
AZZAN YADIN-ISRAEL
Jewish Studies and Classics
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Education

- Ph.D. **Jewish Studies.** University of California, Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union. 1999. Dissertation: “*Imitatio Scripturae*: Torah and Hermeneutics in the Rabbi Ishmael Midrashim.” Committee: Daniel Boyarin, David Biale, Chana Kronfeld, Hubert Dreyfus.
- B.A. **Philosophy and Jewish Thought.** Hebrew University. 1994

Academic Positions

Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ	
Full Professor, Jewish Studies and Classics	Fall 2014-present
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Classics	Spring 2013-Spring 2014
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies	Spring 2005-Spring 2014
Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies	Fall 2002-Spring 2005
University of Chicago Divinity School	
Visiting Associate Professor	Spring 2009
Princeton University	
Visiting Professor	Spring 2015
Visiting Associate Professor	Spring 2008
Visiting Assistant Professor	Fall 2003 – Spring 2004
Cardozo Law School	
Faculty Fellow	Fall 2007 – Spring 2008
Jewish Theological Seminary	
Visiting Associate Professor	Fall 2007
University of Minnesota	
Assistant Professor	Fall 1999 – Spring 2002

Publications

Books

- *Intuitive Vocabulary: Spanish*. Lingua Press, 2019.
- *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen*. Lingua Press, 2016.
- *Scripture and Tradition: Rabbi Akiva and the Triumph of Midrash*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.
- *Intuitive Vocabulary: German*. Lingua Press, 2013
- *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Articles and Book Chapters (asterisk denotes peer-review)

- “Religious Authority and the Rise of the Christian Intellectual,” forthcoming in Lewis Ayers (ed.), *The Rise of the Christian Intellectual* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019).
- “Language” forthcoming in Gwynn Kessler and Naomi Kolton-Frumm (eds.), *A Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Antique World, 3rd Century BCE – 7th Century CE* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2019).
- “Athens and Jerusalem? Early Jewish Biblical Scholarship and the Pagan World,” in Martin Mulslow and Asaph Ben-Tov (eds.), *Knowledge and Profanation: Transgressing the Boundaries of Religion in Premodern Scholarship* (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 231-252.
- * “Contact Without Borrowing: Areal Diffusion, Contact-Induced Continuity, and Late Antique Sacrifice,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 9 (2018), 230-258.
- “Authorial Intent: Human and Divine,” in Charlotte Fonrobert et al. (eds.), *Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 3-22.
- “‘These and These are the Words of the Living God’: Halakhic Pluralism and its Discontents,” in Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Tzvi Novick, and Christine Hayes (eds.), *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017), 567-580.
- * “Some Uses of Deixis in Rabbinic Hebrew,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 60 (2015), 331-340.
- * “For Mark was Peter's *tanna*: Oral Tradition versus Eyewitness History in Papias,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23 (2015), 337-362.
- * “Bavli Menahot 29b and the Diminution of the Prophets,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 5 (2014), 88-105.
- * “Rabbinic Polysemy: A Response to Steven Fraade,” *AJS Review* 38 (2014), 129-141.

