

**James Theodore Robinson**

The University of Chicago, The Divinity School

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**Academic Positions:**

Professor of the History of Judaism, The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, 2015-

Affiliations: History of Religions, Islamic Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, Program in Medieval Studies, Religious Studies, Fundamentals: Texts and Issues.

Associate Professor of the History of Judaism, The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, 2010-2015.

Assistant Professor of the History of Judaism, The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, 2003-2010.

Visiting Research Fellow, The Institute for Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Summer 2007.

Dorot Junior Faculty Fellow, New York University, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, 2000-2003.

**Education:**

Harvard University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Exegesis, M.A. (1996), Ph.D. with distinction (2002).

Ph.D. Dissertation: "Samuel Ibn Tibbon's *Commentary on Ecclesiastes*" (awarded the Harry and Cecile Starr Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in Jewish Studies)  
Advisor: Bernard Septimus; Readers: Alfred Ivry, Robert Wisnovsky.

Oxford University, Faculty of Oriental Studies (Modern Jewish Studies), Master of Philosophy (1990).

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Visiting Research Fellow, 1991-1992; Visiting Student, 1990-1991.

The University of California at Berkeley, Bachelor of Arts, Applied Mathematics, 1988.

## Publications:

### Books:

*Samuel Ibn Tibbon's Commentary on Ecclesiastes, The Book of the Soul of Man.* Texts and Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Judaism 20. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007.

<http://www.mohr.de/en/jewish-studies/subject-areas/middle-ages/buch/samuel-ibn-tibbons-commentary-on-ecclesiastes.html>

(editor) *The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought.* Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2009.

<http://www.brill.nl/cultures-maimonideanism>

*Asceticism, Eschatology, Opposition to Philosophy: The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Salmon b. Yeroham on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes).* Critical edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with annotated English translation and introduction. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, Karaite Texts and Studies, 2012.

<http://www.brill.com/asceticism-eschatology-opposition-philosophy>

*The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Yefet b. 'Eli the Karaite on the Book of Joshua.* Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, Karaite Texts and Studies, 2014.

<http://www.brill.com/products/book/arabic-translation-and-commentary-yefet-ben-eli-karaite-book-joshua>

### Books under Contract:

*Sefer Nefesh ha-Adam: Perush Qohelet li-Shemuel ben Yehudah Ibn Tibbon.* Critical edition of the Hebrew text with introduction, notes, apparatus, and indices. Jerusalem: World Union of Jewish Studies, The David and Amalia Rosen Foundation, Sources for the Study of Jewish Culture.

*Establishing the Way of Peshat: The Arabic Translation and Commentary of Yefet b. 'Eli on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes).* Critical edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with annotated English translation and introduction. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, Karaite Texts and Studies.

*"Scholastic" Exegesis in Tenth-Century Jerusalem: The Arabic Translation and Commentary of David b. Boaz on Qohelet (Ecclesiastes).* Critical edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with annotated English translation and introduction. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, Karaite Texts and Studies.

(co-editor with Josef Stern) *The Guide of the Perplexed in Translation: A History of the Translations of Maimonides' Guide and Their Impact, from the Thirteenth Century to the Twentieth.*

### **Books in Preparation:**

The Secrets of Qohelet: The Intellectual History of a Biblical Text.

Isaac b. Ghiyāth's Commentary on Qohelet (Kitāb al-zuhd): Edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with English translation and introduction.

Abū al-Barakāt al-Baghdādī's Commentary on Qohelet: Edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with English translation and introduction.

Isaac b. Latif's commentary on Qohelet: Edition of the Hebrew text with English translation and introduction.

Immanuel of Rome's Commentary on Qohelet: Edition of the Hebrew text with English translation and introduction.

Yefet b. 'Eli's Judeo-Arabic commentaries on Judges, I Samuel, II Samuel, I Kings, Isaiah, Psalms.

Saadia Gaon's Commentary on Sefer Yetsirah (Kitāb al-Mabādi'): Edition of the Judeo-Arabic text with English translation and introduction.

### **Articles, Chapters, Reviews, Encyclopedia Entries:**

1. "Gershom ben Solomon's *Sha'ar ha-Shamayim*: Its Sources and Use of Sources." In *The Medieval Hebrew Encyclopedias of Science and Philosophy*, ed. Steven Harvey. Amsterdam Studies in Jewish Thought, volume 7. Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2000, pp. 248-274.

2. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon's *Commentary on Ecclesiastes* and the Philosopher's Prooemium." In *Studies in Medieval Jewish History and Literature*, volume 3, eds. Isadore Twersky and Jay M. Harris. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000, pp. 83-146.

3. "Allegory." In *The Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry. Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2000, pp. 17-18.

