

Curriculum Vitae and Publication List  
**Mordechai Z. Cohen**  
cohenm@yu.edu  
April 2024

**Current Position:** Professor of Bible and Associate Dean  
Director of the Chinese-Jewish Conversation  
Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University  
500 West 185<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10033

**Areas of specialization**

- Jewish Bible interpretation in its Christian and Muslim cultural contexts
- literary approaches to the Bible
- comparison between the dynamics of interpretation of Jewish and Chinese classical texts
- Chinese-Jewish cultural exchanges

**Academic Positions and Employment**

REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

2008–present Professor of Bible and Associate Dean, Bernard Revel Graduate School,  
Yeshiva University  
2000–2008 Associate Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University  
1994–2000 Assistant Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University  
1992–1994 Instructor of Bible, Yeshiva University  
1988–1992 Adjunct Instructor of Bible, Yeshiva University  
1987–1988 Bible Instructor, Yeshivat Har Etzion (Israel)

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

2018–present Founding director of the Chinese-Jewish Conversation (CJC) and Faculty  
Advisor to the Chinese Student Union at YU. In cooperation with Chinese  
scholars, CJC organizes lectures, symposia, and online courses comparing  
Jewish and Chinese traditions. Apart from providing a welcome space for  
Chinese students at YU, CJC has developed video libraries in English and  
Chinese on topics of mutual interest, as well as a Chinese-language blog about  
Jewish culture 走进犹太文化. See <https://www.yu.edu/cjc>  
2010–2011 Coordinator of a 14-member international research group at the Israel Institute  
for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. Project title: “Encountering Scripture in  
Overlapping Cultures: Early Jewish, Christian and Muslim Strategies of  
Reading and Their Contemporary Implications,” leading to the publication of  
*Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Overlapping  
Inquiries* (Cambridge University Press, 2016; see details below).  
2008–2011 Division editor (responsible for medieval Judaism) for *The Encyclopedia of the  
Bible and its Reception*, a comprehensive multi-volume print and online  
reference work, published by Walter de Gruyter (Berlin-New York) 2009-2018  
(volumes 1 & 2 published in 2009; volume 3 published in 2011)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING PROFESSOR POSITIONS

2016–2019	Visiting Professor for annual summer course, Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies, Shandong University, Jinan, Shandong Province, China
2015, summer	Research Fellow, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem
2012–2013	Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Center for Judaic Studies
2011, spring	Lady Davis Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Fellow, Center for the Study of Rationality
2010, fall	Research Fellow, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem
2002, spring	Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Center for Judaic Studies

### **Education:**

1994	Ph.D. in Bible, Yeshiva University. Dissertation: “Radak’s Contribution to the Tradition of Figurative Biblical Exegesis”
1991	M.A. in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University. MA Essay: “Weep for Jerusalem, Babylon and Rome: Reflections of Biblical Intertextuality in Spenser’s <i>Ruines of Time</i> .”
1989	M.A. in Bible, Yeshiva University. Thesis: “Rabbi David Kimhi’s Approach to Biblical Figurative Language” (in Hebrew).
1989	Rabbinic Ordination, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary
1987	B.A., <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Philosophy & Mathematics, Yeshiva University

### **Fellowship Grants, Awards, Honors:**

2021/22	YU Provost’s Faculty Research Grant for Chinese introduction to Jewish Culture
2011	Lady Davis Fellowship (Jerusalem, Spring 2011)
2010	Voted “Outstanding Professor” by Stern College Seniors
2007	Yeshiva University Presidential Summer Research Fellowship
2006	Schneier Center for International Affairs, Summer Research Grant
1996	Baumel Award for Excellence in Jewish Studies
1995	National Endowment for Humanities: Summer Research Grant
1995	Voted “Outstanding Professor” by Yeshiva College Seniors
1992/3	Dissertation Grants, National and Memorial Foundations for Jewish Culture

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS (including electronic)

- 走进犹太文化 (Introduction to Jewish culture), ongoing series of online essays about Jewish beliefs, customs, history etc. in Chinese at <https://www.yu.edu/cjc/blogs> (36 essays)
- Rashi, Biblical Interpretation, and Latin Learning in Medieval Europe: A New Perspective on an Exegetical Revolution*. 307pp. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021
- The Rule of Peshat: Jewish Constructions of the Plain Sense of Scripture and Their Christian and Muslim Contexts, 900–1270*. 405pp. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2020.
- Opening the Gates of Interpretation: Maimonides’ Biblical Hermeneutics in Light of His Geonic-Andalusian Heritage and Muslim Milieu*. 550pp. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2011.
- Three Approaches to Biblical Metaphor: From Abraham Ibn Ezra and Maimonides to David Kimhi*. 375pp. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2003; 2d ed., 2008.

