

RICHARD HIDARY

CURRICULUM VITAE

POSITIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018-2019	Wexner Heritage Program	Atlanta, GA
	Faculty	
2018-2019	University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
	Katz Family Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies	
2016-2017	Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
	Starr Fellow, Center for Jewish Studies	
2013-2016	Congregation Shearith Israel	New York, NY
	Distinguished Rabbinic Fellow	
2011-2014	The Tikvah Center at NYU	New York, NY
	Affiliate Scholar	
2007-2010	Cardozo Law School	New York, NY
	Graduate Fellow in Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies	
2000-2004	New York University	New York, NY
	■ McCracken Fellowship	

TEACHING

	Yeshiva University	New York, NY
2014-present	<i>Associate Professor of Judaic Studies</i>	
2008-2014	<i>Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies</i>	
	Courses in Bible	
	Talmud and Midrash	
	Second Temple Jewish History and Dead Sea Scrolls	
	Jewish Ethics	
2002-13, 2016-19	Sephardic Synagogue	Brooklyn, NY
	Educational Director/Rabbi	
2003-2008	Brooklyn College	Brooklyn, NY

Adjunct Lecturer, Judaic Studies

Contemporary Issues in Jewish Law

- Maimonides: Philosopher, Legalist, Physician
- Introduction to Talmud; Introduction to Midrash
- Deuteronomy; Psalms; Job and the Problem of Evil

2002–2006 **New York University**

New York, NY

Instructor & Teaching Assistant

- Ancient Israel; Muslim Spain
- The Historical Jesus; Early Christianity
- Jewish Ethics

EDUCATION

2000–2007 **New York University**

New York, NY

- Doctorate in Hebrew & Judaic Studies

1999–2000 **Hebrew University**

Jerusalem, Israel

- Coursework in Bible and Talmud

1999–2000 **Shehebar Sephardic Center**

Jerusalem, Israel

- Rabbinic Ordination from the Chief Rabbinate of Israel

1993–94, 1997–98 **Yeshivat Har Etzion**

Alon Shevut, Israel

- Teaching Degree from Herzog Teachers College

1994–1997 **Yeshiva University**

New York, NY

- BA in Computer Science
- Coursework at Revel and Azrieli graduate schools

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Rabbis as Greco-Roman Rhetors: Oratory and Sophistic Education in the Talmud and Midrash, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

Dispute for the Sake of Heaven: Legal Pluralism in the Talmud, Brown University Press: Providence, RI, 2010.

“Tolerance for Diversity of Halakhic Practice in the Talmuds.” PhD diss., New York University, 2008.

“Hellenism and Hermeneutics: Did the Qumranites and Sadducees Use *qal va-homer* Arguments?”. In *Ha-Tsh Moshe: Studies in Scriptural Interpretation in the Dead Sea Scrolls*

and Related Literature in Honor of Moshe J. Bernstein, edited by Binyamin Goldstein, Michael Segal and George Brooke, 155-89. Leiden: Brill, 2018.

“A New Approach to Contextualizing Bavli Stories and a Meta-Analysis of Comparative Methodologies.” *The Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 19 (2016): 283-91.

“Sephardic Approaches to Conversion,” in *Conversion, Intermarriage, and Jewish Identity (The Orthodox Forum)*, edited by Robert Hirt and Adam Mintz (2015).

“‘You Might Come to Fix a Musical Instrument’: The Bavli’s Reasons for *Shevut* Laws,” *Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal* 13 (2015).

“Revisiting the Sabbath Laws in 4Q264a and their Contribution to Early Halakhah,” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 21 (2014).

“The Rhetoric of Rabbinic Authority: Making the Transition from Priest to Sage,” in *Jewish Rhetorics: History, Theory, Practice*, edited by Michael Bernard-Donals and Janice Fernheimer, Brandeis University Press, 2014.

“קריאה רטורית בסוגיות בבליות כפולמוסים נגד הירושלמי: בענין פלורליזם הלכתי ומחלוקת בית שמאי ובית הלל,” *Okimta*, 2 (2014).

