

ELIAS SACKS

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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

2020 – present	Director, University of Colorado Boulder, Program in Jewish Studies
2018 – present	Associate Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Religious Studies and Program in Jewish Studies
2012 – 2018	Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Religious Studies and Program in Jewish Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Associate Chair, Department of Religious Studies (2017 – 2019)▪ Associate Director, Program in Jewish Studies (2013 – 2017)
2007 – 2012	Ph.D., Princeton University, Department of Religion Field: Religion, Ethics, and Politics (M.A., 2010; Ph.D., 2012)
2006 – 2007	M.A., Columbia University, Department of Religion
2005 – 2006	Visiting Graduate Student, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Rothberg School
1999 – 2003	A.B., <i>summa cum laude</i> , Harvard University, Committee on the Study of Religion

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books

Moses Mendelssohn's Living Script: Philosophy, Practice, History, Judaism (Indiana University Press, 2017)

- 2017 Provost's Faculty Achievement Award, University of Colorado Boulder

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

"Moses Mendelssohn on Virtue, Judaism, and the Human Condition," in *Jewish Virtue Ethics*, eds. Geoffrey Claussen, Alex Green, and Alan Mittleman (SUNY Press, forthcoming)

"Liturgical Counter-Symbols: Jacob Taubes, Franz Rosenzweig, and the Politics of Redemption," *Rosenzweig Jahrbuch* 12 (2021): 127-141

"Exegesis and Politics Between East and West: Nachman Krochmal, Moses Mendelssohn, and Modern Jewish Thought," *Harvard Theological Review* 114.4 (2021): 508-535

"Poetry, Music, and the Limits of Harmony: Mendelssohn's Aesthetic Critique of Christianity," in *Sara Levy's World: Gender, Judaism, and the Bach Tradition in Enlightenment Berlin*, eds. Nancy Sinkoff and Rebecca Cypess, Eastman Studies in Music (University of Rochester Press, 2018), 122-146

"Worlds to Come Between East and West: Immortality and the Rise of Modern Jewish Thought," in *Olam Ha-zeh v'Olam Ha-ba: This World and the World to Come in Jewish Belief and Practice*, ed. Leonard Greenspoon, Studies in Jewish Civilization (Purdue University Press, 2017), 171-195

"Is God Eternal? Revisiting Mendelssohn and Rosenzweig on Reason, Revelation, and the Name of God," *Modern Theology* 33.1 (2017): 69-91

“Law, Ethics, and the Needs of History: Mendelssohn, Krochmal, and Moral Philosophy,” *Journal of Religious Ethics* 44.2 (2016): 352-377

“Civic Freedom out of the Sources of Judaism: Mendelssohn, Maimonides, and Law’s Promise,” *Journal of Jewish Ethics* 2.1 (2016): 86-111

“Spinoza, Maimonides and the Politics of Prophecy,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 21.1 (2014): 67-98

“Finden Sie mich sehr amerikanisch?: Jacob Taubes, Hermann Cohen, and the Return to German-Jewish Liberalism,” *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 57 (2012): 187-210

“Moses Mendelssohn,” *Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies*, ed. David Biale (Oxford University Press, 2012)

Non-Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles (Co-Authored)

“Introduction” to “Rosenzweig’s *The Star of Redemption* and the Contemporary Moment,” *Political Theology* 22.8 (2021): 720-724, co-authored with Sarah Pessin

Edited Book Chapters

“Natural Law in Modern Judaism,” in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (De Gruyter, forthcoming)

“Modes of Interpretation in Jewish Ethics” in *Encyclopedia of Religious Ethics*, eds. William Schweiker, Maria Antonaccio, Elizabeth Bucar, and David Clairmont (Wiley-Blackwell, forthcoming)

“The Promise and Perils of Perplexity: Jewish Philosophy and Public Culture, Yesterday and Today,” in *The Future of Jewish Philosophy*, volume 21 of *The Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers*, eds. Hava Tirosh-Samuels and Aaron Hughes (Brill, 2018), 79-97

“Anarchy and Law: Mendelssohn on Philosophy and Judaism,” in *Moses Mendelssohn: Enlightenment, Religion, Politics, Nationalism*, eds. Charles Manekin and Michah Gottlieb, *Studies and Texts in Jewish History and Culture* (University Press of Maryland, 2015), 237-273

Critical Translations

Selections from the writings of Samuel David Luzzatto, Mordecai Gumpel Schnaber-Levison, Meir Halevi Letteris, Salomon Rubin, Abraham Isaac Kook, and Micha Joseph Berdichevsky (Hebrew), in *Spinoza’s Challenge to Jewish Thought: Writings on His Life, Philosophy, and Legacy*, ed. Daniel Schwartz, Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought (Brandeis University Press, 2019)

Selections from the writings of Moses Mendelssohn (Hebrew), in *Moses Mendelssohn: Writings on Judaism, Christianity, and the Bible*, ed. Michah Gottlieb, trans. Allan Arkush, Curtis Bowman, and Elias Sacks, Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought (Brandeis University Press, 2011)

- Finalist, 2011 National Jewish Book Award

Journal Issues

“Jewish Thought in Times of Crisis,” Special Issue of *Religions* (forthcoming 2022), co-edited with Andrea Cooper

