

# Marc Michael Epstein

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Revised July, 2018

## EDUCATION

<i>Degrees</i>	Doctor of Philosophy	
<i>Research</i>	<b>Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Religious Studies</b>	<b>1992</b>
<i>Grants</i>	Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Grant	1991-92
<i>Fellowships</i>	Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship	1990-91
	National Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Grant	1991-92
	Dissertation Research	
	<b>Hebrew University, Jerusalem</b>	<b>1988-89</b>
	Lady Davis Fellowship	1988-89
	Interuniversity Fellowship	1988-89
	Master of Philosophy	
	<b>Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Religious Studies</b>	<b>1990</b>
	John F. Enders Fellowship, Yale University	1990-91
	Master of Arts	
	<b>Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. Religious Studies</b>	<b>1988</b>
	Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities	1985-88
	Howard Holtzman Fellowship	1985-88
	Bachelor of Arts	
	<b>Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio. History of Art</b>	<b>1985</b>

## EMPLOYMENT

<i>Current</i>	Professor of Religion & Visual Culture on the Mattie M. Paschall (1899) & Norman Davis Chair and Director of Jewish Studies Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York	2014-present
<i>Distinguished Visiting Appointments</i>	Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor Centre for Jewish Studies, The University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario	Fall 2014
	Corcoran Chair of Jewish-Christian Relations Center for Jewish-Christian Learning, Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts	2013-2014
<i>Previous Appointments</i>	Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York	
	Professor of Religion	2006-2014
	Associate Professor of Religion & Jewish Studies	2001-2006
	Assistant Professor of Religion & Jewish Studies	1996-2001
	Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion	Fall 1992-1996
	Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts	
	Visiting Instructor, Jewish Studies	Spring 1992
	Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio	
	Visiting Instructor, Judaic & Near Eastern Studies	Fall 1991

<i>Teaching Fellowships</i>	Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut	
	With Professor John Boswell, Department of History	1989-90
	With Professor David Ruderman, Jewish Studies	1987-88
	With Professor Paula Hyman, Jewish Studies	1987-88
<i>Administrative Leadership</i>	Director of Jewish Studies	
	Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York	2017-present 2006-2009
Commercial	Director, Hebrew Books & Manuscripts Division Sothebys', New York	1985-1991
Administrative & Creative Consultancy	Consultant on the exhibition of the Gwoździec Synagogue POLIN, Museum of the History of Polish Jews	2010-2016
	Consultant on Fine Art, Books, & Exhibitions Jewish Museum, London	2012-present
	Consulting Curator for the projected exhibition "The Power of Kabbalah" Fowler Museum, UCLA, Los Angeles Jewish Museum, New York Tel Aviv Museum, Israel	2010-2011
	Program Development Consultant Artists Networks & Programming, Makor Artists Networks Makor/Steinhardt Center, 92nd Street Y, New York City	2002-2004
	Designer of the permanent exhibition & Consulting Curator Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum, Congregation Emanu-El, New York City	1996-97
	Designer of the permanent exhibition & Consulting Curator Goldsmith Family Museum, Chizzuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland	1998-present
	Consultant, Rare Hebrew Books and Manuscripts Sothebys', New York Phillips Galleries, New York Swann Galleries, New York	1991-99
Awards	PROSE Award in Art History & Criticism, Association of American Publishers (H.M.)	2016
	National Jewish Book Award, Winner, Arts, Jewish Book Council	2015
	National Jewish Book Award, Finalist, Scholarship (Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award), Jewish Book Council	2015
	Jordan Schnitzler Prize, Association for Jewish Studies (H.M.)	2013
	David Berg Foundation Publication Grant	2013
Honors	Winner, National Jewish Book Award, Category "Arts" Runner-up National Jewish Book Award, Category "Scholarship"	2015
	Times of London Literary Supplement "Best Books of the Year."( <i>The Medieval Haggadah</i> )	2011
Grants	Mellon Faculty Conversation Grant	2008-2010
	Carolyn Grant Faye '36 Endowment Grant	2006
	Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, Publication Subvention	2006
	Macht Family Fund Publication Grant	2006

Grants	Shiva Family Fund Publication Grant	2006
	Hadassah-Brandeis Research Institute Publication Grant	2006
	Vassar College Faculty Research Grants	1993-present
	Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, Publication Grant	1993
	Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, Publication Subvention	1995
Other Professional Activity	Reader & Evaluator	
	Princeton University Press	2013-present
	Rutgers University Press	2013-present
	Penn State University Press	2010-present
	E.J. Brill, Leiden	2010-present
	Peer Reviewer	
	<i>Speculum, Studies in Iconography, Gesta</i>	2006-present
	Referee	
	Israel Science Foundation Grants in the Humanities	2006-present
	Czech Science Foundation Grants in the Humanities	2011-present
Judge		
National Jewish Book Awards, Jewish Book Council	1997	

## SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

<i>Forthcoming</i>	<i>People of the Image: Jews &amp; Art</i> London; New York, Thames & Hudson, 2019
<i>Books</i>	<i>Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Manuscript Illumination.</i> Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2015 General Editor and Principal Contributor -PROSE Award in Art History & Criticism, Association of American Publishers (H.M.) 2016 -National Jewish Book Award, Winner, Arts, Jewish Book Council, 2015 -National Jewish Book Award, Finalist, Scholarship (Nahum M. Sarna Memorial Award), Jewish Book Council, 2015  <i>The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative And Religious Imagination.</i> London; New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011 -"Best Books of the Year," Times of London Literary Supplement, 2011 -Jordan Schnitzler Prize, Association for Jewish Studies (H.M.) 2013  <i>Dreams of Subversion in Medieval Jewish Art and Literature.</i> University Park, Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997  "If Lions Could Carve Stones..." <i>The Medieval Jewish Minority and the Allegorization of the Animal Kingdom: A Textual and Iconographic Study.</i> Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1993
<i>Facsimiles</i>	<i>The Brother Haggadah: A Medieval Sephardi Masterpiece in Facsimile.</i> London and New York: Thames & Hudson, 2016  <i>La Bibbia miniata della Comunità ebraica di Venezia. The Illuminated Bible of the Jewish Community of Venice</i> ed. Gad Luzzatto Voghera, Saonara: Il Prato, 2017  <i>The Jerusalem Haggadah: Gateway to the Haggadah.</i> Jerusalem: Aryeh Editions, 1997

*Book  
Chapters  
& Articles*

“Bestial Bodies on the Jewish Margins: Race, Ethnicity and Otherness in Medieval Manuscripts Illuminated for Jews” in *Monsters and Monstrosity in Jewish History from the Middle Ages to Modernity*, ed. Iris Idelson-Shein and Christian Wiese. London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming, March 2019, 97-126.

