

**Jonathan Klawans, Ph.D.**

Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies, Boston University  
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Boston, MA 02215  
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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**, Professor of Religion: 2013-  
Introductory and Undergraduate Courses: Western Religion, Hebrew Bible, Judaism; Upper-level and Graduate Courses: Dead Sea Scrolls, Second Temple Judaism, Rabbinic Literature, and Theory and Method for the Study of Religion.
- Previous Positions at Boston University:
- Associate Professor of Religion: 2003-2013
  - Assistant Professor of Religion: 1997-2003
- Hebrew College**, Visiting Faculty: 2009-2018  
Course offered Spring Semesters: Second Temple and Early Rabbinic Judaism
- Harvard Divinity School**, Visiting Faculty: 2001, 2011  
Course offered Fall 2011: Dead Sea Scrolls  
Course offered Spring 2001: Purity and Sacrifice in Ancient Jewish Literature

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Books:**

- Heresy, Forgery, Novelty: Condemning, Denying, and Asserting Innovation in Ancient Judaism.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Josephus and the Theologies of Ancient Judaism.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple: Symbolism and Supersessionism in the Study of Ancient Judaism.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.

**Edited Volumes:**

Co-Editor, with Lawrence M. Wills, *The Jewish Annotated Apocrypha*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020.

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.

**Academic Articles and Book Chapters:**

- “Heresy, Forgery, Novelty: Condemning and Denying Innovation in Josephus,” *Jewish Studies: An Internet Journal* 19 (2020); <https://jewish-faculty.biu.ac.il/en/node/1602>
- “Imagining Judaism after 70 CE,” in *A Companion Late Ancient Jews and Judaism: 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BCE – 7<sup>th</sup> Century CE*, edited by Naomi Koltun-Fromm and Gwynn Kessler (Malden, Mass.: Wiley Blackwell, 2020), pp. 201-215.
- “Identities Masked: Sagacity, Sophistry, and Pseudepigraphy in *Aristeas*,” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 10.3 (2019/2020): 395-415.
- “Deceptive Intentions: Forgeries, Falsehoods, and the Study of Ancient Judaism,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 108.4 (2018): 489-501.
- “Judaism was a Civilization: Toward a Reconstruction of Ancient Jewish Peoplehood,” *Religion Compass* 12.10 (2018); e12286. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12286>
- “The Pseudo-Jewishness of Pseudo-Phocylides,” *The Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 26.3 (2017): 201-233.
- “Was Kristeva Right... About Qumran? Methodological Implications of a Theoretical Coincidence,” in *Purity and Danger Now: New Perspectives*, edited by Robbie Duschinsky, Simone Schnall and Daniel Weiss (London: Routledge, 2016), pp. 221-237.
- “Maccabees, Martyrs, Murders, and Masada: Noble Deaths and Suicides in 1 and 2 Maccabees and Josephus,” in *Crossing Boundaries in Early Judaism and Christianity: Complexities, Ambiguities, and Half-forgotten Enemies*, edited by Kimberly Stratton and Andrea Lieber (Leiden: Brill, 2016), pp. 279-299.
- “Something Bigger than Girard,” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* Special Issue, in memory of René Girard, edited by Michael Jerryson. 45.3-4 (2016): 23-27.
- “The Essene Hypothesis: Insights from Religion 101,” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 23.1 (2016): 51-78.
- “Heresy Without Orthodoxy: Josephus and the Rabbis on the Dangers of Illegitimate Jewish Beliefs,” *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting* 1 (2014): 99-126.
- “Symbol, Function, Theology and Morality in the Study of Priestly Ritual,” in *Ancient Mediterranean Sacrifice*, edited by Jennifer Wright Knust and Zsuzsanna Várhelyi (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 106-122.
- “Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls,” in *The Oxford Handbook of the Dead Sea Scrolls*, edited by Timothy Lim and John J. Collins (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 377-402.
- “The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Essenes, and the Study of Religious Beliefs: Determinism and Freedom of Choice,” in *Rediscovering the Dead Sea Scrolls: An Assessment of Old and New Approaches and Methods*, edited by Maxine L. Grossman (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010), pp. 264-283.
- “Josephus, the Rabbis, and Responses to Catastrophes Ancient and Modern,” *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 100.2 (2010): 278-309.
- “Josephus on Fate, Free Will and Ancient Jewish Types of Compatibilism,” *Numen* 56.1 (2009): 44-90.
- “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.
- “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.