“Rosenzweig’s *The Star of Redemption* and the Contemporary Moment,” Special Issue of *Political Theology* 22.8 (2021), co-edited with Sarah Pessin

Book Reviews

Review of Paul Guyer, *Reason and Experience in Mendelssohn and Kant*, in *Kantian Review* 26.3 (2021): 486-491

Review of Abigail Gillman, *A History of German Jewish Bible Translation*, in *H-Judaic* (2020)

Review of Ofri Ilany, *In Search of the Hebrew People: Bible and Nation in the German Enlightenment*, in *H-Judaic* (2019)

Review of Edward Breuer and David Sorkin, eds., *Moses Mendelssohn's Hebrew Writings*, in *Reading Religion* (2018)

"Saving the World," *Jewish Review of Books* 7.1 (2016): 23-25

In Progress

Nachman Krochmal and the Struggle for Jewish Modernity – book manuscript in preparation

Pedagogy

"Expanding the Jewish Studies Classroom: Citizenship, Vulnerability, and the Trinity," Association for Jewish Studies Conference Papers on Pedagogy (2014; <http://www.ajsnet.org/pedagogy.htm#classroom>)

Public Scholarship

"Moses Mendelssohn's Hebrew Politics," Oxford University Press Blog (2017; <https://blog.oup.com/2017/09/moses-mendelssohn-judaism-politics/>)

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed Conference Presentations

Response to Yael Sela, "Something Concerning the Hebrew Psalms: Myth, Theology, and National Poetry in *Wissenschaft des Judentums*," Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2021

Participant in Roundtable on "Where Do We Go From Here? Creating Responsiveness and Responsibility in Professional Organizations," Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2021

"'God Appears as an Adjective, Not a Noun': Nachman Krochmal, German Idealism, and the Jewish Body Politic," Sociality in Modern Jewish Philosophy and German Idealism, Yale University, Online Program, June 2021

Participant in Roundtable on "Teaching and Learning the Languages of Jewish Studies," Association for Jewish Studies, Online Program, December 2020

Response to Dustin Atlas, Sarah Pessin, and Sarah Wolf, "Affecting Jewish Studies," American Academy of Religion, Online Program, November 2020

Participant in Roundtable on "Beyond 'Judaism Week': Jewish Sources for the Religious Studies Classroom," American Academy of Religion, Online Program, November 2020

"Exile and Revelation: Reflections on Jewish and Christian Thought" (for roundtable on "Exile in the Modern Jewish Imagination"), Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 2019

"Halakha, Aggada, and the Body Politic: Nachman Krochmal and Shia-Jewish Dialogue" (for seminar on "Shia and Jewish Legal Reasoning in Dialogue"), Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 2019

“Liturgical Counter-Symbols: Franz Rosenzweig, Jacob Taubes, and the Politics of Redemption,” Back to Redemption – Rosenzweig’s *Star* 1919-2019: Internationale Rosenzweig Gesellschaft Conference, Jerusalem, February 2019

“Aesthetics, Politics, and the Haskalah: Krochmal’s Philosophy of History Revisited,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2018

“Imperialism, Liberalism, and Jewish Studies: Jacob Taubes and the Jewish Paul,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, November 2018

“Medieval Exegesis and Modern Judaism: Mendelssohn and Krochmal on Ecclesiastes,” Eleventh Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Krakow, July 2018

Response to Kathrin Wittler, Yael Sela, and Amir Banbaji, “Bible and Haskalah,” Eleventh Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Krakow, July 2018

“Critical Theory out of the Sources of Judaism: Horkheimer, Cohen, and Jewish Thought,” American Academy of Religion, Boston, November 2017

“Language or Politics? Moses Mendelssohn and Nachman Krochmal on Biblical Exegesis,” Seventeenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 2017

“The Sounds of Thought Between East and West: Mendelssohn and Krochmal on Music as Philosophy,” Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 2016

“Discovery or Disclosure? Medieval Exegesis and Modern Judaism Between East and West,” American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, November 2016

“The Business of Philosophy: Mendelssohn and Krochmal on Economics and Judaism,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, November 2015

“Worlds to Come Between East and West: Immortality and the Rise of Modern Jewish Thought,” This World and the World to Come in Jewish Belief and Practice, Creighton University – University of Nebraska Lincoln – University of Nebraska Omaha, October 2015

“From Moses to Moses: Mendelssohn, Maimonides, and Law’s Promise” (for session on “Common Law and Common Ground: Reconceiving Covenantal Ethics in Contemporary Jewish and Christian Thought”), Society of Jewish Ethics, Chicago, January 2015

“Exegesis Contested: Moses Mendelssohn, Nachman Krochmal, and the Reception of German-Jewish Hermeneutics,” Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, December 2014

“Ritual Theory and Jewish Enlightenment: Mendelssohn and Contemporary Debates,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, November 2014

“Jewish Thought Between Past and Present: The Case of Nachman Krochmal” (for group on Christian Ethics in Historical Context), Society of Christian Ethics, Seattle, January 2014

“Hebrew Politics Between East and West: Krochmal’s Covert Critique of Mendelssohn,” Revealers of Secrets – 200 Years of Galician Haskalah: The Fifth International Conference for the Study of the Haskalah Movement, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2013

Participant in Roundtable on “Attracting Students to the Jewish Studies Classroom: Reports from the Field,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2013