4. "The First References in Hebrew to al-Bitrūjī's *On the Principles of Astronomy*," *Aleph: Historical Studies in Science and Judaism* 3 (2003), pp. 145-163.

5. "Hasdai Crescas and Anti-Aristotelianism." In *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, eds. D. Frank and O. Leaman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 391-413.

<http://www.bandung2.co.uk/books/Files/Education/The%20Cambridge%20Companion%20to%20Medieval%20Jewish%20Philosophy.pdf>

6. "Some Remarks on the Source of Maimonides' Plato in *Guide of the Perplexed* I.17," *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture* 3 (2004), pp. 41-49.
7. Review of Roger Arnaldez, *Averroes: A Rationalist in Islam* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2000), for *Early Science and Medicine* 9 (2004), pp. 48-50.
8. Review of *Religious Confessions and the Sciences in the Sixteenth Century*, eds. Jurgen Helm and Annette Winkelmann (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2001), for *Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science* 1 (2004), pp. 90-105.
9. "The Ibn Tibbon Family: A Dynasty of Translators in Medieval Provence." In *Be'erot Yitzhak: Studies in Memory of Isadore Twersky*, ed. J. Harris. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005, pp. 193-224.
10. Review Essay: "Three Recent Books on Isaac Abarbanel/Abravanel (1437-1508/9)," *Association of Jewish Studies Review* 28 (2005), pp. 341-349.
11. Review of Majid Fakhry, *Averroes (Ibn Rushd): His Life, Works and Influence* (Oxford: Oneworld Publications, 2001), for *Early Science and Medicine* 10 (2005), pp. 436-439.
12. "From Digression to Compilation: Samuel Ibn Tibbon and Immanuel of Rome on Genesis 1:11, 1:14, 1:20," *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture* 4 (2006), pp. 81-97.
13. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon," The Online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (2006), 21pp. <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/tibbon/>
14. "The Argument from Barking Dogs: Ruminations on Bibfeldt and the Theology of Subaltern Species," *Criterion* 45 (Spring, 2006), pp. 12-15, 25. [http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/criterion/spring\\_06.pdf](http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/criterion/spring_06.pdf)
15. "Translation: Arabic into Hebrew." In *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. Ed. Josef W. Meri. New York and London: Routledge, 2006, pp. 821-823.
16. "Ibn Tibbon." *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. Second Edition. Eds. M. Berenbaum and F. Skolnik. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007. Vol. 19, pp. 712-714.
17. (with Judah Galinsky) "Rabbi Jeruham b. Meshullam, Michael Scot, and the Development of Jewish Law in Fourteenth-Century Spain," *Harvard Theological Review* 100 (2007), pp. 489-504.
18. "Maimonides, Samuel Ibn Tibbon, and the Construction of a Jewish Tradition of Philosophy." In *Maimonides after 800 Years: Essays on Maimonides and his Influence*. Ed. Jay M. Harris. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007, pp. 291-306.

19. "We Drink only from the Master's Water: Maimonides and Maimonideanism in Southern France, 1200-1306." In *Epigonism in Jewish Culture*. Eds. Shlomo Berger and Irene Zwiep. *Studia Rosenthaliana* 40 (2007-2008), pp. 27-60.
20. "הרמב"ם, שמואל אבן תיבון ויצירתה של מסורת פילוסופית יהודית", בתוך: הרמב"ם – שמרנות, מקוריות, מהפכנות, בעריכת א' רביצקי, מרכז זלמן שזר לתולדות ישראל, 2008, עמ' 579—593.
21. "לחקר תיאוריית התרגום של שמואל אבן תיבון וזיקתה למקורות ערביים", בתוך: עלי עשור: דברי הוועידה העשירית של החברה לחקר התרבות הערבית-היהודית של ימי-הביניים, בעריכת דניאל לסקר וחגי בן-שמאי, הוצאת הספרים של אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב, 2008, עמ' 249—268.
22. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon's *Perush ha-Millot ha-Zarot* and al-Fārābī's *Eisagoge* and *Categories*," *Aleph: Historical Studies in Science and Judaism* 9 (2009), pp. 41-76.
23. "Soul and Intellect in Medieval Jewish Philosophy." In *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy*. Eds. S. Nadler and T. Rudavsky. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009, pp. 524-558.
24. "Preface." In *The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought*. Ed. J. Robinson. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2009, pp. vii-xii.
25. "Abraham in Medieval Judaism." In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 1 (Walter de Gruyter, 2009), pp. 172-177.
26. "Albalag, Isaac." In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, vol. 1 (Walter de Gruyter, 2009), 709-710.
27. "Philosophical Psychology, The Jewish Tradition," in the *Encyclopedia of Medieval Philosophy*. Ed. H. Langerlund. Dordrecht: Springer (2010), Part 16, pp. 982-990.
28. "Philosophy and Science in Medieval Jewish Commentaries on the Bible." In *Science in Medieval Jewish Cultures*, ed. Gad Freudenthal (Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 454-475.
29. "Secondary Forms of Philosophy: On the Teaching and Transmission of Philosophy in Non-Philosophical Literary Genres," in *Vehicles of Transmission, Translation, and Transformation in Medieval Textual Culture*, eds. Carlos Fraenkel, Jamie Fumo, Faith Wallis, Robert Wisnovsky. Turnhout Brepols Publishers, 2011, pp. 235-248.
30. "Al-Farabi, Avicenna, and Averroes in Hebrew: Remarks on the Indirect Transmission of Arabic-Islamic Philosophy in Medieval Judaism." In *The Muslim*,