- “The Vicissitudes of *Am Ha-Aretz*,” *AJS Perspectives*, Fall 2014, 21-22.
- “*Qabbalah*, *Deuterosis*, and Semantic Incommensurability: A Preliminary Study,” in Ra'anan Boustan, Klaus Hermann, Reimund Leicht et al. (eds.), *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), 917-940.
- * “A Note on a A Middle High German Calque in *Sefer Hasidim*,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 19 (2012), 385-387.
- “Concepts of Scripture in the Schools of Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Ishmael,” in Benjamin Sommer (ed.), *Jewish Theologies of Scripture*, (New York: New York University Press, 2012), 47-63.
- “The Creaturely Limits of Knowledge: Martin Heidegger’s Theological Critique of Immanuel Kant,” in Leonard V. Kaplan and Rudy Koshar (eds.), *The Weimar Moment: Political Theology, Liberalism, and the Law* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2012), 123-144. Co-authored with Sam Moyn.
- “Rabbi Aqiva and the Site of Revelation,” in Moulie Vidas and Philippa Townsend (eds.), *Revelation, Literature, and Community in Late Antiquity* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011), 177-216.
- * “*‘Aretz* et la sémantique de la terre,” *Les Cahiers du judaïsme* 30 (2011), 104-113.
- * “Rabbi Akiva’s Youth,” in *Jewish Quarterly Review* 100 (2010), 573-597.
- “Engaging Rabbinic Literature: Four Texts,” in Paul Socken (ed.), *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-first Century?: The Relevance of the Ancient Jewish Text to Our World* (Lanham, MD.; Lexington, 2009), 201-214.
- * “The Semantics of *tinok* in Mishnaic Hebrew” (Hebrew), *Leshonenu: The Journal of the Academy of the Hebrew Language* 71 (2009), 73-79.
- “Blorit: Pagan Mohawk or Sabra Forelock?: Ideologically Manipulative Secularization of Hebrew Terms in Socialist Zionist Israel,” in Tope Omoniyi (ed.), *The Sociology of Language and Religion: Change, Conflict, and Accomodation* (London and New York: Plagrave Macmillan, 2009), 84-124. Co-authored with Ghil’ad Zuckermann.
- * “Ronald Dworkin and Self-Undermining Interpretation,” in *Diné Israel: An Annual of Jewish Law* 25 (2009), 209-234.
- * “Rabban Gamliel, Aphrodite’s Bath, and the Question of Pagan Monotheism,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 96 (Spring 2006), 149-179.
- “Resistance to Midrash? Midrash and Halakhah (Oral Tradition) in the Halakhic Midrashim,” in Carol Bakhos (ed.), *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2006), 35-58.
- * “Rabbi Yosef Gikatilla’s works ‘Gates of Justice’ and ‘Gates of Light’” (Hebrew), *Pe’amim* 104 (2005), 41-64.
- * “Goliath’s Armor and Israelite Collective Memory,” *Vetus Testamentum* 54 (2004), 373-395.

- **"Qol (Voice) as Hypostasis in the Hebrew Bible," Journal of Biblical Literature* 122 (2003), 601-629.
- **"Hammer on the Rock: Mekhilta Deuteronomy and the Question of Rabbinic Polysemy," Jewish Studies Quarterly* 10 (2003), 1-17.
- **"A Greek Witness to the Semantic Shift קָנָה-'Buy'," Hebrew Studies* 43 (2002), 31-37.
- **"4QMMT, Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Legal Midrash," Dead Sea Discoveries* 10 (2002), 130-149.
- **"Shnei Ketuvim and Rabbinic Intermediation," Journal for the Study of Judaism* 33 (2002), 386-410.
- **"Samson's Hida," Vetus Testamentum* 52 (2002), 407-426.
- **"Web of Chaos: Bialik and Nietzsche on Language, Truth and the Death of God," Prooftexts* 21 (2001), 179-203.

Public Scholarship

- "St. Augustine's Jews and the Undeserving Poor," *Marginalia: Los Angeles Review of Books* (August 30th, 2019).
- "A Measure of Beauty" (on the Israeli hip-hop band Hadag Nahash), *Jewish Review of Books* 3 (Fall 2010), 44-45.

Scholarly Translations (Selected)