“Aesthetic Politics: Poetry, Music, and Citizenship in Mendelssohn’s Hebrew Writings,” American Academy of Religion, Baltimore, November 2013

“The Limits of Ethics: Mendelssohn and Krochmal on Judaism and the Good,” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2012

“Rescuing the Law: Practical Discretion and Historical Change in Mendelssohn’s Hebrew Writings,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, November 2012

“‘A Source of Splendor’: Sexual Desire in Mendelssohn’s Hebrew Writings,” Association for Jewish Studies, Washington D.C., December 2011

“Authority in Mendelssohn’s Hebrew Works: Rethinking the Canon of Modern Jewish Thought,” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, November 2011

“Reenacting the Philosophical Past: Rosenzweig, Hegel, and Neighbor Love,” Rhetorics of Religion in Germany 1900-1950, Princeton University, March 2011

“Ethics, Politics, and Jewish Practice: Revisiting Mendelssohn’s Hebrew Writings,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2010

“*Finden Sie mich sehr amerikanisch?*”: The Exile of Jacob Taubes and the Return to German-Jewish Liberalism,” Transferring German-Jewish Modernity Into the World, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, October 2009

Invited Presentations

Participant in Roundtable on “Making Mistakes, Making Amends,” Difficult Dialogues Series, Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado Boulder, Online Program, January 2022

Response to Randi Rashkover, “Prophetic Politics and Political Resistance in *The Star of Redemption*,” and Larisa Reznik, “Both Lawful and Coercive: Reading Western Political Rationality Like an Abolitionist Would,” Political Theology Network, Online Program, June 2021

“What is the Best Argument for Immortality? Philosophy, Scepticism, and the Bible in Mendelssohn’s Qohelet Commentary,” Mendelssohn’s Commentary on Qohelet, Maimonides Centre for Advanced Studies, Universität Hamburg, Online Program, February 2021

Response to Samuel Boyd, “A Prophetic Judgement without Reprieve: The Concepts of Remnant and Law in Amos 3:12,” Mediterranean Studies Group, University of Colorado Boulder, Online Program, October 2020

“Is Liberal Democracy a Jewish Value?” Center for Small Town Jewish Life, Colby College, Online Program, October 2020

“A ‘Most Remarkable “Jewish Sect”’ Reconsidered: The Frankfurt School Between Jewish and Islamic Thought,” A Decade of Islamic Theology: Looking Back and Ahead, Academy for Islam in Research and Society, Frankfurt, September 2020 (postponed)

“In Defense of Perplexity: Politics and the Threat of Anti-Intellectualism from the Jewish Enlightenment to Today,” Virginia Center for the Study of Religion / Center for German Studies / Jewish Studies Program, University of Virginia, November 2019

“Critical Theory out of the Sources of Judaism: *Dialectic of Enlightenment* and the Problem of ‘Jewish Thought,’” Virginia Center for the Study of Religion / Center for German Studies / Jewish Studies Program, University of Virginia, November 2019

“Does Christianity Matter for Judaism – and Vice Versa?” Valley Beit Midrash, Phoenix, January 2019

“Can Jews Be Citizens? Jewish Politics from the Enlightenment to Today,” Valley Beit Midrash, Phoenix, January 2019

“Critical Theory out of the Sources of Judaism: Horkheimer, Cohen, and Jewish Thought,” Jewish Thought Workshop, Princeton University, October 2018

Response to Leora Batnitzky, “On the Continued Challenge of Edith Stein for Jewish-Christian Dialogue,” Jewish Thought Workshop, Princeton University, October 2018

“Exegetical Politics: Nachman Krochmal and Modern Jewish Thought,” Jewish Thought Workshop, Princeton University, February 2018

Response to Randi Rashkover, “Nature and Norm: Judaism, Christianity and the Theo-Political Problem,” Jewish Thought Workshop, Princeton University, February 2018

Discussant for Rhiannon Graybill’s *Are We Not Men? Unstable Masculinity in the Hebrew Prophets* and Sarah Imhoff’s *Masculinity and Making of American Judaism*, Gathering with Authors, Society of Jewish Ethics, Portland, January 2018

“Can Jews Be Citizens? Jewish Politics from the Enlightenment to Today,” Leni Sassower Lecture, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, September 2017

Response to Tessa Chelouche, “Agency in the Midst of Oppression: Jewish Doctors, Ghettos, and Public Health,” Program in Jewish Studies and Center for Bioethics and Humanities, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2017

Participant in Gathering with Authors, Society of Jewish Ethics, New Orleans, January 2017

“Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Culture, Yesterday and Today” (for session on “Jewish Philosophy in Contemporary Culture”), *The Future of Jewish Philosophy: A Conference on The Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers*, Arizona State University, September 2016

Response to Michah Gottlieb and Shira Billet, “Politics, Law, and Religion,” *Judaism in Modern Philosophy: Spinoza, Hermann Cohen, and the Legacies of German Idealism*, Princeton University, April 2016

“Hebrew Philosophy Between East and West: Mendelssohn, Krochmal, and Jewish Modernity,” Borns Jewish Studies Program, Indiana University, February 2016

“Why Think with Rabbinic Texts?” *Thinking with Rabbinic Texts: An Exploratory Workshop*, Boston University, December 2015