“Plugta: Un conflitto su pergamena” / “Plugta: A conflict in parchment” in *La Bibbia miniata della Comunità ebraica di Venezia. The Illuminated Bible of the Jewish Community of Venice* ed. Gadi Luzzatto Voghera, Saonara: Il Prato, 2017, 19-29 / 31-39.

“The New Testament in the Jewish Arts” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, Second Edition, ed. Amy-Jill Levine and Mark Brettler, San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 2016, 750-54.

“Thought Crimes: Implied Ensuing Action in Manuscripts Made for Jewish Patrons,” in *Manuscripta Illuminata: Approaches to Understanding Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts*, ed. Colum Hourihane, Princeton University Press / Index of Christian Art, 2014.

“Jews, Judaism and the Visual Arts.” in *The Cambridge History of Judaism*, Volume VII: The Early Modern Period (c. 1500- c. 1815), J. Karp & A. Sutcliffe, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

“Seeing Saul.” in *Saul in Story and Tradition*, ed. C. S. Ehrlich & M. C. White, (*Forschungen zum Alten Testament*); Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2006, 334-348.

“Another Flight into Egypt: The cross-cultural dialectic of messianism and iconographic appropriation in medieval Jewish culture.” in *Imaging the Self, Imaging the Other: Representations of Jews in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts*. ed. Eva Frojmovic. E.J. Brill, 2002, 33-52.

“Illustrating History and Illuminating Identity in the Art of the Passover Haggadah,” in *Judaism in Practice: From the Middle Ages Through The Early Modern Period*. ed. Lawrence Fine. *Princeton Readings in Religion*, series editor David Lopez, Princeton University Press, 2001, 298-317.

“Harnessing the Dragon: A Mythos Transformed in Medieval Jewish Literature and Art.” in *Myth and Method: New Perspectives on Sacred Narrative*, ed. Laurie Patton and Wendy Doniger. UVA Press, Charlottesville, 1996, 352-389.

“‘The Ways Of Truth Are Curtailed And Hidden’: A Medieval Hebrew Fable As A Vehicle For Covert Polemic.” *Prooftexts*, 14:3, (September 1994), 205-232.

“The Elephant and the Law: Adoption and Adaptation of a Medieval Christian Motif in the Art of the Jewish Minority.” *The Art Bulletin*, 76:3, (September 1994), 465-478.

“The Elusive Hare: Some observations on the relationship between midrash, socio-political reality and artistic symbolism in the medieval Jewish intellectual world.” *Orim* II: I (Autumn 1986), 70-86.

*Programmatic  
& Theoretical  
Essays*

“Dalia-Ruth Halperin. Illuminating in Micrography: The Catalan Micrography Mahzor MS Heb 8° 6527 in the National Library of Israel, The Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World, 51. Leyden and Boston: Brill, 2013.” *Studies In Iconography* Volume 36, 2015, 184-197.

“Jewish Visuality: Myths of Myths of Aniconism and Realities of Creativity.” *Conversations – The Journal of the Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals*, 9 (January 2011), 43-51.

“Re-presentations of the Jewish image: three new contributions.”

(A consideration of Miri Rubin. *Gentile Tales: The Narrative Assault on Late Medieval Jews*; Sara Lipton, *Images of Intolerance: The Representation of Jews and Judaism in the Bible moralisee*; Ruth Mellinkoff, *Antisemitic Hate Signs in Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts*).

*The Journal of The Association For Jewish Studies* 26:2, (2002), 327-340.

*Encyclopedia  
Articles*

“Dybbuk,” (202-204); “Golem,” (292-295); “Ziz,” (620-621) in *The Ashgate Encyclopedia of Literary and Cinematic Monsters*, Ashgate Press, 2013.

“Medieval Manuscripts in Sephard and Ashkenaz” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish Religion, History, and Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin. Cambridge University Press, 2010, 42-43.

“Dream.” in *The New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, Volume 2, ed. Philip Wiener, New York: Charles Scribners’ Sons, 2005, 593-596.

“Architecture, Synagogue: Medieval and Modern.” (40); “Art: Ceremonial.” (42); “Iconography.” (284); “Manuscripts, Hebrew.” (392) in *Reader’s Guide To Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry. Fitzroy Dearborn, Chicago 2000.

“Lucille Corcos.” in *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia*, ed. Paula Hyman and Deborah Dash Moore, Routledge, New York 1997, 290.

“Clothing, Jewish.” (237-239) and “Manuscripts, Hebrew Illuminated.” (582-583), in *Medieval France, An Encyclopedia*, ed. William W. Kibler and Grover Zinn, New York: Garland Press, 1995.

*Book  
Reviews*

Review of David Stern, *The Jewish Bible: A Material History* (Seattle: University of Washington Press: 2017) *Studies in Iconography*, forthcoming.

Review of Adam Cohen, *Signs and Wonders: 100 Haggada Masterpieces* (Koren, 2018). *Mosaic* online, April 19, 2018.

Review of Colum Hourihane, ed., *Abraham in Medieval Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Art* (2013). *H-France Review* Vol. 14 (May 2014), No. 78, 1-3.

Review of Lee I. Levine, *Visual Judaism in Late Antiquity: Historical Contexts of Jewish Art* (2012). *American Historical Review* (2014), Volume 119, Issue 5, 1630-1631.

Review of Marcy J. Dinius, *The Camera and the Press* (2012). *The London Times Literary Supplement*, January, 2013, 23.

