

**JAMES ADAM REDFIELD**

redfieldja@slu.edu ♦ redfieldja@uchicago.edu ♦ <http://www.blackfire.life>

**APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor of Biblical & Talmudic Literatures, Theological Studies, Saint Louis University (2017–)

Fellow of the [Saint Louis University Research Institute](#) (2021–)

Visiting Assistant Professor, History of Judaism, University of Chicago Divinity School (Winter/Spring, 3 years, 2021–)

**EDUCATION**

PhD in Religious Studies (Judaism), Stanford University (2011-2017)

Visiting Researcher, Georgetown University, Department of Theology (2014-2016)

PhD candidate, Anthropology (Socio-cultural), U.C. Berkeley (2010-2011); M.A. (2010)

B.A. *magna cum laude*, Comparative Literature (German/French; high honors in the major), Dartmouth (2002-2006)

**PUBLICATIONS** (\* blind peer-reviewed; · editor-reviewed)

BOOK (in proofs)

- \* *From a Distant Relation* by M.Y. Berdichevsky. Responsible for edition and translation from Yiddish; introduction; bibliography; notes; glossary; translation from Hebrew and revisions of the Foreword by Avner Holtzman. Selected from two-volume work *Yidishe ksovim fun a vaytn korev* (written 1902-1906; first full ed. Berlin 1924). *Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music & Art* series, Syracuse University Press. ~ 450 pp. Mid-December 2021.

FORTHCOMING (in copyediting)

- \* Editor (w/Simcha Gross): *Making of Rabbinic Past*s. Special issue of *Jewish Studies Quarterly*. 40,170 words.
- \* Author (w/Simcha Gross): "The Making of Rabbinic Past"s. Introduction to *JSQ* special issue. 5,675 words.
- \* "Creative Historiography Today: Re-enchanting Isaak Heinemann." Article in *JSQ* special issue. 15,218 words.
- \* "Pragmatic Points of View: Kant and the Rabbis, Together Again." In *Talmud, And, Philosophy: Conjunctions, Disjunctions, Continuities*, ed. S. Dolgopolsky & A. Weisberg. *New Jewish Philosophy & Thought* series, Indiana University Press. 19,528 words. Accepted July 2020. Revision submitted July 2021. Slated for 2022.
- "Myth" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: de Gruyter. 1,659 words. 2022.
- "Names" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: de Gruyter. 1,286 words. 2022.
- "Nation" (Hellenistic Judaism). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: de Gruyter. 1,273 words. 2022.

IN PROGRESS

- \* *Adventures of Rabbah & Friends: The Talmud's Strange Tales and their Afterlife*  
Monograph under contract, Brown University Press. Substantially drafted; full ms. due to press for review in 2022.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- \* "Redacting Culture: Ethnographic Authority in the Talmudic Arrival Scene"  
*Jewish Social Studies* 22 (1): 29-80, 2016
- \* "Behind Auerbach's 'Background': Five Ways to Read What Biblical Narratives Don't Say"  
*Association for Jewish Studies Review*, 39 (1): 121-150, 2015
- \* "Towards a History of Presence: Husserl's Intersubjectivity and Rouch's Montage"  
*Journal of the Philosophy of History*, 7 (1): 1-31, 2013
- \* "Being Time: Zen, Modernity, the Contemporary"  
*Diogenes* 58 (4): 88-103, 2012  
Translated into French (*La revue diogène*, 2010, 123-146) and into Chinese (*Diogenes*, 2014, 106-124)
- \* "Cultural Identity from *habitus* to *au-delà*: Leïla Sebbar Encounters Her Algerian Father"  
*Research in African Literatures*, 39 (3): 51-64, 2008

BOOK CHAPTERS

- \* "The Iridescence of Scripture: Inner-Talmudic Interpretation and Palestinian *Midrash*."  
*Studies in Rabbinic Narratives, Volume 1*, ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. Brown University Press, 2021, 115-175.

- \* "Rabbinic Rites of the Suspected Adulteress." *Global Medieval Sourcebook* (Stanford). January 2021. [Open-access](#), peer-reviewed introduction/bibliography/edited text/annotated translation of Babylonian Talmud *Sotah* 7a-8b.
- \* "Auerbach at Saints Peter and Paul: *Mimesis* as Figural Autobiography." In *Domenicani a Constantinopoli: prima e dopo l'impero ottomano*. Biblioteca di Memorie Domenicane. eds. Claudio Monge & Silvia Pedone. Florence: Nerbini. 2 vols. I:193-218. 2017.
- \* "Crossing Border Lines: Daniel Boyarin's Life/Work." In *Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin*. Eds. Charlotte Fonrobert, Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Aharon Shemesh & Moulie Vidas with the collaboration of J.A.R. *JSJ* Supplements. Leiden: Brill, 2017. 541-65.

#### ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- \* "Ethnography in Antiquity," in *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. Ed. John Jackson. New York: Oxford University Press. 2019. 156 annotated entries; historical introduction; syntheses of each section.

#### TRANSLATIONS

- "Migrants." Translation of 1905-1906 Yiddish monologues by M.Y. Berdichevsky, with critical introduction and notes. *Dibur* (Stanford). August 15, 2021. 10,059 words.
- "Uri Zvi Before the Cross." Yiddish prose-poem by Uri Tsvi Grinberg (1922). In *Geveb*. July 2020.
- Four Yiddish stories by M.J. Berdichevsky: *Pakn Treger*, June 2018 & *Yiddish Book Center* website, October 2017.
- Three essays on rabbinic literature from the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* (by Zunz; Graetz; and Hoffmann) with notes. In *Classic Essays in Early Rabbinic Culture and History*, ed. Christine Hayes. London, Routledge, 2018.

#### WORKING PAPERS

- "Cooking the Books: The Golem and the Ethics of Biotechnology" *Center for Biological Futures Working Papers* 1, 2011. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle
- "When X Arrived, he said': The Historical Career of a Talmudic Formula." Appendix to "Redacting Culture" (2016). Specialized philological study (12,400 words). Published open-access, 11/5/16. Link @ <http://www.blackfire.life>.

#### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- "Fifty: A View from the Middle," *AJS Perspectives*. Association for Jewish Studies, 12/15/2018. 2 pages.
- "Fate on Hold: Jewish Collectors at War," *The Revealer*. NYU Center for Religion & Media, 9/10/18. 15 pages.
- "Curiouser and Curiouser: In Search of the Rabbis' Ethnography," *Ancient Jew Review*, 2/20/2018. 10 pages.
- "Der Opfer ist einfach zu dumm," *die tageszeitung*, p. 15, Berlin, 4/4/08.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

- A. Ophir & I. Rosen-Zvi, *Goy: Israel's Multiple Others & the Birth of the Gentile* (2018). *Reading Religion*. 8/28/19.
- Jane L. Kanarek, *Biblical Narrative and the Formation of Rabbinic Law* for *AJSR* (40) 1:13-16, 2016
- Sergey Dolgopolsky, *What is Talmud?: the Art of Disagreement*, 2009. *La revue diogène*, 131-136, 2013 [in French]. English original in *Diogenes* 61 (1): 97-100, 2016

#### **GRANTS AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS** (post-baccalaureate)

- Humboldt Foundation research fellowship at the University of Potsdam Institut für jüdische Theologie (2021–2022)
- Cornell University Society for the Humanities/Program in Jewish Studies faculty fellowship (2019-2020)
- Stanford Humanities Center/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation dissertation fellowship (2016-2017)
- Yiddish Book Center translation fellowship (2015-2016)
- Center for Biological Futures/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center research fellowship (2010-2011)
- Regents fellowship/Dean's Normative Time fellowship for doctoral work in Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley (2008-2013)
- Fulbright Foundation scholarship (Israel. Declined due to conflict with U.C. Berkeley doctoral fellowship; 2008-2009)
- Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin, research fellowship in core project *Tension/Spannung*, (2007-2008)
- DAAD scholarship at the Free University of Berlin Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature (2006-2007).

#### **INVITED LECTURES** (post-doctoral)

- Princeton, Religion seminar, "Dispatches from Whale Island: Babylonian Jewish Hellenization Revisited," 11/18/19
- Cornell, Near Eastern Studies colloquium: "Alexander Goes East: Finding Romance in the Talmud," 11/11/19
- Duke, Clark Ctr. for Late Ancient Studies: "Stranger than Fiction: Talmudic Paradoxography," 10/24/19

- Northwestern, *German-Jewish Hermeneutics* faculty conference: "Berdichevsky's Christianities," 10/29/18
- NYU, *Rabbinic Narratives* faculty conference: "From Place to Space: The Remaking of Late Antiquity," 6/4/18
- Oxford, Centre for Jewish Studies, *David Patterson Lecture*: "Berdichevsky's Yiddish Translations," 6/5/17
- Bard, faculty & writers' conference, *Make It New: New Possibilities for Classical Jewish Texts*: 4/26/17

#### **HONORS** (post-doctoral)

- Finalist for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award, St. Louis University (2019 & 2020)
- Belgian American Educational Foundation Honorary Fellow (declined due to conflict w/Cornell fellowship; 2019-20)
- Finalist for Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study faculty fellowship (2019-20)

#### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Editorial board, editor for pre-modern book reviews, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2018-present
- Advisory Board member, Center for Religious and Legal History, Saint Louis University, 2020-present
- Co-organizer for "Religious World of Late Antiquity" section, Society of Biblical Literature, 2017-2023
- Peer reviewer, *Religions*; *Prooftexts*; *Oqimta*; and other publications.