- David Flusser, *Judaism of the Second Temple Period: The Rabbis and their Literature*, translated into English for Eerdmans, 2009.
- David Flusser, *Judaism of the Second Temple Period: Qumran and Apocalypticism*, translated into English for Eerdmans, 2007.
- James Kugel, *In Potiphar's House: The Interpretive Life of Biblical Texts*, translated into Hebrew for Mossad Bialik.
- Ellen Frankel, *The Five Books of Miriam*, translated into Hebrew for Am Oved, 2007.
- Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in Search of Man*, translated into Hebrew for Magnes Press, 2003.
- Moshe Idel, *Hasidism: Between Ecstasy and Magic*, translated into Hebrew for Schocken Press, 2000.
- Moshe Idel, *Golem: Jewish Magical and Mystical Traditions on the Artificial Anthropoid*, translated into Hebrew for Schocken Press, 1996.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Rabbinic Interpretation,” and “Rabbi Ishmael,” in Dale Allison, Jr. (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming).
- “Rabbi Akiva,” “Rabbi Ishmael,” “Mekhilta of Rabbi Ishmael,” “Sifra,” “Sifre Numbers,” and “Sifre Deuteronomy,” in Eric Olin (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).
- “Hebrew in Contact with Other Languages” and “Neologisms,” in Geoffrey Kahn (ed.), *The Brill Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).
- “Law in the Rabbinic Period,” *Oxford Bibliography Online*.
- “Rabbi Aqiva” in John J. Collins (ed.), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Ancient Judaism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

Book Reviews

- Barry W. Holtz, *Rabbi Akiva: Sage of the Talmud*, in *Reading Religion*, January 2019.
- Yair Lorberbaum, *In God’s Image: Myth, Theology, and Law in Classical Judaism*, in *Reading Religion*, May 2016.
- Tzvi Novick, *What is Good and What God Demands: Normative Structures in Tannaitic Literature*, in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 44 (2013), 432-33.
- Avi Sagi, *The Open Canon: On the Meaning of Halakhic Discourse*, in *Journal of Semitic Studies* 55 (2010), 291-292.
- Michael Carasik (ed.), *The Commentator’s Bible*, in *The Jewish Review of Books* 1 (Spring 2010).
- Deborah Steinmetz, *Punishment and Freedom: The Rabbinic Construction of Criminal Law*, in *AJS Review* 33 (2009), 173-176.
- Joshua Levinson, *The Untold Story: The Narrative Art of Midrash*, in *AJS Review* 31 (2007), 379-382.
- Beth Berkowitz, *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures*, in *Henoch: A Journal of Jewish Studies* 31 (2009), 165-168.
- B. Barry Levy, *Fixing God’s Torah: The Accuracy of the Bible in Jewish Law*, in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 34 (2003), 338-40.
- John W. Martens, *One God, One Law: Philo of Alexandria on the Mosaic and Greco-Roman Law*, in *Studia Philonica Annual* 16 (2004), 11-14.

Invited Presentations (Selected)

- Ben Gurion University, January 2019: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Bar Ilan University, December 2018: “Hermeneutic Issues in the Sifra.”
- The Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, December, 2018: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, December 2018: “Second Temple Judaism: An Ideological Examination.”
- Haifa University, Digital Humanities Forum, December 2018: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Rutgers University Philosophy Club, October 2018: “Heraclitus and Early Greek Philosophy.”
- University of Minnesota, March 2018. “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- University of Minnesota, March 2018. “Is the New Testament a Jewish Text?”
- University of Florida, March 2018. “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Bard Graduate Center, October 2017. “Material Culture and Rabbinic Literature: An Ecological Perspective.”
- St. Peter’s University Hospital, March 2017. “Created in God’s Image: Bioethical Implications.”
- Brandeis University, November 2016. “Contact-Induced Cultural Change: The Case of Late Antique Judaism.”
- Australian Catholic University, Rome Center, July 2016. “Scriptural Interpretation and Received Tradition.”
- Boston University, June 2015. “Roman Historiography and Rabbinic Historiography.”
- Northwestern University, May 2015. “Contact-Induced Cultural Change.”
- Yeshiva University, May 2015. “Pagan Midrash.”
- University of California, Berkeley, April 2014. “Authorial Intent: Human and Divine.”
- Boalt Law School, University of California, Berkeley, April 2012. “Interpretation and Heresy.”
- UCLA Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, February 2010. “Hadag Nahash: Hip-Hop, Cultural Critique, and Social Change.”
- Yale University, October 2011. “Moses in Akiva’s Classroom: A Response to Shlomo Naeh and Daniel Boyarin.”
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2011. “What Do We Really Know About the Rabbis?,” Goldberg Lecture;