“The Agonistic Bavli: Greco-Roman Rhetoric in Sasanian Persia” in *Sboshannat Yaakov: Jewish and Iranian Studies in Honor of Yaakov Elman*, edited by Shai Secunda and Steven Fine, 137-64. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

“Classical Rhetorical Arrangement and Reasoning in the Talmud: The Case of Yerushalmi Berakhot 1:1,” *AJS Review* 34:1 (April 2010), 33-64.

“Right Answers Revisited: Monism and Pluralism in the Talmud.” *Dine Israel* 26-27 (2009-2010), 229-255.

“מדוע יש פרקליטים בעולם הבא? אגדות חז"ל על בית דין של מעלה” *Mehkerei Yerushalaim be-Sifrut Ivrit* (forthcoming).

Hidary, Richard. “A Tale of Two or Three Witnesses: Oral Testimony in Greco-Roman, Qumranic and Rabbinic Court Procedure.” In *Festschrift in Honor of Lawrence Schiffman*, edited by Stuart Miller. Leiden: Brill, forthcoming.

“The Greco-Roman West.” In *The Literature of the Sages*, edited by Christine Hayes. CRINT, forthcoming.

Contributor to the *New Oxford Annotated Translation of the Mishnah*, forthcoming.

“Aqedah” and “Passover” in *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, (2016).

“Commandment” and “Fence,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*.

“Ashi,” *Encyclopedia Judaica* (2nd ed. 2007).

Rabbinics reviewer for *Outside the Bible Project: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture The Library of Israel in Late Antiquity*, Jewish Publication Society, 2013.

Review of Christine Hayes, *What's Divine about Divine Law* (Princeton University Press, 2015), in *The Jewish Review of Books* (Spring 2018).

Review of *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-first Century? The Relevance of the Ancient Jewish Text to Our World* (Lexington Books, 2009), in *Shofar* 20:4 Summer 2012.

Review of Marjorie Lehman, *The En Yaaqov: Jacob ibn Habib's Search for Faith in the Talmudic Corpus* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2012), on H-Judaic, 2012.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"A Proposal for a New Translation and Commentary of Mishnah, Yerushalmi and Bavli," Talmud Conference, Yale University, March 4, 2018.

"Comparative Law: Witness Testimony in Greco-Roman, Qumranic and Rabbinic Sources," AJS Conference, December 18, 2017.

"תבניות דיאלוגיות תלמודיות כתרגילים רטוריים מהעולם היווני-רומי," World Congress of Jewish Studies 17, August 8, 2017.

"Hillel's Hermeneutics in the Context of Sectarian Polemics and Greco-Roman Rhetoric." AJS Conference, December 19, 2016.

"Divine Law, Revelation, and Authority: A Symposium on Ancient Wisdom and Contemporary Judaism." Slifka Center, April 3, 2016.

"Talmudic Sugyot and the Greco-Roman Controversiae." AJS Conference, December 14, 2015.

"Rhetorical Criticism, Rabbinic Authority, and the Persuasiveness of Talmudic Discourse." AJS Conference, December 16, 2014.

"Why Are there Lawyers in Heaven," Ben Gurion University Faculty Seminar, January 8, 2014.

"You May Come to Fix a Musical Instrument": The Reasons for the *Shevut* Laws in the Bavli," AJS Conference, December 16, 2013.

"Confluence and Cacophony Between Hilkhot Shabbat and the Development of the Laws of the Sabbath," University of Pennsylvania Law School, Conference on Thinking Legally vs. Thinking Historically, December 12, 2013.

Jewish and Christian Adoption of and Resistance to Greco-Roman Rhetoric, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 24, 2013.

Midrash Aggadah and the Passover Haggadah as Greco-Roman Rhetoric, Society of

Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 24, 2013.

“The School of Gaza and the Rhetoric of Rabbinic Literature,” Conference on the School of Gaza, Collège de France, May 23, 2013.

“Playing Musical Instruments on the Sabbath: Qumranic Prohibition or Rabbinic Safeguard?” Conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls, Yeshiva University, May 19, 2013.

Respondent to Moshe Bernstein, “Poetry and Rhetoric in the Genesis Apocryphon,” Yeshiva University Dead Sea Scrolls Seminar, February 19, 2013.

