
AZZAN YADIN-ISRAEL
Jewish Studies and Classics
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Education

- Ph.D. **Jewish Studies.** University of California, Berkeley and the Graduate Theological Union. 1999. Dissertation: “*Imitatio Scripturae*: Torah and Hermeneutics in the Rabbi Ishmael Midrashim.” Committee: Daniel Boyarin, David Biale, Chana Kronfeld, Hubert Dreyfus.
- B.A. **Philosophy and Jewish Thought.** Hebrew University. 1994

Academic Positions

- Rutgers University, New Brunswick NJ
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| Full Professor, Jewish Studies and Classics | Fall 2014–present |
| Associate Professor, Jewish Studies and Classics | Spring 2013–Spring 2014 |
| Associate Professor, Jewish Studies | Spring 2005–Spring 2014 |
| Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies | Fall 2002–Spring 2005 |
- University of Chicago Divinity School
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| Visiting Associate Professor | Spring 2009 |
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- Princeton University
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| Visiting Professor | Spring 2015 |
| Visiting Associate Professor | Spring 2008 |
| Visiting Assistant Professor | Fall 2003 – Spring 2004 |
- Cardozo Law School
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| Faculty Fellow | Fall 2007 – Spring 2008 |
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- Jewish Theological Seminary
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| Visiting Associate Professor | Fall 2007 |
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- University of Minnesota
- | | |
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| Assistant Professor | Fall 1999 – Spring 2002 |
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Publications

Books

- *Intuitive Vocabulary: Spanish*. Lingua Press, 2019.
- *The Grace of God and the Grace of Man: The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen*. Lingua Press, 2016.
- *Scripture and Tradition: Rabbi Akiva and the Triumph of Midrash*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014.
- *Intuitive Vocabulary: German*. Lingua Press, 2013
- *Scripture as Logos: Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Midrash*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Articles and Book Chapters (asterisk denotes peer-review)

- “Religious Authority and the Rise of the Christian Intellectual,” forthcoming in Lewis Ayers (ed.), *The Rise of the Christian Intellectual* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019).
- “Language” forthcoming in Gwynn Kessler and Naomi Kolton-Frumm (eds.), *A Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Antique World, 3rd Century BCE – 7th Century CE* (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2019).
- “Athens and Jerusalem? Early Jewish Biblical Scholarship and the Pagan World,” in Martin Mulslow and Asaph Ben-Tov (eds.), *Knowledge and Profanation: Transgressing the Boundaries of Religion in Premodern Scholarship* (Leiden: Brill, 2019), 231-252.
- * “Contact Without Borrowing: Areal Diffusion, Contact-Induced Continuity, and Late Antique Sacrifice,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 9 (2018), 230-258.
- “Authorial Intent: Human and Divine,” in Charlotte Fonrobert et al. (eds.), *Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin* (Leiden: Brill, 2017), 3-22.
- “‘These and These are the Words of the Living God’: Halakhic Pluralism and its Discontents,” in Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Tzvi Novick, and Christine Hayes (eds.), *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2017), 567-580.
- * “Some Uses of Deixis in Rabbinic Hebrew,” *Journal of Semitic Studies* 60 (2015), 331-340.
- * “For Mark was Peter's *tanna*: Oral Tradition versus Eyewitness History in Papias,” *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 23 (2015), 337-362.
- * “Bavli Menahot 29b and the Diminution of the Prophets,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 5 (2014), 88-105.
- * “Rabbinic Polysemy: A Response to Steven Fraade,” *AJS Review* 38 (2014), 129-141.

