

ARI J. MERMELSTEIN
mermels@yu.edu

308 Rutland Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666

Yeshiva University
500 W. 185th Street
New York, NY 10033
646-592-6065

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Bible and Second Temple Literature, Yeshiva University, 2019–.

Assistant Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University, 2013–2019.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University, 2011–2013.

Instructor of Bible, Yeshiva University, 2007–2011.

Graduate Instructor, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University, 2005–2007.

Assistant Director, Yeshiva University Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY, 2004–.

Assistant Director, Israeli Supreme Court Project, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, NY, 2013–.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University, May 2011.

Dissertation: “The Genesis of Jewish History: Creation, Covenant, and Historical Consciousness in the Wisdom of Ben Sira and the Book of *Jubilees*.” (Prof. Lawrence H. Schiffman, advisor; Prof. Moshe J. Bernstein and Prof. Daniel E. Fleming, committee)

J.D., New York University School of Law, May 2003.

M.A. (Biblical Studies), Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University, New York, NY, January 2003.

B.A. (Psychology), Yeshiva College, New York, NY, May 2000.

Advanced Talmudic studies, Yeshivat Har Etzion, Alon Shevut, Israel, 1994–95, 1996–97.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS AND EDITED VOLUMES

Power and Emotion in Ancient Judaism: Community and Identity in Formation. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Finalist, National Jewish Book Award (Scholarship), 2021.

Reviews: Malka Z. Simkovich, *AJS Review* 46 (2022): 408–10.

The Jewish Legal Tradition. Edited with Suzanne Last Stone and Yair Lorberbaum. Routledge. Under contract. Expected completion date, 2023.

Creation, Covenant, and the Beginnings of Judaism: Reconceiving Historical Time in the Second Temple Period. Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism 168, Brill, 2014.

Reviews: Pancratius C. Beentjes, *Journal of Theological Studies* 66 (2015): 729–31.

Günter Stemberger, *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 19 (2016): 170–72.

Jeremy Corley, *Irish Theological Quarterly* 81 (2016): 207–9.

Margaret Baker, *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 40 (2016): 188–89.

Stewart Moore, *Review of Biblical Literature*, August 2016.

Jonathan R. Trotter, *Revue de Qumran* 28 (2016): 297–98.

Jonathan Lookadoo, *Religious Studies Review* 43 (2017): 188–89.

The Divine Courtroom in Comparative Perspective. Edited with Shalom E. Holtz. Biblical Interpretation Series 132, Brill, 2014.

Reviews: Richard Lindley, *Ecclesiastical Law Journal* 17 (2015): 387–89.

Bruce Chilton, *Review of Biblical Literature*, June 2016.

Bradley J. Bitner, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 38 (2016): 103–4.

Valentin Zywiets, *Andrews University Seminary Studies* 54 (2016): 167–71.

Jews and the Law. Edited with Victoria Saker Woeste, Ethan Zadoff, and Marc Galanter. Quid Pro Books, 2014.

Review: Paul L. Tractenberg, *American Jewish History* 99.4 (2015): 378–80.

ARTICLES

“What did it Feel Like to Be a Jew? The Kosher Food Laws and Emotional Norms Among Ancient Jews.” *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period* 53 (2022): 344–76.

“Between Belonging and Identity in Ancient Judaism: The Role of Emotion in the Production of Identity.” *Journal of Law and Religion* 37 (2022): 365–74.

“The Legacy of the Flood in the Book of *Jubilees*.” Pages 219–42 in *From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift Honoring Professor Lawrence Schiffman*. Edited by Stuart S. Miller, Michael Swartz, Steven Fine, Alex Jassen, and Naomi Grunhaus. Leiden: Brill, 2021.

“Wisdom and the Rabbis.” Pages 368–88 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Wisdom Literature*. Edited by Matthew J. Goff and Samuel L. Adams. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2020.

“Conceptions of Masculinity in the Scrolls and the Gendered Emotion of Anger.” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 26 (2019): 314–38.

“Beauty or Beast? The Pedagogical Function of Metaphor and Emotion in Midrashim on the Law of the Lovely Captive.” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 8 (2018): 388–409.

“When History Repeats Itself: The Theological Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant in Early Jewish Writings.” *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 27 (2017): 113–42.

“Emotion, Gender, and Greco-Roman Virtue in *Joseph and Aseneth*.” *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period* 48 (2017): 331–62.

“Emotional Regimes, Ritual Practice, and the Shaping of Sectarian Identity: The Experience of Ablutions in the Dead Sea Scrolls.” *Biblical Interpretation* 24 (2016): 492–513.

“Constructing Fear and Pride in the Book of Daniel: The Profile of a Second Temple Emotional Community.” *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period* 46 (2015): 449–83.

“Love and Hate at Qumran: The Social Construction of Sectarian Emotion.” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 20 (2013): 237–63.

ENTRIES IN REFERENCE WORKS

“Happiness. Judaism. Rabbinic Judaism.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Dale C. Allison, Jr. et al. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, vol. 11, 2015.

