

Aryeh Cohen, Ph. D.

Employment

Current

Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, **American Jewish University**, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2005 to Spring 2012

Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, **American Jewish University** (formerly University of Judasim), Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2001 to Spring 2005:

Associate Professor of Rabbinic Literature and Chair of Rabbis, Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, **University of Judasim**, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 1995 to Spring 2000:

Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Literature and Chair of Jewish Studies, **University of Judasim**, Los Angeles, CA

Spring 1995:

Instructor, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncotte, PA.
Course: Talmud

Fall 1994:

Instructor, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncotte, PA.
Course: Traditional Judaism

Courses taught

Graduate courses: Issues of Justice; Talmud with Rishonim Mishnah and Tosefta; Talmud with the Commentary of Rashi; Talmud with Alfasi and Tosafot; Talmud with Tosafot and Other Rishonim; Talmud Bekiyut I; Talmud: Halakhah and Aggadah I; Introduction to Midrash; Teaching Rabbinic Texts as Spiritual Mentoring, Comprehensive (75 daf) Talmud Exam.
Undergraduate courses: Survey of Rabbinic Literature; Medieval Jewish Civilization; Midrash; Representations of Women in Talmud

EDUCATION

May 2010:

Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies of the American Jewish University:
Rabbinic Ordination

September, 1988 to June 1995:

Brandeis University, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies.
PhD - February 1996
M.A. - February 1992

Summer 1992:

The School of Criticism and Theory at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.

September, 1986 to June, 1988:

Shalom Hartman Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, Research fellow and member of the Institute's Center for Medicine, Ethics, and Halakhah.

September, 1982 to June, 1988:

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Departments of Philosophy and Jewish Thought.
B.A. -January 1988.

June, 1978 to August, 1982:

Yeshivat Har Etzion, Alon Shvut, Israel.

September, 1976 to June, 1978:

Yeshivat Shaalvim, D.N. Emek Ayalon, Israel.

BOOKS

Rereading Talmud: Gender, Law and the Poetics of Sugyot, Brown University Series in Jewish Studies, Scholars Press, 1998.

Beginning / Again: Towards a Hermeneutics of Jewish Texts, ed. with Shaul Magid, Seven Bridges Press, 2002.

Justice in the City: An Argument from the Sources of Rabbinic Judaism, Academic Studies Press, 2012.

As editor

Eliezer Slomovic, *Readings on Maramarosh*, edited by Caryn Landy, Aryeh Cohen, Steven Lowenstein, Academic Studies Press, 2013.

Articles

Refereed articles

“‘Doing the Right and the Good’: Thinking against Mass Incarceration,” *Journal of Religious Ethics*, Vol. 50: 1 pp. 21-39 (March 2020).

“Enacting Resistance: Encountering Rabbi Aqiva in the Bet Midrash and in the Streets,” *Journal of Textual Reasoning*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (December 2018).

[\(https://jtr.shanti.virginia.edu/vol-10-no-1-december-2018/enacting-resistance-encountering-rabbi-aqiva-in-the-bet-midrash-and-on-the-streets/\)](https://jtr.shanti.virginia.edu/vol-10-no-1-december-2018/enacting-resistance-encountering-rabbi-aqiva-in-the-bet-midrash-and-on-the-streets/)

“From JTS to Riverside Church: The Relationship Between Torah min Hashamayim and Heschel’s Activism,” *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (2018), pp. 1-18.

“The Foremost Amongst the Divine Attributes Is to Hate the Vulgar Power of Violence’: Aharon Shmuel Tamares and Recovering Nonviolence for Jewish Ethics,” *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, Volume 1:2 (2015).

“Justice, Wealth, Taxes: A View from the Perspective of Rabbinic Judaism,” *Journal of Religious Ethics*. Volume 43:3. (2015).

“Hagar and Ishmael: A Commentary,” *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, 68:3 (2014).

“Land and Messianism,” *Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* Volume 10.1.

“A Response to Menachem Fisch’s ‘Berakhot 19b: The Bavli’s Paradigm of Confrontational Discourse’,” *The Journal of Textual Reasoning*, Volume 4.2.

“Why Textual ‘Reasoning’?” *Journal of Textual Reasoning* (2002): 1,1.

“Giddul’s Wife and the Power of the Court: On Talmudic Law, Gender, Divorce and Exile,” *RLAWS: Review of Law, Women and Society*, Volume 9.2.

“‘This Patriarchy Which is Not One’: The Ideology of Marriage in Rashi and Tosafot,” *Hebrew Union College Annual*. Volume 70 (1999).