- “The Vicissitudes of *Am Ha-Aretz*,” *AJS Perspectives*, Fall 2014, 21-22.
- “*Qabbalah, Deuterosis, and Semantic Incommensurability: A Preliminary Study*,” in Ra'anan Boustan, Klaus Hermann, Reimund Leicht et al. (eds.), *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013), 917-940.
- * “A Note on a A Middle High German Calque in *Sefer Hasidim*,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 19 (2012), 385-387.
- “Concepts of Scripture in the Schools of Rabbi Akiva and Rabbi Ishmael,” in Benjamin Sommer (ed.), *Jewish Theologies of Scripture*, (New York: New York University Press, 2012), 47-63.
- “The Creaturely Limits of Knowledge: Martin Heidegger’s Theological Critique of Immanuel Kant,” in Leonard V. Kaplan and Rudy Koshar (eds.), *The Weimar Moment: Political Theology, Liberalism, and the Law* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2012), 123-144. Co-authored with Sam Moyn.
- “Rabbi Aqiva and the Site of Revelation,” in Moulie Vidas and Philippa Townsend (eds.), *Revelation, Literature, and Community in Late Antiquity* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011), 177-216.
- * “*‘Aretz et la sémantique de la terre*,” *Les Cahiers du judaïsme* 30 (2011), 104-113.
- * “Rabbi Akiva’s Youth,” in *Jewish Quarterly Review* 100 (2010), 573-597.
- “Engaging Rabbinic Literature: Four Texts,” in Paul Socken (ed.), *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-first Century?: The Relevance of the Ancient Jewish Text to Our World* (Lanham, MD.; Lexington, 2009), 201-214.
- * “The Semantics of *tinok* in Mishnaic Hebrew” (Hebrew), *Leshonenu: The Journal of the Academy of the Hebrew Language* 71 (2009), 73-79.
- “Blorit: Pagan Mohawk or Sabra Forelock?: Ideologically Manipulative Secularization of Hebrew Terms in Socialist Zionist Israel,” in Tope Omoniyi (ed.), *The Sociology of Language and Religion: Change, Conflict, and Accomodation* (London and New York: Plagrave Macmillan, 2009), 84-124. Co-authored with Ghil’ad Zuckermann.
- * “Ronald Dworkin and Self-Undermining Interpretation,” in *Diné Israel: An Annual of Jewish Law* 25 (2009), 209-234.
- * “Rabban Gamliel, Aphrodite’s Bath, and the Question of Pagan Monotheism,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 96 (Spring 2006), 149-179.
- “Resistance to Midrash? Midrash and Halakhah (Oral Tradition) in the Halakhic Midrashim,” in Carol Bakhos (ed.), *Current Trends in the Study of Midrash* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2006), 35-58.
- * “Rabbi Yosef Gikatilla’s works ‘Gates of Justice’ and ‘Gates of Light’” (Hebrew), *Pe’amim* 104 (2005), 41-64.
- * “Goliath’s Armor and Israelite Collective Memory,” *Vetus Testamentum* 54 (2004), 373-395.

- **“Qol (Voice) as Hypostasis in the Hebrew Bible,” Journal of Biblical Literature* 122 (2003), 601-629.
- **“Hammer on the Rock: Mekhilta Deuteronomy and the Question of Rabbinic Polysemy,” Jewish Studies Quarterly* 10 (2003), 1-17.
- **“A Greek Witness to the Semantic Shift קָנָה-‘Buy’,” Hebrew Studies* 43 (2002), 31-37.
- **“4QMMT, Rabbi Ishmael and the Origins of Legal Midrash,” Dead Sea Discoveries* 10 (2002), 130-149.
- **“Shnei Ketuvim and Rabbinic Intermediation,” Journal for the Study of Judaism* 33 (2002), 386-410.
- **“Samson’s Hida,” Vetus Testamentum* 52 (2002), 407-426.
- **“Web of Chaos: Bialik and Nietzsche on Language, Truth and the Death of God,” Prooftexts* 21 (2001), 179-203.

Public Scholarship

- “St. Augustine’s Jews and the Undeserving Poor,” *Marginalia: Los Angeles Review of Books* (August 30th, 2019).
- “A Measure of Beauty” (on the Israeli hip-hop band Hadag Nahash), *Jewish Review of Books* 3 (Fall 2010), 44-45.