Participant in Panel Discussion on “The Multidisciplinary Nature of Religious Studies,” Joint Doctoral Program in the Study of Religion, University of Denver – Iliff School of Theology, May 2015

Response to Carl Raschke, Janet Ruffelt, and Ted Vial, “Religion and the Academy,” Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver, April 2015

Presenter at Early Modern/Modern Jewish History Colloquium, Judaic Studies Program, Yale University, October 2014

“The Perils and Promise of Philosophical Naming: Moses Mendelssohn on Philosophy, History, and Language,” *The Meaning of Names: Naming Diversity in the 21st Century*, University of Colorado Boulder Museum of Natural History, October 2014

“Religion Contested: Mendelssohn’s Aesthetic Critique of Christianity,” *Sara Levy’s World: Music, Gender, and Judaism in Enlightenment Berlin*, Rutgers University, September 2014

“Biblical Exegesis as Philosophical Methodology,” Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver, May 2014

“Hebrew Philosophy Between East and West: Law and Ethics in Modern Jewish Thought,” Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado Boulder, March 2014

Response to Shaul Magid, “After Multiculturalism: Post-Ethnicity and Judaism in America,” Sondra Bender Visiting Scholar Lecture, University of Colorado Boulder, March 2014

Participant in Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, American Academy for Jewish Research, New York University, May 2013

“From Mysticism to Humanism: Moses Mendelssohn, Sexual Desire, and the History of Jewish Thought,” Jewish Studies Colloquium, University of Colorado Boulder, October 2012

“Jewish Law as Political Educator,” Annual Conference, Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, April 2012

“Politics in a Hebrew Key: Mendelssohn on Judaism, Citizenship, and the Common Good,” A Continuing Conversation: Moses Mendelssohn and the Legacy of the Enlightenment, Center for Jewish History, September 2011

“Moses Mendelssohn’s Philosophy of Judaism Reconsidered,” Centre for Jewish Studies Graduate Colloquium, University of Toronto, April 2010

“Recontextualizing the ‘Living Script’: Jewish Practice Through Mendelssohn’s German and Hebrew Writings,” The Question of Unity in Moses Mendelssohn’s Thought, Princeton University, April 2010

“Between Creation and Revelation: Jonas, Maimonides, and the Return to Medieval Rationalism,” Hans Jonas Working Group, Princeton University, December 2009

“Spinoza, Maimonides, and Politics,” Tikvah Project on Jewish Thought Graduate Colloquium, Princeton University, July 2009

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2021	Co-Principal Investigator, “Jews of Color: Histories and Futures,” \$250,000 Grant from the Religion and Theology Program, Henry Luce Foundation
2021	Office for Outreach and Engagement Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Colorado Boulder (for in-person lecture and webinar concert series)
2020	Office for Outreach and Engagement Arts and Humanities Initiative, University of Colorado Boulder (for webinar series)
2019	Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Boulder (for conference travel)
2018	Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Boulder (two grants for conference travel)
2017	Provost’s Faculty Achievement Award, University of Colorado Boulder
2016	President’s Fund for the Humanities, University of Colorado (for Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region)
2016	Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Boulder (for conference travel)

- 2016 Faculty Grant, Center for Western Civilization, Thought, and Policy, University of Colorado Boulder (for Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region)
- 2015 Arts and Humanities Outreach and Inclusivity Grant, University of Colorado Boulder (for Embodied Judaism: American Judaism and Social Justice)
- 2015 Faculty Grant, Center for Western Civilization, Thought, and Policy, University of Colorado Boulder (for Embodied Judaism: American Judaism and Social Justice)
- 2015 Special Event – Visiting Scholar Grant, Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, University of Colorado Boulder (with David Shneer: for Embodied Judaism: American Judaism and Social Justice)
- 2015 Special Initiatives Grant, American Academy for Jewish Research (with Sarah Pessin, University of Denver: for University of Colorado – University of Denver Jewish Philosophy Collaborative)
- 2014 Arts and Sciences Fund for Excellence Grant, University of Colorado Boulder (for conference travel)
- 2013 – 2014 Faculty Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder, Center for Humanities and the Arts
- 2011 – 2012 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities, Whiting Foundation and Princeton University
- 2011 – 2012 Laurance S. Rockefeller Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2011 – 2012 Graduate Prize Fellowship, Princeton University, Center for Human Values
- 2011 Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Princeton University, Department of Religion
- 2010 – 2012 Graduate Fellowship, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization
- 2007 – 2012 University Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2007 – 2012 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University, Program in Judaic Studies
- 2007 – 2011 Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Wexner Foundation
- 2007 – 2008 Graduate Merit Prize, Princeton University, Center for Human Values
- 2003 Sophia Freund Prize, Harvard University
- 2003 Thomas Hoopes Prize, Harvard University
- 2002 Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University
- 2000 Detur Book Prize, Harvard University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Jewish thought, philosophy of religion, hermeneutics, Jewish-Christian relations, theories of religion, religious ethics, religion and politics

LANGUAGES

Hebrew, German, Latin, French, Aramaic

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, Association for Jewish Studies, World Union for Jewish Studies, Society of Jewish Ethics

TEACHING

University of Colorado Boulder

Courses:

God (FYSM 1000)

Religion, Ethics and Politics (RLST 2400; previously offered as Religion and Contemporary Society)

Judaism (RLST/JWST 3100)

God and Politics (RLST/JWST 4170-5170; previously offered as RLST 4260-5260: Topics in Judaism: God and Politics in Jewish and Christian Thought)

Is God Dead? (RLST/JWST 4180-5180; previously offered as RLST/JWST 4260-5260: Topics in Judaism: Is God Dead?)

