

## **Erik Dreff**

2-5219 S. Drexel Ave. | Chicago, IL., 60615 | (773) 551-2426 | Dreff.e@gmail.com

### **Curriculum vitae**

## **EDUCATION**

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**Ph.D., (June, 2017) – Divinity School, University of Chicago**, History of Judaism

Dissertation: *On God, Humankind, and Well-Being: The Intellectual Love of God in Spinoza*

Advisor: Paul Mendes-Flohr

**A.M., 2009 – Divinity School, University of Chicago**, Religious Studies, History of Judaism

**B.A., 2006 – McGill University** (Montreal, Quebec, Canada)

Joint Honours: Philosophy and Philosophy & Western Religions

**International Baccalaureate, 2002 – Upper Canada College** (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Articles**

“Hilary Putnam (1926-2016): A Philosopher of Science's Late-Life Return to His Native Judaism” - <https://divinity.uchicago.edu/sightings/hilary-putnam-1926-2016-philosopher-sciences-late-life-return-his-native-judaism> - in *Sightings* (April 2016)

### **Book Reviews**

Jeffrey A. Bernstein, *Leo Strauss: On the Borders of Judaism, Philosophy, and History* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2015) in *Religious Studies Review* (Forthcoming)

Jon D. Levenson, *The Love of God: Divine Gift, Human Gratitude, and Mutual Faithfulness in Judaism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2015) in *Religious Studies Review* (June, 2017)

Daniel B. Schwartz, *The First Modern Jew: Spinoza and the History of an Image* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012) in *Journal of Religion* (April, 2013)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Philosophy & Religious Studies, Saint Xavier University  
2017, Spring - The Examined Life (two sessions)

**Teaching Assistant**, Divinity School, University of Chicago

2016, Winter – History and Memory in Jewish Thought, Paul Mendes-Flohr

2015, Winter – Jewish Responses to Continental Philosophers: Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, & Heidegger, Paul Mendes-Flohr

2014, Autumn – Martin Buber’s Philosophy of Religion, Paul Mendes-Flohr

2010, Autumn – A.M. Core Course: Introduction to the Study of Religion: Reading *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan*, James T. Robinson

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

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**Research Assistant**, Paul Mendes-Flohr, Divinity School, University of Chicago, 2010 – 2016

**Certificate, 2016 – Divinity School, University of Chicago**, Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

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**2016 – Dissertation-Year Fellowship**, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies

**2015 – Special Initiatives Grant**, American Academy for Jewish Research

Establish the Midwestern Interuniversity Workshop in Jewish Studies (Messianism)

**2015 – Calihan Academic Fellowship**, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty

**2015 – Travel and Research Grant**, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies

Archival research, Center for Jewish History, N.Y.

**2015 – Calihan Travel Grant**, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty

Archival research, Center for Jewish History, N.Y.

**2014 – Research Grant**, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies

**2012 – Travel and Research Grant**, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies

Archival Research, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem, Israel

**2012 – Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies**, Herbert D. Katz Center for

Advanced Judaic Studies at University of Pennsylvania and the Hebrew University

**2009 – GAI Scholarship**, Divinity School, University of Chicago

**2007 – A.M. Scholarship**, Divinity School, University of Chicago

**Summer Language Funding**, Divinity School, University of Chicago

Hebrew, 2014; Latin, 2011, 2008; German, 2010

## WORKSHOP, SEMINAR, & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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**Midwestern Interuniversity Workshop in Jewish Studies (Messianism)**, University of Chicago

2015, Nov. 2 – Panelist: *Spinozism and Messianism: Contradictions and Possibilities*

**Jewish Studies Workshop**, University of Chicago

2016, Feb. 2 – *The Medieval Sources for Spinoza's Concept of the Intellectual Love of God*

2015, Jun. 4 – *A Step in the Staircase of History: On H.A. Wolfson on Abarbanel in Spinoza*

2014, Nov. 19 – *Spinoza and the Intellectual Love of God*

2012, Oct. 15 – *Rosenzweig's Star of Redemption as a System of Philosophy*

## INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS, COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**101 Lecture Series**, Disciples Divinity House, Chicago, IL

2016, Jun. 1 – Spinoza 201

2014, Oct. 21 – Spinoza 101

2014, Jan 15 – Spinoza 101

**Adult Learning Class**, KAM Isaiah Israel, Chicago, IL

2015, Jan. 31 – *Maimonides: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the RaMBaM*

**Heritage on Drexel Condo Board**, Chicago, IL., President, 2009 - *Present*

## **EXTRA-CURRICULARS**

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**2007-2016 – President, History of Judaism Area Club**, Divinity School, University of Chicago

**2015-2016 – Coordinator, Midwestern Interuniversity Workshop in Jewish Studies**

Funded by: American Academy for Jewish Research Special Initiatives Grant Program, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, Grad Council, The Jewish Studies Workshop, History of Judaism Area Club, Divinity Students' Association, Northwestern University's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies

**2009-2012 – Coordinator, Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible Workshop**, University of Chicago

Funded by: Council for Advanced Studies, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, the History of Judaism Area Club, Divinity Students' Association

**2007-2009 – Coordinator, Jewish Studies / History of Judaism Area Club Workshop**, University of Chicago

## **LANGUAGES**

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**French**, proficient

**Latin**, intermediate

**Hebrew (modern)**, advanced

**Hebrew (medieval)**, advanced

**German**, intermediate

**Russian**, speaking

## **REFERENCES**

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**Paul Mendes-Flohr**, Dorothy Grant Maclear Professor of Modern Jewish History and Thought, Divinity School, University of Chicago; Associate Professor, History, University of Chicago  
paulmendesflohr@gmail.com

**Nathan Tarcov**, Professor, University of Chicago, Political Science, Social Thought, & the College  
nst1@uchicago.edu

**Carlos Fraenkel**, Associate Professor, Chair of Jewish Studies, McGill University  
Carlos.fraenkel@gmail.com