

Dr Ruchama Johnston-Bloom

ruchamajb@nyu.edu

CURRENT POSITION

Lecturer, Liberal Studies, NYU London, 2013-Present

EDUCATION

PhD, History of Judaism, University of Chicago, 2013

MA, Religious Studies, University of Chicago, 2006

BA, Religion, Reed College, Portland, OR, 2002

Doctoral Dissertation

“Oriental Studies and Jewish Questions: German-Jewish Encounters with Muhammad, the Qur’an, and Islamic Modernities”

Doctoral Qualifying Exams

Modern Jewish Thought (Area: History of Judaism)

Medieval Jewish Thought (Area: History of Judaism)

From Colonialism to Globalization (Area: Anthropology and Sociology of Religion)

Qur’anic Studies (Area: Islamic Studies)

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

“Jews, Muslims and Bildung: the German-Jewish Orientalist Gustav Weil in Egypt,” *Religion Compass* 8, no. 2 (2014)

“Symbiosis Relocated: The German-Jewish Orientalist Ilse Lichtenstadter in America,” *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 58 (2013), available at:
<http://leobaek.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/ybt002?ijkey=qcKR3l2pzM4Z5rf&keytype=ref>

“Dislocating Knowledge: Central-European Jewish Scholars in Exile,” *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 58 (2013), introduction to a special section co-edited and co-authored with Irene Aue-Ben-David and Kim Wünschmann

Books Reviews

Review of Dietrich Jung, *Orientalists, Islamists and the Global Public Sphere: A Genealogy of the Modern Essentialist Image of Islam* (Sheffield, UK; Oakville, CT: Equinox, 2011), *The Journal of Religion* 93, no. 3 (2013)

INVITED TALKS

“Jews, Muslims and Bildung: the German-Jewish Orientalist Gustav Weil in Egypt,” University of Southern California School of Religion, Los Angeles, Nov. 2013

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“ ‘I turned further eastward’: The Construction of an Enlightened Self in Gustav Weil’s Travel Writing (1830-1835),” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Kansas City, Sept. 2014

“Weimar in Cairo: Central-European Orientalists, Writers, and Artists in Interwar Egypt,” Conference: “German Jews in the Middle East,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Feb. 2014

“Relating Jewish and Islamic Modernities: German-Jewish Orientalists in Egypt,” Conference: “Jews, Colonialism and Postcolonialism”, University of Cape Town, Cape Town, April 2013

“ ‘The Integration of the Jewish National Homeland into the Resurgent Orient’: Central-European Trained Orientalists at Hebrew University in the Pre-state Era,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington, DC, Dec. 2011

“Jews, Muslims and *Bildung*: The Case of Gustav Weil,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Nov. 2011

“ ‘The Omens of History’: German-Jewish Orientalists in America,” Workshop: “Dislocating Knowledge: *Wissenschaftsmigration*, 1920-1970,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July 2011

“ ‘I Declared Myself a Mutation’: Jewish Identity, Race and Gender in *How I Became Hettie Jones*,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Oct. 2010

EVENTS ORGANIZED

Panel organizer, “Rethinking Jewish Orientalism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Nov. 2011

Workshop co-organizer, “Dislocating Knowledge: *Wissenschaftsmigration*, 1920-1970,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, July 2011

Curator, “The Spirit of the Orient and Judaism: From the Ludwig Rosenberger Library of Judaica,” an exhibition in the Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago Library, Chicago, 2007-2008

Student intern, Conference: “Multilingual Jewish Literature and Multicultural America,” University of Chicago, Chicago, Nov. 2007

LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge: German, Hebrew, Arabic, and French

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Social Foundations I & Social Foundations II, NYU London, 2013-Present

- Introductory humanities courses focused on “great books” of philosophy, religion, political and social theory, and history from antiquity to the Renaissance

Humanities Core Writing Seminars, University of Chicago, 2008-2010

- Academic writing seminars led in conjunction with first-year humanities courses

Muslim and Jewish Interactions Throughout History, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2008

Teaching Assistantships and Tutoring

World Religions in Comparative Perspective, University of Cambridge, 2012-2013

- In addition to supervising individual students, delivered a guest lecture on Judaism and the Religious Other and facilitated several discussion sessions

Judaism II, University of Cambridge, 2012-2013

- Upper-level course on Jewish law [*halakhah*] and the Holy Land

Introduction to Religious Studies, University of Chicago, 2010 (Masters level)

The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Regional Realities, University of Chicago, 2008

Israeli Politics and Society, University of Chicago, 2008

Pedagogical Training

Workshop on “Fostering Authentic Community Engagement: Best Practices for Experiential Learning,” NYU London, 2014

Supervising undergraduates training session, University of Cambridge, 2012

Seminar on course design, University of Chicago, 2010

Pedagogies of writing course, University of Chicago, 2008

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Research and Travel Grants, Chicago Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago, 2013, 2011, 2009

Fellowship without Stipend, American University in Cairo, 2012

Dissertation Grant, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, 2011-2012

Doctoral Fellowship, Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History, Hebrew University, 2011

Travel Grant, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, 2011

Harrison Doolittle Travel Grants, University of Chicago, 2010, 2011

Fuerstenburg Fellowship, University of Chicago (competitive Jewish Studies fellowship), 2008-2009

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in Modern Hebrew, University of Chicago, 2006-2008

Perrin Fund Travel Grant, University of Chicago, 2005

Phi Beta Kappa, Reed College, 2002

Commendations for Excellence in Academic Performance, Reed College, 1998-2002

Eleanor Rowland Wembridge Memorial Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Reed College, 2001-2002

John H. Hauberg Scholarship, Reed College (competitive scholarship for academic achievement and significant participation in extracurricular activities), 1999-2000

Vermont Honors Scholarship (academic scholarship for graduating high school students from the state of Vermont), 1998

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Academy of Religions

Association for Jewish Studies

German Studies Association