Love and Desire (RLST/JWST 4190-5190; previous offered as RLST/JWST 4260-5260: Topics in Judaism: Love and Desire in Judaism and Christianity)

Topics in Judaism: The Bible in Judaism and Christianity (RLST/JWST 4260-5260)

Capstone in Jewish Studies (JWST 4000)

Introduction to the Academic Study of Religion (RLST 6830)

Independent Studies:

Undergraduate Independent Studies (RLST 4840, JWST 4900)

- Is God Dead?
- Engaging the Bible
- God and Politics
- Internship in Jewish Studies
- Religion, Politics, and Society: Israel and the United States
- Martin Buber and Christian Thought
- Readings in Theory and Literature: Tolkien and the Study of Religion

Graduate Independent Studies (RLST 5840, RLST 6840, JWST 5900)

- Philosophy and the Study of Religion
- Ritual Studies
- Hegelian and Marxist Dialectics
- Judaism and Islam
- Love and Desire
- Music, Performance, and the Study of Religion
- Religion and International Law
- Jewish Mysticism

- Music and Jewish Studies
- Sources of American Jewish Thought
- God and Politics
- Precarity, Vulnerability, and Encounter in Jewish Thought
- Ultimism
- Music, Film and Holocaust Memory
- Modernity and Jewish Thought

Graduate Advising:

Faculty Advisor for Jonathyn Zapf, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2020 – present

Faculty Advisor for Nicholas Johnson, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2017 – 2019

Faculty Advisor for Moriah Arnold, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2016 – 2019

Faculty Advisor for Mark Joseph, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2016 – 2018

Faculty Advisor for Scott Meyers, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2015 – 2017 (David Shneer served as secondary advisor)

Faculty Advisor for Joshua Siary, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2015 – 2017 (David Shneer served as secondary advisor)

Faculty Advisor for Kathryn Huether, M.A. Candidate (Religious Studies), 2014 – 2016

M.A./M.F.A Theses and Portfolios:

Thesis Advisor, “Religious Democratic Participation and Corporate Interests,” Moriah Arnold (Religious Studies), April 2019

Portfolio Advisor, Nicholas Johnson (Religious Studies), April 2019

Portfolio Advisor, Mark Joseph (Religious Studies), December 2018

Thesis Advisor, “Religion of Reason in the New Age: Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Hermann Cohen, and Messianic Politics,” Scott Meyers (Religious Studies), July 2017

Thesis Advisor, “Subject Formation and Contemporary Life: Prayer in Postwar American Jewish Thought,” Joshua Siary (Religious Studies), May 2017

Thesis Advisor, “Hearing the Holocaust: Music, Film, Aesthetics,” Kathryn Huether (Religious Studies), May 2016

Member of Thesis Committee, “Magicians and Miracle-Workers: A New Method in the Realm of Magic,” Paden Unruh (Religious Studies), May 2020

Member of Thesis Committee, “Altar of Tech: Mythology, Sainthood, and Magic in the Apple Brand,” Cameron Rowlett (Religious Studies), April 2020

Member of Thesis Committee, “Dimensions of Foreign in Late Mito Traditionalist Discourse,” Tetiana Topolian (Religious Studies and Asian Languages and Civilizations), March 2020

Member of Thesis Committee, “‘Relationship is What Life Is’: The New Message from God as Lived Religion,” Celetia Liang (Religious Studies), August 2019

“Out of the Broom Closet and into the Fire: Examining How Modern Witches Communicate with Each Other and the World at Large,” Michael Connelly (Religious Studies), May 2019

Member of Thesis Committee, “Perennialism as Justification for the Appropriation of Buddhist Meditation,” Elizabeth Wilson (Religious Studies), April 2018

Member of Thesis Committee, “Hutterite Religion: Grappling with Religious Diversity and Complexity,” John Sheridan (Religious Studies), July 2017

Member of Thesis Committee, “Scriptor Noster Arabicus et Tursimany: A Jewish Culture Mediator in the Thirteenth-Century Crown of Aragón,” Dillon Webster (Religious Studies), May 2017

Member of Thesis Committee, “Regimes of Belief: On the Pervasiveness of Religion as Belief from Locke to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom,” Amanda Alexander (Religious Studies), May 2017

Member of Thesis Committee, “‘The Devil Hates that Doctrine’: Hell in American Fundamentalism and Evangelicalism, 1900-2015,” Joshua Wright (Religious Studies), May 2016

Member of Thesis Committee, “Because It Could Get Infected,” Judd Schiffman (Art and Art History), November 2015

Member of Thesis Committee, “Legitimizing Struggle: The Rhetoric of Nonviolence and the Palestinian and International Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement,” Meghan Zibby (Religious Studies), May 2015

Member of Thesis Committee, “With the Word ‘Gods’ He Created Scripture: The Language Philosophy of Śaṅkarācārya as presented in Brahmasūtrabhāṣya 1.3.28,” Jonathan Peterson (Religious Studies), May 2015