*Christian, and Jewish Heritage: Philosophical and Theological Explorations in the Abrahamic Traditions*. Eds. Irfan Omar and Richard Taylor. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2012, pp. 59-87.

31. "A Jewish Classic for Muslims," online for *Sightings* (September 13, 2012).  
[http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/sightings/archive\\_2012/0913.shtml](http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/sightings/archive_2012/0913.shtml)

32. "Interactions between Karaite and Rabbanite Thought in Spain and Byzantium," A Review of Daniel Lasker, *From Judah Hadassi to Elijah Bashyatchi: Studies in Late Medieval Karaite Philosophy* (E. J. Brill, 2008), in *Jewish Philosophy: Perspectives and Retrospectives*, eds. R. Jospe and D. Schwartz. Academic Studies Press, 2012, pp. 315-318.

33. "Reading Other People Reading Other People's Scripture: The Influence of Religious Polemic on Jewish Biblical Exegesis," *English Language Notes* 50:2 (2013) (Special Issue: "Scriptural Margins," ed. Sue Zemka), pp. 77-88.

34. "Secondary Forms of Transmission: Teaching and Preaching Philosophy in Thirteenth-Century Provence." In *Exchange and Transmission across Cultural Boundaries: Philosophy, Mysticism, and Science in the Mediterranean World*. Eds. H. Ben-Shammai, S. Shaked, and S. Stroumsa (Israel Academy, 2013), pp. 187-215.

35. "Ecclesiastes: Medieval Jewish." In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, Vol. 7 (Walter de Gruyter, 2013).

36. "Maimonides, Moses." Oxford Bibliographies, 2015.  
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199840731/obo-9780199840731-0085.xml?rskey=5Jlg7Y&result=62>

37. "Arabic, Latin, and Romance into Hebrew: The Role of Translation in the Development of European Jewish Culture." In *The Cambridge History of Judaism, Vol. VI, Jews and Judaism in the Christian World, Seventh through Fifteenth Centuries*. Ed. Robert Chazan (forthcoming).

38. "Isaac ibn Ghiyath," for *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Walter de Gruyter)

### **Editorial Responsibilities and Conferences Organized:**

Founder and editor of the book series "Writings from the Islamic World," Society of Biblical Literature.

[http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/books\\_WritingsIslamicWorld.aspx](http://www.sbl-site.org/publications/books_WritingsIslamicWorld.aspx)

Founder and co-editor of the book series “Library of Judeo-Arabic Literature (LJAL),” part of the Middle Eastern Text Initiative (METI), Brigham Young University Press.

<http://meti.maxwellinstitute.byu.edu/home/library-of-judeo-arabic-literature/>

Co-editor of the book series “Bordering Religions: Concepts, Conflicts, and Conversations,” Fordham University Press.

<http://fordhampress.com/index.php/series-imprints/series/bordering-religions-concepts-conflicts-and-conversations.html>

Advisory board of the book series “Berkeley Series in Postclassical Islamic Scholarship,” University of California Press.

Editorial board of the book series “Medieval Confluences: Studies in the Intellectual History and Comparative History of Ideas of the Medieval World,” University of Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Co-editor, *The Journal of Religion*, 2013-.

Editorial Board, *The Journal of Religion*, 2006-2011.

Editorial Board, *Aleph: Historical Studies in Science and Judaism*, 2007-.

Conference co-organizer, “The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought,” EAJS Summer Colloquium, Oxford, July 16-19, 2007.

Conference co-organizer, “Deconstructing Dialogue: New Perspectives on Religious Encounters – Ancient, Medieval and Modern,” The University of Chicago, January 21-23, 2010.

Conference organizer, “The Cultural Worlds of a Medieval Translator” (Marking the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Samuel ibn Tibbon’s Hebrew Translation of Maimonides’ *Guide of the Perplexed*), The University of Chicago, May 23, 2013.