**Academic Articles and Book Chapters, continued:**

- “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.
- “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.
- “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.
- “Ritual Purity, Moral Purity, and Sacrifice in Jacob Milgrom’s *Leviticus*,” *Religious Studies Review* 29.1 (2003): 19-28.
- “Rethinking Leviticus and Rereading *Purity and Danger*: A Review Essay,” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 27.1 (2003): 89-101.
- “Interpreting the Last Supper: Sacrifice, Spiritualization, and Anti-Sacrifice,” *New Testament Studies* 48.1 (2002): 1-17.
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Israel,” *Harvard Theological Review* 94.2 (2001): 133-155.
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Impurity: Moral Defilement in Ancient Judaism,” *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 29.4 (1998): 391-415.
- “The Impurity of Immorality in Ancient Judaism,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 48.1 (1997): 1-16.
- “Notions of Gentile Impurity in Ancient Judaism,” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 20.2 (1995): 285-312.

**Contributions to Encyclopedias, Textbooks, and Popular Works:**

- “Pharisees, New Testament,” to appear in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Constance M. Furey, et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, [forthcoming]).
- “*Minim, minut*,” to appear in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Constance M. Furey, et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, [forthcoming]).
- “Tractate *Pesahim*” (Introduction, Translation and Annotations) to appear in *The Oxford Annotated Mishnah*, edited by Shaye J.D. Cohen, Robert G. Goldenberg and Hayim Lapin (Oxford: Oxford University Press, [forthcoming]).
- “Site-Seeing: El-Jazzar’s Architectural Gem,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 46.2 (2020): 14-15.
- “Site-Seeing: Nimrod, A Golan Fortress Fit for a Giant,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 44.6 (2018): 22, 68.
- “Site-Seeing: David’s Tower, Jerusalem,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 44.5 (2018): 26, 28.
- “The Law,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament: Second Edition, Fully Revised and Expanded*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017), pp. 655-658.
- “Site-Seeing: Archaeological Remains in Holy Sepulchre’s Shadow,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 43.1 (2017): 20, 60.
- “Heresy, Judaism: Second Temple and Rabbinic,” and “High Priest, Judaism: Rabbinic” in *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, edited by Dale C. Allison, Jr., et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2015), 11: 848-850; 1052-1053.
- “Biblical Views: A Crisis of Faith in the Wake of the Temple’s Destruction?” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 41.6 (2015) 26, 78.
- “Biblical Views: Theology versus Law in Ancient Judaism,” *Biblical Archaeology Review* 41.1 (2015): 26, 74.
- “Concepts of Purity in the Bible,” in *The Jewish Study Bible*, Second Edition, edited by Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 1998-2005.

**Contributions to Encyclopedias, Textbooks, and Popular Works, continued:**

- “Purification, Jewish,” and “Sacrifice, Jewish,” in *The Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, edited by Roger Bagnall, Kai Brodersen, Craige Champion, Andrew Erskine and Sabine Huebner (Oxford: Blackwell, 2013), pp. 5670–5672, 5999–6001.
- “The Law,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 515-518.
- “Holiness,” and “Purity and Impurity, Ritual,” in *The Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*, Revised Edition, edited by Adele Berlin with Maxine Grossman (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 354-355, 593-594.
- “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.
- “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.
- “Was Jesus’ Last Supper a Seder?” *Bible Review* 17.5 (2001): 24-33, 47.

