
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	
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Classics	Spring 2013-present
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies	Spring 2005-Spring 2013
Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies	Fall 2002-Spring 2005
University of Chicago Divinity School	
Visiting Associate Professor	Spring 2009
Princeton University	
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

- *Scripture and Tradition: Rabbi Akiva and the Triumph of Midrash.* University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming 2014.
- *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash.* University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Articles, Chapters, and Notes (asterisk denotes peer-review)

- “Athens and Jerusalem? Hebrew Bible Scholarship and the Pagan World,” in Asaph Ben-Tov and Martin Mulson (eds.), *The Bible and the Profane*, volume under review.
- “For Mark was Peter's *tanna*: Oral Tradition versus Eyewitness History in Papias,” under review.
- * “Bavli Menahot 29b and the Diminution of the Prophets,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* (forthcoming).
- * “Some Uses of Deixis in Rabbinic Hebrew,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* (forthcoming).
- * “Rabbinic Polysemy: A Response to Steven Fraade,” *AJS Review* (forthcoming).
- “*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 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 *tinuq* 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 Accommodation* (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 Bakchos (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 בּוֹרֵךְ-‘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.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Hebrew in Contact with Other Languages,” in Geoffrey Kahn (ed.), *The Brill Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).
- “Neologisms,” in Geoffrey Kahn (editor in chief), *The Brill Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).
- “Law in the Rabbinic Period,” the *Oxford Bibliography Online*.
- “Rabbi Aqiva” in John J. Collins (ed.), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Ancient Judaism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

Book Reviews

- Tzvi Novick, *What is Good and What God Demands: Normative Structures in Tannaitic Literature*, for *Journal for the Study of Judaism* (forthcoming).
- Avi Sagi, *The Open Canon: On the Meaning of Halakhic Discourse*, for the *Journal of Semitic Studies* 55 (2010), 291-292.
- Michael Carasik (ed.), *The Commentator’s Bible*, for *The Jewish Review of Books* 1 (Spring 2010).
- Devorah Steinmetz, *Punishment and Freedom: The Rabbinic Construction of Criminal Law*, for *AJS Review* 33 (2009), 173-176.
- Joshua Levinson, *The Untold Story: The Narrative Art of Midrash*, for *AJS Review* 31 (2007), 379-382.
- Beth Berkowitz, *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures*, for *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* (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), *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* (Leiden: Brill, 2003), *Studia Philonica Annual* 16 (2004), 11-14.

Varia

- *Intuitive German Vocabulary*, forthcoming.
- "A Measure of Beauty," *Jewish Review of Books* 3 (Fall 2010), 44-45.

Invited Presentations

- Boalt Law School, University of California, Berkeley, April, 2012. "Interpretation and Heresy." Conference on comparative Jewish and Islamic theology.
- 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 to 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," faculty workshop.
- 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”
- “The Binding of Isaac: The History of a Motif” (Graduate Seminar)
- “Late Antique Allegory: Jewish, Christian, and Pagan” (Graduate Seminar)
- “Scripture and Tradition in Early Rabbinic Judaism” (Graduate Seminar)
- “God’s Body”
- “Jesus the Jew”
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “Jewish Society and Culture: Origins to 1492”
- “Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah”
- “Introduction to Rabbinic Literature”
- “The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism”
- “The Jewish Body”
- “The Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “Rabbinic Hebrew”

Professional Service

- Co-Editor of Mohr-Siebeck’s *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, 2007-present.
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, 2009-present
- 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.
- 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*.

Departmental Service

- Graduate Committee, 2011-present
- Undergraduate Advisor, Spring 2003

- Curriculum Committee, Fall 2002–present
- Library Committee (Chair), Rutgers, Fall 2002–Spring 2005

University Service

- Acting Chair, Department of Classics, Fall 2009–Spring 2012
- Mellon Graduate Fellowship Committee, Fall 2008–Spring 2012
- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2007–Fall 2009

Translation (Selected)

- James Kugel, *In Potiphar's House: The Interpretive Life of Biblical Texts*, translated into Hebrew for Mossad Bialik, forthcoming.
- Dov Elbaum, *Into the Fullness of the Void* translated into English for Jewish Lights Press, 2013.
- 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.
- 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.

Languages

- Classical Hebrew (biblical and mishnaic), Aramaic, Greek, Latin
- Modern Hebrew, Spanish, German, French