#### **DOCTORAL SUPERVISION**

- Currently co-supervising 2 doctoral dissertations in the Christianity in Antiquity program (Saint Louis University)
- Currently serving on 4 doctoral committees (Saint Louis University) + 1 at University of Chicago Divinity School

#### **TEACHING** (post-doctoral)

- "Ethnography Before Modernity." University of Chicago Divinity School. Spring 2022
- "Law and Culture in Rabbinic Literature." University of Chicago Divinity School. Spring 2022
- "The Legal Imagination in Judaism." Law, Religion & Politics program, Saint Louis University, Spring 2021
- "World Religions and Human Problems." Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Fall 2020 (2 sections)
- "Tradition & Modernity: The Jewish Case and Beyond." Cornell University. Grad/undergrad seminar, Spring 2020
- "Introduction to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible." Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Fall/Spring 2017-19  
Taught as undergraduate lecture/discussion (every term, 2017-19) and graduate seminar (Fall 2017; Spring 2021)
- (with Eleonore Stump): "The Pathos of Narrative: Jewish and Christian Perspectives on Human Suffering."  
Graduate seminar. Theological Studies/Philosophy, St. Louis University, Spring 2019
- (with Atria Larson): "At the Crossroads of Jewish and Christian Law." Honors program undergraduate seminar  
Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Spring 2019
- "Judaism & Christianity in Antiquity: Textual & Comparative Approaches." Graduate seminar  
Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Spring 2018
- "Stranger Things: People & Places through Religious Travelers' Eyes." Undergraduate seminar  
Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Fall 2018

#### **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

- *Futures of Tradition* symposium hosted by Cornell Jewish Studies/Society for the Humanities, 11-12 September, 2022
- Faculty seminar: *Rabbinic Historical Horizons*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/2019. Chair: J. Rubenstein.  
(organized with S. Gross. Presenters: Gross & Redfield; M. Balberg; N. Dohrmann; H. Lapin; A. Yoshiko Reed).
- Panel: *Re-reading the Self (Biblical/Rabbinic)*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/17/2018  
(served as respondent. Panelists: J. Levinson; J. Vayntrub; D. Lambert. Chair: K. Sonia)
- Panel: *The Art of Nostalgia in Ancient Jewish Literatures*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/17/17  
(Panelists: J. Vayntrub; A. Yoshiko Reed. Respondent: I. Rosen-Zvi. Chair: S. Weitzman)

· Panel: *The Rite of the Suspected Adulteress*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/19/16  
(organized with Z. Septimus. Panelists: C. Fonrobert, S. Dolgopolsky, D. Weiss. Chair: G. Hasan-Rokem)

· Panel: *Rabbinic Anthropologies*, American Anthropological Association, 11/20/15  
(organized with J. Boyarin, chair. Panelists: N. Rubin, S. Fishbane, E. Berkowitz, S. Guzman Carmeli)

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (postdoctoral–selected)

· "Traveling Rabbis and the Talmud as History"  
*Teaching & Transmitting the Past*, 6th Annual Symposium on Medieval & Renaissance Studies, 6/20/18

· "Embedding, Sublation, Ambivalence: Ethnographic Techniques in Early Rabbinic Law"  
*What Did the Rabbis Know?*, Association for Jewish Studies faculty seminar, 12/18/2017

· "Rabbis, Amorites, and the Ethnography of Superstition"  
*The Art of Nostalgia in Ancient Jewish Literatures*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/17/2017

· "Lost & Found"  
*Six Things about Late Antiquity*, Society of Biblical Literature, 11/19/2017

· " 'The heavens are between you and me' : The Wife, the Law, and the Other Woman"  
*Rabbinic Discourse on Marriage and Divorce*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/14/2015

· " 'The Ways of the Amorite' : A Polemical Ethnography in Early Rabbinic Law"  
*Rabbinic Anthropologies*, American Anthropological Association conference, 11/20/2015

### ACTIVE PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

· Society of Biblical Literature; Association for Jewish Studies

### LANGUAGES

*Proficient Reading, Orality, Writing*: French, German

*Proficient Reading, Good Orality, Intermediate Writing*: Hebrew, Yiddish

*Good Reading Ability*: Italian; Jewish Aramaic (Palestinian & Babylonian)

*Fair Reading Ability*: Classical Syriac

*Some Reading Ability* (1-year-equivalent of formal study of each language + reading): Latin; Koine Greek; Attic Greek

Last update: 25 August 2021