Review of Hacker and Shear, eds., *The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy* (2011). *The Times of London Literary Supplement*, June 2012, 26.

Review of Alexandra Cuffel, *Gendering Disgust in Medieval Religious Polemic* (2007). *The American Historical Review*, February 2010, 269-70.

Review of Angel, Mark. “Remnant of Israel A Portrait of America’s First Jewish Congregation.” New York: Riverside Book Company, Inc. 2004. *Jewish Action* Winter 5765/2004, 27-32.

Review of Moore, Clare, editor. *The Visual Dimension: aspects of Jewish art*. Published in memory of Isaiah Shachar (1935-1977) *Polin* X (1997), 383-386.

Review of Elon, Ari. *From Jerusalem to the Edge of the Universe*. *Tikkun* 12:2, (March/April 1997), 70-72.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

*Catalogues*

*Sotheby’s Judaica Department Catalogues*, biannually, 1985-1991.  
*Ex Libris Frederick Binkerd Artz*. Oberlin College Library, 1986.

*Journalism*

“Standing at Sinai in Medieval Germany” *Jewish Review of Books*, online, May 17, 2018  
“Emotion In The Haggadah” *Jewish Chronicle*, London, Seder Supplement, Friday, April 7, 2017, 56-59.  
“The Decorated Contract.” *New York Jewish Week*, June 16, 2010.  
“Beyond Decorative.” *New York Jewish Week*, October 2, 2009.  
“Lost Roll of Film Reveals Artist’s Jewish Bent.” *Forward*, December 22, 2000, 11-12.  
“Reimagining a World of Bittersweet Splendor.” *Forward*, October 20, 2000, 11-12.  
“Hiddur Mitzvah—On Jewish Art,” A regular feature of *Jewish Action Magazine*, 1989-1994.

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- Distinguished  
Lectureships*
- 2016 Stanford University, Stanford, California  
The Taube Center, Distinguished Lectureship  
*"Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish Illuminated Manuscripts."*
  - 2016 Fordham University, New York  
Jewish Studies Lecture Series  
*"Jews in Medieval Art: A view from the inside and the outside."*
  - 2014 University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
The Shoshana Shier Memorial Lectures in Jewish Studies  
*"Jews & Visual Culture: The Problematic Relationship."*
  - 2014 Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas  
The Comini Lecture in Art History  
*"The Jewish Anachronic:  
Modes of temporality in medieval manuscripts made for Jewish patrons and audiences."*
  - 2013 Alfred University, Alfred, New York  
The Lefkowitz Lecture in Jewish Studies  
*"Old Haggadot for New Audiences: Art, story-telling, and religious Imagination."*
  - 2013 Leo Baeck College & Alyth Congregation, London, England  
The Van der Syl Lecture  
*"People of the Image:  
How Jews made art in spite of the Second Commandment-and why it matters."*
  - 2013 University College, London, England  
UCL Institute of Jewish Studies Distinguished Lectureship  
*"Mazzah, Eucharist, and the Jewish-Christian Conversation in The Birds' Head Haggadah."*
  - 2013 Drew University, Madison, New Jersey  
The Pincus Lecture  
*"Moses, Jesus, and the Dialogue of the Visual: Another 'Flight Into Egypt'."*
  - 2012 The State University of New York, Albany, New York  
Center for Jewish Studies Distinguished Lecture Series  
*"Old Haggadot for New Audiences: Art, story-telling, and religious Imagination."*
  - 2012 Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City  
The David Berg Foundation Lecture  
*"Bad Boy: The Rylands Haggadah as Naughty Sibling."*
  - 2011 University of Miami, Miami, Florida  
The Lawrence and Susanne Fishman Lecture  
*"The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination."*
  - 2009 University of Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut  
Maurice Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies  
The Rose and Arthur Fallman Lecture  
*"The Art and Artifacts of the Jews: Three Thousand Years in the Making."*
  - 2005 Jewish Educators Assembly Conference, Coral Springs, Florida, 2005  
Keynote Address  
*"Stepchild, Servant or Crown?  
The Cultural Arts as Midrash, Memory and Mirror in the service of Jewish Education."*

- 2003 Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City  
History Department Visiting Distinguished Lecture Series  
“*Art and Text: Medieval Encounters.*”
- 2003 Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana  
The Burke Distinguished Lectureship in Art History  
“*The Mystery of the ‘Birds’ Head Haggadah’ and the Secret Language of Jewish Art.*”
- 2002 Makor/Steinhardt Center of the 92nd Street Y, New York City  
Inaugural Lecture, Makor Artist’s Network  
“*Cherubs, Chariots and Donkeys: Jewish Artists And ‘Jewish Art.’*”
- 1997 The Jewish Museum, New York, New York City  
The Harry G. Friedman Society Lecture  
“*The Jerusalem Haggadah: A postmodern traditionalist woman looks at the ancient text.*”
- 1995 The Jewish Museum, New York, New York City  
The Benjamin F. Zucker Lecture in Judaica  
“*Leo Strauss’ ‘careful reader’ and medieval Jewish art.*”
- 1995 The State University of New York, New Paltz, New York  
The Louis and Mildred Resnick Lecture  
“*Dreams of Subversion: Religion, Art and Politics in the Middle Ages.*”
- Distinguished* 2017 Institute for Jewish Philosophy and Religion, University of Hamburg, Germany,  
*Colloquia* Series: *Depictions of God in Jewish Art:*  
“*Avoiding and Implying the Divine Image in Medieval Iconography Created For Jews.*”
- 2016 Berlin, Zentrum Jüdische Studien  
Graduate Colloquium  
“*Emotions Studies and Medieval Manuscripts Illuminated for Jews.*”
- 2015 Bar Ilan University, Ramat Aviv, Israel  
International Conference: “*Constructing and Deconstructing Jewish Art.*”  
“*Expanding the Methodological Toolbox For the Study of Medieval Judaism*”
- 2014 The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia  
Interdisciplinary Conference: “*Books and Readers in the Pre-Modern World.*”  
“*Reimagining Margins in Manuscripts Made for Medieval Jews.*”
- 2014 Museu d’Historia de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain  
International Colloquium: “*Haggadot: The Jewish Flower of Gothic Barcelona.*”  
“*Affect, Emotion And Imagination: The “Inner Life” Of The Haggadot.*”
- 2014 The British Library, London, England  
International Symposium: “*Imagining Medieval Jewish Life in Word and Image.*”  
“*Art and Text as Cultural Resistance: Polemical Exchange.*”
- 2014 The Lubar Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin  
International Symposium: “*Visualizing and Translating Scriptures.*”  
“*Jewish translations and visualizations of scriptural texts in manuscripts made for Jewish patrons.*”
- 2014 The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, Stockholm, Sweden  
International Symposium: “*Medieval Roots of Modern Antisemitism*”  
“*Bestial bodies on the Jewish margins.*”
- 2014 University College, London, London, England  
IHR Jewish History Seminar  
“*Reconsidering Jewish Art History.*”