Scholarly Translations (Selected)

- David Flusser, *Judaism of the Second Temple Period: The Rabbis and their Literature*, translated into English for Eerdmans, 2009.
- David Flusser, *Judaism of the Second Temple Period: Qumran and Apocalypticism*, translated into English for Eerdmans, 2007.
- James Kugel, *In Potiphar’s House: The Interpretive Life of Biblical Texts*, translated into Hebrew for Mossad Bialik.
- Ellen Frankel, *The Five Books of Miriam*, translated into Hebrew for Am Oved, 2007.
- Abraham Joshua Heschel, *God in Search of Man*, translated into Hebrew for Magnes Press, 2003.
- Moshe Idel, *Hasidism: Between Ecstasy and Magic*, translated into Hebrew for Schocken Press, 2000.
- Moshe Idel, *Golem: Jewish Magical and Mystical Traditions on the Artificial Anthropoid*, translated into Hebrew for Schocken Press, 1996.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Rabbinic Interpretation,” and “Rabbi Ishmael,” in Dale Allison, Jr. (ed.), *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming).
- “Rabbi Akiva,” “Rabbi Ishmael,” “Mekhilta of Rabbi Ishmael,” “Sifra,” “Sifre Numbers,” and “Sifre Deuteronomy,” in Eric Olin (ed.), *The Cambridge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).
- “Hebrew in Contact with Other Languages” and “Neologisms,” in Geoffrey Kahn (ed.), *The Brill Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).
- “Law in the Rabbinic Period,” *Oxford Bibliography Online*.
- “Rabbi Aqiva” in John J. Collins (ed.), *The Eerdmans Dictionary of Ancient Judaism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2010).

Book Reviews

- Barry W. Holtz, *Rabbi Akiva: Sage of the Talmud*, in *Reading Religion*, January 2019.
- Yair Lorberbaum, *In God’s Image: Myth, Theology, and Law in Classical Judaism*, in *Reading Religion*, May 2016.
- Tzvi Novick, *What is Good and What God Demands: Normative Structures in Tannaitic Literature*, in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 44 (2013), 432-33.
- Avi Sagi, *The Open Canon: On the Meaning of Halakhic Discourse*, in *Journal of Semitic Studies* 55 (2010), 291-292.
- Michael Carasik (ed.), *The Commentator’s Bible*, in *The Jewish Review of Books* 1 (Spring 2010).
- Devorah Steinmetz, *Punishment and Freedom: The Rabbinic Construction of Criminal Law*, in *AJS Review* 33 (2009), 173-176.
- Joshua Levinson, *The Untold Story: The Narrative Art of Midrash*, in *AJS Review* 31 (2007), 379-382.
- Beth Berkowitz, *Execution and Invention: Death Penalty Discourse in Early Rabbinic and Christian Cultures*, in *Henoch: A Journal of Jewish Studies* 31 (2009), 165-168.
- B. Barry Levy, *Fixing God’s Torah: The Accuracy of the Bible in Jewish Law*, in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 34 (2003), 338-40.
- John W. Martens, *One God, One Law: Philo of Alexandria on the Mosaic and Greco-Roman Law*, in *Studia Philonica Annual* 16 (2004), 11-14.