“Do the dead know...’ The Representation of Death in the Bavli,” *AJS Review*, vol. xxiv, no 1, 1999.

“Towards an Erotics of Martyrdom,” *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, Volume 7, Number 2 1997.

Invited articles/Book Chapters

“Study of Torah as a Discourse of Violence: *Milhamtab shel Torah*, Variations on a Theme,” in *Swimming Against the Current*, eds. Shaul Seidler-Feller, David Myers, Academic Studies Press (2020), pp. 43-66.

“Assuming Power: Judges, Imagined Authority, and the Quotidian,” with Rumi Ahmed, in Anver Emon, ed., *Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning: Encountering Our Legal Other* (2016)

“The Violence of Poverty,” in *Wealth and Poverty in the Jewish Tradition*, Studies in Jewish Civilization, Vol. 26, ed. Leonard J. Greenspoon, Purdue University Press (2015).

“The Divine Voice of the People,” *Cross Currents*, September, 2014, 404-409.

“The Gender of Shabbat,” in *A Woman in the Temple Courtyard*, ed. Tal Ilan, Mohr Siebeck, (2012).

“The Sage and the Other Woman: A Rabbinic Tragedy,” in *The Passionate Torah: Sex and Judaism*, ed. Danya Ruttenberg, NYU (2009).

“Hearing the Cry of the Poor,” in *Crisis, Call, and Leadership in the Abrahamic Traditions*, ed. Peter Ochs and William Stacy Johnson Palgrave Macmillan, (2009).

“Beginning Gittin/Mapping Exile,” in *Beginning/Again: Toward a Hermeneutics of Jewish Texts*, ed. Aryeh Cohen and Shaul Magid, Seven Bridges Press (2002).

“The Task of the Talmud: On Talmud as Translation,” in A.A. den Hollander, Ulrich Schmid, Willem Smelik, eds. *Text and Paratext*, E.J. Brill, 2002.

“Response to ‘Revelation Revealed’,” in *Textual Reasonings*, ed. Nancy Levene and Peter Ochs SCM Press, 2002.

Translations

Tractate Zevahim, in *The Oxford Annotated Mishnah*, eds. Hayim Lapin, Robert Goldenberg, Shaye J. D. Cohen, OUP (2022)

Eliezer Yehudah Waldenberg, *Hilchot Medina*, “Incarceration in Prison and its Definitions, and the Punishment of Exile,” *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, 2021, Vol., No. 2 (2021), pp. 282-296.

Rabbi Chaim David Halevi Responsa Aseh lechah rav III: 57: “Incarceration in Jewish Law,” *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, 2020, Vol. 6, No. 1 (2020), pp. 118-132

Selected Popular Articles

[“Cash Bail is a Violation of our Humanity,”](#) *Los Angeles Blade*, July 14, 2023

[“Will this Moment be Wasted?”](#) *Tikkun*, March 9, 2023

[“What Happens When Everything is Broken?: Grappling with #DefundthePolice,”](#)
Evolve: Groundbreaking Jewish Conversations, September 8, 2020

[“The Exodus from Egypt in the Urgency of Now,”](#) *Tikkun*, April 11, 2022

“Gun Control and the Left,” *LA Progressive*, October 22, 2017

“The Place of Politics: Public Protest and the Rabbinic Construction of Space,”
Tikkun, March 2, 2017

“For Trump Admin, Immigration is About Race and Identity,” *Religion Dispatches*,
March 16, 2017

For the *Daily Beast*

“Does Tikkun Olam Mean Anything Anymore?” 6.11.13

“A Year On: Occupy L.A. and God,” 9.28.12

“Today’s Lamentations,” 7.29.12

“Passover, Non-Violence, and Gun Control,” 3.25.13

“Republican Rabbis and the Soloveitchik Dynasty,” 8.29.12

“How I Lost My Zionism,” 3.15.12

“Upside Down Judaism: Why Are Progressives Studying Talmud?” *Religion Dispatches*,
March 14, 2010.