- 2014 Universität Zurich, Lehrstuhl für Kunstgeschichte des Mittelalters  
Kunsthistorisches Institut, Zurich, Switzerland  
*“Clothing Sacred Scripture.”*
- 2014 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut  
Program for the History of the Book  
*“Book Arts and the Expansion of the Methodological Toolbox  
for the Study of Medieval Judaism.”*
- 2013 Emory University, Atlanta Georgia  
Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Program  
*“Visual Exegesis: Images as Instruments of Scriptural Interpretation and Hermeneutics”  
“The ‘Akedah in medieval manuscripts made for Jewish audiences.”*
- 2013 Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Medieval Studies Seminar  
The Jewish Cultures and Societies Seminar & the Center for Jewish Studies  
*“Artist Anonymous, Patron Unknown:  
Iconography and Authorial Intention in the Medieval Haggadah.”*
- 2013 The American Cultural Center & The Jewish Museum, Prague  
Symposium on Jews and Visual Culture  
*“Iconography as Exegesis: An exploration of the role of the visual in interpretive contexts.”*
- 2013 Leo Baeck College, London, England  
Kol-Bo Distinguished Scholar Residency  
*“The Secret Language of Jewish Visual Culture: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination.”*  
Day 1: *Ut Pictura Poesis*: How to “Read” Images Midrashically  
Day 2: Jews and Other Jews  
Day 3: Jews and Others  
Day 4: Faculty Session: Iconography as Exegesis: Pedagogical Strategies
- 2011 The Jewish Museum, New York  
Symposium on The Jews of The Netherlands  
*“Representations and Re-Presentations of Jewish Customs in 18th Century Amsterdam.”*
- 2008 Austrian Academy of Sciences, Krems, Austria  
Institut für Realienkunde des Mittelalters und der frühen Neuzeit  
Images, Ritual, and Daily Life” An International Workshop  
*“Passover Practice and Polemic in the Birds’ Head Haggadah.”*
- 2008 The Center for Jewish History New York  
NYU Center for Religion and Media, The Working Group on Jews, Media, & Religion  
Objects of Affection: The Wedding in Jewish Life: A Colloquium  
*“‘The way we were:’ Realia or fantasia?  
A Marriage Procession, Italy, 1465. (London, British Library ms Harley 5686, fol. 27v.”*
- 2014 The British Library, London, England  
International Symposium: *“Imagining Medieval Jewish Life in Word and Image.”*
- 2014 Boston College, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Jews, Christians & Visuality, New Approaches: An international conference*
- 2013 The Jewish Museum, New York  
*The Medieval Hebrew Manuscript Today: A Symposium on the Occasion of  
“Crossing Borders: Manuscripts from the Bodleian Library, Oxford University.”*
- 2012 The American Cultural Center & The Jewish Museum, Prague  
*Haggadah – an open-ended story: A Colloquium /  
Kolokvium: Hagada – vyprávění s otevřeným koncem*

*Conferences  
& Symposia  
Events  
Organized*



*Sessions  
Organized*

- 2014 Association of Jewish Studies Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
“*New Approaches to Jewish Visuality in Medieval Iberia: Word and Image.*”  
Chair: Hartley Lachter; Participants: Marc Epstein, Julie Harris, Abby Kornfeld
- 1995 Association of Jewish Studies Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*The Blood Libel*  
Chair: Ephraim Karnefogel; Participants: David Berger, Marc Epstein, Jonathan Frankel
- 1994 Association of Jewish Studies Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Imaging and Self-Imagining: Art and The Construction of Historical Memory*  
Chair: Michael Berkowitz; Participants: Marc Epstein, Lisa Epstein, Mitchell Hart
- 1993 Association of Jewish Studies Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Cross-cultural Dialogue and Polemic in Medieval Jewish and Christian Art*  
Chair: Walter Cahn; Participants: Dwayne Carpenter, Marc Epstein, Sara Lipton

*Papers  
Presented*

- 2018 The 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo  
*Iconography and Its Discontents* (Session sponsored by the Princeton Index of Medieval Art)  
“*Speculation and Its Limitations: Research Methodologies in the Iconography of Manuscripts Illuminated for Medieval Jews.*”
- 2016 Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany  
*Monsters, Demons, and Wonders in Jewish History: An International Conference*  
“*Bestial Bodies on the Jewish Margins.*”
- 2014 Association of Jewish Studies Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
“*Research Methodologies in the Iconography of Manuscripts Illuminated for Jews in Medieval Iberia: Speculations and Limitations.*”
- 2014 Boston College, Boston Massachusetts  
*Jews, Christians & Visuality, New Approaches: An international conference*  
Keynote Address: “*New Directions for Old Manuscripts.*”
- 2013 Princeton University, Princeton New Jersey  
Index of Christian Art  
*Manuscripta Illuminata:*  
Approaches to Understanding Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts  
“*Thought Crimes: Implied Ensuing Action in Manuscripts Made for Jewish Patrons.*”
- 2013 The Jewish Museum, New York  
The Medieval Hebrew Manuscript Today: A Symposium on the Occasion of  
“*Crossing Borders: Manuscripts from the Bodleian Library, Oxford University.*”  
“*The Future of the Medieval Hebrew Manuscript.*”
- 2012 Digital Humanities Project (DigiPal) King’s College, London, England  
International Symposium: Digital Approaches to Medieval Script and Image  
“*The Chiasmatron: Hyperlinks and Pedagogical Methodology in the Study of the Iconography of Manuscripts Made for Jews in the Middle Ages.*”
- 2011 Haifa University, Haifa, Israel  
Text & Image in Religious Cosmography: Reading Ilanot and Parallel Artifacts  
“*Maps and Memes: Visible and Invisible Universes in Jewish Visual Culture.*”
- 2011 Szeged University, Szeged, Hungary  
International Society for the Study of Western Esotericism  
*Lux In Tenebris: The Visual And The Symbolic In Western Esotericism*  
“*Hidden and Revealed in Medieval Jewish Manuscript Illumination.*”