**Book Reviews:**

- *Analogies, Possibilities, and Probabilities: Joel Marcus’s John the Baptist*, to appear in *Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus* 19.1 (2021): [forthcoming].
- *Animo decipiendi? Rethinking Fakes and Authorship in Classical, Late Antique & Early Christian Works*, edited by Antonio Guzmán and Javier Martínez; *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2019.08.32: <http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2019/2019-08-32.html>
- *The Grammar of Messianism: An Ancient Jewish Political Idiom and Its Users*, by Matthew V. Novenson. *Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting* 6 (2019): 129-134.
- *Josephus and the Rabbis* [Hebrew], by Tal Ilan and Vered Noam. *Dead Sea Discoveries* 26.2 (2019): 270-272.
- *Heresy and the Formation of the Rabbinic Community*, by David M. Grossberg. *AJS Review* 42.2 (2018): 451-453.
- *A History of the Jewish War: A.D. 66–74*, by Steve Mason. *AJS Review* 41.2 (2017): 471-474.
- *What’s so Divine about Divine Law*, by Christine E. Hayes; *Ancient Jew Review*, December 14, 2016: URL: [http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2016/12/8/divine-law-nominalistrealist-or-rationalirrational#\\_ftn1](http://www.ancientjewreview.com/articles/2016/12/8/divine-law-nominalistrealist-or-rationalirrational#_ftn1)
- *Scripture and Law in the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by Alex P. Jassen; *AJS Review* 40.2 (2016): 414-416.
- *Flavius Josephus: Translation and Commentary, Volume 7b: Judean Antiquities 15*, by Jan Willem van Henten; *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 46.3 (2015): 433-436.
- *From Jerusalem Priest to Roman Jew: On Josephus and the Paradigms of Ancient Judaism*, by Michael Tuval; *Review of Biblical Literature*, June 2015. URL: <https://www.sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/9539?search=klawans&type=0>
- *A More Perfect Torah: At the Intersection of Philology and Hermeneutics in Deuteronomy and the Temple Scroll*, by Bernard M. Levinson; *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 18.1 (2015): 167-170.
- *Reading the First Century: On Reading Josephus and Studying Jewish History of the First Century*, by Daniel R. Schwartz; *Review of Biblical Literature*, September 2014. URL: <https://www.sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/9215?search=klawans&type=0>
- *Purity, Holiness, and Identity in Judaism and Christianity: Essays in Memory of Susan Haber*, edited by Carl S. Ehrlich, Anders Runesson, and Eileen M. Schuller; *H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews*. July 2014. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=41898>
- *Ritual and Metaphor: Sacrifice in the Bible*, edited by Christian A. Eberhart; *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 76.1 (2014): 175-177.

