduate Students' Association, Harvard University
1994	Student representative, Religious Studies faculty search committee, Hampshire College

UNIVERSITY STAFF POSITIONS

2017-2018	Learning Skills Adviser, Matheson Library, Monash University
2005-2010	Coordinator, Forum on Religion & Community, Regis University
2003-2005	Director, Center for Religion & Public Life, University of Denver
2002-2004	Assistant Director, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver
1998-2000	Staff, Periodicals & Acquisitions, Harvard Andover Library, Harvard University

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

2023	Adult Education Committee member, Congregation Bonai Shalom, Boulder, Colorado
2020	Advisory Board member, Judaism Your Way, Boulder, Colorado
2018	Panel Moderator, "On Israel: Recent Publications," Jewish Book Week, Melbourne, Australia, May 2018
2010-2018	Course Instructor, Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Denver, Colorado and Melbourne, Australia
2011	<i>Community Narratives Panel</i> , Mizel Museum, Denver, Colorado, 4 February, 2011
2011	"Faith: How Jews relate to other religions," Feed Your Mind series, Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning, Denver, Colorado, 10 February, 2011
2010-2012	Board member, Community Talmud Torah, Denver, Colorado
2007	Panelist, Center for Christian-Jewish Dialogue Annual Dinner, Colorado Springs, Colorado, 8 October, 2007
2004-2007	Board member, Interfaith Community, Denver, Colorado

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Jewish History, Biblical and Rabbinic Literature, Early Modern European History, History of Religion, History of the Inquisition, Jewish/Muslim/Christian Historical Interactions, Mediterranean Studies, Refugee Studies, Sephardic Studies, Spanish/Portuguese Studies

LANGUAGES

Modern Hebrew (proficient)
 Biblical Hebrew (intermediate)
 French (intermediate)

Spanish (intermediate)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

Association for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies

Association for Jewish Studies

European Academy of Religion

Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Association

Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies

The Mediterranean Seminar

Western Jewish Studies Association