## EDITED VOLUMES

*Semitic, Biblical and Jewish Studies in Honor of Richard C. Steiner*, ed. with Aaron Koller and Adina Moshavi. 434pp. Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2020.

*Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Overlapping Inquiries*, ed. with Adele Berlin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. 381pp., 15 plates.

## CHINESE-JEWISH CONVERSATION ACADEMIC & EDUCATIONAL VIDEO PROJECTS

- CJC Video library: 28 YouTube videos comparing Chinese and Jewish culture on subjects like Confucian and biblical philosophy; environmental protection; Chinese and biblical archaeology. See <https://www.yu.edu/cjc/multimedia>
- 犹太文化探秘，从这里开始 (“Exploring Jewish culture—begin from here!”), 13-part video interview series on Bilibili (Chinese version of YouTube). 9 videos produced to date.
- 光明节：犹太人也过年 (“Hanukkah: Jewish Festival of Lights”), 5-part video series on Bilibili explaining Hanukkah experientially. In cooperation with the Sino-Judaic Institute.
- 穿越安息日的心灵之旅 (“Spiritual Journey through Shabbat”), 5-part video series on Bilibili explaining Shabbat experientially.

These CJC Bilibili videos are also available on YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/@YUCJC>

## ARTICLES, CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

- Forthcoming: “Re-creating Canonical Texts through Commentary: Neo-Confucianism of the Song Dynasty and Medieval Jewish Bible Interpretation” (with Borong Zhang)
- 1. “Jewish Bible Exegesis in Muslim Lands in the Middle Ages.” In *The Cambridge History of Judaism: Volume 5*, ed. Phil Lieberman, 701–727. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- 2. “New perspectives on *Leqah Tov* in the Grand Narrative of *Peshat*.” In “*In the Dwelling of a Sage Lie Precious Treasures*”: *Essays in Jewish Studies in Honor of Shnayer Z. Leiman*, ed. Yitzhak Berger and Chaim Milikowsky, 51–71. New York: Yeshiva University Press, 2020.
- 3. “‘The Firmly Established Text’: On Maimonides’ Expression *al-naṣṣ al-muḥkam* in His Introduction to the Mishnah.” In *Semitic, Biblical and Jewish Studies In Honor of Richard C. Steiner*, ed. Aaron Koller, Mordechai Cohen, and Adina Moshavi, 309–333. Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2020.
- 4. “Rashi’s Literary Outlook as Reflected in his Conception of the Biblical Narrator: His use of the term *ha-meshorer* (“the poet”) and its impact in the northern French *peshat* school,” *Jewish Studies Internet Journal* 18 (2020): 1–42.
- 5. “Conceptions of Authorship in Early Jewish Cultures,” in *The Cambridge Handbook of Literary Authorship*, ed. Ingo Berensmeyer, Gert Buelens, and Marysa Demoor, 81–97. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019.
- 6. “A New Look at Medieval Jewish Exegetical Constructions of *Peshat* in Christian and Muslim Lands: Rashbam and Maimonides.” In *Regional Identities and Cultures of Medieval Jews*, ed. Javier Castaño, Talya Fishman, and Ephraim Kanarfogel, 93–121. London: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2018.
- 7. “A New Perspective on Rashi of Troyes in Light of Bruno the Carthusian: Exploring Jewish and Christian Bible interpretation in eleventh-century Northern France,” *Viator* 48,1 (2017): 39–86.