**Book Reviews, continued:**

- *With Letters of Light: Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Early Jewish Apocalypticism, Magic, and Mysticism in Honor of Rachel Elijor*, edited by Daphna V. Arbel and Andrei A. Orlov; *Dead Sea Discoveries* 20.2 (2013): 307-309.
- *From Qumran to the Rabbinic Revolution: Conceptions of Impurity* [Hebrew], by Vered Noam; *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 43.1 (2012): 107-108.
- *Torah in the New Testament*, edited by Michael Tait and Peter Oakes; *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 73.3 (2011): 671-672.
- “They Shall Purify Themselves”: *Essays on Purity in Early Judaism*, by Susan Haber; *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 73.3 (2011): 660-662.
- *Law and Truth in Biblical and Rabbinic Literature*, by Chaya T. Halberstam; *AJS Review* 35.1 (2011): 151-153.
- *The Sicarii in Josephus’s Judean War: Rhetorical Analysis and Historical Observations*, by Mark A. Brighton; *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 42.1 (2011): 92-93.
- *A Marginal Jew: Rethinking the Historical Jesus; Volume 4: Law and Love*, by John P. Meier; *Interpretation* 64.4 (2010): 418-420.
- *Ritual Purity in the Dead Sea Scrolls*, by Ian C. Werrett; *AJS Review* 33.1 (2009): 167-169.
- *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.
- *Sectarianism in Qumran: A Cross-Cultural Perspective*, by Eyal Regev; *AJS Review* 32.2 (2008): 407-409.
- *Jesus in the Talmud*, by Peter Schäfer; *AJS Review* 32.2 (2008): 424-427.
- *The Purity Texts*, by Hannah K. Harrington; *The Journal of Religion* 88.1 (2008): 127-128.
- *Washing in Water*, by Jonathan D. Lawrence; *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 127.4 (2007): 551-552.
- *The Three Temples: On the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*, by Rachel Elijor; *AJS Review* 29.2 (2005): 376-378.
- *Rituals and Ritual Theory in Ancient Judaism*, by Ithamar Gruenwald; *AJS Review* 29.1 (2005): 163-165.
- *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography*, by Bruce Chilton; *Bible Review* 18.1 (2002): 42-44.
- *The Flourishing of Jewish Sectarianism*, by Albert I. Baumgarten; *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 90.3-4 (2000): 470-475.

**Editorial Work (Academic Journals):**

Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>	2014-
Editorial Board Member, <i>Journal of the Jesus Movement in its Jewish Setting</i>	2014-
Editorial Board Member, <i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>	2014-
Editor for Ancient Judaism, <i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>	2004-2014

**GRANTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**

**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”

**Fellowships, Grants and Other Distinctions:**

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship, Boston University, 2017-2018  
American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship, 2010-2011  
Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Grant, 2010-2011  
Jeffrey Henderson Senior Fellowship, Boston University, 2010-2011 (declined)  
Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, Boston University, 2000-2001  
Phi Beta Kappa, New York Delta, Columbia University, 1991  
Rubin and Regina Hyman Memorial Award, Jewish Theological Seminary, 1991

**ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE (Boston University)**

<b>Director, Graduate Division of Religious Studies</b>	2015-2017
Supervise BU's PhD program in religion, involving faculty from Department of Religion, School of Theology, and interested faculty across the university.	2011-2014 2007-2010
<b>Center for the Humanities</b> , Executive Committee Member	2020-
Advise the Center Director on budgetary and policy matters, review applications for faculty fellowships, undergraduate and graduate student prizes, and humanities-related programming grants.	2012-2015
<b>College Writing Board</b> , Committee Member	2015-2016
Advise the College Writing Program Director on policies and program development.	
<b>Director of Undergraduate Studies</b> , Dept. of Religion:	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.	
<b>Humanities Curriculum Committee</b> , College of Arts and Sciences:	2018-2019
Departmental representative on college-wide committee reviewing all humanities course proposals and curricular changes.	1999-2002

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and COLLOQUIA**

"Priests and Pietists in the Mishnah"  
Harvard University Conference, *What is the Mishnah?* January 21, 2021

"John's Baptism: An Innovative Rite of Atonement"  
Nangeroni Conference on John the Baptist, January 13, 2021

"An Elusive Identity: The Historical Paul and the Pharisaic Saul"  
Society of Biblical Literature (Virtual Conference), December 10, 2020

"Contra-Scriptural *Halakhot*: Innovation, Rediscovery, Corruption"  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 25, 2019

Panelist: Reviewing Joel Marcus's *John the Baptist in History and Theology*  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 25, 2019

"Heresy, Forgery, Novelty: Condemning and Denying Innovation in Josephus"  
Bar Ilan University Josephus Conference, Neve Ilan, Israel, April 10, 2019

"Heresy, Forgery, Novelty: Revealing Jewish Origins of Christian Heresy"  
SBL Plenary Address, Southwest Regional Meeting, Dallas, March 10, 2019

"Novelty and Suspicion: Reconsidering *Hazon Gabriel*"  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 18, 2018