- 2010 Midwest Jewish Studies Conference, Cleveland, Ohio  
*"Tapestry of Life: The Panoply of Decorative Schemes in Polish Wooden Synagogues."*
- 2010 Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts  
 Patronage and the Sacred Book: An International Conference  
*"Patronage unknown, artist anonymous: Internal evidence for knowledgeable Jewish constellations of authorship in the 14th century."*
- 2010 Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio  
 The Jewish Woman and Her Body: An International Conference  
*"Esther's Body and the Bodies of Others in Contemporary Hassidic Visual Culture."*
- 2008 University of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina  
 Association for the Study of Esotericism, Third International Conference  
*"The Birds' Head Haggadah: Nature, the Esoteric, and the Inner Jew."*
- 2008 Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 The Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center  
 The Jewish Art and Visual Culture Research Project  
 Jewish Art in Context: The Role and Meaning of Artifacts and Visual Images:  
 An International Conference  
*"Form & Function in The Golden Haggadah."*
- 2006 Portland State University, Portland Oregon  
 Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies  
 co-sponsored with the departments of History and Art History  
 Looking at Jewish-Christian Relations:  
 Visual Culture in Medieval and Early Modern Europe  
*"Passover Practice and Polemic in the Birds' Head Haggadah."*
- 2006 Vilna Shul / Center for Jewish Heritage, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Continuity: The Tradition of Jewish Art and Architecture  
*"Synagogue Decoration: Poetry, Politics and Polemics in Paint."*
- 2005 University of California, Davis, California  
 Program in Jewish Studies  
 Beyond the People of the Book: Visual Culture and the Construction of Jewish Identity:  
 An international conference  
*"Silence is Golden: Making sense of the Golden Haggadah."*
- 2005 Association for Jewish Studies Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting, Washington, DC,  
*"Passover Practice and Polemic in the Birds' Head Haggadah."*
- 2004 University of Leeds, Leeds, England  
 International Conference in Medieval Studies  
*"Enfranchised and Displaced: Socio-religious stratification in medieval Jewish art."*
- 2004 Association for Jewish Studies Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois  
*"Silence is Golden: Making sense of the Golden Haggadah."*
- 2003 Association for Jewish Studies Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts,  
*"Enfranchised and Displaced: Socio-religious stratification in medieval Jewish art."*
- 2003 Mid-Hudson Medieval Conference, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
*"The Road to Redemption: Cross-Cultural Iconographic Appropriation and Polemics among the Jews of Christian Spain."*
- 2002 College Art Association Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*"Birds Head Revisited: The 'Birds' Head Haggadah' and Jewish Identity."*

- 1999 University of Leeds, Leeds, England  
International Conference in Medieval Studies  
*"Subversive Dreams, Political responses."*
- 1999 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel  
The Center for Jewish Art  
Sixth International Seminar on Jewish Art  
*"Silence is Golden: The repression of the Jewish in the analysis of the Golden Haggadah and the return of the repressed."*
- 1997 Association for Jewish Studies Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts,  
*"Recycling Picart: Figuring Jews in and out of context."*
- 1996 College Art Association Conference, Boston Massachusetts  
*"Icons and Alterity: The Crosscultural Dimensions of Biblical Iconography in the Middle Ages."*
- 1996 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel  
The Center for Jewish Art  
Fifth International Seminar on Jewish Art  
*"At the Gates of Jerusalem: Gender, Art, and the Construction of Cultural Identity."*
- 1995 Association for Jewish Studies Twenty- Seventh Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts,  
*"Bread of Affliction/ Bread of Salvation: Eucharistic theology, eucharistic piety and the Blood Libel."*
- 1995 American Academy of Religion Conference, Chicago Illinois  
*"Primality, Paradigm and Prototype: Mythopoeic archetypes in the native context of rabbinic and medieval tradition."*
- 1994 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel  
The Center for Jewish Art  
Fourth International Seminar on Jewish Art  
*"The Elephant and the Law."*
- 1994 Association for Jewish Studies, Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*"Another Flight Into Egypt: Messianism and Iconographic Appropriation in Medieval Jewish Art."*
- 1994 International Conference on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo Michigan  
*"Medieval Jewish Approaches to the Song of Songs: Word and Image."*
- 1994 University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas  
International Conference on Myth in the Biblical and Jewish Traditions  
*"Divine or Demonic? The Transformation of Serpent Archetypes in Medieval Jewish Literature and Art."*
- 1993 Association for Jewish Studies Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*"Repel the Red One in the Darkest Shadow: A text-based approach to Anti-Christian Polemics in Jewish Iconography."*
- 1993 College Art Association Conference, Seattle, Washington  
*"Jewish Art and Minority Identity in the Middle Ages New York."*
- 2013 Association of Jewish Studies Forty-Fifth Annual Meeting, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Medieval And Modern Biblical Interpretation*  
Azzan Yadin-Israel (Rutgers University)  
Ilana Sasson (Tel Aviv University)  
Alexandra Zirkle (University of Chicago)  
Amos Frisch (Bar-Ilan University)
- 2012 Limmud, New York  
*Radical Jewish Art and Community*  
Presented by Art Kibbutz NYC

