

Eliyahu Stern
Yale University
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New Haven, CT. 06511
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POSITIONS:

Associate Professor of Modern Jewish Intellectual and Cultural History, 2010-
Program in Judaic Studies, Departments of Religious Studies and History,
Yale University

Director of Undergraduate Studies, The Program in Judaic Studies, 2010-
Yale University

Junior William Golding Fellow and Fellow in Jewish History, 2008-2010
Brasenose College and The Oriental Institute,
University of Oxford

EDUCATION:

U.C. Berkeley Joint Doctoral Program in Judaic Studies Ph.D. 2008
Designated Emphasis: Modern Jewish History
Dissertation Title: "Elijah of Vilna and the making of Modern Rabbinic Judaism"
Advisors: Profs. Daniel Boyarin, John Efron, Martin Jay

The Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva U. M.A. Talmud 2003

Yeshiva University Honors College B.A. Political Science 2001

BOOKS:

Jewish Materialism: The Intellectual Revolution of the 1870s, New Haven: Yale
University Press, 2018

The Genius: Elijah of Vilna and the Making of Modern Judaism, New Haven: Yale
University Press, 2013

Representative Academic Reviews:

Shmuel Feiner, *American Historical Review*:

<http://ahr.oxfordjournals.org/content/119/1/275.extract>

Daniel B. Schwartz, *Marginalia Review*:

<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/move-over-mendelssohn-by-daniel-b-schwartz/>

Shaul Magid, *Jewish Review of Books*:

<http://jewishreviewofbooks.com/articles/239/the-gaon-of-modernity/>

Theodore R. Weeks, *Russian Review*:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/russ.10741/epdf>

Joshua Teplitsky, *The Cardozo School of Law Blog*:

<http://blogs.yu.edu/cjl/2013/08/01/review-of-stern-the-genius-elijah-of-vilna-and-the-making-of-modern-judaism/>

Iris Idelson-Shein, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*:

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/541664/summary>

PEER REVIEW JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS:

“Marx and the Kabbalah: Aaron Shemuel Lieberman’s Materialist Conception of Jewish History.” *Journal of the History of Ideas* (Forthcoming, 2018)

“Philosophy and Dissimulation in Elijah of Vilna’s Writings and Legacy.” *Revue Internationale de Philosophie* (Forthcoming, 2018)

“Catholic Judaism: The Political Theology of the Russian Jewish Enlightenment.” *Harvard Theological Review* vol. 109 no. 4 (October: 2016): 483-511

“Rabbinics without the Crutch of Canonicity.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* vol.106, no. 2 (Winter: 2016): 150-154

“Genius and Demographics in Modern Jewish History.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* vol.101 no.3 (Summer: 2011): 347-382

“Modern Rabbinic Historiography and the Legacy of Elijah of Vilna.” *Modern Judaism* vol. 24 no. 1 (2004): 79-90

“J.L. Levin and the birth of Marxist Hebrew Poetry.” Co-author Hannan Hever. *Rethinking Marxism* (Invited to Submit, 2018)

CHAPTERS AND ESSAYS IN ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

“Paul in the Jerusalem of Lithuania.” *Essays in Honor of Daniel Boyarin*. Pages 4017-418. Edited by Charlotte Fonrobert et al. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017.

“Enlightenment Conceptions of Jewish Law.” *Judaism and the Law*. Pages 215-231. Edited by Christine Hayes. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

“The Mitnagdim and the Rabbinic Era as the Age of Reason.” *Time and Eternity in Jewish Mysticism: That Which is Before and That Which is After*. Pages 136-150.

Edited by Brian Ogren. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2015.

“The Origins of Violence: The Judaic in Walter Benjamin’s Critique of Violence.”
Report of The Oxford Centre For Hebrew and Jewish Studies (2009): 85-99.

ACADEMIC BOOK REVIEWS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES:

David Ruderman’s *A Best-Selling Hebrew Book of the Modern Era: The Book of the Covenant of Pinhas Hurwitz and Its Remarkable Legacy* in *AJS Review* (November, 2016)

Saba Mahmood’s *Religious Difference in A Secular Age: A Minority Report* in *The Journal of Politics, Religion and Ideology* (May, 2016)

“Elijah ben Solomon’s Exegetical Method.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (EBR) (2014)

ACADEMIC AWARDS:

Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund	2014, 2016
Finalist for The Sami Rohr Prize in Jewish Literature (<i>The Genius</i>)	2014
Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Publication or Research, Yale University	2012
Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund, Yale University	2010, 2016
Koret Fellowship at U.C. Berkeley	2003-2008
YIVO Institute Gitleson-Tell Memorial Fellowship	2005-2006

INVITED ACADEMIC LECTURES:

“Reforming Religion in Modernity,” New York University-Abu Dhabi conference on
Tolerance in the UAE: Histories and Reflections on Religious Tolerance and the
Modern Nation-State,” November 2017

“Jewish Materialism,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 2017

“Marx and the Kabbalah,” Brown University, November 2017

“The Materiality of Ideas,” Association of Jewish Studies, December 2016

“Secularization or Materialization: Toward a New History of Religion in Modern
Western Life,” Cornell University, December 2015

“Religious Communities and National Organisms: Resources, Race, and the
Reconstruction of Jewish Identity in Nineteenth-Century Europe,” Oxford

- University, The Long Nineteenth-Century Graduate Seminar, November 2015
- “Wissen ist nicht Wissenschaft: The Practice of Scholarship and Modern Jewish Identity Politics,” University of Pennsylvania, April 2015
- “The Materialization of Modern Judaism,” CUNY Graduate Center, December 2015
- “Jewish Materialism,” Yale University, April 2015
- “The Kabbalistic Origins of Jewish Socialism,” American Academy of Religion, November 2014
- “Kant and the Yeshiva: The Eastern European Jewish Reception of the Critique of Reason,” University of Chicago, German Studies Workshop, October 2014
- “The Secularization of the Kabbalah,” University of Chicago, Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2014
- “Catholic Judaism: The Traditional Character of Eastern European Jewry,” Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies,” July 2014
- “Not by Bread Alone: How Traditionalists Survived Modernity” Center for Jewish History, November 2013
- “Time, Messianism, and Reason in Mitnagdic Thought,” Rockwell Symposium Rice University, November 2013
- “Reforming the Rabbinic Canon and the Shaping of Modern Eastern European Jewry,” Textual Unities Conference Yale University, October 2013
- “Catholic Judaism: The Traditional Character of Eastern European Jewry,” World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, August 2013
- “Rabbinic Texts as a Historical Artifact,” Seminar on Archival and Historical Research, Center for Jewish History, May 2013
- “Zionism and its Messianic Discontents,” presented at Religion and Politics Colloquium, Yale University March 2013
- “Catholic Judaism: Tradition and Enlightenment in Nineteenth Century Eastern European Jewry,” Brandies University, March 2013
- “Zionism and the Battle over Judaism,” presented at the Hillel Rogoff Memorial Lecture Stern College, February 2013
- “Philosophy and Kabbalah in Nineteenth-Century Eastern European Jewish History,” presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference, December 2012
- “The Modern Yeshiva and the Privatization of Religion in Modern Western Life,” presented at Northwestern University at Conference on Ultra-Orthodoxy as an American Religion, October 2012
- “The History of the Romm Printing Press in Vilna,” presented at the Seminar on the Hebrew Book, Center for Jewish History, February 2012
- “Genius and the Making of Modern Jewish History,” presented at Association for Judaic Studies, 2012
- “Secularism and the Origins of Religious Radicalism,” presented at The Humanities Lecture Series, Yeshiva University, New York, December 2011
- “The Problematics of Peoplehood,” presented at Shalom Hartman Institute, North American Scholars Program, January 2011
- “Print and the Rise of Ideology in Nineteenth-Century Eastern Europe,” presented at the symposium on The Jewish Book: Past Present and Future, The Center for Jewish History, New York 2011
- “Classical Rabbinics as a Prism for Jewish Historiography,” presented at Association for

- Jewish Studies Conference, 2011
- “Genius as the Hero of Modern Jewish History” presented at Conference on Counter-Stories and Entangled Histories: Shared Heroes in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Columbia University, 2010
- “Exegesis and the Location of the Modern: Trajectories of Religious Reform in the Exegetical Work of the Gaon of Vilna and Moses Mendelssohn” presented to the Zukunftsphilologie Seminar at Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin, 2010
- “Toward a Genealogy of the ‘Traditional’ in Modern Intellectual Jewish History,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2010
- “Codes, Commentaries, and the Jewish Community in Early Modern European Jewish History,” presented at The Jews and Judaism in the Early Modern Period Seminar, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, 2009
- “The Privatization of Religion and the Emergence of Traditionalism in Nineteenth-Century Jewish History” presented at The Long Nineteenth Century Seminar: Religion and Radicalism, History Faculty, University of Oxford, 2009
- “The Bible, the Rabbis and the Founding Fathers of Modern Jewry,” presented at David Paterson Lectures, Oxford Centre of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, 2009
- “Did the Gaon of Vilna Denounce Maimonides?” presented at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2008
- “From Code to Commentary: Unlocking Rabbi Elijah of Vilna's Halakhic Hermeneutic,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2007
- “Torah, Christ, and Modern Mediation: The Late Eighteenth-Century Religious Response to Pietism,” Association for Jewish Studies, 2006
- “Rationality Unbound: G.W. Leibniz Elijah of Vilna and the Rise of Eighteenth-Century Hermeneutics,” University of California, Los Angeles, 2005
- “The Gaon of Vilna,” presented at YIVO, 2005
- “Moses Mendelssohn, Elijah of Vilna and the Emergence of Modern Judaism,” presented at Association for Jewish Studies, 2004

SELECTED GENERAL PUBLIC WRITING:

[“The Original Jewish Genius,”](#) *Slate*, 1/28/2013

[“Don’t Fear Islamic Law in America,”](#) *The New York Times*, 9/2/2011

“On this Sacred Ground” in *Jewish Theology in Our Time*, ed. Elliot Cosgrove. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights, 2010: 149-156

SELECTED GENERAL PUBLIC LECTURES:

- “The Holocaust in Jewish Thought,” Summer Seminar for Catholic Educators on Teaching about the Holocaust, Museum of Jewish Heritage and the Catholic Archdiocese of New York, 2008- 2012
- “Israel and the United States,” panel held at The New America Foundation, January 2012

“The Founding Fathers of Modern Judaism,” presented at Lecture Series, Shalom Hartman Institute and Jewish Community Center of Manhattan, November 2011
“Diplomacy, Religious Freedom, and the Real World,” presented at the Seminar on Religion and Foreign Policy at the Department of State, Foreign Service Institute, January 2011
“American Muslims and Jews Together: Building a Hopeful Future,” Islamic Society of North America Annual Conference, September, 2007

RESEARCH LANGUAGES (in order of proficiency):

Hebrew, Yiddish, German, Russian, and French

RESEARCH GROUPS AND SEMINARS:

Invited Participant in Seminar of the Hebrew Book, Center for Jewish History	2010-2012
Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute	2010-2014
Consultant to the Permanent Exhibit, The Polish Museum of Jewish History, Warsaw Poland	2012-2015

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:

Association for Jewish Studies	2005-
Term-Member, Council on Foreign Relations	2007-2012

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Peer Review Manuscript Reviewer

Jewish Quarterly Review
Jewish Social Studies: History, Culture, and Society
Association for Jewish Studies Review
Mossad Bialik Press (Israel)
Brill Publications
Theoria ve-Bikoret “Theory and Criticism” (Israel)
Journal of Religion
Yale University Press
Princeton University Press

Courses Taught at Yale (Dates, Enrollments)

Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought (F/10, 11) (S/13, 18) (F14, 17) (S/15, 15)
(S17,14)

Law and Ethics in Modern Jewish Thought (F/10, 6)
 Secular and Traditional Worldviews in Modern Western Thought (S/11, 12)
 The Jewish Enlightenment (S/11, 3)
 Jewish Religious Radicalism (F/11, 7)
 Secularism from the Enlightenment to the Present (F/11, 7) (F/13, 4) (S/17, 5)
 Jewish Citizenship in Modern Europe (S/11, 10)
 Zionism (F/13, 3) (F/14, 9) (F/16, 33)
 Paths of Emancipation (with Michael Silber) (S/14, 8)
 The Problems of Secularization (with Noreen Khawaja) (F/14, 5)
 Political Theology (with Hannan Hever) (S/15, 14)
 Ethnicity, Religion and Nationality (F/16, 5)
 Freshman Seminar: Political Theology (F/17)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Committee Service

Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Program in Judaic Studies	2010-
Hartman Post-Doc. Committee	2017
Advisory Committee on Library Policy	2016-
Hilles and Griswold Committee	2016-
Member of Modern Jewish History Post-Doc. Committee	2011-
Jewish Thought Post-Doc. Committee	2014-
Asian Religions Job Search Committee	2014
Committee on Honors and Academic Standing	2013
Theory and Methods Job Search Committee in Department of Religious Studies	2012
Advisor for the Early Modern/Modern Jewish History Colloquium	2012-
Co-Founder of the Colloquium of Jewish Thought	2011-
Advisory Council of Yale Institute for the Study of Anti-Semitism	2011-
American Jewish Congress Prize Committee	2011-
Obernauer Memorial Prize Committee	2011-
Department of Religious Studies	2010-

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor or Reader:

Jordan Liebman, "The Visual Memory of the 1967 War in Israel" (A)	2017
Leah Salovey, "Polin and Poland" (R)	2017
Reyna Schaechter, "Critical Examinations of 'Zero Hour'" (R)	2017
Jangai Jap, "M. Kaplan and J. Klatzkin on the Jewish Diaspora" (A)	2014
Benjamin Crosby, "Varieties of Sociology, Varieties of Christianity" (A)	2014
Michael Schulson, "Opposition to Circumcision in Liberal Judaism" (A)	2012
Joshua Levin, "Walter Lippmann and His <i>Jewish Problem</i> " (R)	2011
Shira Winter, "A Bilingual Discourse" (A)	2011
Benjamin Chaidell, "A Countercultural Tradition" (A)	2011

Doctoral Reading and Dissertation Committees:

Zachary Mazur, Comprehensive Committee, History, Yale U. Doctoral Candidate	2015
Zalman Rothschild, Dissertation Committee, Judaic Studies, NYU Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania	2015
Clemence Boulouque, Dissertation Committee, Judaic Studies, NYU Assistant Professor Columbia University	2014
Michael Rom, Comprehensive Committee, History, Yale U. Doctoral Candidate	2014
Lauren Gottlieb, Comprehensive Committee, History, Yale U. Doctoral Candidate	2013
Shari Rabin, Comprehensive Committee, Religious Studies, Yale U. Assistant Professor, College of Charleston	2012
Mordechai Eichel-Levy, Comprehensive Committee, History, Yale U. Post-Doctoral Fellow, Yale Univeristy	2012