

**ALANNA E. COOPER**  
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## EDUCATION

**Boston University, Department of Anthropology. PhD received May 2000**  
Dissertation: Negotiating Identity in the Context of Diaspora and Reunion:  
Bukharan Jews and Jewish Peoplehood

**Columbia University, Department of Anthropology. MA received May 1992**

**Barnard College of Columbia University. BA received May 1990**  
Double major: Architecture and Cultural Anthropology  
Thesis: Moshav Massuot Yitzchak: A Study of Ideologies and Realities

## PUBLICATIONS

- In Press      *Bukharan Jews and the Dynamics of Global Judaism*. Indiana University Press
- In Press      “Where have all the Jews Gone?: Mass Migration and Uzbekistan’s Independence” in *The Divergence of Judaism and Islam: Interdependence, Modernity and Political Turmoil* (ed. Michael Laskier and Yaakov Lev), Gainesville: University Press of Florida.
- 2011          “Rituals of Mourning Among Central Asia’s Bukharan Jews: Remembering the Past and Addressing the Present” in *Jewish Cultural Studies* Vol. 3, *Revisioning Ritual: Jewish Traditions in Transition* (ed. Simon Bronner), Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, Oxford, UK.
- 2010          “Bukharan Jewish Diaspora” in *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, Norman Stillman, ed. Brill Publishers.
- 2008          “Rituals in Flux: Courtship and Marriage Among Bukharan Jews” in *Bukharan Jews in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century: History, Experience and Narration*. Wiesbaden: Reichert-Verlag.
- 2008          Review of *Stains of Culture: An Ethno-Reading of Karaite Jewish Women* (Ruth Tsoffar, Wayne State University Press), *AJS Review*, 32:2.
- 2007          “Remembering Home and Exile: Memoirs by Jews of Muslim Lands” *AJS Perspectives*, Spring.

- 2007 *Instructor's Manual* for Charles Lindholm's *Culture and Identity: History, Theory and Practice of Psychological Anthropology*, Oneworld Publications. Manual available online: [http://www.oneworld-publications.com/CultureandIdentity/Student\\_text.pdf](http://www.oneworld-publications.com/CultureandIdentity/Student_text.pdf)
- 2006 "Conceptualizing Diaspora: Tales of Jewish Travelers in Search of the Ten Lost Tribes" *AJS Review*, 30.1.
- 2006 "The 'Forgotten Refugees' Remembered in Film" *Judaism*, 55, 1-2.
- 2004 "Reconsidering the Tale of Yosef Maman and the Bukharan Jewish Diaspora" *Jewish Social Studies*, 10.2.
- 2004 "India's Jewish Geography as Described by Nineteenth-Century Traveler David D'Beth Hillel" *Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies*.
- 2003 "Emergence of Bukharan Jewish Identity" *Irano-Judaica V*.
- 2003 "Looking Out for One's own Identity: Central Asian Jews in the Wake of Communism" in *New Jewish Identities in Contemporary Europe*. Zvi Gitelman, ed. Central European University Press.
- 2002 "Feasting, Memorializing, Praying and Remaining Jewish in the Soviet Union: The Case of the Bukharan Jews" in: *Jewish Life After the USSR*. Zvi Gitelman, ed. Indiana University Press.
- 2000 "Song of Mourning for the Jewish Community of Samarkand" *Passages: Journal of Transnational and Transcultural Studies* 2:2.
- 1998 "The Bukharan Jews in Post-Soviet Uzbekistan: A Case of Fractured Identity" *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 16:2.

## **EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

Member, Editorial Board *AJS Perspectives*. 2006 - 2009

Member, Editorial Board of *The Divergence of Judaism and Islam: Interdependence, Modernity and Political Turmoil*, University Press of Florida (in press)

## **UNIVERSITY AFFILIATIONS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Boston University**

Visiting Scholar, Department of Anthropology, Fall 2009 – Spring 2010

### **University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

Visiting Assistant Professor and Posen Fellow, Fall 2003 – Spring 2006

- Jews of Muslim Lands: Responses to Modernity
- Israeli Society and Culture: Secularization in Modern Israel

- World Jewish Cultures: Community, Culture and Identity
- Jewish History: Medieval to the Present

**Hebrew College, Newton MA**

Lecturer in Me'ah and MGI programs, Fall 2002 – Spring 2007

- My Heart Belongs to the East: Modern History and Culture of the Sephardi and Mizrahi World
- Judaism in Practice: Rites of Passage
- Medieval Jewish History
- Modern Jewish History

**Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan**

Lecturer, Fall 1998

- Ethnicity in Israel
- Introduction to Anthropology

**Boston University**

Lecturer, Summer, 1994 – Spring, 1995

- Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**Tufts University, Experimental College**

Lecturer, Spring, 1994

- Immigration and Crises of Identity

**FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2008-2009	Fellowship, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies University of Michigan
2004-2007	Posen teaching and research fellowship in Cultural Judaism University of Massachusetts, Amherst
2006	Fellowship, Brandeis Summer Institute for Israel Studies
2002-2003	Fellowship, Center for Study of World Religions, Harvard University
2002	Morris Ginsberg Fellowship, Hebrew University (offer declined)
1998-1999	Inter-University Fellowship Program in Jewish Studies
1997-1998	National Security Education Program Fellowship
1996-1997	Lady Davis Graduate Fellowship
1996-1997	Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Fellowship
1995	Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award, Boston University
1994	Sino-Judaic Foundation Research Award

- 1993-1995      Presidential University Fellow, Boston University
- 1990-1992      President's Fellowship, Columbia University
- 1990              Graduate from Barnard College *cum laude* and with honors from the anthropology department

**SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, LECTURES**

- 2010      "Narratives of Jewish Migration from Muslim Lands: Public and Personal Remembering" Boston University, Department of Anthropology.
- 2009      "Culture in Print: Re-Presenting Central Asia's Bukharan Jews," Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
- 2008      Organizer of Panel, "Jewish and Muslim Neighbors: Narratives of the Past," meetings of the American Anthropological Association. As part of panel, presented paper, "Narratives of Leaving: Jewish Migration from Muslim Lands"
- 2008      "Mizrahi Jews as Women?: What gender studies can teach us about Jews of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia," paper presented at meetings of the Association of Jewish Studies
- 2007      "Culture, Diaspora, Gender: Whither Jewish Studies," University of Massachusetts, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies
- 2006      "Jewish-Muslim Relations, Mass Migration and Uzbekistan's Independence." Conference on Jewish-Muslim Relations, Bar Ilan University
- 2003      Discussant for panel, "Diasporas Across Time and Space," held at the Central Asian Studies Conference, Harvard University
- 2002      Organizer of panel, "Healer, Lover, Agent and Authority: Charisma Revisited," held at the American Anthropological Association National Meetings, Fall 2002
- 2001      "Meandering About the Fluid Field: In Search of the Bukharan Jews." Israel Anthropological Association Meetings, Tel-Aviv
- 1999      "Kinship Reckoning, Immigration and the Dissolution of Community: The Jews of Samarkand." American Anthropological Association Meetings. Chicago
- 1999      "A Legend of Diaspora and Reunion: Rabbi Yosef Maman and the Bukharan Jews." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. Chicago
- 1999      "Evolving Identity of Regional Jews: The Case of Bukharan Jews." Davis Center for Russian Studies, Harvard University

- 1998 “Negotiating Jewish Identity in Post-Soviet Uzbekistan.” SOYUZ Symposium on Cultural Studies in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, Columbia University, NY

## **OTHER WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES**

### **Director of Community Education**

#### **Jewish Federation of the North Shore, Marblehead, MA**

*June 2009-present*

Develop, coordinate and manage all aspects of Jewish Community Education programs.

### **Minyan Tehillah, Cambridge, MA**

#### **Co-founder, Co-chair, and Ritual Committee Chair**

*2002-2010*

Co-founded, lead and managed this independent *minyan*, which currently attracts 60-80 people on Saturday mornings, and some 150 to holiday services. Volunteer responsibilities included strategic planning, fundraising, event coordination, liaising with other community organizations, communications, mentoring and developing new leadership.

### **Marketing/Communications Associate**

#### **Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Jerusalem**

*September 2000 – August 2001*

Oversaw the scheduling, writing and publication of marketing materials produced for JDC missions to the former Soviet Union. Managed the collection of material, writing and scheduling of grant proposals and project reports for donors, foundations and Jewish Federations

### **Project Manager**

#### **Needs Assessment of the Bukharan Jewish Immigrant Population in Queens, NY**

*November 1998 - April 1999*

Produced a demographic profile and analyzed the communal needs of this immigrant group, which numbers approximately 30,000. Conducted and analyzed results of surveys, interviews and focus-group discussions. Wrote and delivered project presentations and summary reports to funding organizations.