Conference co-organizer, “Pines’ Maimonides: The Translation and Interpretation of *The Guide of the Perplexed*” (Marking the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Publication of Shlomo Pines’ English Translation of Maimonides’ *Guide* by the University of Chicago Press), The University of Chicago, Jan 19-21, 2014.

Faculty advisor for the student organized conference, “Characterizing Astrology in the Medieval Islamic World,” The University of Chicago, May 12-14, 2015.

### **Conferences, Colloquia, Workshops, Invited Lectures**

1. "Language, Logic, and Exegesis: Classical Rhetoric and Poetics in Samuel Ibn Tibbon's *Commentary on Ecclesiastes*." Symposium on Cross-Cultural Poetics. Harvard University, Center for Cultural and Literary Studies. May, 1997.
2. "Moses Maimonides and the Culture of Islamic Spain." Harvard University, Hebrew Language Summer School. July, 1997.
3. "Gershom ben Solomon's *Sha'ar ha-Shamayim*: Its Sources and Use of Sources." International Conference on Medieval Hebrew Encyclopedias of Science and Philosophy. Bar-Ilan University, Israel. January 11, 1998.
4. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon, Disciple of Maimonides?" Faculty Colloquium, "Authority and Challenges to Authority." Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. New York University. January 22, 2001.
5. "The Ibn Tibbon Family: A Dynasty of Translators in Medieval Provence." French Accents Symposium, "Jews and Judaism in Medieval France." New York University. April 26, 2001.
6. "Natural Science in Samuel Ibn Tibbon's *Commentary on Ecclesiastes*." Oxford Colloquium on Jewish Philosophy. European Association of Jewish Studies and Center for Jewish Philosophy, Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. Oxford, England. July 25, 2001.
7. "Some Remarks concerning Samuel Ibn Tibbon's Theory and Method of Translation" [in Hebrew]. 10th Annual Conference of the International Society for the Study of Judeo-Arabic. Beer Sheva, Israel. August 9, 2001.
8. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon on the Garden of Eden." 33rd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. Washington, D.C. December 17, 2001.
9. "Arguments against Immortality in Medieval Jewish Philosophy." Dorot Symposium. New York University. March 22, 2002.
10. "Averroes' Treatises on Conjunction in the Hebrew Tradition." 34th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. Los Angeles, California. December 15, 2002.
11. "Science in Medieval Jewish Commentaries on the Bible." Medieval Judaism and Science: A Synoptic View. Colloquium sponsored by the Institute of Jewish Studies. London, England. June 15-17, 2003.



12. "Exegesis and Esoteric Writing: Samuel Ibn Tibbon on the 'Art of Concealing'." 35th Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies. Boston, Massachusetts. December 22, 2003.
  
13. "Samuel Ibn Tibbon (ca. 1165-1232): Founder of Medieval Maimonideanism." Medieval Academy of America, 79th Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. April 1, 2004.
  
14. "Exegetes as Epigones in the Maimonidean Tradition: Samuel Ibn Tibbon and Immanuel of Rome." Oxford Colloquium on Jewish Philosophy. European Association of Jewish Studies. Oxford, England. July 6, 2004.
  
15. "Maimonides, Samuel Ibn Tibbon, and the Construction of a Jewish Tradition of Philosophy." Maimonides: Between Tradition and Revolution, International Conference on the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Death. Harvard University, The Center for Jewish Studies. October 12-13, 2004.
  
16. "Maimonides and Maimonideanism in Southern France, 1200-1306: On the Growth and Development of a Philosophical-Literary Tradition [Part I: Commentary on the Bible; Commentary on Rabbinic Literature; Reasons for the Commandments]." The Legacy of Maimonides: 1204-2004. A colloquium sponsored by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies at The Ohio State University. October 31, 2004.
  
17. "Maimonides and Maimonideanism in Southern France, 1200-1306: On the Growth and Development of a Philosophical-Literary Tradition [Part II: The Rhetoric of Maimonideanism; The Method of Exegesis; Creating a Hebrew Philosophical Library]." Maimonides: Philosopher and Scientist. Colloquium on the Philosophy of Science, sponsored by Boston University. November 8, 2004.
  
18. "Secondary Forms of Transmission: Teaching and Preaching Philosophy in Thirteenth-Century Provence." Exchange and Transmission across Cultural Boundaries: Philosophy, Mysticism, and Science in the Mediterranean World. A Workshop in memory of Shlomo Pines (on the fifteenth anniversary of his death) sponsored by the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. February 28 - March 2, 2005.
  
19. "Michael Scot and His Jewish Colleagues." Michael Scot - Translator and Philosopher at the Court of Frederick II. Workshop at the Warburg Institute. London, England. April 22, 2005.
  
20. Dean's Forum, Respondent: Winnifred Sullivan's *The Impossibility of Religious Freedom* (Princeton University Press, 2004). May 18, 2005.