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2011. “Textual Foreknowledge: Rabbinic, Pauline, and Pagan.”
- Cardozo Law School, February, 2010. “Political Theology: A Linguistic Analysis of Hebrew Secularization.”
- Northwestern University, June, 2009. “Authorial Intent and Rabbinic Legal Hermeneutics.”
- University of Kansas, February, 2009. “Literary and Theological Categories in Early Rabbinic Literature.”
- Pennsylvania State University, September, 2008. “The Jewish Pagan Dialogue”
- Rutgers University, May, 2007. “The Bible in Late Antique Paganism.”
- Dickinson College, Three-Day Faculty Seminar, January 2007. “God in Modern Jewish Poetry.”
- Cardozo Law School, January 2006. “The Old Textualism: Scriptural and Constitutional Interpretation.”
- Oberlin College, Herbert May Annual Lecture, November 2005. “Goliath's Armor”
- University of Minnesota, April 2005. “The Rabbi and the Philosopher: On Jewish-Pagan Relations in the Third Century”
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2004. “Did the Bible Know Homer?”
- University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Spring 2004. “Rabbi Aqiva, Rabbi Ishmael and the Place of Midrash in Tannaitic Literature.”
- Ben Gurion University, Israel, January 2004. “Tradition and Interpretation in Early Rabbinic Literature.”
- The Jezreel Valley Philosophical Forum, Israel, January 2004. “Philosophical Hermeneutics: Schleiermacher to Heidegger.”
- Swarthmore College, Fall 2002. “The Aggadic Biography of Rabbi Aqiva.”
- Jewish Theological Seminary, Fall 2002. “Rabban Gamliel in Aphrodite’s Bath.”
- UCLA, Fall 2002. “Legal Hermeneutics in Rabbi Ishmael and Clement of Alexandria.”
- Oberlin College, Spring 2001. “Rethinking Jewish-Christian Origins,” a five part lecture series.

Courses Taught (Selected)

- “Christians, Pagans, and Jews”
- “God’s Body”
- “Introduction to Rabbinic Literature”
- “Jesus the Jew”
- “Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah”

- “Jewish Society and Culture: Origins to 1492”
- “Late Antique Allegory: Jewish, Christian, and Pagan” (Graduate Seminar)
- “Plato”
- “Rabbinic Hebrew”
- “Scripture and Tradition in Early Rabbinic Judaism” (Graduate Seminar)
- “The Binding of Isaac: The History of a Motif” (Graduate Seminar)
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism”
- “The Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “The Jewish Body”
- “The Presocratic Philosophers”
- “The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen”

Service to the Field

- Co-Editor of Mohr-Siebeck’s *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, 2007–2017.
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, 2009–2017.
- Chair of Rabbinics Division: Association of Jewish Studies, 2009 – 2011.
- Rabbinics editor, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2001–2006.
- Manuscript referee: Brown Judaic Studies; University of California Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; The Jewish Publication Society; Princeton University Press; Mohr Siebeck.
- Article referee: *Jewish Quarterly Review*; *AJS Review*; *Hebrew Union College Annual*; *Jewish Studies Internet Journal*; *Journal for the Study of Ancient Judaism*; *Prooftexts*; *Journal of Ancient Judaism*; *Jewish Studies Quarterly*; *Zion: The Journal of the Israeli Historical Society*; *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Service to the Department

- Jewish Studies: Undergraduate Adviser, Fall 2015–Spring 2019.
- Classics: Acting Chair, Fall 2009–Spring 2012
- Jewish Studies: Graduate Committee, 2011–present
- Jewish Studies: Acting Undergraduate Advisor, Spring 2003
- Jewish Studies: Library Committee (Chair), Rutgers, Fall 2002–Spring 2005

Service to the University

- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2018.
- Mellon Graduate Fellowship Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2012
- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2007-Fall 2009

Research Languages

- Classical Hebrew (Biblical, Rabbinic, Qumran), Aramaic, Greek, Latin
- Modern Hebrew, Spanish, German, French, Italian