- “Engaging Prayer,” *Sh’ma* September, 2010.
- “An Intimation of Hanukkah in S.Y. Agnon’s *T’mol Shilshom*,” *Sh’ma* December, 2009.
- “Starting up with God,” *Sh’ma*, September, 2009.
- “Dining/Room,” *Sh’ma*, June, 2009.
- “Homelessness,” *Sh’ma*, September, 2008.
- “Hearing the Voice of the Poor,” in *Righteous Indignation*, ed. Or Rose, Jo-Ellen Kaiser, Margie Klein, Jewish Lights 2007.
- “When Do We Speak Out About ‘Someone Else’s’ Atrocity?” *Sh’ma* (November, 2007)
- “Renewing the Old and Sanctifying the New: Models for Rabbinic Leadership in the 21st Century,” *Conservative Judaism*, Summer 2006.
- “Migrating Thoughts,” *Tikkun*, July-August 2006.
- “Be the Change,” *Tikkun*, May-June 2006.
- “Seek the Welfare of the City to Which I Have Exiled You...’: Toward Another Diaspora Manifesto,” *Sh’ma*, 35:616, December 2004.
- "Teaching Troubling Texts," *Sh'ma*, April, 2001.
- “Permeable Boundaries: Zionism, the Diaspora and the Conservative Movement,” *Conservative Judaism*, Fall 2001.
- “Two Midrashim,” *Living Text: The Journal of Contemporary Midrash*, Number 5, Summer 1999.
- “On Fathers and Daughters,” *Kerem: Creative Explorations in Judaism*, Number 6, 1999.
- "Getting From Tisha B'av to Yom Kippur," *Conservative Judaism*, Summer, 1997.
- “Reading, Exile and Redemption: A Meditation on the Talmudic Project,” *The Reconstructionist*, Volume 61, Number 2, Fall 1996.
- “On Judaism and Jewish Studies,” *Textual Reasoning*, Volume 6, Number 1.
- “The New Sodomites,” *Tikkun*, Volume 12, Number 1.
- "Notes Towards An Erotics of Matryrdom," *Textual Reasoning*, Volume 5, Number 2.

"Framing Women/Constructing Exile: A Reading of Bavli Gittin 34b-35b," *The Postmodern Jewish Philosophy Bitnetwork*, Volume 3, Number 1, May, 1994.

Book Reviews

Review of Reuven Firestone, *Holy War in Judaism: The Fall and Rise of a Controversial Idea*. *Journal of Religion and Violence*, vol. 3:2.

Review of Sergey Dogopolsky, *What Is Talmud?: The Art of Disagreement*. *Shofar* Spring 2012, vol. 30, No. 3.

Review of Judith Hauptman, *Rereading the Mishnah: A New Approach to Ancient Jewish Texts*. *Henoch*. vol. 28 (2006).

Review of Gordon Tucker, trans., *Abraham Joshua Heschel, Heavenly Torah as Refracted through the Ages*. *Conservative Judaism*.

Review of David Kraemer, *Reading the Rabbis: The Talmud as Literature*, *Hebrew Studies*, vol. 39 (1998).

Review of Miriam Peskowitz, *Spinning Fantasies: Rabbis, Gender and History*, *AJS Review*, vol. 25:1 (2000)

Papers at conferences

January 2020:

Paper at Society for Jewish Ethics conference: "Thinking Against Mass Incarceration."

December 2019:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies conference: "A Tale of Three Tales: A Spatial Justice Analysis of one Sugya in the Bavli."

December 2017:

Seminar paper at Association for Jewish Studies conference: "'Whose streets? Our streets!' Mapping this Jewish Homeland."

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies conference: "Rabbi Aqiva and Nonviolent Resistance."

January 2017:

Paper at Society for Jewish Ethics Conference: "From JTS to Riverside Church: The Relationship Between Torah min Hashamayim and Heschel's Activism."

December 2016:

Panelist in roundtable on "Poetry and Contemporary Prayer Practice," Association for Jewish Studies Conference.

July 2015:

Paper at Symposium *Feminist Hermeneutics and the Babylonian Talmud*: "From Traditional Talmud Commentary to Feminist Talmud Commentary: A New Interpretive Agenda"

June 2015:

Paper at *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Moral Grandeur & Spiritual Audacity*: “From JTS to Riverside Church: The Relationship Between *Torah min Hashamayim* and Heschel’s Political Activism”

January 2014:

Paper at Society for Jewish Ethics Conference: “The Foremost Amongst the Divine Attributes is to Hate the Vulgar Power of Violence”: Aharon Shmuel Tamares and Recovering Nonviolence for Jewish Ethics

December 2013:

Discussant in Round Table at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: The Mishnah Translated and Annotated: On Translating an Untranslatable Text

April 2013:

Paper at *Shaping Legal Cultures From Late Antiquity to the Middle Ages: Institutions, Genres, and Theories in Roman, Jewish, Sassanian, Christian, and Islamic Law*, University of Pennsylvania: Does the *Stam* have a Weak *Isnad*?