21. "Jacob's Ladder of Ascent: Medieval and Modern Perspectives on a Biblical Motif." Conversations in Divinity, The University of Chicago Divinity School, September 15, 2005.
22. "Methods of Instruction and Modes of Transmission in Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Science." *Pratiques de l'enseignement universitaire dans l'Antiquité et le Moyen Age*. Colloquium sponsored by CNRS. Paris, France. October 6–8, 2005.
23. "Spiritualizing the Law: Prayer, Ritual, and the Holy Days in Medieval Jewish Philosophy." Disciples Divinity House, The University of Chicago, November 7, 2005.
24. "The Argument from Barking Dogs: Ruminations on Bibfeldt and the Theology of Subaltern Species." The Annual Franz Bibfeldt Lecture, April 1, 2006.
25. "Stealing Wisdom: Remarks on the Use of 'Foreign' Sources in Medieval Jewish Thought." *Via Contemplativa: A Conference on Medieval Islamic and Jewish Thought in Honor of Alfred L. Ivry*. New York University, May 9, 2006.
26. Dean's Forum, Respondent: Dan Arnold's *Buddhists, Brahmans, and Belief* (Columbia University Press, 2005). May 17, 2006.
27. "Jacob's Ladder of Ascent: Medieval Perspectives on a Biblical Motif." Illinois Freemasons, Feb 1, 2007.
28. "Al-Farabi, Avicenna, and Averroes in Hebrew: Remarks on the Indirect Transmission of Arabic Philosophy in Medieval Judaism." *The Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Heritage: Philosophical and Theological Explorations in the Abrahamic Traditions*. Marquette University, March 2, 2007.
29. "Secondary Forms of Philosophy: On the Transmission of Greek and Arabic Ideas Indirectly through Non-Traditional Literary Genres." *Vehicles of Transmission, Translation, and Transformation*. McGill University, the Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Departments of History, English, Philosophy, and Jewish Studies. April 26–28, 2007.
30. "That which is far off and exceeding deep, who can find it out?" Respondent in the session "Worlds Apart and Together: Science and Society." Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Thirteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies, "Religious Communities in Islamic Empires." April 30 – May 2, 2007.
31. Dean's Forum, Respondent: Lucy Pick's *Conflict and Coexistence: Archbishop Rodrigo and the Muslims and Jews of Medieval Spain* (University of Michigan Press, 2004). May 9, 2007.
32. "Al-Fārābī, Avicenna, and Averroes in Hebrew: Remarks on the Indirect Transmission of Arabic Philosophy in Medieval Judaism." Institute for Advanced

Studies, Jerusalem. Research Group: Transmission and Appropriation of the Secular Sciences and Philosophy in Medieval Judaism. July 9, 2007.

33. "Closing Remarks." The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought. EAJS Summer 2007 Colloquium, Organized by Gad Freudenthal and James T. Robinson. Wolfson College, Oxford, July 16-19, 2007.

34. Panel Session: "Maimonides – Aristotelian or Neoplatonist?" XII International Congress of Medieval Philosophy, Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale. Palermo, September 16-22, 2007.

35. "An Aristotelian Defense of Biblical Poetry: On the Influence of al-Farabi's *Kitāb al-Shi'r* in Medieval Jewish Thought." Poetics Workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, July 28, 2009.

36. "Reading other People reading other People's Scripture: On Religious Polemic as Cause of Cultural Change." Deconstructing Dialogue: New Perspectives on Religious Encounters, Ancient, Medieval and Modern. The Divinity School, The University of Chicago, January 21-23, 2010.

37. "Creating Hebrew Belle-lettres in Thirteenth-Century Europe." Creation Symposium in Honor of the Founding of the Center for Jewish Studies, The University of Chicago, February 15, 2010.

38. "Prophets as Imposters, Religions as 'Innovation,' Religious Leaders as Corrupt – Jewish Sources," The Transmission of Subversive Ideas from the Islamic World to Europe, c. 1200-1650 (Part 1), Institute for Advanced Studies Workshop, Princeton, NJ, February 14-15, 2011.

39. "The Social and Political Utility of Religion – Jewish Sources," The Transmission of Subversive Ideas from the Islamic World to Europe, c. 1200-1650 (Part 2), Institute for Advanced Studies Workshop, Princeton, NJ, April 4-5, 2011.

40. "Lost (and Found) in Translation." Disciples Divinity House, The University of Chicago, April 16, 2012.

41. "An Aristotelian Defense of Biblical Poetry: On the Influence of al-Farabi's *Kitāb al-Shi'r* in Medieval Jewish Thought." The Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, December 10, 2012.