“Jacob, Prayer of.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Dale C. Allison, Jr. et al. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, vol. 11, 2015.

“Gratitude and Ingratitude. Judaism.” In *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Edited by Dale C. Allison, Jr. et al. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, vol. 10, 2014.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Markus Witte, Jens Schröter, and Verena Lepper, eds. *Torah, Temple, Land: Constructions of Judaism in Antiquity*. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2021. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 30 (2023). Forthcoming.

Review of Michael W. Duggan, Renate Egger-Wenzel, and Stefan C. Reif, eds. *Cosmos and Creation: Second Temple Perspectives*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2020. *Journal for the Study of*

Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period 53 (2022): 305–9.

Review of Aryeh Amihay, *Theory and Practice in Essene Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017. *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period* 51 (2020): 125–28.

Review of Bilhah Nitzan, *Philosophy and Practice in the Dead Sea Scrolls: Theology, Wisdom, Law, and Biblical Exegesis*. Jerusalem: Yad Izhak Ben Zvi, 2014 [Hebrew]. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 24 (2017): 147–49.

Review of Stefan C. Reif and Renate Egger-Wenzel, eds. *Ancient Jewish Prayers and Emotions: A Study of the Emotions Associated with Prayer in the Jewish and Related Literature of the Second Temple Period and Immediately Afterwards*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 2015. *Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Period* 48 (2017): 565–68.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“Love of Piety, Hatred for Herod: The Emotions of Devotion Among Jews in Josephus’ *Antiquities of the Jews*.” World Congress of Jewish Studies, 2022.

“Feeling Jewish Through the Ages: Power, Emotion, and Jewish Identity.” Louis Bunis Memorial Lecture, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, February 2022.

“Library Book Talk: Power and Emotion in Ancient Judaism: Community and Identity in Formation.” Yeshiva University, December 2021. Accessible online [here](#).

Invited panelist on panel devoted to Judith Newman, *Before the Bible: The Liturgical Body and the Formation of Scriptures in Early Judaism*. Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2019.

“What did it Feel Like to Be a Jew? The Kosher Food Laws and Emotional Norms Among Ancient Jews.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2019.

Invited respondent to Françoise Mirguet, “Studying Emotions in Early Jewish Texts: Methodological Questions.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2018.

“A Cognitive Science Approach to Emotional Change in Textual Communities: Textualism at Qumran as Test Case.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2016.

“The *Yahad* as a Religious Emotional Regime.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2014.

“The Emotions of the Ideal Sage in Second Temple Literature: Between Ben Sira and the *Maskil* of the *Yahad*.” Invited paper at *Rethinking the Boundaries of Sapiential Traditions in Ancient Judaism*, University of Lorraine, October 2014.

“The Politics of Emotion in the Book of Daniel.” Columbia Bible Seminar, May 2014.

“Reflections on the Study of Emotion in Legal and Religious Studies.” Invited paper at *Law and Emotion in Comparative Perspective*, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, April 2014.

“Law and Emotion in Rabbinic Literature: The Case of the Captive Woman.” Graduate Conference in Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, April 2013.

“The Danger of Deviance and the Emotion of Fear: Between Ancient Judaism and Contemporary Politics.” Brooklyn College, February 2013.

“The Theological Significance of the Abrahamic Covenant in Second Temple Literature.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2012.

“Sectarian Sin and the Emotion of Fear: An Inquiry into the Consciousness of Members of the *Yahad*.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2012.

“Martha Nussbaum and Love as Cultural Value in 1 Corinthians.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2012.

Invited respondent to Ethan Tucker, “Category Shifts in Jewish Law.” Conference on Halakhah and Reality, New York University, April 2012.

“The Emotional World of the Qumran Sect.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, 2011.

“Deuteronomy 32 and the Message of the Book of Jubilees.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2010.

“The Aqedah and the Exodus in the Book of Jubilees: Intertextuality and Ideology in the Book of Jubilees.” Jewish Studies Faculty Colloquium, Yeshiva College, April 2010.

“Sinaitic Revelation in the Book of Jubilees.” International Graduate Conference in Jewish Law, Cardozo Law School, April 2010.

“Peshar Habakkuk and Constraints on Interpretation in Second Temple Jewish Writings.” Yeshiva College, February 2007.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Society of Biblical Literature, Bible and Emotion Group, Co-Chair, 2021–.

Society of Biblical Literature, Bible and Emotion Group, Steering Committee, 2017–2021.

Assistant Editor, *Diné Israel: Studies in Halakhah and Jewish Law* (Cardozo Law School and

University of Tel-Aviv Faculty of Law), 2006– (volumes 24–36).