Member of Thesis Committee, “‘Roll For Initiative’: The Religion of Fear and the Rhetoric Against *Dungeons & Dragons* During the 1980s,” Denise Wojdyla (Religious Studies), June 2014

Member of Thesis Committee, “Emancipation and Compensation in Fanny Lewald’s *Modernes Märchen*,” Robert Bloom (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), April 2014

Member of Thesis Committee, “On Foucault’s *Askēsis* of Death Meditation: Exploring Benjamin’s Secularization as a Temporal Model,” Maureen Kelly (Religious Studies), April 2013

Ph.D. Dissertations:

Member of Dissertation Committee, “Between Religion, Culture, and Nation: The Hebrew Bible and the Construction of Collectivity in the Works of German-Jewish Émigrés,” Adi Nester (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), April 2020

Member of Dissertation Committee, “Beyond Secularism: Radical Orthodoxy in Conversation with Radical Political Theory,” Matthew Bradney (Political Science), Summer 2017

Member of Dissertation Committee, “The Politics of Antisemitism in Denver, Colorado, 1898-1984,” Michael Lee (History), January 2017

B.A. Capstone Projects and Honors Theses:

Advisor for Senior Capstone Project, “Pirkei Avot 2:16: Mosaic Project,” Jenna Solomon (Jewish Studies), May 2021

Advisor for Senior Capstone Project, “Brundibar, Suite Francaise, and the Exception,” Kelly Lolly (Jewish Studies), May 2021

Member of Thesis Committee, “From Superman to Super-Monster: Race and the Jewish Comics Connection in the Twentieth Century,” Jace Rosenthal (English), April 2021

Member of Thesis Committee, “Melech Artus and the Holy Grail,” Sarah Schleifer (English), April 2021

Thesis Advisor, “Reimagining Religion in a Contemporary Context: The Case of Harry Potter,” Natania Bloch (Jewish Studies), November 2020

Member of Thesis Committee, “The Art of Dealing with the Gods: Balinese Women and Ritual Labor,” Emily Martin (Anthropology), April 2018

Advisor for Senior Capstone Project, “The Hineini Handbook,” Henry White (Jewish Studies), April 2016

Member of Thesis Committee, “Adorno and Augustine: Parallel Conceptions of Alienation and the Self,” Lukas Hoffman (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), March 2016

Member of Thesis Committee, “Thru-Hiking as Pilgrimage: Transformation, Nature, and Religion in Contemporary American Hiking Novels,” Anna Ptasznick (Religious Studies), April 2015

Member of Thesis Committee, “Post-Holocaust American Judaism and the Jewish Renewal Movement,” Scott Meyers (Jewish Studies), April 2014

Member of Thesis Committee, “Investigating the Relationship Between the Molecular Circadian Clock and Muscle Satellite Cell State,” Rachel Wilson (Molecular, Cellular, Developmental Biology), April 2014

Member of Thesis Committee, “Fractured Ethics: The Relationship between Humanity and the Nonhuman,” Oriel Eisner (Humanities), April 2013

Ph.D. and M.A. Examinations:

Member of Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Committee, Adi Nester (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), April 2016

Member of M.A. Comprehensive Examination Committee, Robert Bloom (Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literatures), April 2013

Graduate Student Presentations and Workshops:

“Ph.D. Programs” (with Religious Studies faculty), Religious Studies, April 2021

“Publications” (with Brian Catlos), Religious Studies, November 2020

“God and Politics in the Classroom: Teaching Controversial Texts at a Public University,” Graduate Teacher Program – College Classroom Teaching Strategies Series, March 2017

“Practitioners, Believers, and the Religious Studies Classroom” (with Holly Gayley), Religious Studies, November 2016

“Using Your Degree Outside the Academy,” Religious Studies, March 2016

“Religious Studies-Specific Pedagogy and Classroom Management,” Religious Studies, October 2014

Undergraduate Student Presentations and Workshops:

“Professional Development,” Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board, October 2018

“Interviews and Professional Etiquette,” Jewish Studies Student Advisory Board, October 2017

“Research in Jewish Studies: How, What, Why,” Jewish Studies – Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, March 2017

Other Universities

Workshop for Jewish Studies Graduate Fellows, University of Virginia, November 2019

Jewish Philosophy Today (Undergraduate Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought), University of Virginia, November 2019

Summer Seminar: Jewish Thought and Enduring Human Questions (Tikvah Seminar, preceptor), Princeton University, Summer 2009 – 2011

Christian Ethics and Modern Society (REL 261, preceptor), Princeton University, Fall 2010

Religion in Modern Thought and Film (REL 222, preceptor), Princeton University, Spring 2010

Public Lectures, Classes, and Workshops (selected)

Moderator for Peak to Peak Series, University of Colorado Boulder (webinar series), 2020 – present

- Galeet Dardashti with Yonatan Malin, “Middle Eastern / North African Jewish Poetic Songs (*Piyyutim*) – From Pulpit to Pop Chart,” December 2021
- Cookie Segelstein and Josh Horowitz with Yonatan Malin, “Traditional Klezmer Music,” November 2021
- Adah Hetko and Zoë Aqua with Yonatan Malin, “Contemporary Klezmer Music and Yiddish Song,” September 2021
- Rebecca Wartell, “‘Better Widowed than Married’: Conversa Women in Early Modern Europe,” May 2021
- Yonatan Malin, “Klezmer Music as Jewish Dialogue and Jewish Discourse,” December 2020
- Hilary Kalisman, “Exams in Extremis: Standardized Testing, Politics, and Crisis in the Middle East,” November 2020
- Nan Goodman, “Jewish Messianic Heresy and the Right to Privacy: Louis Brandeis and the Sabbatian Origins of an American Legal Doctrine,” September 2020
- David Shneer, “Grief: The Biography of a Holocaust Photograph,” August 2020
- Samira Mehta, “Eco-Kashrut: Jews, Food, Justice,” July 2020