42. "The Secrets of Qohelet: Medieval Perspectives on a Biblical Text." Tel Aviv University, The Department of Bible, December 18, 2012.

43. "How Much Islam in Jewish Thought? Remarks on the Translation into Hebrew and Transmission of Arabic Texts in Christian Europe," Midwest Faculty Seminar, "Islam and/in the West," The University of Chicago, February 22, 2013

44. "The Sideways Gaze." Respondent in the symposium "Translation of the Hebrew Bible: Philology, Philosophy & Identity," The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, April 8, 2013.

45. "Pedagogy Workshop," Islamic Studies Majlis, The University of Chicago, The Divinity School, April 19, 2013.

46. "Introduction," to "The Cultural Worlds of a Medieval Translator" (Marking the 800<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Samuel ibn Tibbon's Hebrew Translation of Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*), The University of Chicago, May 23, 2013.

47. "Yefet ben 'Eli on the Book of Joshua: Preliminary Observations," Tel Aviv University, Biblia Arabica Workshop, Dec 18, 2013.

50. "Moreh ha-Nevukhim: The First Hebrew Translation of Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*," Pines' Maimonides: The Translation and Interpretation of *The Guide of the Perplexed*, The University of Chicago, Jan 20, 2014.

51. Response to "Ancient Jewish Historiography in Arabic Garb: Sefer Josippon," Jewish Arab Texts, The University of Chicago, March 4, 2014.

### **Teaching, New York University, 2000-2003**

Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages

The Jews in Medieval Spain

Graduate Tutorial: Readings in Samuel Ibn Tibbon

Undergraduate Tutorial: Medieval Commentaries on Mishnah, Avot

### **Teaching, The University of Chicago**

2003-2004:

Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages

Readings in Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*

Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes

Abraham in History, Literature, and Thought (with Hans-Josef Klauck)

2004-2005:

The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages

The Jews in Medieval Spain

Interactions between Jewish Philosophy and Literature in the Middle Ages

Abraham in History, Literature, and Thought (with Hans-Josef Klauck)

Independent Study: Readings in al-Farabi

2005-2006:

Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages

Jewish Heretics and Apostates in the Middle Ages

Soul, Intellect, and Immortality in Medieval Jewish Thought  
 Abraham in History, Literature, and Thought (with Hans-Josef Klauck)  
 Independent Study: Readings in Genesis

2006-2007:

Science and Scripture: Jewish Philosophical Exegesis in the Middle Ages  
 Interactions between Jewish Philosophy and Literature in the Middle Ages  
 Medieval Hebrew Texts: Jacob's Ladder of Ascent  
 A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages  
 Independent Study: Readings in Isaac Poliqr's *'Ezer ha-Dat*  
 Independent Study: Joseph b. Shem Tov's Commentary on Aristotle's *Nic. Ethics*

2007-2008:

Medieval Jewish Thought: Philosophy, Theology, Sufism, Kabbalah  
 Readings in Abraham Ibn Ezra, Twelfth-Century Renaissance Man  
 Readings in Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*  
 The Buddha in Barcelona, The Brauer Seminar (with Matthew Kapstein)  
 Independent Study: Readings in Arabic-Islamic Neoplatonism  
 Independent Study: Readings in Judeo-Arabic Neoplatonism

2008-2009:

Reading Hayy b. Yaqzan, A Twelfth-Century Philosophical/Mystical Romance  
 The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages  
 Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes  
 Jerusalem during the Middle Ages: Conquest, Pilgrimage, and the Imaginaire  
 Independent Study: Rabbinic Literature in Provence  
 Independent Study: Islamic Philosophy

2009-2010:

Reading Hayy b. Yaqzan, A Twelfth-Century Philosophical/Mystical Romance  
 Reading Other People's Scriptures (with Lucy Pick)  
 Islamic and Jewish Neoplatonism  
 Interactions between Jewish Philosophy and Literature in the Middle Ages  
 Jerusalem during the Middle Ages: Conquest, Pilgrimage, and the Imaginaire  
 Independent Study: Readings in the *Guide*  
 Independent Study: Maimonides' "Eight Chapters"

2010-2011:

Reading Hayy b. Yaqzan, A Twelfth-Century Philosophical/Mystical Romance  
 Maimonides as Mystic? (A study of *Guide* 3:51)  
 A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages  
 Seminar in Comparative Scriptural Interpretation (with Margaret Mitchell)  
 Independent Study: Readings in Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*  
 Independent Study: Medieval Hebrew Texts on the Temple and Sacrifice

2011-2012:

The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages  
 Maimonides, Eight Chapters and Commentary on Avot  
 Medieval Commentaries on Psalms  
 Readings in Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*

2012-2013:

Introduction to Judeo-Arabic Literature and Thought  
 Aristotle in the Middle Ages  
 Jewish Sufism  
 Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy b. Yaqzan*

