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Associate Professor, Department of Religion
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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 course 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): 133-155.
- “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. 261-276, 433-439.
- “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, 2009/2010) [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,” to appear in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 100 (2010) [forthcoming].

Book Reviews:

- Review of *The Flourishing of Jewish Sectarianism*, by Albert I. Baumgarten; *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 90.3-4 (2000): 470-475.
- 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): 163-165.
- Review of *The Three Temples: On the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, by Rachel Elior; *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 29.2 (2005): 376-378.
- 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): 127-128.
- 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): 167-169.

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. 2041-2047.
- “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. 266-284.
- “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) [forthcoming].
- “Purification, Jewish,” and “Sacrifice, Jewish,” to appear in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, edited by Roger Bagnall, Kai Brodersen, Craige Champion, Andrew Erskine and Sabine Huebner (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010) [submitted].

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”
Graduate 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”
Graduate 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
- “Purity, Sacrifice, the Temple... and Jesus”
Graduate seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, April 30, 2009
- “Theology and Crisis in the Study of Ancient Judaism”
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4, 2009
- “Symbol, Function, Theology, and Morality in the Study of Priestly Ritual”
Workshop on Ritual in Early Judaism and Early Christianity,
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Helsinki, August 27, 2009

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.