December 2012:

Paper at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: The Violence of Poverty

November 2012:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: Exile of/and the Law

December 2011:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: Matthean and Paulinian Moments of *Qabbalat HaTorah*.

December 2010:

Discussant in Round Table at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: Gender Studies Methodology: The Key to a Critical Category of “Jewishness”?

November 2010:

Paper at “Woman in the Court” Conference, Institut für Judaistik, Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany: The Gender of Shabbat

December 2007:

Paper at Association of Jewish Studies Conference on Tractate Shabbat in panel on Feminist Commentary to Talmud

November 2006:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: Law and Overcoming Exile

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: Land, Messianism and the Other

August 2006:

Paper at Cosmopolitanism, Post-ethnicity, and the New Jewish Diaspora Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington: The Polis: Rethinking Liberalism: Korach and/as Rabban Gamliel

June 2006:

Senior Commentator at Interdisciplinary Law & Humanities Junior Scholars Workshop to *Equality with a Vengeance - Women Conscientious Objectors in Pursuit of a "Voice" and Substantive Gender Equality*, Noya Rimalt, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa, Israel at University of Southern California Law School

December 2005:

Organized session at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: On the Intersection of Theory and Practice: A Conversation About Justice Amongst Scholars, Rabbis and Activists

Paper at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: The Boundaries of Obligation: a reading of Bavli Sotah 46a

December 2004:

Paper at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: For Whom Are We Writing

December 2003:

Paper at Association of Jewish Studies Conference: The Anxiety of Exile

November 2003:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: Anxiously Unresolved.

March 2003:

Paper at Shifting Frontiers V, a conference of The Society for the Study of Late Antiquity: Talmud as a Discourse of Violence: *Milhamta Shel Torah*, Variations on a Theme.

December 2002:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: Bruriah, R. Meir, Midrash and Exile: Revisiting the *Ma'aseh de-Bruryah*

November 2002:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: Response to Menachem Fisch "Rational Rabbis".

July 2001:

Paper at Society for Biblical Literature International Meeting: "The Task of the Talmud: Talmud as Translation."

February 2001:

Chair of a panel and panelist at Being Human: Women and Jewish Philosophy, a conference at Arizona State University.

December, 2000:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Study of Torah as a Discourse of Violence: *Milhamtab Shel Torah*, Variations on a Theme"

November, 2000:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: "Dis-Covering Aggadah: Robert Cover and the Aggadic Context of Halakhic *Sugyot*."

December, 1998:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "This Patriarchy Which is not One: The Ideology of Marriage in *Rasbi* and *Tosafot*."

December, 1997:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "We Are Still Slaves of Ahaseurus": Resistance to power, and resistance to redemption in Bavli Megillah.

November, 1997:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: "The Representation of Death in the Bavli."

October, 1997:

Respondent to Lori Hope Lefkowitz, "Passing as a Man: Narratives of Jewish Gender Performance," at the Feminist Center Research Group of the American Jewish Congress.

June, 1997:

Paper at Textual Reasoning: An International Conference on Postmodern Jewish Philosophy and Rabbinic Text Reading: "Theorizing Talmudic Beginnings."

Respondent to Tikvah Frymer-Kensky, "Revelation Revealed," at Textual Reasoning: An International Conference on Postmodern Jewish Philosophy and Rabbinic Text Reading.

November, 1996:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: "Towards an Erotics of Martyrdom."

December, 1995:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Beginning/Title/Map:Framing Gittin."

December, 1994:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Reading Power: Women, Men and Institutional Interpretive Practice: A Reading of B. Gittin 33a."

November, 1994:

Paper at American Academy of Religion Conference: "Mapping Exile/Imagining Divorce".

May, 1994:

Respondent to Shaye J. D. Cohen, "Were Pharisees and Rabbis the Leaders of Communal Prayer and Torah Study in Antiquity? The Evidence of the New Testament, Josephus, and the Church Fathers" at The Brandeis/Brown/Holy Cross Colloquium on Early Judaism and Christianity.

December, 1993:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Men, Women, Divorce and Exile: A Reading of B. Gittin 34b-35b".

December, 1992:

Paper at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Ethics and Interpretation in an Aggadic Sugya: A Reading of BT Berachot 3b-4a".

December, 1991:

Co-chair of session at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Graduate Student Dialogue".