2013-2014:

The Bible in Arabic  
 Maimonides on the Problem of Evil (A study of *Guide* 3:8-12)  
 Maimonides as Mystic? (A study of *Guide* 3:51)  
 Jewish Thought and Literature III (The Jewish Study of the Bible in the Middle Ages)  
 Independent Study: The Corpus of al-Farabi  
 Independent Study: Sources of the Occult in Islam

2014-2015:

Arabic Religious Texts (with Michael Sells)  
 Readings in Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*  
 A Medieval Menagerie: Animal Spirituality in the Middle Ages  
 Medieval Commentaries on Ecclesiastes (with Michael Fishbane)  
 Independent Study: Yefet b. 'Eli on Judah and Tamar

2015-2016:

The Occult in the Islamic World (with Alireza Doostdar)  
 Readings in Ibn Tufayl's *Hayy b. Yaqzan*  
 Jerusalem Civ: Jerusalem in Middle Eastern Civilizations  
 Independent Study: Judeo-Arabic Thought and Literature  
 Independent Study: Readings in Saadia Gaon's Tafsir  
 Independent Study: Readings in Medieval Jewish Exegesis

### **Student Advising:**

#### **Dissertations, Primary Advisor (completed):**

Shatha Almutawa, "Imaginative Cultures and Historic Transformations: Narrative in *Rasā'il Ikhwān al-Ṣafā'*" (2013 History of Judaism).

Alexs Thompson, "Re-Reading al-Ṭabarī: Towards a Narratological Interpretation of the *History*" (2014 History of Religions).

Igor De Souza, "Philosophical Commentaries on the Preface to *The Guide of the Perplexed*, 1250-1360" (2014 Committee on Jewish Studies).

Rebecca Scharbach Wollenberg, “The People of the Book without the Book: Jewish Ambivalence towards the Biblical Text after the Rise of Christianity” (2015 History of Religions).

Chaim Meir Neria, “It Cannot Be Valued with the Gold of Ophir (Job 28:16): Rabbi Joseph b. Shem-Tob’s Commentary on Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Sources and Analysis” (2015 History of Judaism).

Jessica Hope Andruss, “Exegesis, Homily, and Historical Reflection in the Arabic Commentary on Lamentations by Salmon ben Yerūhīm, Tenth-Century Karaite of Jerusalem” (2015 History of Judaism).

**Dissertation Committee (completed):**

Steven Sacks, “‘In His Hand is a Sceptre of Fire and a Veil is Spread before Him’: Pirke de-Rabbi Eliezer and the Exposition of Medieval Midrash” (2006 History of Judaism, primary advisor Michael Fishbane).

Benjamin Sax, “Language and Jewish Renewal: Franz Rosenzweig’s Hermeneutic of Citation” (2008 History of Judaism, primary advisor Paul Mendes-Flohr).

Judah Levine, “‘Talmud Torah’ in Modern Jewish Thought: Martin Buber and the Renewal of Text-Centered Judaism” (2010 Committee on Jewish Studies, primary advisor Paul Mendes-Flohr).

Heather Miller Rubens, “Also Other: Utilizing Different Minority Narratives in the Making of Anglo-Jewish Identity” (2011 History of Judaism, primary advisor Paul Mendes-Flohr).

Mun’im Sirry, “Reformist Muslim Approaches to the Polemics of the Qur’ān against Other Religions” (2012 Islamic Studies, primary advisor Michael Sells).

Theo Dunkelgrun, “Radical Philology: The Confluence of Textual Traditions in the Making of the Antwerp Polyglot Bible (1568-1573)” (2012 Social Thought, primary advisor Glenn Most).

Ruchama Johnston-Bloom, “Muhammad, the Qur’an and German-Jewish Modernities: Gustav Weil, Josef Horowitz and Muhammad Asad” (2013 History of Judaism, primary advisor Paul Mendes-Flohr).

Tamar Ron Marvin, “The Making of *Minhat Qena’ot*: The Controversy over Ideational Transgression in Fourteenth-Century Jewish Occitania” (2013 Jewish Theological Seminary, external evaluator).

Samuel Brody, “This Pathless Hour: Messianism, Anarchism, Zionism, and Martin Buber’s Political Theology Reconsidered” (2013 History of Judaism, primary advisor Paul Mendes Flohr).

Uri Shachar, “The Spirituality of Holy War: Figurations of Religious Knighthoods among Jewish, Christian and Muslim Authors in the Thirteenth-Century Crusading Near East” (2014 Department of History, primary advisor David Nirenberg).

James Jacobson-Maisels, “The Self and Self-Transformation in the Thought and Practice of R. Kalonymus Kalmish Shapira” (2014 Committee on Jewish Studies, primary advisor Michael Fishbane).