*Sessions  
Chaired*

*University  
Lectures*

- 2018 Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York  
"Mirror or Projector?: What can Jewish art teach about History?"
- 2013 Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts  
"Birds Head Revisited: Identity, Politics and Polemics the Birds' Head Haggadah."
- 2013 Dickenson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
"The Medieval Haggadah & Its Modern Interpreters."
- 2013 Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut  
"Mazzah, Eucharist, and the Jewish-Christian Conversation in The Birds' Head Haggadah."
- 2013 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
"Socio-Political Stratification in The Birds' Head Haggadah."
- 2012 City University of New York, New York City  
"The Mysteries of the Golden Haggadah."
- 2012 University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario  
"Birds Head Revisited: Identity, Politics and Polemics the Birds' Head Haggadah."
- 2012 University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois  
"Birds Head Revisited: Identity, Politics and Polemics the Birds' Head Haggadah."
- 2012 Florida International University, Miami, Florida  
"Religion, Art, and Politics in the Passover Haggadah: Then and Now."
- 2012 Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago, Illinois  
"The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination."
- 2012 Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio  
"The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative And Religious Imagination."
- 2009 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Freshmen Orientation Address  
"Sexuality, Spirituality and Art: Mystic Ascent via the Garden of the Song."
- 2009 Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
Panel: "The Iconography of the Wooden Synagogue."
- 2008 Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut  
"Is a manuscript a mirror?  
'Reality' and its reflection in art created for Jews, from medieval to modern."
- 2008 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center "Artful Dodger" Series  
"Crucifixion with Brother Emael, c. 1465."
- 2006 Museum of Biblical Art, New York City  
"Art and Midrash: Jewish Art as Jewish Text."
- 2006 Hebrew Union College, New York City  
"Reading social medieval Ashkenazic social structures in the 'Birds' Head Haggadah'."

- 2006 University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon  
Department of Religious Studies / Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies  
Humanities Consortium  
*"Hidden in Plain Sight: Women in Jewish Art."*
- 2006 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
Berman Center for Jewish Studies  
*"High,' 'Low,' and Hidden in Plain View: Women in Jewish Art."*
- 2005 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center "Artful Dodger" Series  
*"Reading Medieval Art."*
- 2005 Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, co-sponsored by History and Art History  
*"High,' 'Low,' and Hidden in Plain View: Women in Jewish Art."*
- 2004 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
Freshmen Orientation Address  
*"Religion, Art and Politics."*
- 2004 Hebrew Union College, New York City  
*"Religion, Art and Politics: New Approaches to Jewish Visual Culture."*
- 2004 Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts  
Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry  
*"Splendid Heritage: Wall Painting in Polish Wooden Synagogues."*
- 2004 Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, Massachusetts  
*"Lost Historic Wall-Painting: The case of the Polish wooden synagogues."*
- 2003 Hebrew Union College, New York City  
*"The Visual Dimension: Jewish Life in the Middle Ages."*
- 2002 Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, Chicago  
*"'Birds' Head Revisited': The 'Birds' Head Haggadah' and Jewish Identity."*
- 2001 Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York  
*"Exclusiveness and Tolerance: Jewish Life and Art in the Middle Ages."*
- 2001 Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel  
Rothberg School of Graduate Studies, Visiting Lecturer Series  
*"'Silence is Golden': The representation of the Jewish in the analysis of the Golden Haggadah."*
- 1999 Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel  
Rothberg School of Graduate Studies, Visiting Lecturer Series  
*"Art and Midrash/Art as Midrash."*
- 1998 Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona  
*"Religion, Art and Politics: Jewish Art as Minority Art."*
- 1995 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
*"At the Gates of Jerusalem: Gender, Art and the Construction of Cultural Identity."*
- 1995 Pomona College, Claremont, California  
*"A State of Disunion: Constructing Judaisms in Postmodern America."*
- 1994 State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, New York  
*"Jewish Art and Jewish National Identity in the Middle Ages."*
- 1994 Bard College, Annandale on Hudson, New York  
*"The Elusive Hare."*

- 1993 Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York  
The Dean's Faculty Forum: "The Elusive Hare."
- 1993 Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York  
"A New Approach to Medieval Jewish Art."
- 1993 Indiana University at Purdue, Purdue, Indiana  
"The Despoilers Shall Be Despoiled."
- 1992 Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
"Subversive Ideas in 'traditional' texts."
- 1992 Smith College, Northampton Massachusetts  
"The Secret Language of Jewish Art and Jewish Religious Culture."

## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

*Limmud  
& USCJ*

- 2016 Limmud UK Conference  
"The Way We Weren't: Jewish Art As A 'Mirror Of Jewish Life?'"  
"Dangerous Developments: Jewish Art And The Politics Of Motion."  
"Monsters In The Margins: Race, Ethnicity And Otherness In Jewish Art."  
"Getting Emotional In Art Made For And By Jews."  
"Reimagining A Jewish Site Through Scholarship And The Arts."  
"Images That Say 1,000 Words."
- 2014 Limmud UK  
"Jewish Visual Culture: Contemporary & Historical."
- 2014 Limmud Stockholm  
"How Jews Made Art in spite of the Second Commandment—And Why It Matters"  
"Messages of Protest and Dreams of Subversion: Political Dimensions of Art Made For Jews"  
"Trials and Triumphs: Jewish Women in Medieval Spain and the Mystery of the Golden Haggadah."
- 2013 Centennial of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Baltimore, Maryland  
"People of the Image: How Jews made art in spite of the Second Commandment— and Why it Matters."  
"My [Father's] Name is Asher Lev: Reflections on Art and 'Ultra-orthodoxy.'"  
"Beit Midrash: Rabbi Hillel, Rabbi Jesus & the Impossible Commandment of Love."  
"Harry Potter and the Jewish Menagerie."
- 2012 Limmud New York / Limmud Los Angeles / Limmud New Orleans  
"The Mystery of the Birds' Head Haggadah."  
"The Jewish Body in Art."  
"The Secret Language of Jewish Art."
- 2010 Limmud UK  
*Jews, Judaism, and the Visual*  
"Art and Midrash/Art as Midrash."  
"The Jewish Body in Art."  
"I will hide my face' - Esther's Appearances (and Disappearances) in Visual Culture."  
"At the beginning of God's creating... - Really Reading Genesis."
- 2008 Limmud UK  
"Eros and the Jews."  
"Sacred and Profane: The X-Factor of Jewish Culture."  
*The Secret Language of Jewish Art:*  
"Parameters of the Idea."  
"Art as Midrash - Jewish Art as Textual Commentary."  
"Art History' - Jewish Art and Collective Memory."  
"Art as Mirror: Jewish Art and the Jewish Self."

