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Associate Professor, Department of Religion  
Boston University  
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## EDUCATION

- Columbia University**, Department of Religion 1992-1997  
*Ph.D. with distinction*, awarded May 1997
- New York University**, Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies 1991-1992  
*M.A.* awarded September 1993
- Jewish Theological Seminary of America**, List College 1986-1991  
*B.A. with honors and distinction*, awarded May 1991
- Columbia University**, School of General Studies 1986-1991  
*B.A. magna cum laude*, awarded May 1991
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, 1989-1990  
Took graduate courses in Jewish History, Hebrew Bible, and Religion

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- Boston University**, Associate Professor of Religion: 2003-present  
Introductory courses include: Western Religion and Hebrew Bible; upper-level courses include Dead Sea Scrolls, Classical Jewish History, Rabbinic Literature, and Theory and Method for the Study of Religion.
- Boston University**, Assistant Professor of Religion: 1997-2003
- Divinity School of Harvard University**, Visiting Lecturer: 2001 (Spring)  
Offered course entitled, "Purity and Sacrifice in Ancient Jewish Literature"
- Hebrew College, Newton MA**, Visiting Associate Professor: 2009 (Spring)  
Offered courses entitled, "History of the Second Temple Period"

## PUBLICATIONS

### Scholarly Books:

- Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.  
*Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple: Symbolism and Supersessionism in the Study of Ancient Judaism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

**Academic Articles and Book Chapters:**

- “Notions of Gentile Impurity in Ancient Judaism,” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 20.2 (1995): 285-312.
- “The Impurity of Immorality in Ancient Judaism,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 48.1 (1997): 1-16.
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Impurity: Moral Defilement in Ancient Judaism,” *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 29.4 (1998): 391-415.
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Israel,” *Harvard Theological Review* 94.2 (2001): 133-55.
- “Interpreting the Last Supper: Sacrifice, Spiritualization, and Anti-Sacrifice,” *New Testament Studies* 48.1 (2002): 1-17.
- “Rethinking Leviticus and Rereading *Purity and Danger*: A Review Essay,” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 27.1 (2003): 89-101.
- “Ritual Purity, Moral Purity, and Sacrifice in Jacob Milgrom’s *Leviticus*,” *Religious Studies Review* 29.1 (2003): 19-28.
- “Sacrifice in Ancient Israel: Pure Bodies, Domesticated Animals, and the Divine Shepherd,” in *A Communion of Subjects: Animals in Religion, Science, and Ethics*, edited by Paul Waldau and Kimberley Patton (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), pp. 65-80.
- “Sadducees, Zadokites, and the Wisdom of Ben Sira,” in *Israel’s God and Rebecca’s Children: Christology and Community in Early Judaism and Christianity*, edited by David B. Capes, April D. DeConick, Helen K. Bond, and Troy A. Miller (Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2007), pp. 261-76, 433-39.
- “Religion, Violence, and the Bible,” (with contributions by David A. Bernat), in *Religion and Violence: the Biblical Heritage*, edited by David A. Bernat and Jonathan Klawans (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007), pp. 1-15.
- “The Prohibition of Oaths and ‘Contra-Scriptural *Halakhot*’: a Response to John Meier,” *Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus* 6.1 (2008): 33-48.
- “Methodology and Ideology in the Study of Priestly Ritual,” in *Perspectives on Purity and Purification in the Bible*, edited by Baruch J. Schwartz, David P. Wright, Jeffrey Stackert, and Naphtali S. Meshel (London: T&T Clark International, 2008), pp. 84-95.
- “Josephus on Fate, Free Will and Ancient Jewish Types of Compatibilism,” *Numen* 56.1 (2009): 44-90.
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Essenes, and the Study of Religious Beliefs: Determinism and Freedom of Choice,” to appear in *Tools for Our Work: Methods and Theories in the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, edited by Maxine Grossman (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009) [forthcoming].
- “Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” to appear in the *Oxford Handbook of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, edited by Timothy Lim and John J. Collins (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010) [forthcoming].
- “Josephus, the Rabbis, and Responses to Catastrophes Ancient and Modern,” article-in-progress, currently being revised for submission to an academic journal.

**Book Reviews:**

- Review of *The Flourishing of Jewish Sectarianism*, by Albert I. Baumgarten; *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 90.3-4 (2000): 470-75.
- Review of *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*, by Bruce Chilton; *Bible Review* 18.1 (2002): 42-44.
- Review of *Rituals and Ritual Theory in Ancient Judaism*, by Ithamar Gruenwald; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 29.1 (2005): 163-65.
- Review of *The Three Temples: On the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, by Rachel Elior; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 29.2 (2005): 376-78.
- Review of *Washing in Water*, by Jonathan D. Lawrence; *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127.4 (2007): 551-552.
- Review of *The Purity Texts*, by Hannah K. Harrington; *The Journal of Religion* 88.1 (2008): 127-28.
- Review of *Jesus in the Talmud*, by Peter Schäfer; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 32.2 (2008): 424-427.
- Review of *Sectarianism in Qumran: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*, by Eyal Regev; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 32.2 (2008): 407-409.
- Review of *Dirt, Greed, and Sex: Sexual Ethics in the New Testament and Their Implications for Today, Revised Edition*, by L. William Countryman; *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70.4 (2008): 830-831.
- Review of *Ritual Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by Ian C. Werrett; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 33.1 (2009) [forthcoming].