"Judaism was a Civilization: Toward the Reconstruction of Ancient Jewish Peoplehood"  
Jewish Studies Faculty Forum, Boston University, December 4, 2017

"Identities Masked: Sagacity, Sophistry and Pseudepigraphy in *Aristeas*"  
Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 19, 2017

**Conferences and Colloquia, continued:**

- “Judaism was a Civilization: Toward the Reconstruction of Ancient Jewish Peoplehood”  
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 6, 2017
- “The Pseudo-Jewishness of Pseudo-Phocylides”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, November 21, 2016
- Panelist: Reviewing Christine Hayes’s, *What’s So Divine about Divine Law?*  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, November 21, 2016
- “Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount: For the Law or Against the Law?”  
Boston College School of Ministry and Theology, September 20, 2016
- “Maccabees, Martyrs, and Mythmakers: The Invention of Jewish Identity in 1 and 2 Maccabees”  
The Maccabees Project Research Colloquium, Boston College, April 14, 2016
- “Hybridity, Purity, and Identity: in Dialogue with Adele Reinhartz”  
The Corcoran Chair Conference, Boston College, April 3, 2016
- Respondent, Historical Jesus Section, Panel on Jesus and Purity  
Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, November 24, 2015
- Respondent, Sabbath in Text and Tradition Seminar  
Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, November 23, 2015
- “The Essene Hypothesis: Insights from Religious Studies”  
Graduate Seminar Presentation, Fordham University (Rose Hill), March 12, 2015
- Featured Guest Presenter, Continuing Seminar on Purity and Sacrifice  
Catholic Bible Association, Providence College, July 27-29, 2014
- “Was Kristeva Right... About Qumran? Methodological Implications of a Theoretical Coincidence,” University of Cambridge, UK, May 21, 2014
- Respondent, Meals in the Greco-Roman World: Killing and Eating, on Sacrifice and Meals  
Society of Biblical Literature, Baltimore, November 25, 2013
- “Heresy Without Orthodoxy: Josephus on the Dangers of Illegitimate Religious Beliefs”  
Yale University, Ancient Judaism Graduate Workshop, New Haven, November 7, 2013
- Respondent, “Dead Sea Scroll Methodologies and Approaches”  
Dead Sea Scrolls Graduate Symposium, Brandeis University, Waltham, October 6, 2013
- “The Essene Hypothesis and Qumran: Insights from Religious Studies”  
Brandeis University, Waltham, September 12, 2013
- “Josephus on the Dangers of Illegitimate Religious Beliefs”  
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 29, 2013
- “Josephus and the Theologies of Ancient Judaism: A Library Book Talk”  
Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, March 19, 2013
- Respondent, Violence and Representations of Violence Section  
Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, November 19, 2012
- Panelist, Session for the 2012 David Noel Friedman Award Winner (Yitzhaq Feder)  
Society of Biblical Literature, Chicago, November 19, 2012
- “Josephus, the Rabbis, and Responses to Catastrophes Ancient and Modern”  
Faculty Colloquium, Hebrew College, Newton, MA, April 19, 2012
- Panelist: Reviewing Steven Fraade’s *Legal Fictions*  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, November 21, 2011
- “Symbol, Function, Theology and Morality: On Rules and Rituals in the Priestly Literature”  
University of Chicago Divinity School, November 1, 2011
- “Maccabees, Martyrs, and Murders: A Typology of Noble Deaths in Josephus”  
Society of Biblical Literature Regional Meeting, Newton, MA, April 29, 2011
- “Sacrifice and Purity: Symbolism and Supersessionism”  
Graduate seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, April 5, 2011
- “Josephus and Ancient Jewish Theology: Immortality, Resurrection, and the Story of Masada”  
Jewish Studies Colloquium, Boston University, March 8, 2011
- “The Essene Hypothesis: Insights from Religious Studies”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 20, 2010