Invited Presentations (Selected)

- Ben Gurion University, January 2019: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Bar Ilan University, December 2018: “Hermeneutic Issues in the Sifra.”
- The Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, December, 2018: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, December 2018: “Second Temple Judaism: An Ideological Examination.”
- Haifa University, Digital Humanities Forum, December 2018: “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Rutgers University Philosophy Club, October 2018: “Heraclitus and Early Greek Philosophy.”
- University of Minnesota, March 2018. “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- University of Minnesota, March 2018. “Is the New Testament a Jewish Text?”
- University of Florida, March 2018. “Birth of an Icon: How the Forbidden Fruit Became an Apple.”
- Bard Graduate Center, October 2017. “Material Culture and Rabbinic Literature: An Ecological Perspective.”
- St. Peter’s University Hospital, March 2017. “Created in God’s Image: Bioethical Implications.”
- Brandeis University, November 2016. “Contact-Induced Cultural Change: The Case of Late Antique Judaism.”
- Australian Catholic University, Rome Center, July 2016. “Scriptural Interpretation and Received Tradition.”
- Boston University, June 2015. “Roman Historiography and Rabbinic Historiography.”
- Northwestern University, May 2015. “Contact-Induced Cultural Change.”
- Yeshiva University, May 2015. “Pagan Midrash.”
- University of California, Berkeley, April 2014. “Authorial Intent: Human and Divine.”
- Boalt Law School, University of California, Berkeley, April 2012. “Interpretation and Heresy.”
- UCLA Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, February 2010. “Hadag Nahash: Hip-Hop, Cultural Critique, and Social Change.”
- Yale University, October 2011. “Moses in Akiva's Classroom: A Response to Shlomo Naeh and Daniel Boyarin.”
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2011. “What Do We Really Know About the Rabbis?,” Goldberg Lecture;

- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2011. “Textual Foreknowledge: Rabbinic, Pauline, and Pagan.”
- Cardozo Law School, February, 2010. “Political Theology: A Linguistic Analysis of Hebrew Secularization.”
- Northwestern University, June, 2009. “Authorial Intent and Rabbinic Legal Hermeneutics.”
- University of Kansas, February, 2009. “Literary and Theological Categories in Early Rabbinic Literature.”
- Pennsylvania State University, September, 2008. “The Jewish Pagan Dialogue”
- Rutgers University, May, 2007. “The Bible in Late Antique Paganism.”
- Dickinson College, Three-Day Faculty Seminar, January 2007. “God in Modern Jewish Poetry.”
- Cardozo Law School, January 2006. “The Old Textualism: Scriptural and Constitutional Interpretation.”
- Oberlin College, Herbert May Annual Lecture, November 2005. “Goliath's Armor”
- University of Minnesota, April 2005. “The Rabbi and the Philosopher: On Jewish-Pagan Relations in the Third Century”
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2004. “Did the Bible Know Homer?”
- University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Spring 2004. “Rabbi Aqiva, Rabbi Ishmael and the Place of Midrash in Tannaitic Literature.”
- Ben Gurion University, Israel, January 2004. “Tradition and Interpretation in Early Rabbinic Literature.”
- The Jezreel Valley Philosophical Forum, Israel, January 2004. “Philosophical Hermeneutics: Schleiermacher to Heidegger.”
- Swarthmore College, Fall 2002. “The Aggadic Biography of Rabbi Aqiva.”
- Jewish Theological Seminary, Fall 2002. “Rabban Gamliel in Aphrodite’s Bath.”
- UCLA, Fall 2002. “Legal Hermeneutics in Rabbi Ishmael and Clement of Alexandria.”
- Oberlin College, Spring 2001. “Rethinking Jewish-Christian Origins,” a five part lecture series.

Courses Taught (Selected)

- “Christians, Pagans, and Jews”
- “God’s Body”
- “Introduction to Rabbinic Literature”
- “Jesus the Jew”
- “Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah”

- “Jewish Society and Culture: Origins to 1492”
- “Late Antique Allegory: Jewish, Christian, and Pagan” (Graduate Seminar)
- “Plato”
- “Rabbinic Hebrew”
- “Scripture and Tradition in Early Rabbinic Judaism” (Graduate Seminar)
- “The Binding of Isaac: The History of a Motif” (Graduate Seminar)
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism”
- “The Hebrew of the Dead Sea Scrolls”
- “The Jewish Body”
- “The Presocratic Philosophers”
- “The Theologies of Bruce Springsteen”

