

Jonathan Klawans, Ph.D.
Professor of Religion, Boston University
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EDUCATION

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Boston University , Professor of Religion: 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.	2013-
Previous Positions at Boston University:	
• Associate Professor of Religion:	2003-2013
• Assistant Professor of Religion:	1997-2003
Hebrew College , Visiting Faculty: Course offered Spring Semesters: Second Temple and Early Rabbinic Judaism	2009-present
Harvard Divinity School , Visiting Faculty: Course offered Fall 2011: Dead Sea Scrolls Course offered Spring 2001: Purity and Sacrifice in Ancient Jewish Literature	2001, 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

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 Wills, *The Jewish Annotated Apocrypha* (New York: Oxford University Press, under agreement and in preparation).
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:

- “Imagining Judaism after 70 CE,” to appear in *A Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Antique World, 3rd Century BCE – 7th Century CE*, edited by Gwynn Kessler and Naomi Koltun-Fromm (Malden, Mass.: Wiley Blackwell, 2017) [essay submitted; under review].
“The Pseudo-Jewishness of Pseudo-Phocylides,” *The Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha* 26.3 (2017): [forthcoming].
“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.
“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.

Academic Articles and Book Chapters, continued:

- “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:

- “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: 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.
- “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:

- *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
- *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.

Book Reviews, Continued:

- *From Jerusalem Priest to Roman Jew: On Josephus and the Paradigms of Ancient Judaism*, by Michael Tuval; *Review of Biblical Literature*, June 2015. URL: http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/9539_10545.pdf
- *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: http://www.bookreviews.org/pdf/9215_10161.pdf
- *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.
- *With Letters of Light: Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls, Early Jewish Apocalypticism, Magic, and Mysticism in Honor of Rachel Eilior*, 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 Eilior; *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
Responsible for soliciting and reviewing bibliographic “state of the field” essays on texts and topics relating to ancient Judaism.	

GRANTS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Awards for Publications:

<i>Purity, Sacrifice and the Temple</i> (book published 2005)	
Finalist: Koret International Book Prize for Jewish Thought, 2005-2006	
<i>Impurity and Sin in Ancient Judaism</i> (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:

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)

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and COLLOQUIA

- “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 Elior'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
- “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

- “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, 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
- “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

Public Lectures, Continued:

- “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 Hanukkah 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 Hanukkah Story: Talmudic and Legendary Accounts of the Festival of Lights”
Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA, December 20, 1997
- “‘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

Public Lectures, Continued:

“Idolatry, Incest, and Exile: The Communal Theodicy of Leviticus”

Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA, April 27, 1996

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