Alexander Orwin, “From Speechlessness to Philosophy: The Role of the Ummah in Farabi’s Thought” (2015 Social Thought, primary advisor Nathan Tarcov).

Nabih Bashir, “Angels in the Theology and Exegesis of Saadya Gaon: Human Beings as the Purpose of Creation” (2015 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, external evaluator).

### **Fellowships, Awards, Prizes**

Interuniversity Fellowship Program in Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1991-2.

Sidney Solomon Endowed Fellowship, Harvard University, 1993-4, 1994-5, 1998-9.

Edward H. Kavinoky Fellowship, Harvard University, 1994-5.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Middle East, Arabic), United States Department of Education, 1994-5, 1995-6.

The Anna Marnoy Feldberg Fellowship, Harvard University, 1996-7.

National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 1997-8.

Frederick Sheldon Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 1997-8.

Harvard-Hebrew University Fellowship, Harvard University, 1997-8 [declined].

Alan M. and Katherine W. Strook Fellowship, Harvard University, 1999-2000.

Isadore Twersky Fellowship, Harvard University, 2000-2002.

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Yale University, 2003-5 [declined].

American Academy for Jewish Research Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2003-5 [declined].

Kreitman Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 2003-5 [declined].

The Lady Davis Fellowship Trust, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Hebrew University, 2003-4 [declined].

The Harry and Cecile Starr Prize for the best doctoral dissertation in Jewish Studies, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, 2004.

Holder of the Donnelley Stool of Bibfeldt Studies, 2006.

Visiting Research Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, June-August 2007.



## **Languages**

Primary research languages: Biblical, Rabbinic, and Medieval Hebrew; Biblical and Talmudic Aramaic; Philosophical Arabic and Judeo-Arabic.

Modern scholarly languages: Hebrew, French, German.

## **Research Interests**

Judeo-Arabic Thought and Literature

Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Science

Medieval Islamic Philosophy and Science

Jewish Intellectual History in the Islamic World and Christian Europe

Jewish Sufism and Neoplatonism

Jewish Aristotelianism and anti-Aristotelianism

The Relation between the Jewish, Islamic and Christian Intellectual Traditions

Religious Polemics

Ethics, Political Philosophy, Psychology

Messianism and Eschatology

The History of Biblical Exegesis

Philosophical-Allegorical Exegesis

Sermons and Homiletical Literature

Karaites and Rabbanites

Maimonides, Maimonideanism, and Maimonidean Controversies

*The Guide of the Perplexed* and its Interpreters

The Translation, Transmission, Reception, and Transformation of Greek and Arabic Philosophy and Science

## **University Service**

Teaching Clinic, 2003, 2009.

Orientation Day Faculty Panel, 2004.

Ministry Colloquium, Discussion of the History of Judaism: 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007.

Jewish Studies Colloquium, Discussion of Medieval Jewish Philosophy: 2006.

Chair of History of Judaism: 2004-5, 2007-8, 2010-11, 2013-14.

Committee on Admissions and Aid: 2005, 2008, 2013.

Committee of Degrees: 2013-14.

Islamic Studies Search: 2003-4.

History of Christianity Search: 2005-6.

Islamic Studies Search: 2010-12.

Byzantine Theology and Visual Culture Search: 2013-14.

Environmental Ethics Search: 2014-15.

Quranic Studies Search: 2015-16.

Academic Disciplinary Committee: 2005.

Committee on Undergraduate Studies: 2005-7.

MA Curriculum Committee: 2006-7.

Visiting Committee: 2005, 2007, 2008, 2011.

University Professorship Committee: 2009-2011.

Ministry Committee: 2009-2011.

Academic Policy Committee: 2005-7, 2010-2012.

Committee on Tenure and Promotion: 2010-2012, 2014-2016.  
 University Library Committee: 2010-2013.  
 Faculty Advisor to Jewish Studies Workshop, 2012-2014.  
 Marty Center Faculty Fellow: 2005-6, 2006-7, 2010-11, 2011-12.  
 Marty Center Faculty Advisor: 2007-9.  
 Marty Center Assistant Director: 2011-2012.  
 Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, Governing Board, 2012-15.

### **Academic Service**

Head of Medieval Jewish Philosophy for the Association of Jewish Studies Conference  
 Referee of Papers for *Aleph*, *European Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Harvard Theological Review*, *History of Religions*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Journal of Religion*, *Medieval Studies*, *Zutot*.  
 Evaluation of Book Manuscripts for Blackwells, Brill, Indiana University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Chicago Press, Penn State University Press.  
 Evaluation of Research Proposals for the Canadian Government and the Israel Science Foundation.  
 External Evaluation of Tenure Cases for several universities.