**Works Addressed to the Educated Public:**

- “Was Jesus’ Last Supper a Seder?” *Bible Review* 17.5 (2001): 24-33, 47.
- “Concepts of Purity in the Bible,” in *The Jewish Study Bible*, edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), pp. 2041-47.
- “Moral and Ritual Purity,” in *The Historical Jesus in Context*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine, Dale C. Allison, Jr., and John Dominic Crossan (Princeton: Princeton University Press 2006), pp. 266-84.
- “The Law,” to appear in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) [draft complete, under agreement].

**Editorial Work:**

- Editor for Ancient Judaism, *Currents in Biblical Research* 2004-present  
Responsible for soliciting and reviewing bibliographic “state of the field” essays on texts and topics relating to ancient Judaism. *CBR* publishes three issues each academic year.
- Co-Editor, with David A. Bernat, *Religion and Violence, The Biblical Heritage: Proceedings of a Conference held at Wellesley College and Boston University, February 19-20, 2006* (Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2007).

## **AWARDS and DISTINCTIONS**

### **Awards for Publications:**

- Purity, Sacrifice and the Temple* (book published 2005)  
Finalist: Koret International Book Prize for Jewish Thought, 2005-2006
- Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism* (book published 2000)  
Co-Winner, Best First Book in History of Religions  
American Academy of Religion, 2001  
Salo Wittmayer Baron Prize for Best First Book in Jewish Studies  
American Academy for Jewish Research, 2001
- “Was Jesus’ Last Supper a Seder?” (article published 2001)  
Awarded “Best of Bible Review 2000-2001”

### **Other Distinctions:**

- Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, Boston University, 2000-2001  
Ph.D., *with distinction*, Columbia University, 1997  
Phi Beta Kappa, New York Delta, Columbia University, 1991  
Rubin and Regina Hyman Memorial Award, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1991

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and COLLOQUIA**

- “The Impurity of Immorality in Ancient Judaism”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 18, 1995
- “Sin and the Sanctuary in the Hebrew Bible”  
University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies Colloquium, March 20, 1996
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Impurity in Ancient Jewish Literature”  
Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, November 25, 1996
- “*Siluk ha-Shekhinah*: Sin, Defilement, and the Departure of the Divine Presence”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 15, 1996
- “Impurity, Sin, and Exile in the Literature from Qumran”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, November 23, 1997
- “Oaths, Vows, and Commandments in Ancient Jewish Law”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 23, 1997
- “Purity in Exile: The Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Hebrew College Faculty Colloquium, Brookline, MA, October 26, 1998
- “Jesus, Impurity, and Sin: A New Case for the Authenticity of Mark 7:15”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Orlando, November 23, 1998
- “This Hallowed Ground: The Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 21, 1998
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Israel”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 22, 1999
- “Purity in Exile: Sanctity and Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Harvard University, Near East Languages and Cultures Dept., December 1, 1999
- “The Second Temple Period in Jewish Adult Education Curricula: or, ‘What!? Learning About Jesus in Synagogue?’” Hebrew College, Adult Education Faculty Symposium, Brookline MA, June 15, 2000
- “The Last Supper and Passover: Sacrifice and Anti-Sacrifice”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Nashville, November 19, 2000

