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EDUCATION:

New York University, New York, NY
Ph.D., August 2004
Jewish Mysticism

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
B.A., May 1998, Summa cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
Double Major in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and History of Ideas

SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS:

I have wide training in all periods of Jewish religious and intellectual history, with a primary specialization in Jewish mysticism and Hasidism. Areas of research interest include the interplay of Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy, as well as Jewish messianism and Jewish esotericism.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Fall 2013-present:

Associate Professor of Jewish Mysticism
Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University
Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University (New York, NY)

Fall 2006-Spring 2013:

Assistant Professor of Jewish Mysticism
Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University
Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University (New York, NY)

Fall 2005 and Spring 2006:

Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish Mysticism
Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University
(New York, NY)

Fall 2004-Spring 2006:

David and Gloria Furman Chair of Judaic Studies and
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, Virginia Wesleyan College
(Virginia Beach, VA)

Spring 2002 and Spring 2003:

Instructor, New York University (New York, NY)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Spring 2014-present:

Division Chair of the Jewish Mysticism Division of the Association for Jewish Studies.

My responsibilities include choosing topics for calls for papers, evaluating lecture proposals, and designing conference sessions.

COURSES TAUGHT:

The Baal Shem Tov
Secrecy in Jewish Thought
Sefer ha-Bahir
Introduction to Hasidic Thought
Introduction to Jewish Mysticism
Topics in Thirteenth-Century Kabbalah
Messianism in Kabbalah and Hasidism
Philosophy of Maimonides
Kabbalistic Views of Maimonides
Gender and Judaism
Introduction to Judaism
Introduction to Religious Studies
Mysticism and Philosophy in Judaism

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Knowledge of God and the Development of Early Kabbalah. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012.

Sefer ha-Bahir: Introduction and Annotated Translation. In preparation. To be published in The Hackmey Hebrew Classical Library book series by Tel Aviv University Press.

Articles and Book Reviews:

“‘Worlds, Souls and Divinity:’ An Early Hasidic Praxis of Prayer.” Forthcoming in *Daat*.

“Esotericism and Divine Unity in R. Asher ben David.” Forthcoming in *Jewish Studies Quarterly*.

“Emanation in Jewish Thought.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, volume 8. Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2013.

“Ezra of Gerona.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, volume 8. Berlin: Walter De Gruyter, 2013.

“Images of the Temple in *Sefer ha-Bahir*.” In *The Temple of Jerusalem: From Moses to the Messiah: Studies Published in Honor of Professor Louis H. Feldman*, edited by Steven Fine, 199-235. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2011.

“Review of Alessandro Guetta, *Philosophy and Kabbalah: Elijah Benamozegh and the Reconciliation of Western Thought and Jewish Esotericism*.” *AJS Review* 34 (2010): 135-137.

“‘Pure Thought’ in R. Abraham bar Hiyya and Early Kabbalah.” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 60 (2009): 185-201.

“Competing Approaches to Maimonides in Early Kabbalah.” In *The Cultures of Maimonideanism: New Approaches to the History of Jewish Thought*, edited by James T. Robinson, 57-88. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2009.

“The Baal Shem Tov and the Messiah: A Reappraisal of the Baal Shem Tov’s Letter to R. Gershon of Kutov.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 16 (2009): 210-241.

“Review of Joel Hecker, *Mystical Bodies, Mystical Meals: Eating and Embodiment in Medieval Kabbalah*.” *History of Religions* 48 (2008): 66–8.

Works in Progress:

Esotericism and Divine Unity in Early Kabbalah. This book is mostly complete. It is currently under peer review.

LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “Samuel ibn Tibbon and the Emergence of Kabbalah,” May 2013

The Cultural Worlds of a Medieval Translator: Conference Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Samuel Ibn Tibbon's Hebrew Translation of Maimonides' *Guide of the Perplexed*, University of Chicago

- “New Perspectives on the Emergence of Medieval Kabbalah,” March 2011

David Blitzer Lecture Series, University at Buffalo Institute of Jewish Thought and Heritage

- “Differing Evaluations of the Imperative to Investigate God in Early Kabbalah,” December 2010

Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA

- “Knowledge of God as a Religious Imperative in Early Kabbalah,” August 2009

Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel

- “Images of the Temple in *Sefer ha-Bahir*,” May 2008

Inaugural Conference, Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies

- “New Perspectives on the Emergence of Kabbalah,” December 2007
Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, Canada
- “Early Kabbalah as a Culture of Maimonideanism,” July 2007
European Association of Jewish Studies Colloquium, Oxford, England
- “‘The Enlightened Will Understand’: What was Esoteric in Thirteenth-Century Kabbalah?,” December 2006
Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA
- “Ascent and Descent in Early Kabbalah,” December 2005
Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC
- “The Patriarchs as Cosmic Ethical Principles in Kabbalah,” November 2005
Invited Lecture, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA
- “Myth and Philosophy in *Sefer ha-Bahir*,” December 2004
Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL
- “Myth and Monotheism in Kabbalah,” September 2004
Inaugural Lecture of the David and Gloria Furman Chair of Judaic Studies, Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Beach, VA
- I have also lectured widely in various communal settings.