Service to the Field

- Co-Editor of Mohr-Siebeck’s *Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism*, 2007–2017.
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, 2009–2017.
- Chair of Rabbinics Division: Association of Jewish Studies, 2009 - 2011.
- Rabbinics editor, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2001–2006.
- Manuscript referee: Brown Judaic Studies; University of California Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; The Jewish Publication Society; Princeton University Press; Mohr Siebeck.
- Article referee: *Jewish Quarterly Review*; *AJS Review*; *Hebrew Union College Annual*; *Jewish Studies Internet Journal*; *Journal for the Study of Ancient Judaism*; *Prooftexts*; *Journal of Ancient Judaism*; *Jewish Studies Quarterly*; *Zion: The Journal of the Israeli Historical Society*; *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Service to the Department

- Jewish Studies: Undergraduate Adviser, Fall 2015–Spring 2019.
- Classics: Acting Chair, Fall 2009–Spring 2012
- Jewish Studies: Graduate Committee, 2011–present
- Jewish Studies: Acting Undergraduate Advisor, Spring 2003
- Jewish Studies: Library Committee (Chair), Rutgers, Fall 2002–Spring 2005

Service to the University

- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2017-Spring 2018.
- Mellon Graduate Fellowship Committee, Fall 2008-Spring 2012
- Promotion and Tenure Committee, Fall 2007-Fall 2009

Research Languages

- Classical Hebrew (Biblical, Rabbinic, Qumran), Aramaic, Greek, Latin
- Modern Hebrew, Spanish, German, French, Italian

Bar Ilan University | BIU Department of Jewish Thought. full professor. Contact. My "Dialogical Thought and Identity" (2013) explores the problem of identity as treated primarily by Jewish dialogical thinkers and offers a dialogical view on identity. "Interreligious Theology" (2015) is a follow-up of the aforementioned work. It is a contribution to an emerging new theology that promotes the interrelatedness of religions and in which encounter, openness, hospitality, active dialogue and permanent learning are central.

Guggenheim, Yacov, "Jewish Community and Territorial Organization in Medieval Europe," *The Jews of Europe in the Middle Ages*, ed. Cluse, Christoph, Turnhout, Belgium, 2004, pp. 71-90.

Gutermacher, Daniel, "Political Obligation in the Thirteenth Century Hispano-Jewish Community," PhD diss., New York University, 1986.

Lorberbaum, Menachem, "Medieval Jewish Political Thought," *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, eds. Frank, Daniel H. and Leaman, Oliver, Cambridge, UK, 2003.

Lotter, Fridrich, "The Scope and Effectiveness of Imperial Jewry in the High Middle Ages," *Jewish History* 4, 1989, pp. 31-58.

Yitzchak Julius Guttman and the Study of Jewish Philosophy [Hebrew], in: Hagit Lavski (ed.), *The History of Hebrew University of Jerusalem: A Period of Consolidation and Growth* [Hebrew: toldot hauniversitah haivrit bi-yerushalayim: hitbasesut u-tzemichah], I, Jerusalem: Magness, 2005, pp. 219-255.

23. Identification through Critique: The troubled Friendship of Shmuel Hugo Bergmann. *Medievals Weighed Jewish Ideas against Greek Thought. The philosophy of the medieval thinkers such as Saadiah Gaon [882-942], Bahya Ibn Pakudah [11th century], Judah Halevi [died 1141], Maimonides [1135-1204], Gersonides [1288-1344], and [Hasdai] Crescas [died 1412], was either Aristotelian or Neoplatonic or a mixture of both. None of these thinkers were acquainted with Greek thought at first hand but only knew it from Arabic translations, which enjoyed a wide circulation.*

Side by side with these Jewish philosophical trends, scholars have investigated the philosophical ideas contained in the classical sources, so that one can speak of the philosophy of the Bible, of the Talmud, of the Halakhah, of the Zohar.