**Conferences and Colloquia, continued:**

- “Symbol, Function, Theology, and Morality in the Study of Priestly Ritual”  
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies, Helsinki, August 27, 2009
- “Theology and Crisis in the Study of Ancient Judaism”  
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4, 2009
- “Purity, Sacrifice, the Temple... and Jesus”  
Graduate seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, April 30, 2009
- “Josephus, the Rabbis, and Responses to Catastrophes Ancient and Modern”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 24, 2008
- “The Study of Qumran Doctrines: Methodological Reflections”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, November 19, 2007
- “Sacrifice and Purity: Symbolism and Supersessionism”  
Graduate seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, May 4, 2007
- “The Prohibition of Oaths and ‘Contra-Scriptural *Halakhot*’: a Response to John Meier”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Washington, DC, November 20, 2006
- “Methodology and Ideology in the Study of Priestly Ritual”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Philadelphia, November 20, 2005
- “Rethinking the Temple Incident” Graduate Colloquium in Judaic Studies and New Testament, Duke University, November 9, 2005
- “Ritual Studies, Religious Reform, and the Study of Sacrifice”  
World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4, 2005
- “Judaism and the Rabbis after the Destruction of the Temple”  
Conference in Tribute to David W. Halivni, Columbia University, May 30, 2005
- “Sacrifice and Purity: Symbolism and Supersessionism”  
Graduate seminar presentation at Yale University, New Haven, April 18, 2005
- “Priests, Angels, Mystics and the Calendar: on Rachel Eilior’s *The Three Temples*”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, November 22, 2004
- “Purity in Recent Scholarship” Response to Panel Session: “Purity from the Bible to the Mishnah” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 21, 2003
- “On Impurity and Sin in the Bible and Ancient Judaism” (in Hebrew)  
Beit Morasha, Institute for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Jerusalem, June 19, 2003
- “Sacrifice and Purity: The Twisted Fortunes of Related Ritual Structures”  
American Academy of Religion, Toronto, November 25, 2002
- “Looking Back on My *Impurity and Sin*”  
American Academy for Jewish Research, Washington, DC, December 17, 2001
- “Tainted Money, Defiled Goods: The Impurity of Ill-Gotten Gains in Ancient Judaism”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Denver, November 20, 2001
- “Moral Purity: Structure, System, and Symbol”  
Harvard University, Biblical Theology Colloquium, March 12, 2001
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Judaism”  
Boston University, Humanities Foundation, January 30, 2001
- “Conceptualizing Defilement(s) in Ancient Judaism”  
Harvard University, Center for the Study of World Religions, December 8, 2000
- “The Last Supper and Passover: Sacrifice and Anti-Sacrifice”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Nashville, November 19, 2000
- “The Second Temple Period in Jewish Adult Education Curricula”  
Hebrew College, Adult Education Faculty Symposium, Brookline, MA, June 15, 2000
- “Purity in Exile: Sanctity and Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Harvard University, Near East Languages and Cultures Dept., December 1, 1999
- “Pure Violence: Sacrifice and Defilement in Ancient Israel”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, November 22, 1999
- “This Hallowed Ground: The Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 21, 1998



**Conferences and Colloquia, continued:**

- “Jesus, Impurity, and Sin: A New Case for the Authenticity of Mark 7:15”  
Society of Biblical Literature, Orlando, November 23, 1998
- “Purity in Exile: The Defilement of Land in Ancient Judaism”  
Hebrew College Faculty Colloquium, Brookline, MA, October 26, 1998
- “Oaths, Vows, and Commandments in Ancient Jewish Law”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 23, 1997
- “Impurity, Sin, and Exile in the Literature from Qumran”  
Society of Biblical Literature, San Francisco, November 23, 1997
- “*Siluk ha-Shekhinah*: Sin, Defilement, and the Departure of the Divine Presence”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 15, 1996
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Impurity in Ancient Jewish Literature”  
Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, November 25, 1996
- “The Culture of JTS (From the Perspective of a Recent Alum)”  
Invited presentation to Jewish Theological Seminary Faculty Retreat, May 20, 1996
- “Sin and the Sanctuary in the Hebrew Bible”  
University of Pennsylvania, Religious Studies Colloquium, March 20, 1996
- “The Impurity of Immorality in Ancient Judaism”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 18, 1995