8. "Nahmanides' Four Senses of Scriptural Signification: Jewish and Christian Contexts," in *Entangled Histories: Knowledge, Authority, and Transmission in Thirteenth-Century Jewish Cultures*, ed. Elisheva Baumgarten, Ruth Mazo Karras, and Katelyn Mesler, 38–58. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017.
9. "'The Distinction of Creative Ability' (*faḍl al-ibdā'*): From Poetics to Legal Hermeneutics in Moses Ibn Ezra." In *Exegesis and Poetry in Medieval Karaite and Rabbanite Texts*, ed. Joachim Yeshaya and Elisabeth Hollender, 83–121. Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2016.
10. "Intersecting Encounters with Scriptures in Three Faiths," in *Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (see BOOKS above), 1–21.
11. "Emergence of the Rule of *Peshat* in Jewish Bible Exegesis," in *Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, 204–223.
12. "Words of Eloquence: Rhetoric and Poetics in Jewish *Peshat* Exegesis in its Muslim and Christian Contexts," in *Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, 266–284.
13. "Reproduction of the Text: Traditional Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Literary Theory of Ludwig Strauss," *The Torah U-Madda Journal* 17 (2015/6): 1–33.
14. "The Expression *bāb / abwāb al-ta'wīl* ('the gate[s] of interpretation') in Maimonides' Interpretive Theory" [Hebrew]. In *Studies in Judeo-Arabic Culture: Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference of the Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies* (Hebrew), ed. Yoram Erder, Haggai Ben-Shammai, Aharon Dotan, and Mordechai Akiva Friedman (Tel-Aviv: Tel-Aviv University Press, 2014), 155–181.
15. "Hebrew Aesthetics and Jewish Biblical Exegesis," in *The Edinburgh Companion to the Bible and the Arts*, ed. Stephen Prickett (Edinburgh University Press, 2014), 24–41.
16. "The Non-Halakhic Legal Exegesis of Two Talmudists: Maimonides' Independent Biblical Hermeneutics in Light of Rashbam's *Peshat* Project," in *Built by Wisdom, Established by Understanding: Essays on Biblical and Near Eastern Literature in Honor of Adele Berlin*, ed. Maxine L. Grossman (Bethesda: University Press of Maryland, 2013), 269–304.
17. "A Talmudist's Biblical Hermeneutics: A New Understanding of Maimonides' Principle of *Peshat* Primacy," *Jewish Studies Internet Journal* 10 (2012): 1–103.
18. "Maimonides' Attitude toward Christian Biblical Hermeneutics In Light of Earlier Jewish Sources," in *New Perspectives on Jewish-Christian Relations: in Honor of David Berger*, ed. Jacob J. Schacter and E. Carlebach (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2012), 455–476.
19. "Interpreting 'The Resting of the *Shekhinah*': Exegetical Implications of the Theological Debate among Maimonides, Nahmanides, and *Sefer ha-Hinnukh*," in *The Temple of Jerusalem: From Moses to the Messiah*, ed. Steven Fine (Boston: Brill, 2011), 237–274.
20. "Reflections on the Concept of *Peshuto Shel Miqra* at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century" (Hebrew), in *To Settle the Plain Meaning of the Verse: Studies in Biblical Exegesis*, ed. Sara Japhet and Eran Viezel (Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2011), 5–58.
21. "Rabbanite Judeo-Arabic Bible Exegesis," *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, ed. Norman Stillman et al (Leiden: Brill, 2010), I:442–457.
22. "Maimonides vs. Rashi: Philosophical, Philological and Psychological Approaches to Job," in *Between Rashi and Maimonides: Themes in Medieval Jewish Thought, Literature and Exegesis*, ed. E. Kanarfogel and M. Sokolow (Yeshiva University Press, 2010), 319–342.
23. "A Possible Spanish Source for Rashi's Concept of *Peshuto Shel Miqra*" [Hebrew], in *Rashi: His Image, His Work and His Influence for Generations*, ed. Sara Japhet and Avraham Grossman (Jerusalem 2008), 353–379.
24. "Rashbam Scholarship in Perpetual Motion," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 98 (2008):389–408.