**Conferences and Colloquia, Continued:**

- “Conceptualizing Defilement(s) in Ancient Judaism”  
Harvard University, Center for the Study of World Religions, Symposium on Purity in Ancient Judaism, December 8, 2000
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Judaism”  
Boston University, Humanities Foundation, January 30, 2001
- “Moral Purity: Structure, System, and Symbol”  
Harvard University, Biblical Theology Colloquium, March 12, 2001
- “Tainted Money, Defiled Goods: The Impurity of Ill-Gotten Gains in Ancient Judaism”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, November 20, 2001
- “Looking Back on My *Impurity and Sin*”  
American Academy for Jewish Research, Washington, D.C., December 17, 2001
- “Sacrifice and Purity: The Twisted Fortunes of Related Ritual Structures”  
American Academy of Religion, Toronto, November 25, 2002
- “On Impurity and Sin in the Bible and Ancient Judaism” (in Hebrew)  
Symposium on Impurity, Sin, & Punishment in Ancient Judaism at Beit Morasha, Institute for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Jerusalem, Israel, June 19, 2003
- “Purity in Recent Scholarship,” Response to Panel Session: “Purity from the Bible to the Mishnah,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 21, 2003
- “Priests, Angels, Mystics and the Calendar: on Rachel Elijor’s, *The Three Temples*”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, November 22, 2004
- “Sacrifice and Purity: Symbolism and Supersessionism”  
Seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, April 18, 2005
- “Judaism and the Rabbis after the Destruction of the Temple”  
Conference in Tribute to David W. Halivni, Columbia University, May 30, 2005
- “Ritual Studies, Religious Reform, and the Study of Sacrifice”  
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4, 2005
- “Rethinking the Temple Incident” Graduate Colloquium in Judaic Studies and New Testament, Duke University, November 9, 2005
- “Methodology and Ideology in the Study of Priestly Ritual”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, November 20, 2005
- “The Prohibition of Oaths and ‘Contra-Scriptural *Halakhot*’: a Response to John Meier”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Washington DC, November 20, 2006
- “Sacrifice and Purity: Symbolism and Supersessionism”  
Seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, May 4, 2007
- “The Study of Qumran Doctrines: Methodological Reflections”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 19, 2007
- “Josephus, the Rabbis, and Responses to Catastrophes Ancient and Modern”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 24, 2008

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

- “Priests, Purity, and Death: An Analysis of the Biblical Purity Laws”  
Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, Philadelphia, April 19, 1996
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Exile: The Communal Theodicy of Leviticus”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 27, 1996
- “Conversion to Judaism: Ezra versus Ruth”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, May 23, 1996
- “A Lens on Jewish Women in Biblical and Contemporary Times: A Panel Discussion”  
(Moderator), Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, November 10, 1996
- “‘Eat it in Haste:’ The Passover Sacrifice”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 18, 1997
- “‘We Were Slaves in the Land of Egypt:’ The Exodus Motif in Judaism”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 19, 1997
- “The Hanukkah Story: Talmudic and Legendary Accounts of the Festival of Lights”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, December 20, 1997
- “Conversion to Judaism in Historical Perspective”  
Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA, May 30, 1998
- “Abraham: The First Jew, and the Father of Many Nations”  
Boston University Hillel House, October 30, 1998
- “The Principles of Biblical Criminal Law”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, February 13, 1999
- “The Hanukkah Story: Talmudic and Legendary Accounts of the Festival of Lights”  
Boston Jewish Community Centers/Jewish InterAction, December 6, 1999
- “Priests, Purity, and Death: An Analysis of the Biblical Purity Laws”  
Temple Beth David of Dedham and Westwood, MA, March 26, 2000
- “Atonement Without Purification: Jewish Approaches to Atonement”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, October 7, 2000
- “Priests, Purity, and Death: An Analysis of the Biblical Purity Laws”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, May 27, 2001
- “Abraham in the Eyes of Jews and Others”  
Boston University Hillel House, October 26, 2001
- “The Jewish Dietary Laws: Health, Ethics, or Holiness?”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, August 3, 2002
- “Conversion to Judaism: Ezra versus Ruth”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 5, 2003
- “Why Did Ancient Israelites Worship God by Killing Animals?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, December 5, 2003
- “The Principles of Biblical Criminal Law”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, February 21, 2004
- “Reflections on Mel Gibson’s Gospel”  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Natick, MA, March 27, 2004
- “The Jewish Calendar: Ancient Controversies, Modern Tensions”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, November 5, 2004
- “The Last Supper and the Passover Seder: Did the Rabbis Respond to Christianity?”  
Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, Newton, MA, December 2, 2004
- “Discerning the Divine: Revelation, Prophecy and Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 1, 2006

**Public Lectures, continued:**

- “Freedom and Destiny in Rabbinic Judaism”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, May 22, 2007
- “The Exodus Story: Did it Happen? Why does it Matter?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 4, 2008
- “The Sadducees: Who Were They and What Can They Still Teach Us?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 9, 2009

**TELEVISION APPEARANCE**

*National Geographic Presents: The Tomb of Jesus*  
Written, directed, and produced by John Scheinfeld, Crew Neck Productions  
Premiered during prime time on Sunday March 31, 2002; will air periodically on  
National Geographic Channel in US, and (syndicated) in Europe.

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

- Director, DRTS**, Boston University: 2007-  
Oversee the Division of Religious and Theological Studies—the graduate  
program in religion and theology at Boston University.
- Director of Undergraduate Studies**, Boston University: 2000-2007  
Oversee advising of departmental undergraduate majors on course  
selection and post-graduate plans. Work with Chairman on course  
scheduling and other matters pertaining to departmental undergraduate  
programs.
- Humanities Curriculum Committee**, Boston University: 1999-2002  
Departmental representative on college-wide committee reviewing all  
humanities course proposals and curricular changes; served as chair  
of committee for one year.