- 2018 Temple Emanu-El, Providence RI, Scholar-in-Residence:  
“People of the Image: Art, Meaning and History”
- 2016 Orange County Community Scholars Program  
14th Annual Community Scholars Summer Scholar Institute  
“Jews and Music: Beautiful Harmonies.”  
“The Lost Tribes: A Quest.”  
“The Most Elegant Jews: The Western Sephardim.”  
“Who is a Jew? Sects and parties in Jewish history and tradition.”
- 2014 Orange County Community Scholars Program  
Adult Retreat / Shavu’ot Residency  
“Prophets and Prediction, Vision and Veils.”  
“Getting in touch with our inner eyes.”  
“Visions of Revelation: Visions, Art, and the Receiving of the Torah.”  
“Seeing the Voices: The Visionary Element in Our Heritage and in Our Future.”  
“Where we’ve come from, what we’ve gained (and lost).”
- 2014 B’nai Brith Summer Institute, Allentown, Pennsylvania  
People of the Image: Jews and Art:  
“Esther Hidden and Revealed in Jewish Art”  
“Trials and Triumphs: Medieval Spain and the Mystery of the Golden Haggadah.”  
“Imaging the Future: Jewish Art and Its Role in the Future of the Jewish People.”
- 2013 Houston Jewish Community Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence, Houston, Texas  
People of the Image: Jews and Art:  
“Esther Hidden and Revealed in Jewish Art.”  
“Trials and Triumphs: Medieval Spain and the Mystery of the Golden Haggadah.”  
“Imaging the Future: Jewish Art and Its Role in the Future of the Jewish People.”
- 2013 Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York  
“My (Father’s) Name is Asher Lev: Reflections on Art and Orthodoxy.”
- 2013 Summer Institute of The Jewish Center of the Hamptons, East Hampton, Long Island  
“The Future of Jewish Art in light of its Past.”
- 2013 Alyth Congregation, London England  
People of the Image: Jews and Art  
“Jews & Visuality in Theory and Practice.”  
“Bodleian Treasures Revealed:  
A Visit to the Rare Manuscripts Vault with Professor Epstein.”
- 2013 Skirball Institute, Congregation Emanu-El, New York City  
Day-Long Seminar  
“The Secret Language of Jewish Art.”
- 2013 K.K. Mikveh Israel, The Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
“Trials and Tribulations: Jewish Women in Medieval Spain.”
- 2013 Chicago-Northern Suburban Synagogue, Chicago, Illinois  
Family Kol Ami Museum Scholar-in-Residency  
“My [Father’s] Name is Asher Lev: Reflections on Art and ‘Ultra-Orthodoxy.’”  
“Four Cubits of Space: Seeking God in Stillness.”  
“Building God’s House in the World: Creation, the Tabernacle and Us.”  
“The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, Religious Imagination.”
- 2013 Orange County Community Scholars Program  
Twelfth Annual Month-Long Residency  
Fifteen stand-alone lectures & two three-part lecture series at seventeen venues  
“People of the Image: Jewish Identities, Politics & Theology via the Arts”

- 2012 Beth Am Synagogue, Baltimore Maryland  
*The Symbolic Universe of Judaism: Living in the World, Reaching into God*  
 "Hearing God's still, small voice."  
 "Drenched with Spirituality: Living in a Symbolic Universe."  
 Text Study: Radical Hassidic words for the Post-Religious Age.  
 "The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative and Religious Imagination."
- 2012 Brotherhood Synagogue, New York City  
 Six Week Adult Learning Course  
*Dangerous Scriptures*
- 2010 Brotherhood Synagogue, New York  
 "Hannukah: Beyond the Lights."
- 2009 Poughkeepsie Public Library, Poughkeepsie, New York  
 Nextbook Five-Week Seminar: Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature  
 "Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel."
- 2009 Poughkeepsie Public Library, Poughkeepsie, New York  
 Nextbook Five-Week Seminar: Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature  
 "Neighbors: The World Next Door."
- 2008 Congregation Sons of Israel, Allentown Pennsylvania  
 "Art as Exegesis."
- 2007 Kehillat Lev Shalem- Woodstock Jewish Congregation, Woodstock, New York  
 "The Secret Language of Jewish Art."
- 2003 Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel of Riverdale, New York  
*Jewish self-perception in the Middle Ages:*  
 "Identity"  
 "Community"  
 "Redemption"
- 1999 Congregation Emanu-El, New York City  
 Five Week Series:  
 "The Troubled Soul: Jewish Mysticism on Film."
- 1989 Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut  
 Lecture Series: A Different World: Dimensions of Jewish Mysticism,  
 "The Elephant and the Torah."  
 "'When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid...'  
 Divine/Demonic Liminality in Medieval Jewish Texts and Iconography."
- Public Lectures*
- 2018 College of Jewish Studies, Binghamton, New York  
 "People of the Image: Jews & Art."
- 2016 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
 "All This Has Come Upon Us: The Art of Mark Podwal."
- 2015 Spertus Institute, Chicago  
 "Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Jewish manuscript illumination."
- 2015 Ida Crown Day School, Chicago  
 "Mirror or Projection? Using medieval manuscripts made for Jews in the Day School Curriculum."
- 2015 Morgan Library, New York City  
 "Skies of Parchment, Seas of Ink: Barbara Wolff and her place in the history of Jewish manuscript illumination."



- 2014 Council of Jewish Educators, Baltimore, Maryland  
Florence Melton Adult Mini-School  
*"Lighting the Darkness: H‎annukah, The Visual, and Jewish Learning."*
- 2014 Mizrahi Bayit, Toronto, Ontario, Canada:  
*"Meaning in the Margins."*
- 2014 First Narayever Congregation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
*"Tragedy & Triumph: Jewish Women in Medieval Iberia."*
- 2014 Beth Tsedec Congregation, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
The Shoshana Shier Memorial Lecture  
*"Sermons in Wood: The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Poland-Ukraine."*
- 2014 Congregation Sons of Israel, Briarcliff Manor  
*"The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative & Religious Imagination."*
- 2014 Congregation *Ohr Zaru'a*, New York City  
*"Trials and Triumphs:  
Jewish Women in Medieval Spain and the Mystery of the Golden Haggadah."*
- 2013 Pardes Institute, Jerusalem, Israel  
*"Art as Midrash / Midrash as Art."*
- 2013 Institute for Adult Jewish Studies, Plainview, Long Island  
*"Women Hidden in Plain Sight: Secrets of the Golden Haggadah."*
- 2012 Jewish Theological Seminary & Manhattan Jewish Community Center, New York City  
*"The Medieval Haggadah for the Contemporary Seder."*
- 2012 The Art Story Foundation, New York City  
*"The Jewish Body in Art."*
- 2012 North Shore Community Kallah, Chicago, Illinois  
*"Dragons in Jewish Literature and Art: Divine or Demonic."*
- 2012 Institute for Jewish Ideas and Ideals, New York City  
*"Revealing the Secret Language of Jewish Art."*
- 2012 Seabrook Village, Tinton Falls, New Jersey  
*"Passover and the Religious Imagination."*
- 2012 College Of Jewish Knowledge, Columbus, Ohio  
*"Jews And Art: Secret Transcripts."*
- 2010 Drisha Arts Fellows Program, Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, New York City  
*"The Figure on the Throne: Art as Midrash, Divine and Human creation, and Sabbath rest."*
- 2010 Manhattan Jewish Community Center, New York City  
*"Art and Midrash in the Work of Richard McBee: A Panel Discussion."*
- 2010 Congregation Shir Chadash, Poughkeepsie, New York  
*"Art & Imagination in the Illustrated Passover Haggadah."*
- 2010 Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie, New York  
*"I will hide my face: Esther in Jewish visual culture."*
- 2009 Chizzuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland  
*"Musclejews, Wimps, and the Soldiers in Between."*
- 2009 Manhattan Jewish Community Center, New York City  
*"The Body in Jewish Visual Tradition."*

- 2009 Woodstock Havurah, Woodstock, New York  
“Messianic Movements.”
- 2009 Congregation Schomre Israel, Poughkeepsie, New York  
“The Secret Language of Jewish Art.”
- 2009 Vassar Regional Programs, London, England  
“The Mysteries of the Golden Haggadah.”
- 2009 One Day University, Ryebrook, New York  
“Touching the Sacred: Religion and the Arts.”
- 2008 Bnai Abraham Synagogue, Easton, Pennsylvania  
“Lions, Dragons and Unicorns: Animals, Real and Imaginary, in Jewish Art.”
- 2008 Woodstock Havurah, Woodstock, New York  
“The Jerusalem Temple.”
- 2007 Congregation Sons of Israel, Allentown Pennsylvania  
“Wooden Synagogues.”
- 2007 Woodstock Havurah, Woodstock, New York  
“‘High,’ ‘Low,’ and Hidden in Plain View: Women in Jewish Art.”
- 2007 National Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, Massachusetts  
“Splendid Heritage: Wall Painting in Polish Wooden Synagogues.”
- 2000 Chizzuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland  
“Re-Imagining Jewish Art as Jewish Text.”
- 1999 Congregation Emanu-El, New York City  
“Looking back in the service of looking forward: The Museum at Temple Emanu-El.”
- 1999 Chizzuk Amuno Congregation, Baltimore, Maryland  
“A Glimpse of Eternity by Grace of Art Museums and the Jewish Future.”
- 1999 The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Seminars of the Cloisters’ Summer Internship Program  
“‘Make Your Books Your Companions’:  
Thinking about Rare and Antique Hebrew Books and Manuscripts as Cultural Artifacts.”
- 1988 American Jewish Historical Society, Waltham, Massachusetts  
“The Messianic Unicorn: On the Appropriation of Symbols.”

## COLLEGE ACTIVITY

### *Teaching*

I teach three to five courses annually on introductory through seminar levels in the following areas:

Western monotheistic traditions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam); material & visual culture in the study of Religion; medieval Christianity, Western mysticism, and religion and popular culture, all in comparative contexts. I have taught Freshman Writing Seminars on a variety of topics within Religious Studies and have participated in the Religion Department’s Colloquium and various capstone projects as well.

I have also taught a variety of aspects of ancient, medieval and modern Jewish religion and culture and helped found and have directed the interdisciplinary Program in Jewish Studies, coordinating the activities of the steering and teaching committees, study abroad, and coordinating and leading the Program Study Trip from 1997-1999 from 2006-2009, and in 2017.

I have actively participated in the College Course, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Environmental Studies.

I engage in academic advising in pre-major, major and *ad hoc* contexts and have, over the years, supervised senior theses and independent study courses in Religion, Jewish Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Independent Program.

*Service*

Director of Jewish Studies	2006-2009; 2017-present
Mary Conover Mellon Housefellow, Main House	2003-2010
Davison House	1994-1997
Co-chair: Housefellow Committee	
Member, Committee on College Life	
Travelling Speaker: Regional Programs	2000-present

**PROFESSIONAL  
AFFILIATIONS**

Association for Jewish Studies  
American Historical Association  
Association for Religious Studies  
Society of Biblical Literature  
College Art Association  
Center for Jewish Art, Jerusalem  
International Society for the Study of Western Esotericism  
International Center for Medieval Art  
Jewish Art and Visual Culture Research Project  
The Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center, Tel Aviv University  
Jewish Theological Seminary and The Jewish Museum Seminar on Jewish Art and Visual Culture,  
New York University Project on Religion and the Media  
Center for Jewish History Working Group for the History of the Jewish Book