25. "Rashbam vs Moses Ibn Ezra: Two Perspectives on Biblical Poetics," in *Shai le-Sara Japhet: Studies in the Bible, its Exegesis and Language*, ed. Moshe Bar-Asher, Nili Wazana, Emanuel Tov, Dalit Rom-Shiloni (Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2007), 193\*–217\*.
26. "Great Searchings of the Heart: Psychological Sensitivity in Nahmanides' Commentaries on the Torah and Job" [Hebrew], in *Teshura Le-'Amos: Collected Studies in Biblical Exegesis Presented to 'Amos Hakham*, ed. M. Bar-Asher, N. Hacham, Y. Ofer (Alon Shevut: Tevunot, 2007), 213–233.
27. "Imagination, Logic, Truth and Falsehood: Moses Ibn Ezra and Moses Maimonides on Biblical Metaphor in Light of Arabic Poetics and Philosophy" [Hebrew], *Tarbiz* 73 (2005): 417–458.
28. "Maimonides' Literary Approach to the Book of Job and Its Place in the History of Biblical Interpretation" [Hebrew], *Shnaton: An Annual for Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies* XV (2005): 213–264.
29. "Maimonides' Disagreements with 'The Torah' and Talmud in His Interpretation of Job," *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture* 4 (2004): 66–78.
30. "In Pursuit of Metaphor in a Poet's Biblical Exegesis," *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 93 (2003): 533–556.
31. "Logic to Interpretation: Maimonides' Use of Al-Farabi's Model of Metaphor," *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture* 2 (2002): 104–113.
32. "Moses Ibn Ezra vs. Maimonides: Argument for a Poetic Definition of Metaphor (*Isti 'āra*)," *Edebiyât: Journal of Middle Eastern and Comparative Literature* 11 (2000): 1–28.
33. "The Aesthetic Exegesis of Moses Ibn Ezra," chap. 31.2 of *Hebrew Bible / Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation*, ed., M. Sæbø (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2000), I/2:282–301.
34. "The Qimhi Family," chap. 33.3 of *Hebrew Bible / Old Testament: The History of its Interpretation*, ed., M. Sæbø (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2000), I/2:388–415.
35. "Radak vs. Ibn Ezra and Maimonides: A New Approach to *Derekh Mashal* in the Bible" [Hebrew], *Proceedings of the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Division A: The Bible and Its World*, ed. Ron Margolin (Jerusalem: World Union of Jewish Studies, 1999), 27–41.
36. "*Hesed*: Divine or Human? The Syntactic Ambiguity of Ruth 2:20," in *Hazon Nahum: Essays in Honor of Dr. Norman Lamm*, Y. Elman and J. Gurock, eds. (New York: Yeshiva University Press, 1997), 11–38.
37. "'The Best of Poetry...': Literary Approaches to the Bible in the Spanish *Peshat* Tradition," *The Torah U-Madda Journal* 6 (1995/6): 15–57.
38. "Midrashic Influence on Radak's *Peshat* Exegesis" [Hebrew], *Proceedings of the Eleventh Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies*, (Jerusalem: Magnes, 1994), 143–50.

#### BOOK REVIEWS AND SHORT ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

1. Book review of: Oded Yisraeli, *R. Moses ben Nachman (Nachmanides): Intellectual Biography* [Hebrew] (Magnes Press, 2020), 452 pp., *Tradition* 55:1 (2023): 119–130.
2. "Metaphor." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2020), 18:981–988.
3. "Maimonides." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2019), 17:551–566.

4. "Ibn Ezra, Moses." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2016), 12: 719-726.
5. "From epistemic skepticism to spiritual exercises: Maimonides' concept of intellectual perfection." Review of Josef Stern, *The Matter and Form of Maimonides' Guide* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013). *The Review of Metaphysics* 68:4 (2014/15): 871-874.
6. "Gaon, Geonim," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014), 9:961-967.
7. "En-Dor, Medium of," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 7:873-874.
8. "Eliezer of Beaugency," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 7:674-677.
9. "Doors [in Jewish interpretation]," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 6:1093-1094.
10. "Commandments, 613," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2012), 5:531-535.
11. "Bahya ben Asher," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2011), 3:345-348.
12. Entries on: Abravanel, Eliezer of Beaugency, Moses ibn Gikatilla, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Moses Ibn Ezra, Kimhi Family, *PARDES*, *Peshat*, Rashi in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*, 2d edition, ed. Maxine Grossman and Adele Berlin (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)
13. "Andalusia, Jewish Interpretation," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2009), 1:1115-1119.
14. "Malbim: Rabbinic Scholar, Biblical Exegete," in: *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, ed. Gershon David Hundert (New York: YIVO, 2008), 1145-1147.
15. Review of Robert Eisen, *The Book of Job in Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, in: *The Journal of Religion* 87 (2007): 136-138.
16. Review of S. Japhet, *The Commentary of Rabbi Samuel Ben Meir (Rashbam) on the Book of Job* (Jerusalem 2000), *AJS Review* 27 (2003): 128-132.

## PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Chinese and Jewish New Year Concepts Compared." Chinese-Jewish Conversation, Yeshiva University. New York. February 15, 2024.

"Song of Songs: Love poetry in Sacred Scripture? The revolutionary opinion of the great medieval Jewish commentator Rashi of Troyes (1040-1105)." Eugen-Täubler memorial lecture at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien, Heidelberg, 20 December 2023.

"Jewish and Chinese medieval commentary on classical canonical texts: Rashi and Maimonides compared with Song Dynasty Neo-Confucianism." Presentation, with Borong Zhang, at the 12th EAJIS Congress, Branching Out: Diversity of Jewish Studies. Frankfurt, 18 July 2023.

以斯拉大祭司与孔子("Ezra the Scribe, the ancient Jewish Sage, compared with Confucius"). Delivered at the conference on "The Meaning of Boundaries: Interdisciplinary and Intercultural

Theory and Practice: the 4th Shenzhen University Jao Tsung-I Cultural Forum,” Shenzhen, China, December 2022.

“Re-creating Canonical Texts through Commentary: Neo-Confucianism of the Song Dynasty and Medieval Jewish Bible Interpretation in its Muslim and Christian Contexts.” Joint presentation with Borong Zhang (University of Toronto). Practices of Commentary Symposium, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ. October 2021.

“Shmitta and the Biblical Ecological Vision.” Chinese-Jewish Conversation, Yeshiva University. New York. March 2020.

“Confucius and Ezra ha-Sofer: Confronting crisis through a return to ancient values.” Chinese-Jewish Conversation, Yeshiva University. New York. November 2019.

“Jewish adaptations of Muslim Jurisprudence: Moses Ibn Ezra and Maimonides.” *Conference of the International Shari‘a Project: Islamic Legal Theory—Intellectual History*. Istanbul, October 2019.

“Abraham Ibn Ezra’s application of the Judeo-Arabic notion of the *mudawwin* in his Bible interpretation.” Conference of the Society for the Study of Judaeo-Arabic. Antwerp, June 2019.

“Conceptions of the Divine Presence and Human Worship in Judaism: Mystical vs. Rational.” World Conference of Philosophy. Section 31 on Jewish Philosophy. Beijing, August 2018.

“New perspectives on Rashi’s *peshat* agenda in light of St Bruno the Carthusian.” World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 2017.

“Adaptations of *uṣūl al-fiqh* by two Rabbanite Jewish thinkers in al-Andalus, Moses Ibn Ezra (Abū Hārūn Mūsā bin Ya‘aqūb ibn Ezra) and Moses Maimonides (Mūsā ibn Maymūn).” International conference on Muslim jurisprudence, Istanbul, February 2016.

“‘The Distinction of Creative Ability’ (*faḍl al-ibdā’*): From Poetics to Legal Hermeneutics in Moses Ibn Ezra,” paper delivered at the international conference of the IAS research group, “Interpretation and Law,” in Jerusalem, June 2015.

“On the relation between *peshat* (the plain sense of Scripture) and halakhah (Jewish law): Maimonides vs. Rashbam,” paper delivered to the IAS research group, “Interpretation and Law,” in Jerusalem, May 2015.

“The interplay of Arabic poetics and Muslim legal hermeneutics in Moses Ibn Ezra’s interpretive thought.” Paper delivered at the conference, “Judaism in Islamic studies, Islam in Jewish studies: reflections and surface tensions,” at the University of Pennsylvania, November 16, 2014

“Nehama Leibowitz’s Lasting Impact on Bible Scholarship,” Yeshiva University, October 2013.

“A Hermeneutical Problem in Rashbam’s System that Maimonides Resolves: The opinions of two Talmudic scholars regarding ‘the peshat of Scripture’” (Hebrew), World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 2013.

“Nahmanides’ Four Senses of Scriptural Signification in Light of His Jewish and Christian Intellectual Contexts,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania. April 2013.

“New Perspectives on the Emergence of the Concept of *Peshat* in Rashi’s School in Light of Contemporaneous Latin Learning,” Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, July 2012.