December, 1990:

Co-chair of session at Association for Jewish Studies Conference: "Work in Progress".

INVITED LECTURES

February, 2015: Lecture "Geographical Boundaries and the Boundaries of Responsibility," at S. J. Quinney College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT.

October, 2014: Lecture "Justice in the City: Foundations of Social Justice in the Classical Jewish Tradition," at Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA.

February, 2013: Lecture "A History of the Sabbath According to the Classical Texts," at Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA.

November, 2012: Lecture "Justice in the City: The Talmud as a Resource for Social Justice,"

Graduate-Faculty Workshop: "The Gender of Cooking in the Talmud: The Barbeque Pit, the Temple, & the Kitchen" at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

April, 2012: Lecture: "Justice in the City" at Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York.

November, 2010: Lecture: "The Gender of Shabbat" at Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York

November, 2006: Lecture: "Imitating God and not Pharaoh: A Rabbinic Reading of Justice and Redemption in the City," at Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Creighton University, Omaha, NE

October, 2005: Seminar on Ancient Judaism and Christianities, University of Toronto

November, 2004: Jewish Studies Department Seminar, Stanford University: "The Anxiety of Exile"

October, 2003: Mellon Sawyer Seminar on the Ethics of the Neighbor, University of California Los Angeles, "The Neighbor in Torah and Talmud"

March, 2000: First Annual Theology of Purim Lecture, Jewish Theological Seminary, “We are Still Slaves of Ahaseurus: Towards a Rabbinic Theology of Purim.”

February, 2000: International Scholars Forum Lecture Series: “Religion at the Turn of the Millenium”, California Museum of Ancient Art, “After the Silence of the Lambs: Rabbinic Judaism Following the Destruction of the Temple.”

October, 1999: Seminar on Jewish Hermeneutics, University of California Los Angeles, “The Task of the Talmud: On Talmud as Translation and Translating the Talmud.”

April, 1999: House of the Book, Brandeis-Bardin Institute. “American Judaism Fifty Years after the Birth of the State of Israel: Wasteland or the Birthplace of a New Jew?”

February, 1998: Dorsha Wallman Lecture in Modern Torah Interpretation, San Diego State University: “The Purim/Tisha B’av Axis.”

January, 1996: Scholar-in-residence at Rabbinic Assembly, Pacific Southwest Region Convention.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARLY COLLABORATIONS

Scriptural Reasoning University Group, Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University
Toronto Islamic and Jewish Law Group, Jackman Humanities Center and Toronto School of Law, Toronto, Canada

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

President of *Society of Jewish Ethics*, 2023-present
Co-chair of the Conference of the *Society of Jewish Ethics*, 2022-2023
Rabbi in Residence, *Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice*, 2015-2022
Co-convener, *Black Jewish Justice Alliance*, 2018-present
Fellow of 2015 Summer Collaboratory: Feminist Hermeneutics and the Babylonian Talmud, sponsored by the Taube Center for Jewish Studies (Stanford University) and the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (University of Pennsylvania).
Member of *Scriptural Reasoning Group* sponsored by The Center of Theological Inquiry at Princeton University 2003-2006
Member of *Scriptural Reasoning Group* at the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University 2007-present
Member of *Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning Group*, University of Toronto, 2007-present
Board Member *Society for Textual Reasoning*
Editor, *Textual Reasoning*, 1997-2000
Editor, *The Journal of Textual Reasoning*, 2006 to 2010.
Contributing Editor, *Tikkun: A Quarterly Jewish & Interfaith Critique of Politics, Culture, & Society*
Co-chair Study of Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion
Outside Reader of Dissertation for Ariella Radwin University of California, Los Angeles
Outside Reader of Dissertation for Candice Levy, University of California, Los Angeles
Outside referee for tenure committees (names are confidential)
Reader for University of California Press
Reader for Jewish Quarterly Review

Reader for Hebrew Union College Annual

Co-Chair, Fourth Annual Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, March 1998.

President, *Progressive Jewish Alliance*, 2003-2005

Board Member, *Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice* 2006-2012

Board Member, *T'ruab: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights* 2010-2012

Co-Chair of the Board, *Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice*, 2019-2020

Board Member, *Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice*, 2012-2018

Advisory Board Member, *Sb'ma*, 2005-2015

Scholar-in-Residence, *American Jewish World Service: Global Justice Fellowship: Rabbinic and Graduate Student Cohort*, 2014-2015

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Jewish Ethics

Association for Jewish Studies

Rabbinical Assembly for Conservative Judaism