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS and LECTURES**

- “Biblical Deceits and Forgeries: Sins, Strategies, and Pseudonyms”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 8, 2019
- “Martyrdom: Tragedy or Heroism?”  
Camp Ramah New England, Palmer MA, July 22, 2018
- “Jewish Aggadot in the Qur’an”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, May 19, 2018
- “Abraham in the Jewish Tradition: Ambivalences and Tensions”  
Abrahamic Trialogue, Common Street Spiritual Center, Natick MA September 18, 2016
- “Can Judaism Survive a Jewish State? On 1 and 2 Maccabees”  
The Maccabees Project, Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline MA, April 13, 2016
- “Response to Catastrophe, Ancient and Modern”  
Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 22, 2015
- “Heretics, Messiahs, and the Boundaries of Judaism, Ancient and Modern” (three lectures)  
Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, New England Region Retreat, June 12-14, 2015
- “Was the Last Supper a Passover Seder? An Inquiry into the Earliest Jewish-Christian Relations”  
Fordham University (Rose Hill Campus), March 11, 2015
- “The Masada Story: Martyrs, Murders, and Myth”  
The 2015 Klingenstein Lecture, New College of Florida, January 20, 2015
- “The Origins of Hanukkah: From the Talmud and the Books of the Maccabees”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, December 13, 2014
- “Judaism: A People of the Book”  
All Saints Church (Episcopal), Worcester, MA, November 2, 2014
- “Heretics, Messiahs, and the Boundaries of Judaism”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, February 7, 2014
- “Why Were the Israelites Enslaved in Egypt?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 4, 2013
- “Josephus, Jeremiah, and J-Street: Treason and Dissent in the Jewish Tradition”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 1, 2012
- “Josephus, Ancient History, and Modern Judaism”  
Scholar-in-Residence Lecture Series, Temple Beth El of Yardley, PA, May 20-21, 2011

**Public Lectures, continued:**

- “Was the Last Supper a Passover Seder?”  
Boston University Hillel House, April 14, 2011
- Panelist: “Passover and Pascha: A Greek-Jewish Community Exchange”  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Boston, American Jewish Committee, March 2, 2011
- “The Masada Story: Martyrs, Murders, and Myth”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 7, 2011
- “Jewish Response to Crisis, Ancient and Modern”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 8, 2010
- “Why Did Ancient Israelites Worship God by Killing Animals?”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, November 22, 2009
- “Who Were the Sadducees and What Can They Still Teach Us That is Relevant Today?”  
Temple Emanuel of Worcester, MA, October 25, 2009
- “The Sadducees: Who Were They and What Can They Still Teach Us?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 9, 2009
- “The Exodus Story: Did it Happen? Why does it Matter?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, January 4, 2008
- “Freedom and Destiny in Rabbinic Judaism”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, May 22, 2007
- “Discerning the Divine: Revelation, Prophecy and Wisdom in the Hebrew Bible”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 1, 2006
- “The Last Supper and the Passover Seder: Did the Rabbis Respond to Christianity?”  
Massachusetts Board of Rabbis, Newton, MA, December 2, 2004
- “The Jewish Calendar: Ancient Controversies, Modern Tensions”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, November 5, 2004
- “Reflections on Mel Gibson’s Gospel”  
St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Natick, MA, March 27, 2004
- “The Principles of Biblical Criminal Law”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, February 21, 2004
- “Why Did Ancient Israelites Worship God by Killing Animals?”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, December 5, 2003
- “Conversion to Judaism: Ezra versus Ruth”  
Temple Israel of Natick, MA, June 5, 2003
- “The Jewish Dietary Laws: Health, Ethics, or Holiness?”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, August 3, 2002
- “Abraham in the Eyes of Jews and Others”  
Boston University Hillel House, October 26, 2001
- “Priests, Purity, and Death: An Analysis of the Biblical Purity Laws”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, May 27, 2001
- “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”  
Temple Beth David of Dedham and Westwood, MA, March 26, 2000
- “The Hanukah Story: Talmudic and Legendary Accounts of the Festival of Lights”  
Boston Jewish Community Centers/Jewish InterAction, December 6, 1999
- “The Principles of Biblical Criminal Law”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, February 13, 1999
- “Abraham: The First Jew, and the Father of Many Nations”  
Boston University Hillel House, October 30, 1998
- “Conversion to Judaism in Historical Perspective”  
Temple Beth Zion, Brookline, MA, May 30, 1998
- “The Hanukah Story: Talmudic and Legendary Accounts of the Festival of Lights”  
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, December 20, 1997