“Literary Aspects of Rashbam’s Song of Songs Commentary: Comparison with Christian Attitudes,” (Hebrew), International conference in memory of Prof. Eleazar Touitou, Bar-Ilan University in May 2011.

“‘A Sage is Greater Than A Prophet’: Moses Ibn Ezra Views on the Aesthetic Dimension of Scripture and their Hermeneutical Implications,” (Hebrew), International conference on Bible interpretation, held at Haifa University in May 2011.

“‘Words of Eloquence’: The Role of Poetics and Rhetoric in the *Peshat* Tradition,” paper delivered at the international conference of the IAS research group, “Encountering Scripture in Overlapping Cultures: Early Jewish, Christian and Muslim Strategies of Reading and Their Contemporary Implications,” in Jerusalem, January 2011.

“Emergence of the Rule of *Peshat* in the Jewish Exegetical Tradition,” paper delivered to the IAS research group, “Encountering Scripture in Overlapping Cultures: Early Jewish, Christian and Muslim Strategies of Reading and Their Contemporary Implications,” in Jerusalem, November 2010.

“The Song of Songs Commentary of Isaac Ibn Sahula in its Thirteenth-Century Spanish Context,” paper delivered at the Medieval Reading Group of the Jewish Theological Seminary, January 2010.

“On the Expression *bāb/abwāb al-ta’wīl* (“the gate/gates of interpretation”) in Maimonides’ Hermeneutics,” paper delivered at the Fourteenth International Conference of the Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies, Tel-Aviv, August 2009.

“Maimonides’ Construal of the Maxim that ‘Scripture does not Leave the Hands of its *Peshat*’ in Light of his Adaptation of *uṣūl al-fiqh* (Muslim Jurisprudence),” paper delivered at the Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2009.

“In Memory of Sarah Kamin: Reflections on the Notion of *Peshuto Shel Miqra* at the Beginning of the Twenty-First Century,” keynote lecture at the conference in memory of Sarah Kamin at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 2009.



“Between Muslim Jurisprudence and Biblical Interpretation: Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Maimonides Hermeneutics,” paper delivered to the faculties of Bible, Talmud and Philosophy at Tel-Aviv University, January 2009.

“Resolving A Conundrum: Pinning Down Maimonides’ Elusive Construal of the Maxim that ‘Scripture Does Not Leave the Hands of its *Peshat*,’” paper delivered at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Washington, DC, December 2008.

“God Dwelling in the Sanctuary? Interpretive Strategies of Maimonides, Nahmanides and *Sefer ha-Hinnukh*,” Conference on the Temple in Jerusalem, sponsored by The Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, New York City, May 2008.

“Maimonides’ Theory of Legal Hermeneutics in Light of Muslim Jurisprudence,” Yeshiva University Faculty Colloquium, New York City, April 10, 2008

“Maimonides and Samuel ben Hofni On the Terms *Peshuto Shel Miqra* and *Zāhir an-Naṣṣ*,” Conference on Rationalism and the Sacred Text, 10th-12th centuries, Madrid, December 2006.

“Reproduction of the Text: Traditional Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Literary Theory of Ludwig Strauss,” Conference in Honor of Nehama Leibowitz, Jerusalem, January 2006.

“Nahmanides’ Literary Hermeneutic in Light of his Commentary on Gen 1:1,” World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2005

“A Possible Spanish Source for Rashi’s Concept of Peshuto Shel Miqra,” Conference in Honor of Rashi, Jerusalem, July 2005.

“Cultural Perspectives on Biblical Exegesis: The Case of Moses Ibn Ezra and Maimonides,” Jewish Theological Seminary, Medieval Studies Group, March 28, 2005.

“Philosophical and Psychological Approaches to the Book of Job: Maimonides vs. Rashi,” Stern College for Women: Conference on Rashi and Maimonides, November 22, 2004.

“Thinking Outside the Box: Maimonides’ Philosophical and Literary Readings of the Book of Job in Light of the Traditions he Inherited,” Columbia University Seminar on the Hebrew Bible, April 9, 2003.

“Image, Imagination and Interpretation: Moses Ibn Ezra vs. Maimonides on Biblical Metaphor,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, May 1, 2002.