“How to Study Aggadah: A Panel Discussion,” Yeshiva University, March 3, 2013.

“‘You Might Come to Fix a Musical Instrument’: The Bavli’s Reasons for *Shevut* Laws,” Symposium on Reasons for Commandments, Cardozo Law School, February 10, 2012.

“Why Are There Lawyers in Heaven? Rabbinic Court Procedure in Halakha and Aggadah,” AJS Conference, December 18, 2012.

“Talmudic Topoi: The Hermeneutical Methods of Legal Midrash and Greco-Roman Rhetoric,” The Jewish Law Association, 17th International Conference, Yale University, July 31, 2012.

“Conscious Error: Is Truth Always the Best Policy?” Conference on Forgetting and Error in Jewish Law, Harvard Law School, May 14, 2012.

“The Agonistic Bavli: Greco-Roman Rhetoric in Sasanian Persia,” Rhetorical Society of America Conference, Philadelphia, May 25, 2012.

“Truth vs. Rhetoric: The Role of Lawyers in Rabbinic Literature,” Cardozo Law School, Graduate Fellowship Conference, April 22, 2012.

“Letter Writing and Sectarianism in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” Columbia University, Faculty Seminar on Religion and Writing, February 28, 2012.

“Why Are There Lawyers in Heaven? Rabbinic Court Procedure in Halakha and Aggadah,” Cardozo Law School, Conference on the Divine Courtroom in Comparative Perspective, February 5, 2012.

“Gorgias and the Rabbis: Rhetoric, Law, and Truth in the Talmud,” AJS Conference, December 19, 2011.

“Truth and Rhetoric: The Role of Lawyers in Greco-Roman, Jewish and Christian Sources,” University of Scranton, Faculty Colloquium, November 17, 2011.

“Rhetorical Criticism of the Talmud: Arguments from the Excluded Middle,” AJS Conference, December 21, 2010.

“Sectarianism, Pluralism, and the Controversy over Marriage Laws between the

Houses of Shammai and Hillel,” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, November 22, 2010.

“Rhetorical Suspense in the Babylonian Talmud,” NAPH International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture, July 8, 2010.

“Indeterminacy and Codification in the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds in Light of Roman and Sasanian Legal Cultures,” AJS Conference, December 22, 2009.

“From Priests to Rabbis: Tradition in Transition,” Symposium on Priesthood in Ancient Judaism, Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, November 4, 2009.

“Unity vs. Pluralism in Halakhah: ‘*Lo Titgodedu*’ in the Yerushalmi and the Bavli,” World Congress of Jewish Studies 15, August 2, 2009.

“Forced Interpretation as Evidence for Redactional Ideology: The Portrayal of Rabban Gamaliel II in the Yerushalmi,” AJS Conference, December 21, 2008.

“Rabbinic Self-Perception of Power: Palestinian and Babylonian Interpretations of the Law of Rebellious Elder (Dt 17:8-13),” AJS Conference, December 16, 2007.

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Jewish Studies, 2004-2018

Society of Biblical Literature, 2010-2014

Jewish Law Association, 2012-2013

Rhetorical Society of America, 2011-2012

National Association of Professors of Hebrew, 2010-2011

World Union of Jewish Studies, 2009-10, 2016-17

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Member of Editorial Board

Oqimta

Reviewer for AJS Review

Cambridge University Press

Dine Israel

Journal of Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal

Torah u-Madda Journal

Developed software program to facilitate Hebrew manuscript comparison. Created online resource page at www.rabbinics.org.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“How Is the Passover Seder Different from All Other Symposia?,” theGemara.com (March 2018).

“Hanukkah and State: The Hasmonean Legacy,” *Jewish Review of Books*, December 27, 2016.

“Four Ways to Derive the Thirty-Nine Avot Melakhot,” theTorah.com (2015).

“What Would Jewish Law Say About George Zimmerman?” *Moment Magazine Blog*, August 6, 2013.

“Teaching Tanakh in the Twenty-First Century,” *Conversations* (Winter 2013), 65-78.

“Minhag and Halakha in the Talmuds: A Cross-Cultural Study,” *Kol Hamevaser* 3:7 (May 2010), 12-14.