“Am I Just Too Exhausted for Judaism?” Temple Emanuel Denver (online class), September 2021

“Do We Really Want God to Speak with Us?” Jewish Colorado, Denver (online class), May 2021

Moderator for “Then and Now: Genocide, Courage, and Complicity,” Holocaust, Genocide, and Contemporary Bioethics Program, University of Colorado Anschutz Center for Bioethics and Humanities – University of Colorado Boulder Program in Jewish Studies, Rebecca Carter-Chand (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) and Susannah Sirkin (Physicians for Human Rights), Online Program, April 2021

“Why Do We Even Need Community, Anyway?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (online class), September 2020

“Why Do We Even Have the Torah, Anyway?” Minyan Na’aleh, Denver (online class), May 2020

“Is God Dead?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (class), October 2019

“Is Being a Good Person Worthwhile?” Bonai Shalom, Boulder (class), September 2019

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Is Being a Good Person Worthwhile?” Har Mishpacha, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2019

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Is God Dead?” Har Mishpacha, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2019

“Is God Dead?” Jeffersonian Dessert Party, Boulder Jewish Community Center, Boulder (class), February 2019

“Is Being a Good Person Worthwhile?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (class), September 2018

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Does God Care About Our Prayers?” Har Mishpacha, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2018

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Does It Make Sense to Be Jewish?” Har Mishpacha, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2018

“Does God Care About Our Prayers?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (class), September 2017

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Does Christianity Matter for Judaism – and Vice Versa?” Har Mishpacha and United Methodist Church, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2017

“CU Boulder Peak to Peak: Does God Make Mistakes? Should God Repent?” Har Mishpacha, Steamboat Springs (class), August 2017

“Does God Make Mistakes? Should God Repent?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (class), October 2016

“Why Repent?” DAT Minyan, Denver (class), September 2016

“Religion and Violence,” Aspen Jewish Congregation, Aspen (class), August 2016

“Inaugural CU Boulder Peak to Peak Lecture: Does God Make Mistakes? Should God Repent?” Aspen Jewish Congregation, Aspen (lecture), August 2016

“A Living Script: Moses Mendelssohn’s Modern Judaism,” Boulder Jewish Community Center, Boulder (lecture), January 2015

“Is God Dead?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (lecture), March 2014

“Is Repentance Worth It?” Temple Emanuel, Denver (lecture), September 2012

“Educating Teachers: A Conversation for Those Who Teach,” Wexner Graduate Fellowship Winter Institute, Fort Myers (workshop), January 2009

“The Mendelssohns in German-Jewish History,” Central Synagogue, New York (lecture), January 2009

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional Organizations

2021 – present	Co-Editor, Modern Judaism, <i>Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception</i> (De Gruyter)
2021 – present	Secretary/Treasurer, Society of Jewish Ethics
2021	Session Co-Organizer, “Rosenzweig for the Contemporary Moment,” <i>Political Theology Network</i> , Online Program, June 2021
2021	Panelist, Peer Review Committee, National Endowment for the Humanities American Rescue Plan Program
2021	External Letter Writer, Renewal (Reappointment) Case, Research University
2020 – present	Member of Governance Committee, Association for Jewish Studies
2017 – present	Co-Founder, M-JEW (Modern Judaica Electronic Workshop)
2017 – 2018	President, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region
2016 – present	Member of Board, Society of Jewish Ethics
2016 – 2017	Vice President and Program Chair, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region

- 2015 – present Co-Founder, University of Colorado – University of Denver Jewish Philosophy Collaborative
- 2015 Panelist, Peer Review Committee, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program
- 2014 – present Manuscript Referee (*Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *AJS Review*, *Shofar*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *English Language Notes*, *Journal of Textual Reasoning*, *Hebrew Union College Annual*, *Religions*, Cambridge University Press, Stanford University Press, University of Nebraska Press/Jewish Publication Society of America, Academic Studies Press, Routledge, Bloomsbury)
- 2014 – present Session Organizer, National Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- “Affecting Jewish Studies” (2020 – online)
 - “Empire and Modern Judaism” (2018 – Denver)
 - “Reimagining the Field: Theorizing the ‘Jewishness’ of Jewish Thought” (2017 – Boston)
 - “Revisiting Sources, Reimagining Disciplines: Judaism and the Academic Study of Religion” (San Diego – 2014)
- 2014 – 2017 Co-Chair, Annual Meeting Program Committee, Society of Jewish Ethics (for 2016 and 2017 meetings)
- 2014 – 2015 Departmental Representative to Program Committee, Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region
- 2013 – present Session Chair
- Annual Meeting, Society of Jewish Ethics: “Narrative and Mythical Thinking,” (Online Program – 2022); “Works in Progress Session: ‘Rebecca’s Journey’: Transracial Adoption as a Window into the Construction of Jewish Families” (Louisville – 2019); Plenary Address by Rachel Adler, “Women as Human Beings in the Global Future” (Toronto – 2016)
 - Annual Meeting, Association for Jewish Studies: “Advancing Pedagogy of Jewish Thought and Rabbinics as Part of the Humanities” (for seminar on “Thinking with Rabbinic Texts: The Next Stage”; San Diego – 2016)
 - Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region: “Religion and Politics” and “Religion and the Literary Experience” (Brigham Young University – 2018); “Religion, Authenticity, and Modernity” (University of Colorado Boulder – 2017); “Religion, Archaeology, and the Law” (Creighton University – 2015); “Formations of Subjectivity in Modernity: Its Forms, Functions, and Pitfalls” and “Methods in Religion and Ethics” (Denver Seminary – 2013)
- 2012 – present Session Organizer, Annual Meeting, Association for Jewish Studies
- “Reimagining Scripture: German-Jewish Thought and the Bible” (2014 – Baltimore)
 - “Imagining the Good Life: New Trajectories in Modern Jewish Thought” (2012 – Chicago)
- 2012 – 2013 Member of Program Committee, Regional Meeting, American Academy of Religion / Society of Biblical Literature – Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region

