

Jeffrey I. Israel
40 8th Ave, Apt 3F
Brooklyn, NY 11217
773-896-7869
jjiisrael@uchicago.edu

PhD Candidate, Ethics

University of Chicago Divinity School

(All degree requirements fulfilled except dissertation submission;
I will graduate spring 2010)

DISSERTATION

Jewish Humor and Political Civility: On Moral Play with Tradition, Self, and Others

Committee: Martha C. Nussbaum (advisor)
Paul Mendes-Flohr
Robert Gooding-Williams

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

- Philosophical Ethics
- Ethics and Political Life
- Religious Ideologies and Utopias
- The Theological-Political Predicament of the Modern Jew

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Religion and Political Philosophy; Ethics; Modern Jewish Thought; Religion and World Politics; Introduction to the Study of Religion; Introduction to Jewish Civilization; Introduction to Ethics

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Loving the Nation: Toward a New Patriotism (under contract to Yale University Press);
Co-Author with Martha C. Nussbaum

Articles:

“The Capability of Play.” Posted on the *Religion and Culture Web Forum* of the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion. January 2009.

Reviews:

Review of Anthony W. Marx, *Faith in Nation: Exclusionary Origins of Nationalism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003). Journal of Religion, January 2007

Review of Anthony D. Smith, *Chosen Peoples: Sacred Sources of National Identity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003). Journal of Religion, January 2007

Non-Academic:

State of the Interreligious Movement Report (Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions Publication, 2008). General Editor.

“Religion in the 21st Century” in *State of the Interreligious Movement Report* (Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions Publication, 2008)

“What Counts as ‘Religion’ in the Interreligious Movement?” in *State of the Interreligious Movement Report* (Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions Publication, 2008)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

June 12, 2008 **The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies**. Invited seminar presentation: “Imagining the Patriot: The Political Iconography of Patriotism.”

Spring 2008 **Rutgers University**. Instructor. Department of Philosophy
Designed and taught full-credit undergraduate course: *Social and Political Philosophy Through History: The Politics of Recognition* (held full responsibility for all instruction and grading)

Winter 2007 **Northwestern University**. Instructor. School of Continuing Studies
Designed full-credit undergraduate course: *Topics in Judaism: The Modern Jewish Experience* (cancelled due to limited student enrollment)

- Fall 2005 **Northwestern University.** Instructor. School of Continuing Studies
Designed and taught full-credit undergraduate course: *Topics in Religion: Religion in the Modern Democratic Tradition* (held full responsibility for all instruction and grading)
- Spring 2005 **Northwestern University.** Instructor. School of Continuing Studies
Designed and taught full-credit undergraduate course: *Topics in Religion: Politicized Religion* (held full responsibility for all instruction and grading). *Nominated for excellence in teaching award.*
- April 2004 **Indiana University.** Guest Lecturer
An invited lecture entitled: “Contemporary American Jewish Identity and the State of Israel: Reflections on Philip Roth’s *Operation Shylock*”

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbinic Study (2001-2002)

University of Chicago Divinity School. M.A. Religion (1999-2001)

Oberlin College. B.A. Religion; Jewish and Near Eastern Studies (1995-1999)

Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Graduate study in modern and medieval Jewish philosophy (1997-1998)

HONORS

Provost Dissertation Fellowship. The University of Chicago. 2009-2010

Martin Marty Center Dissertation Fellowship. Martin Marty Center, Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion at the University of Chicago. 2007-2008

University of Chicago Divinity School Gift Aid. University of Chicago Divinity School. 2006-2007, 2008-2009

Wabash Fellowship. Chicago Forum on Pedagogy and the Study of Religion, University of Chicago Divinity School. 2005

Gerald Brauer Fellowship. Brauer Seminar on Religion and Humanism, University of Chicago Divinity School. 2004

Graduate Tuition and Stipend Fellowship. University of Chicago. 2003-2006

Florcheimer Foundation Scholarship. Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. 2002

Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion Rabbinical Scholarship.
Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. 2001-2002

Graduate Tuition Fellowship. University of Chicago. 1999-2001

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Lenny Bruce and the Misrecognition of Civility.” An invited paper to be presented for the Ethics Section of the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Montreal, Canada, November 7-10, 2009.

“The Moral Psychology of Down-To-Earth Patriotism.” An invited paper for the Workshop on Moral Psychology and Political Philosophy of Patriotism at The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. June 14, 2008

Respondent on Hannah Arendt at the University of Chicago conference: Modernity’s Other? Studies on Jewish Women. February 12-13, 2007

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions (Chicago, IL) 2006-2008
Program Associate. Compiled and edited the *State of the Interreligious Movement Report*, which surveys recent interreligious initiatives and assesses future prospects for interreligious work. Along with an extensive methodological introduction, I also contributed two original essays: “Religion in the 21st Century” and “What Counts as ‘Religion’ in the Interreligious Movement?”

Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions (Chicago, IL) 2003-2004
Intern. Wrote the “Forward” and chapter, “Religious Models of Social Transformation,” for the Kenya 2004 and Spain 2004 *Briefing Books*.

InTheFray.com 2003-2005

Assistant Editor. Chose and edited articles for publication in this online magazine dedicated to issues of race, religion, gender and identity.

Temple B’Nai Sholom (Quincy, IL) 2002

Student Rabbi. Prepared and led High Holiday and Shabbat services; provided Bar Mitzvah and adult education.

University of Chicago (Chicago, IL) 2000-2001

Research Assistant to Paul Mendes-Flohr. Organized materials for forthcoming intellectual biography of Franz Rosenzweig; provided bibliographical assistance for course curricula.

The Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Jerusalem, Israel) 1997-1998

Research Assistant to Almut Bruckstein. Provided research and editorial assistance for *Ethics of Maimonides*, by Hermann Cohen, Translated with commentary by Almut Sh. Bruckstein (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004).

LANGUAGES

Hebrew (reading knowledge)

German (reading knowledge)

Yiddish (reading knowledge)

French (reading knowledge)

REFERENCES

Martha C. Nussbaum, Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago

Paul Mendes-Flohr, Professor of Modern Jewish Thought at the University of Chicago Divinity School

Jeff McMahan, Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University