COURSES TAUGHT

Book of Chronicles; Book of Ezekiel; Book of Ezra-Nehemiah; Book of Judges; Book of Kings; Classical Jewish History; Diaspora and Exile in Ancient Jewish Thought (graduate); Introduction to Bible (undergraduate and graduate); Josephus: Profile of a Second Temple Jew (graduate); Messianism in Biblical and Second Temple Literature; Perspectives on Jewish Law in Ancient Judaism (graduate); Philo of Alexandria: Profile of a Second Temple Jew (graduate); Rabbinic and Medieval Hebrew Literature; Rabbinic Literature in Hebrew; Religion, Politics, and Power in Jewish Antiquity.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Finalist for 2021 National Jewish Book Award (Scholarship) for *Power and Emotion in Ancient Judaism: Community and Identity in Formation*.

Provost Faculty Research Fund, 2022 (in support of *The Jewish Legal Tradition*).

William L. and Lillian Silber Professor of the Year, Yeshiva College, 2015–16; 2017–18.

Chelst, Schreiber, and Zwas Yeshiva Faculty Book Grant, 2016–17.

The Dr. Kenneth Chelst Book Grant, Yeshiva College, 2012.

Lucius N. Littauer Foundation Travel Grant, Association of Jewish Studies, December 2012.

Henry M. MacCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2003–2007.

Rachel Golding Distinguished Scholars Award, Yeshiva College, 1996–1999.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Jewish Studies.

Society of Biblical Literature.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Chair, Department of Bible, Hebrew, and Near Eastern Studies, 2021–.

Admissions and Student Affairs Committee, 2022–.

Academic Standards Committee, 2019–22.

Coordinator, Yeshiva University Seminar on Ancient Judaism, 2014–19.

Committee to revise Jewish Studies major, 2013–14.

Committee to develop online Jewish History course, 2013–14.

Committee to design minor in Classical Civilizations, 2013–14.

Responsible for writing and grading Advanced Placement Jewish History exam, 2013–14; 2014–15.

SELECT POPULAR LECTURES

“The Origins and Significance of the *Ta’amei ha-Mikra: The Trop* Are So Much More than Simply Musical Notes.” Kehillat Yavneh, Los Angeles, October 2022.

“Ancient Responses to the Destruction of the Second Temple and the Contemporary Challenge of Mourning the Past.” Jewish Center of Atlantic Beach, July 2022.

“Artscroll Before Artscroll? The Controversy Surrounding the Translation of the Torah Into Greek.” Beit Midrash of Teaneck, June 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“What are the Dead Sea Scrolls and Why are They Important for the History of Halakhah?” Beit Midrash of Teaneck, June 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“Bar Kokhba, the Man and the Myth: The Legacy of an Enigmatic Jewish Rebel.” Beit Midrash of Teaneck, June 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“The Divine Drama of Megillat Rut.” Beit Midrash of Teaneck, May 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“Did God Originally Intend to Inflict the Ten Plagues on the Egyptians?” Torah in Motion, April 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“Between a Traumatic Past and a Hopeful Future: The Pesach Seder in the Wake of the Destruction of the Second Temple.” Torah in Motion, March 2022. Accessible online [here](#).

“The Fate of the Temple Vessels After the Destruction of the Second Temple: Is the Menorah Hidden in the Vatican?” Beit Midrash of Teaneck, January 2022.

“Did the Wise Son Own a Haggadah? *Talmud Torah* as an Alternative to *Sippur Yetziat Mitzrayim* on Seder Night.” Online Community Learning Initiative, Yeshiva University, March 2020. Accessible online [here](#).

“What is a Covenant? The Intersection of Biblical Theology and Ancient Near Eastern Politics.” Young Israel of Stamford, CT, June 2019.

“May We Interpret Torah Law in Opposition to the *Halakhah* and Traditional *Parshanut*?” Young Israel of Stamford, CT, June 2019.

“Controversy and Calendar: A Second Temple Debate Concerning the Enigmatic Date of Shavuot.” Young Israel of Stamford, CT, June 2019. Accessible online [here](#).

“Is Halakhah Grounded in Tradition or in Biblical Interpretation? The Radical View of Rabbi Akiva and the Controversies It Stirred.” Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ, May 2017.

“Rabbi Jesus? Portraits of Jesus in Rabbinic Literature.” Young Israel of Toco Hills, Atlanta, Georgia, May 2015.

“Jewish Attitudes Toward Their Enemies Through the Ages,” Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ, March 2015.

“The Effect of the Deaths of Nadav and Avihu on the Structure of the Book of Leviticus.” Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ, April 2014. Accessible online [here](#).

“Why Did the Jews Rebel Against Rome in 66 CE? The Destruction of the Second Temple in Its Historical Context.” Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ, July 2013. Accessible online [here](#).

“Was Joshua Almost Condemned as One of the Spies?” Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Teaneck, NJ, May 2013. Accessible online [here](#).

“*Dibbera Torah ke-Neged Yetzer ha-Ra*: The Role of Emotion in the Law of *Eshet Yefar To'ar*.” Congregation Rinat Yisrael, Teaneck, NJ, April 2013.

“What Happened to Zerubbavel? Politics and the Davidic Dynasty in the Persian Period.” Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, Teaneck, NJ, June 2012.