**Public Lectures, continued:**

- “‘We Were Slaves in the Land of Egypt:’ The Exodus Motif in Judaism”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 19, 1997
- “‘Eat it in Haste:’ The Passover Sacrifice”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 18, 1997
- Moderator: “A Lens on Jewish Women in Biblical and Contemporary Times”  
Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, November 10, 1996
- “Conversion to Judaism: Ezra versus Ruth”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, May 23, 1996
- “Idolatry, Incest, and Exile: The Communal Theodicy of Leviticus”  
Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 27, 1996
- “Priests, Purity, and Death: An Analysis of the Biblical Purity Laws”  
Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, Philadelphia, April 19, 1996

**MEDIA:**

**Blog Posts for *Bible History Daily* (Biblical Archaeology Society):**

December 10, 2020: “Hanukkah, 1 and 2 Maccabees, and the Apocrypha”:  
<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/hanukah-maccabees-and-apocrypha/>

November 9, 2018: “After the Pittsburgh Tragedy: Like any Other Week”:  
<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/news/after-the-pittsburgh-tragedy/>

February 12, 2016: “Jesus’ Last Supper Still Wasn’t a Passover Seder Meal”:  
<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/people-cultures-in-the-bible/jesus-historical-jesus/jesus-last-supper-passover-seder-meal/>

January 5, 2015: “Ancient Jewish Theology and Law: Jonathan Klawans on the divergence of the Pharisees, Sadducees and Essenes”:  
<http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/bible-interpretation/ancient-jewish-theology-and-law/>

**Online Magazine:** *BU Today*, December 16, 2014: “A Ho-Ho-Ho Hanukkah?: The Christmas-ification of a Jewish holiday,” an interview with Rich Barlow:  
<http://www.bu.edu/today/2014/a-ho-ho-ho-hanukkah/>

**Online Magazine (and e-book):** *The Marginalia Review of Books*, August 26, 2014: “An Invented Revolution,” a contribution to “Jew and Judean A MARGINALIA Forum,” edited by Timothy Michael Law and Charles Halton:  
<http://marginalia.lareviewofbooks.org/invented-revolution-jonathan-klawans/>

**Magazine:** *Moment Magazine*, July-August 2013 (p. 33): “Talking Food With.... A Symposium on the Complicated (and delicious) relationship between Jews and Food”:  
<http://www.momentmag.com/is-there-a-secret-ingredient-in-the-jewish-relationship-with-food/2/>

**Podcast:** *Jewish Theological Seminary, Library Book Talk Series*; March 25, 2013: “Josephus and the Theologies of Ancient Judaism”  
<http://www.jtsa.edu/josephus-and-the-theologies-of-ancient-judaism>

**Radio:** *This American Life*, Show 480: Animal Sacrifice; November 30, 2012: Discussed attitudes toward sacrifice, ancient and modern, with host Ira Glass.  
<http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/480/animal-sacrifice>