

Jeffrey I. Israel
jiiisrael@uchicago.edu

Ph.D., Religious Ethics
University of Chicago Divinity School

DISSERTATION

Jewish Humor and the Political Ethics of De-Stigmatization

Doctoral Advisor: Martha C. Nussbaum

Committee Members: Paul Mendes-Flohr, Robert Gooding-Williams

QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

- The Theological-Political Predicament of the Modern Jew (Mendes-Flohr)
- Ethics and Political Life (Elshtain)
- Philosophical Ethics (Gamwell and Nussbaum)
- Religious Ideologies and Utopias (Riesebrodt)

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

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

University of Chicago Divinity School. M.A. (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)

TEACHING COMPETENCE

Jewish American Thought, Culture, and Politics Since 1945; Political Philosophy; Moral Theory; Ethical Criticism; Modern Jewish Thought

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

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

Articles:

“Why Portnoy’s Complaint Matters”
Social Research: An International Quarterly, Vol. 79, No. 1, Spring 2012

“Jewishness and Global Justice”
CrossCurrents, Vol. 60, No. 3, September 2010
Special Issue: Religion and the United Nations

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

Reviews:

Review of Rebecca T. Alpert, *Out of Left Field: Jews and Black Baseball* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). Journal of Religion, Forthcoming.

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

Other:

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)

Response to “The Last Prophet: Spinoza and the Political Theology of Moses Hess,” by Jerome Copulsky. *Religion and Culture Web Forum* of the Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, March 2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2012 **The New School – Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts**
Instructor
Department of History
Jewish History
- Spring 2011 **The New School – Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts**
Instructor
Department of History
Jewish History
- June 2008 **The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies**
Guest Lecturer
Invited lecture presentation
“Imagining the Patriot: The Political Iconography of Patriotism”
- Spring 2008 **Rutgers University**
Instructor
Department of Philosophy
Social and Political Philosophy Through History: The Politics of Recognition
- Fall 2005 **Northwestern University**
Instructor
School of Continuing Studies
Topics in Religion: Religion in the Modern Democratic Tradition
- Spring 2005 **Northwestern University**
Instructor
School of Continuing Studies
Topics in Religion: Politicized Religion
Nominated for excellence in teaching award
- April 2004 **Indiana University**
Guest Lecturer
Invited lecture presentation
“Contemporary American Jewish Identity and the State of Israel: Reflections on Philip Roth’s *Operation Shylock*”

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
2010-2011

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

Featured Panelist: "Lived Religion Round-Table"
Sponsored by the Religious Studies Program of Eugene Lang College
The New School
New York, New York, February 23, 2012

Featured Panelist (with Moshe Halbertal): "Talmudic Debate"
Sponsored by the Asia Society
New York, New York, November 29, 2011.

Featured Panelist (with Michael Wex): "The Art of the Kvetch: Jewish Humor as
Secularism"
Sponsored by Jewish Studies and The Jewish Cultural Studies Program
The New School
New York, New York, April 27, 2011

"Lenny Bruce and the Misrecognition of Civility"
Ethics Section; Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion
Montreal, Canada. November 9, 2009

"The Moral Psychology of Down-To-Earth Patriotism"
Workshop on Moral Psychology and Political Philosophy of Patriotism
The Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, June 14, 2008

Respondent on Hannah Arendt
Modernity's Other? Studies on Jewish Women
Conference at the University of Chicago, February 12-13, 2007

International Conference on Hermann Cohen's *Religion der Vernunft aus den Quellen
des Judentums*, Hermann Cohen-Archiv am Philosophischen Seminar der Universität
Zürich, unter dem Patronat der Schweizerischen Akademie der Geistes- und
Sozialwissenschaften, September, 1998. Invited guest.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Invited Participant

September 6, 2011

"Religion and the United Nations: Dynamics of Development and Peacebuilding."
The last of three consultations sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund
(UNFPA), the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), and the Interfaith Center of New
York (ICNY)

Invited Participant

April 26, 2011

"Religion and the United Nations: Dynamics of Gender and Conflict"

The second of three consultations sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), and the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY)

Invited Participant

February 11th 2011

"Religion and the United Nations: Dynamics of Development and Peacebuilding."

The first of three consultations sponsored by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), and the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY)

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions

2006-2008, Chicago, IL. 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?" I have traveled to Kenya and Mexico on behalf of the CPWR to contribute to organizational meetings.

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)

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

Robert Gooding-Williams, Ralph and Mary Otis Isham Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago

Jeff McMahan, Professor of Philosophy at Rutgers University

Martin Riesebrodt, Professor of the Sociology of Religion in the Divinity School and in the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago