

APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-PRESENT Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2017-2019 Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of California, Irvine
- 2016 Lecturer, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Department of Religious Studies, Yale University
- 2013 M.A., Department of Religious Studies, Yale University
- 2011 M.A., Talmud Department, Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University
- 2010 B.A., Yeshiva University

BOOKS

- 2024 *Babylonian Jews and Sasanian Imperialism in Late Antiquity* (Cambridge University Press).
Reviewed in *Jewish Review of Books*.
- 2016 (with Aaron Michael Butts) *The History of the ‘Slave of Christ’: From Jewish Child to Christian Martyr*. Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press.
Reviewed in *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, *Journal for Theology and the Study of Religion*; Selections appeared in *Invitation to Syriac: An Anthology* (U of California, 2022).
Honorable Mention, Mediterranean Seminar Book Prize 2022

EDITED VOLUMES

- 2023 (with James Adam Redfield) *The Making of the Rabbinic Past*, Special Issue of *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 30:4.
- 2020 (with Aaron Michael Butts) *Jews and Syriac Christians* (Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck).
Reviewed in *Revue Biblique*, *Hugoye: Journal of Syriac Studies*, *Journal of Jewish Studies*, *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, *Church History*, *Theologische Literaturzeitung*, and *The Downside Review*.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2023 “Hopeful Rebels and Anxious Romans: Jewish Interconnectivity in the Great Revolt and Beyond,” *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* 72, 479-513.

- “Editorial Material in the Babylonian Talmud and its Sasanian Context,” *Association of Jewish Studies Review* 47, 51-76.
- (with James Adam Redfield), “The Making of Rabbinic Past: Introduction,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 30, 355-366.
- 2022 “Where did Rav and Shmuel Preside? Lingering Institutional Assumptions in the Study of the Late Antique Babylonian Rabbis,” *Jewish History* 36, 1-28.
- “Playing with Persecution: Parallel Jewish and Christian Memories of Late Antiquity in Early Islamic Iraq,” *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 81, 247-260.
- “Reassessing exilarchal authority between Sasanian and Early Islamic Rule,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 73, 263-287.
- (with Avigail Manekin-Bamberger), “Babylonian Jewish Society: The Evidence of the Incantation Bowls,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 112, 1-30.
- (with Mark Letteney) “Reconsidering the Earliest Synagogue in Yemen,” *Studies in Late Antiquity* 6, 627-650.
- (with Aaron Butts and Michael Hensley) “Once Again on *’bk wdm* in Ethio-Sabaic,” *Aethiopica* 25, 193-200.
- 2021 “Being Roman in the Sasanian Empire: Revisiting the Great Persecution under Shapur II,” *Studies in Late Antiquity* 5, 361-402.
- “The Curious Case of the Jewish Sasanian Queen Šišīnduxt: Exilarchal Propaganda and Zoroastrian Contact in 9th-11th Century Baghdad,” *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 141, 365-380.
- 2020 “Whoever is hungry, come and eat”: On the Origins and Later Development of a Puzzling Passover Passage,” *Aramaic Studies* 18: 171-197.
- 2019 “Rethinking Babylonian Rabbinic Acculturation in the Sasanian Empire,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 9: 280-310.
- 2017 “When the Jews Greeted ‘Alī: Sherira Gaon’s Epistle in Light of Arabic and Syriac Historiography,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 24: 122-144.
- 2016 “Irano-Talmudica and Beyond: Next Steps in the Contextualization of the Babylonian Talmud,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 106: 248-255.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2024 “Babylonian Jewish Communities,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Jews and Judaism in Late Antiquity* ed. Catherine Hezser (Routledge), 413-434.
- 2021 “The Sources of the History of ‘Abdā damšihā: The Creation of a Persian Martyr Act,” in *Syriac Christian Culture: Beginnings to Renaissance* (CUA Press), 149-173.
- 2020 “A Long Overdue Farewell: Retiring the Purported Jewish Origins of Syriac Christianity” in *Jews and Syriac Christians* (Mohr Siebeck), 121-144.
- (with Aaron Michael Butts) “Jews and Syriac Christians: Intersections across the First Millennium,” in *Jews and Syriac Christians* (Mohr Siebeck).
- 2018 “A Persian Anti-Martyr Act: The Death of Rabbah Bar Naḥmani,” in *The Aggada of the Babylonian Talmud and its Cultural World* eds. Jeffrey Rubenstein and Geoffrey Herman (Providence, RI: Brown University Press), 211-242.

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES/CHAPTERS

“Does an Arrow a Day Keep Satan Away? Late Antique Magical Subtexts in Babylonian Rabbinic Narratives,” *Harvard Theological Review*.

“From Togas to Turbans: Jewish Male Head Coverings between the Roman and Sasanian Worlds,” *Jewish Quarterly Review*.

“The Impact of Sasanian Imperialism on the Culture and Literature of the Babylonian Rabbis,” in *What is the Talmud* ed. Christine Hayes and Jay Harris (Harvard University Press).

“The Jewish Exilarch: From Autonomy to Integration, Intermediary to Elite.” In *The Blackwell Companion to the Sasanian Empire* ed. M. Rahim Shayegan and Touraj Daryaee (Blackwell).

OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

- 2022 “Whoever is Hungry, Come and Eat”: From the Babylonian Poor to the Ashkenazi Elijah,” *Jewish Review of Books*, Spring: 31-33.
- 2019 “Judaism Here, There, but not Everywhere,” response to Daniel Boyarin’s *Judaism: The Genealogy of a Modern Notion* in *Marginalia* forum.

FORTHCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS

(with Avigail Manekin-Bamberger) “Ancient Jewish Magic and Mysticism,” in *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, 333 B.C.E.–600 C.E.* New Haven: Yale University Press.

(with Yakir Paz) Translation of Narsai's *Homily on Saint Stephen* in *Narsai: The Homilies* ed. Kristian Heal, Robert Kitchen, Aaron Michael Butts Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America.

"Persia" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: de Gruyter.

"Persecution" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. Berlin: de Gruyter.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

(with Yakir Paz) *Jacob of Sarug's Homily on Daniel's Companions in the Furnace* (Gorgias Press).

(with Krista Dalton), ed., *Oxford Handbook of Rabbinic Literature* (Oxford University Press).

(with Yakir Paz), *The Great Persecution: Martyrs at the Court of Shapur II* (Gorgias Press).

(with Yitz Landes), *The Epistle of Pirqoi Ben Baboi: Critical Edition, Translation, and Introduction* (Cambridge Genizah Studies series, at Brill).

REVIEWS

- 2018 Aryeh Kofsky, Serge Ruzer, with Reuven Kiperwasser, *Reshaping Identities in Late Antique Syria-Mesopotamia: Christian and Jewish Hermeneutics and Narrative Strategies* (Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias, 2016), *Church History* 87: 172-174.
- 2017 Khodadad Rezakhani, *ReOrienting the Sasanians: East Iran in Late Antiquity* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017), at [Ancient Jew Review](#), 2017.
- 2015 Laurie Pearce and Cornelia Wunsch, *Documents of Judean Exiles and West Semites in Babylonia in the Collection of David Sofer* (Bethesda, MD: CDL Press, 2014), at [Ancient Jew Review](#)
- 2014 Shai Secunda, *Iranian Talmud: Reading the Bavli in its Sasanian Context* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013), at the [Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization](#), 2014.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 Senior Research Fellow for BeInf ERC, Hamburg
- 2023-2025 Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers
- 2024-2025 Harry Starr Fellowship in Judaica, Harvard University

- 2024 Fellow at Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, “Judæo-Persian and Persian Textual Landscapes: Towards an Intellectual History of Medieval Iranian Jewry.”
- 2022-2023 Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professor, The School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.
- 2022 Katz Center Research Grant to study Incantation Bowls at the Penn Museum, with Rivka Elitzur-Leiman.
- 2021-2022 Distinguished Fellow, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies
- 2020 UPenn Wolf Humanities Center Manuscript Workshop Grant
- 2018 Fellowship at Ruhr-Universität Bochum for ERC grant “Jews and Christians in the East: Strategies of Interaction” (declined).
- 2017-2018 UC Irvine Center for Jewish Studies Research Grant
UC Irvine Collaborative Conference Grant
- 2017 Five-Year Polonsky Post-doctoral fellowship, Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem (declined).
Two-Year postdoctorate position in Religions of Western Antiquity, Department of Religion, Florida State University (declined),
One-Year fellowship, “Jews and the Material in Antiquity,” Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Michigan (declined).
- 2016-2017 Association of Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Gorgias Press for Syriac Christianity Book Grant Recipient
- 2015-2016 Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Research Scholarship, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2013-2014 Baron Grant from Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, Yale University
- 2012-2014 Fellowship at the Center for Contemporary Jewish Law and Civilization, Cardozo Law School
- 2011-2015 Wexner Graduate Fellowship

INVITED LECTURES

- 2025 “Workshop: Pirqoi ben Baboi: History, Halakha, Manuscripts, and a New Edition,” Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, June.
- 2024 “Religions in the Sasanian Empire,” University of Lille, July 15.

“The Shifting Frontier: Separating Fact and Fiction in the Sasanian Conquest of Palestine,” Israeli Forum for the Study of the Medieval Islamicate world, May 31.
- 2023 “Rabbis, Scribes, and Sorcerers: Incantations, Script, and Authority in Late Antique Jewish Babylonia,” *Department of Classics and Ancient Mediterranean Studies*, Penn State University, October 9.

“Jews and Christians on the Roman-Sasanian Frontier in Late Antiquity,” Department of Classical Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, April 27.

- “The Aramaic Incantation Bowls: Jewish Society and Culture at a Crossroads,” Penn Museum and Katz Center, March 22.
- “Traveling Nowhere: The Myth of the Medieval Jewish Globetrotters,” Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, Feb. 22
- “Rabbis in Zoroastrian Fire Temples and Across the World: New Histories of Jews in Late Antiquity and Beyond,” Yale University, Feb. 7
- 2022 “Rabbis in Zoroastrian Fire Temples: New Histories of Babylonian Jews,” University of Chicago, Nov. 30
- “A New History of Jews under Sasanian rule,” Jewish Studies Department, Dartmouth College, April 13.
- 2021 “Maker’s Workshop on The Art of Protection: Incantation Bowls,” Penn Museum, November 11.
- “The Rise of the Rabbis and the Formation of the Talmud,” series on Rethinking the Jewish Legal Canon, Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 11.
- “Good Fences Make Bad Neighbors: Fifth Column Accusations amongst Jews and Christians on the Roman-Sasanian Frontier,” Polyphony of Late Antique Christianity Seminar, Goethe University Frankfurt, May 11.
- 2020 “Rabbis in Fire Temples: Navigating a Zoroastrian Empire,” Talmud Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 12.
- “‘Whoever is hungry, come and eat:’ On the Origins and Later Development of a Puzzling Passover Passage,” Material Texts Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, November 9.
- “The Persian Martyr Acts under Shapur II,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 5.
- 2019 “Rabbis and Jewish Society from the Perspective of the Incantation Bowls,” Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, University of Pennsylvania, September 12.
- “The ‘Secular’ Sasanian Empire: Babylonian Rabbinic Stories and Strategies of Accommodation in Context,” Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, November 4, 2019.
- 2018 “Babylonian Jews as Sasanian Jews: The Politics of Accommodation,” Oxford University, November 5.

2016 “Rethinking the Purported Jewish Origins of Syriac Christianity,” Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, January 19.

2015 (with Aaron Michael Butts) “Intersections between Syriac Christianity and (Babylonian) Judaism,” Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins (PSCO), University of Pennsylvania, October 1.

CONFERENCE AND PANEL PAPERS

2024 “Synagogue on the Hill or in the Plain: Frontier Imaginaries in the Babylonian Talmud,” Festschrift Presentation for Christine Hayes, Yale University, April 4.

2023 “Twenty Years after the *Ways that Never Parted*; Roads not Taken, Those Paved with Good Intentions, and Dead Ends,” *Ways that Never Parted Retrospective*, SBL San Antonio, November 19.

“Does an Arrow a Day keep Satan Away? Magical Subtexts in Babylonian Rabbinic Narratives,” Irano-Judaica VIII Conference, Hebrew University, June 20.

(with Raʿanan Boustan), “Divorcing Demons in Jewish Aramaic and Syriac: Reflections on Translation, Scribal Practice, and Religious Contact in Late Antique Iraq,” Early Jewish and Christian Magical Traditions in Comparison and Contact, University of Venice, May 16.

“The Impact of Sasanian Imperialism on the Culture and Literature of the Rabbis,” What is the Talmud Conference, Harvard University, May 5.

“The Rise of City Elites on the Roman Sasanian Frontier,” Local Elites in Antiquity Conference, Hebrew University, March 15.

2022 “Rabbinization in Late Antique Babylonia,” Diversity and Rabbinization Conference, Princeton University and Sorbonne University, March 13.

2020 Book Review Panel for Shai Secunda’s *The Talmud’s Red Fence* (Oxford University Press, 2020), Ben Gurion University, November 15.

2019 “Jewish Amuletic Practices in Antiquity through the Middle Ages,” Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies, December 11.

“From Local Community to Transregional Authorities: The spread of Babylonian Rabbinic Influence between the Sasanian and early Islamic periods” MESA, November 14 (Panel sponsored by Middle East Medievalists).

“Benevolent Kings and Malicious Magi: Strategies of Accommodation and Political Culture in the Sasanian Empire,” University of Chicago, Conference “Rabbinic Judaism and its Contexts,” November 10-11.

- “Syriac Language and Culture,” Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, October 18.
- “A History of a Dark Age: Babylonian Jews between the Sasanians and Early Islam,” Princeton University, May 10-11.
- “The Creation of the Rabbinic Past: Jewish Memory from the 8th-11th Centuries in its Social and Cultural Contexts,” New York University, May 8.
- “Coopting and Resisting Iranian Cultures of Luxury outside the Sasanian Court,” Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA, March 5.
- 2018 “The End of the ‘Stammaim’: The Editing of the Babylonian Talmud in the Context of the Sasanian Sixth Century,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, MA, December 17.
- Review panel of Daniel Boyarin’s *Judaism* (Rutgers University Press, 2018), SBL/AAR Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 19.
- “The Curious Case of the Jewish Sasanian Queen Šišīnduxt: Exilarchal Propaganda and Zoroastrian Contact in 9th-11th Century Baghdad,” at the Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, UC Irvine, August 15.
- “Comparative Medieval Memory: The Three Yazdgirds in Jewish Memory, and the Legacy of the Sasanian Empire,” at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2.
- “Opening Remarks” and “Editing of the Babylonian Talmud in the Context of the Sasanian Sixth Century,” at *A Sasanian Renaissance: Reevaluating the Sixth Century between Empire and Minorities*, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, June 13-14.
- 2016 (with Yakir Paz) “The Spinoffs of Simeon bar Sabba‘e and the Purpose(s) of Persian Martyr Acts,” at the Symposium Syriacum, Rome, August 19-21, with Yakir Paz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).
- “Persecution as Power: Pirqoi ben Baboi and John of Fenek in Context,” *Talmud and Christianity: Rabbinic Judaism after Constantine*, Cambridge University, June 26-28.
- 2015 “Persecution Narratives and Minority Identity in the Sasanian Empire,” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, MA, December 14th.

“The Sources of the *History of ‘Abdā damšihā* and the Creation of the Persian Martyr Acts,” 7th North American Syriac Symposium, The Catholic University of America, June 21-24.

“The Sasanian Poll-Tax and the Quest for Rabbinic Nobility in Babylonia,” at Third Annual Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, Columbia University, March 15-16.

2014 “Jewish-Christian Relations in Northern Mesopotamia toward the End of the Sasanian Period: A View from the Syriac *History of ‘Abdā damšihā*,” Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies, Baltimore, MD, December 14-16.

“Old New (Altneu) Nation: Polemics against Gentiles in the Bavli and the Reconstitution of the Jewish Ethnos,” *Warring Words: Rethinking Polemic in the Study of Jews and Judaism*, University of Pennsylvania, March 20.

“Religion and Ethnicity in the Babylonian Talmud, Syriac Christianity, and Sasanian Iran,” at Second Annual Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar, Yale University, March 3-4.

2013 “Separate and Unequal: Gentiles and Ethnicity in the Babylonian Talmud,” *Old Time Religions: Exploring the Creativity of Religious Temporality*, Stanford University, May 11-12.

Invited Teaching

2022 “Babylonian Jewish Identities,” Religious Studies Department, Yale University, April 26.

2021 “The Exilarch and Babylonian Jewish Society under Sasanian Rule,” Jewish History Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 11.

2018 “‘Say You are a Fire Worshipper’: Being a Rabbi in the Sasanian Empire,” New York University, December 14.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

EDITORIAL BOARD

2019-PRESENT Studies in Late Antiquity (University of California).

2020-PRESENT Ancient Iran (Brill).

2020-PRESENT Sasanian Studies (Otto Harrassowitz).

2021-PRESENT Late Antique and Early Islamic Central and West Asia (Brepols)

DIRECTOR

2020-PRESENT Co-director of Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins

2014-PRESENT Co-founder and Senior Advisor of the digital humanities web journal “Ancient Jew Review.”

CONFERENCES

2022-PRESENT Co-chair of Rabbinic Literature Unit at the Society of Biblical Literature

AFFILIATE

2021-PRESENT Consulting Scholar, Penn Museum (Near Eastern Section)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER

2021 (with other research fellows) *Ancient Laws, Ancient Contexts: Situating Israelites and Jews in Normative Discourses*, Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies.

2019 (with Annette Yoshiko Reed) *Memory and Forgetting in the Late Antique Near East*, at New York University.

(with Yuhan S-D Vevaina and Touraj Daryaei) *The Crucible of Empire: The Sasanian World and its Religious Minorities*, UC Irvine-Oxford University joint seminar.

2018 (with Yakir Paz) *A Sasanian Renaissance: Reevaluating the Sixth Century between Empire and Minorities*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 13-14.

PEER REVIEWER

Association for Jewish Studies Review, The Journal of the American Academy of Religions, Harvard Theological Review, Aramaic Studies, Jewish Quarterly Review, Jewish Studies Quarterly, Jewish History, European Journal of Jewish Studies, Mizan: Journal for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations, Journal of the American Oriental Society, Journal for the Study of Judaism, Journal of Ancient Judaism.

OTHER

2021-PRESENT Director of Hebrew and Judaic Studies Minor, NELC Department, University of Pennsylvania.

2020 Successfully proposed the theme “Jewish Law” for Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Jewish Studies fellowship year 2021-2022.

2017-2019 Advisory Board, Center for Jewish Studies and Center for Persian Studies at University of California, Irvine.

COURSES TAUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Rabbis and Others

Jews and Judaism in Antiquity

Jewish Magic

Making of Scripture

Jews and Christians

Ancient Iranian Empires (Graduate Course)

Rabbinic Literature (Graduate Course)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

Hebrew Bible

Jews and Christians in Antiquity

World History I

Ancient Jewish History

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Jews and Christians: Conflict and Coexistence
Aramaic Jewish Texts

YALE UNIVERSITY
Elementary Syriac I and II