“Traditional versus Academic Talmud Study: *Hilkakh Nimrinbu le-Tarvaibu*,” *Kol Hamevaser* 3:3 (December 2009), 8-9.

“Make Yourself Available to Forgive,” *High Holidays Reader*, Tevah (2009), 38-44.

Teachers guide for Deuteronomy – www.teachtorah.org/devarim.php.

Teachers guide for Psalms - www.tehillim.org.

Teachers guide for Exodus – www.teachtorah.org/shemot.php.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

“Ashkenazim and Sepharadim: Is the Split Still Relevant Today?” Kehilath Jeshurun, November 10, 2017.

“Human Rights. The Rest is Commentary,” Conference on the Limits of Jewish Responsibility, Beth Torah Congregation, October 26, 2017.

“Prophecy Versus Human Logic in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Talmud” Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, February 25, 2017.

“What Can Second Temple Sectarianism Teach Us About Modern Denominationalism?” Limmud NY 2017, February 20, 2017.

“Revealing the Enduring Ethics of Aggadah: Levinas' Talmudic Readings,” Shearith Israel Lecture Series, December 2016.

“Transformation and Continuity: Events and Texts from the Second Temple Period that Have Shaped Judaism and the World,” 4 part series at Young Israel of Fort Lee, November-December 2016.

“The Reasons for the Mitzvah of *Kan Tzippor*,” YCT Yemei Iyun, May 20, 2013.

“Reasons for Mitzvot: Rationalists and Kabbalists” and “The Missing Nun in Mizmor 145,” Scholar in Residence, Young Israel of Hollywood, November 8-9,

2013.

“Shaking the Foundation of Repentance: The Freewill Debate from Stoicism to Neuroscience,” The Jewish Center, August 24, 2013.

Scholar in Residence, Congregation Beth Aaron, NJ, May 8-9, 2013.

“Strict Sectarians, Accommodating Rabbis, and the Debate Over Shabbat Observance,” Young Israel of Stamford, January 27, 2013.

“From Squabbling Sects to Irenic Rabbis: Can’t We All Just Get Along?” Scholar in Residence, Congregation Shearith Israel, New York, January 26, 2013.

“The History and Mystery of the Aleppo Codex,” Kol Israel Congregation, Brooklyn, October 17, 2012.

“The Controversial Kal va-Homer: Hillel’s Introduction of Midrashic Interpretation to Bnei Betera,” Siyum HaShas, Congregation Shearith Israel, New York, August 6, 2012.

“Surrounded on All Sides: Paying for Benefits for Which You Never Asked,” Shiur Kelalai, Drisha Summer College Fellowship, June 14, 2012.

“Hellenism and the Hasmonians: The History of Hanukah and its Modern Relevance,” Young Israel of Stamford, December 11, 2011.

“From MMT to Mishnah: The Historical Significance of Rabbinic Pluralism,” Magen David of West Deal, July 30, 2011.

“The Ten Plagues: Are There Really Ten and Are They Really Plagues?” and “Maamad Har Sinai: Between Immanence and Transcendence,” YCT Yemei Iyun, June 7, 2011.

“Why Didn't Esther Pray? Three Responses to the (Ir)Religiousness of Megilat Esther,” Yeshiva University Yom Iyun, March 6, 2011.

“Why is Hannukah 8 Days?: The Historical Roots of Hannukah” and “The Legacy of the Maccabees from 168 BCE to 1948 CE,” Mt. Sinai Jewish Center of Washington Heights, November 30 and December 7, 2010.

“From the Last Kings to the Persian Period: Prophecy and Archaeology” YCT Yemei Iyun on Bible and Jewish Thought, June 27, 2010.

“Women as Victims of and Reactors to Political Oppression: A Case Study of the Congo and the Channukah Story,” YU Museum, December 14, 2009.

“Midrash Halakha, The Dead Sea Scrolls, and Dream Interpretation,” Magen David of Union Square, December 1, 2009.

“The History of Afterlife,” Talmud Torah of Flatbush, November 18, 2009.

“Development of the Passover Haggadah,” Ben Porat Yosef of Bergen County, April 6, 2006.

“Religious Perspectives on Business Ethics,” Baruch College, April 2006.