University of Colorado Boulder

2022 – present	Member, Academic Review and Planning Advisory Committee
2021 – present	Chair, Gift Fund Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
2021 – present	Faculty Participant, Faculty Leadership Institute, Office of Faculty Affairs
2021 – present	Member of Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History Search Committee, Program in Jewish Studies
2021	Member of Tenure Primary Unit Evaluation Committee, Department of Religious Studies
2020 – present	Member of Holocaust, Genocide, and Contemporary Bioethics Advisory Group, Center for Bioethics and Humanities, Anschutz Medical Campus
2020 – present	Director, Program in Jewish Studies
2020 – present	Academic Director, Post-Holocaust American Judaism Collections
2020 – present	Member of Evaluation Committee, AHUM Course Proposals, College of Arts and Sciences
2020 – 2021	Member of Evaluation Committee, Albert Smith Nuclear Age Fund, College of Arts and Sciences
2020	Member of Evaluation Committee, Shelter in Place Micro-Grants, Center for Humanities and the Arts
2020	Member of Evaluation Committee, Small Grant Proposals, Center for Humanities and the Arts
2020	Member of Evaluation Committee, Climate Change Grant Proposals, Center for Humanities and the Arts
2020	Undergraduate Internship Coordinator, Program in Jewish Studies
2020	Chair of Assistant Professor Reappointment Primary Unit Evaluation Committee, Department of Religious Studies
2019	Member of Assistant Professor Reappointment Primary Unit Evaluation Committee, Department of Religious Studies
2019	Chair of Merit Review Committee, Program in Jewish Studies
2019	Member of Program Manager Search Committee, Program in Jewish Studies
2019	Member of Hebrew Instructor Search Committee, Program in Jewish Studies
2018 – 2019	Co-Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Women and Gender Studies and Jewish Studies (Joint Committee with Department of Women and Gender Studies), Program in Jewish Studies
2018 – 2019	Member of Review Committee, Kayden Translation Award, College of Arts and Sciences
2018	Member of Review Committee, Cynthia H Schultz and Beverly Sears Graduate Student Awards, Graduate School
2018	Member of Instructor Promotion Primary Unit Evaluation Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2017 – 2019 Associate Chair / Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies

2017 – 2019 Member of Executive Committee, Department of Religious Studies

2017 – 2018 Co-Chair, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Religion and Politics / Minorities in Politics (Joint Committee with Department of Political Science), Program in Jewish Studies

2017 Member of Merit Review Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2016 Member of Evaluation Committee, 2nd Leg Graduate Student Summer Fellowships, Center for Humanities and the Arts

2015 – 2016 Co-Chair, ARPAC Review, Department of Religious Studies

2015 – 2016 Advisor for Undergraduate Students, Department of Religious Studies

2015 Co-Curator for Norlin Library Multimedia Exhibit “Freedom Seder: American Judaism and Social Justice,” Program in Jewish Studies and Holocaust American Judaism Archive

2015 Faculty Director, Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive

2014 – 2020 Member of Steering Committee, Center for Humanities and the Arts

2014 – 2015 Departmental Liaison, Faculty-in-Residence Summer Term Program, Department of Religious Studies – Program in Jewish Studies

2014 Member of Senior Instructor Reappointment Primary Unit Evaluation Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2014 Member of Program Director Search Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2014 Interim Director, Program in Jewish Studies

2013 – 2017 Associate Faculty Director / Director of Graduate Studies, Program in Jewish Studies

2014 – 2016, 2013 Faculty Organizer, Graduate Colloquium, Department of Religious Studies

2012 – present Member of Executive Committee, Program in Jewish Studies

2012 Member of By-Laws Committee, Department of Religious Studies

Princeton University

2011 – 2012 Mentor for Undergraduate Students, Center for Human Values

2009 – 2012 Member of Selection Committee, Tikvah Seminar: Jewish Thought and Enduring Human Questions

2009 – 2010 Co-organizer of Judaic Studies Graduate Colloquium, Program in Judaic Studies

2009 – 2010 Member of Hans Jonas Working Group, Tikvah Project on Jewish Thought