“The Moral Sense of Scripture in David Kimhi and Moses Nahmanides, in Light of the Traditions They Inherited,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies of the University of Pennsylvania, March 2002.

“Subjective Dimensions of Biblical Interpretation: From Ibn Ezra’s *Derash* to Radak’s *Peshat*,” Association for Jewish Studies (=AJS) conference; Washington, DC, December 2001.

“Why Did Maimonides Interpret Job as Fiction?” Thirteenth Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, August 2001.

“Imaginary Ascription as a Poetic Device in Moses Ibn Ezra’s Poetry and Poetics,” European Association for Jewish Studies Colloquium on Hebrew Poetry; Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Yarnton, July 2000.

“Decoding Moses Ibn Ezra’s Definition of Metaphor (*Isti‘āra*),” AJS conference; Boston, December 1997.

“Radak vs. Ibn Ezra and Maimonides: A New Approach to *Derekh Mashal* in Scripture,” Twelfth Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, July 1997.

“Two Categories of Metaphor in Maimonides’ Biblical Exegesis,” AJS; Boston, December 1996.

“Two Categories of Metaphor in Radak’s Figurative Exegesis,” European Association for Jewish Studies Colloquium on Biblical Exegesis; Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Yarnton, July 1996.

“Radak on Fiction in a Prophetic Vision,” AJS; Boston, December 1995.

“Radak’s Linguistic Terminology,” Advanced Studies Institute, Hebrew University; Jerusalem January 1995.

“Radak’s Conception of Allegory: His Association of *Mashal* and *Hiddah*,” AJS; Boston, December 1994.

“Midrashic Influence on Radak’s *Peshat* Exegesis.” Eleventh Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, June 1993.

“The Biblical Garden Image in the Poetry of Moses Ibn Ezra,” National Association of Professors of Hebrew; New York, June 1990.

“Samson’s Sin and Salvation: Comparative Readings of a Biblical Hero,” Yeshiva College English Honor Society; February 1990.

#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

External dissertation reader at North American, European, and Israeli universities

Referee for tenure and promotion at North American, European, and Israeli universities

Manuscript Reader for Brill Academic Press

Research / Publication Grant Consultant: Israel Academy of Science; Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; Koret Jewish Studies Publications Program

Publication Referee for *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Internet Journal*, *Tarbiz*, *The Torah U-Madda Journal*

## TEACHING

### *Graduate:*

Rashi's Peshat Revolution  
Faith and Doubt in the Book of Job  
Philosophical vs. Kabbalistic biblical interpretation  
Readings in Biblical Narrative: Book of Samuel  
Readings in Biblical Poetry: Psalms  
Readings in Biblical Poetry: Song of Songs  
French Tradition of Biblical Exegesis  
Spanish Tradition of Biblical Exegesis  
Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis  
Nahmanides' Exegesis and Thought  
Literary Approaches to Biblical Metaphor

### *Undergraduate:*

Exodus  
Jeremiah  
Amos and Hosea  
Seven Minor Prophets  
Psalms  
Job  
Five Megillot

## SERVICE TO YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Faculty advisor for the Chinese student union. Fall 2018-present  
Chair, Executive Committee of the Jewish Studies Division. Spring 2013-present  
Member, Bernard Revel Graduate School Admissions Committee, Spring 2009-present  
Member, Yeshiva University Task Force on Grade Inflation, SCW, Spring 2009  
Member, Bernard Revel Graduate School Hiring Committee, 2006-present  
Member, Yeshiva University Jewish Studies Executive Committee, 2005-present  
Member, Yeshiva University Faculty Council, 2004-present  
Member, Yeshiva College, Bible Department, Hiring Committee, 2005-2006  
Writing Award faculty judge, SCW, Spring 2005  
Member, Yeshiva University Faculty Handbook Committee, 2004-2006  
Faculty Development Work Group for Middle States Evaluation, 2000-2001  
Faculty Advisor in the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at SCW. Spring 2000-present. Close guidance of 14 Honors students in writing their senior thesis.  
Vice-Chair, Yeshiva College Faculty-Student Senate, 1995-1997  
Faculty Advisor for annual student publications on biblical interpretation (1994-present):  
*Shiv'im Panim* (Stern College for Women)  
*Nahalat Yitshaq* (Yeshiva College)  
*Midei Peshuto* (Yeshiva College)