

Martin Jacobs

Professor of Rabbinic Studies
Department of Jewish, Islamic, and
Middle Eastern Studies
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1121
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
Phone 314-935-4891
Email: mjacobs@wustl.edu
Website: <https://sites.wustl.edu/mjacobs>

Curriculum Vitae

July 29, 2024

Education

Habilitation (Dr. habil.) in Jewish Studies, Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, Free University of Berlin, 2002

Ph.D. in Jewish Studies, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences II, Free University of Berlin, 1994; awarded with *summa cum laude*

Graduate Studies, Department of Philosophy and Social Sciences II, Free University of Berlin, 1990-1994

Undergraduate Studies at the University of Tübingen; University of Heidelberg; Hochschule für Jüdische Studien (College of Jewish Studies), Heidelberg; and Hebrew University of Jerusalem; 1983-1989

International Language Institute, Cairo: Intensive Arabic Classes, Fall 1996-Spring 1997

Academic Appointments

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Current Appointments:

Professor of Rabbinic Studies, Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Studies (JIMES; previous department name: Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures; JINELC), since July 1, 2016

Professor (by courtesy), History Department

Professor (by courtesy), Program in Religious Studies

Previously Held Positions:

Director of Graduate Studies, JIMES, 2012-2017

Associate Professor of Rabbinic Studies, JIMES, 2006-2016
(2006-2011: joint appointment in the Department of Asian & Near Eastern Languages & Literatures [ANELL], and the Program in Jewish, Islamic & Near Eastern Studies [JINES])

Associate Professor (by courtesy), History Department, 2009-2016

Associate Professor (by courtesy), Program in Religious Studies, 2008-2016

Acting Director, Program in Jewish, Islamic & Near Eastern Studies (JINES), 2008-2009

[Professor of Jewish Studies, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany, 2006; offer declined]

Assistant Professor of Rabbinic Studies, ANELL and JINES (joint appointment), 2003-2006

Visiting Lecturer in Jewish, Islamic & Near Eastern Studies, JINES, fall 2002

UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN, Amman, Jordan, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Visiting Lecturer in Hebrew Studies, 1998-1999

FREE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN, Institute for Judaic Studies

Postdoctoral Research Associate and Instructor, 1994-1998;
Research project: The Talmud Yerushalmi and Greco-Roman Culture

Research Assistant (wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter), 1990-1994;
Research project: Magical Fragments from the Cairo Genizah

Fellowships and Awards

National Humanities Center Fellowship, 2022–2023, alternate out of ca. 600 applicants; project title: “Empires from the Margins: Early Modern Jewish Historians on the Spanish and Ottoman Expansion”

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Residential Fellowship, 2018–2019; project title: “Constantinople vs. Tenochtitlán: Imperial Expansion through a Post-Expulsion Sephardic Lens”

Israel Institute of Advanced Studies, EURIAS Fellowship, 2018–2019; offer declined

Washington University in St. Louis, Center for the Humanities, Faculty Research Grant for research at the National Library of Israel and the State Library of Berlin, summer 2016; project title: “Constantinople vs. Tenochtitlán: Imperial Expansion through a Cinquecento Sephardic Lens”

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Ruth Meltzer Fellowship, 2011–2012; co-convener (together with Ora Limor and Joshua Levinson) of

fellowship year titled “Travel Facts, Travel Fictions, and the Performance of Jewish Identity”

Washington University in St. Louis, Graduate School, Faculty Research Grant for research at the Jewish National and University Library, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, summer 2008; project title: “Fifteenth-Century Jewish Travel Literature”

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Visiting Skirball Fellow, March–August 2003; project title: “Shim‘on ben Šemaḥ Duran’s Anti-Islamic Polemic and Its Sources”

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Martin Gruss Fellowship, 2001–2002; project title: “Spanish Jewish Responses to Muslim Bible Criticism”

German National Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), scholarship for research at the Jewish National and University Library, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1999–2001; project title: “Islamic History in Jewish Chronicles of the 16th and 17th Centuries”

German National Merit Foundation (Deutsche Studienstiftung), Dissertation Fellowship, 1990; offer declined

Teaching Experience

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Discovering the Other and the Self: Jewish Travel Literature and Autobiographical Writing, 1200-1800 (JINE 175, Freshman Seminar)

Midrash: The Imaginative Interpretation of Biblical Texts (JINE 179, Freshman Seminar)

History, Text, and Identity: An Introduction to Jewish Civilization (JINE 208F)

From the Temple to the Talmud: The Emergence of Rabbinic Judaism (RelSt 3082)

History of the Jews in Islamic Lands (Hist 336C)

Travelers, Tricksters, and Storytellers: Jewish Travel Narratives and Autobiographies (JINE 359)

The Sephardic Experience: 1492 to the Present (JINE 366)

Topics in Rabbinic Texts: Mishnah and Gemara (Hebr 440; readings in the original language)

Topics in Rabbinic Texts: Midrash (Hebr 440; readings in the original language)

Topics in Jewish and Near Eastern Studies: Readings in Midrash (JINE 487, in translation)

The Mystical Tradition in Judaism (RelSt 444)

Conflict or Convivencia? Muslims, Jews, and Christians in Medieval Spain (JINE 4060, Capstone Seminar)

Guided Readings in Talmudic Aramaic and Rabbinic Texts (JINE 4986)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Program in Jewish Studies

Jewish Historiography of the 16th and 17th Centuries, January 16, 23, and 30, 2002

UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN, Amman, Jordan, Faculty of Graduate Studies

Biblical Hebrew I and II

Judaism in Its Formative Period: 500 BCE – 600 CE

Judaism and Christianity

FREE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN, Institute for Judaic Studies

Structures of Rabbinic Judaism

The Rabbis and Roman Culture

Jewish Historiography in Early Modern Times

David ha-Re'veni: A Sixteenth-Century Jewish Adventurer

Jewish Attitudes toward Islam

Publications

BOOKS

Empire from the Margins: Early Modern Jewish Historians on the Spanish and Ottoman Expansion (University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming).

Reorienting the East: Jewish Travelers to the Medieval Muslim World. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014. 331 pages.

Reviewed in, inter alia:

Association for Jewish Studies Review 39, no. 2 (2015): 449-51 (Mark R. Cohen).

APPOSITIONS: Studies in Renaissance/Early Modern Literature & Culture 8 (2015) (Jeanette M. Fregulia): <http://appositions.blogspot.com/2015/08/jeanette-fregulia-reorienting-east.html>.

Cathedra 164 (2017): 183-88 (Ora Limor).

International Journal of Middle East Studies 47, no. 3 (2015): 627-29 (Andrew Berns).

Der Islam 95, no. 1 (2018): 225-30 (David Wasserstein).

Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations 27, no. 3 (2016): 351-53 (Hannah Neudecker).

Journal of Interdisciplinary History 46, no. 3 (2015): 473-75 (Alessandro Scafi).

Journal of Jewish Studies 57, no. 2 (2016): 435-37 (Shlomo Berger).

Journal of Religious History 41, no. 2 (2017): 277-79 (Uri Shachar).

Judaica: Beiträge zum Verstehen des Judentums 72 (2016): 290-91 (Stefan Schreiner).

Numen: International Review for the History of Religions 64, no. 2-3 (2017): 334-38 (Ulrika Mårtensson).

Parergon 32, no. 2 (2015): 311-13 (Katherine Jacka).

Revue des études juives 175, no. 3-4 (2016): 474-77 (Jean-Pierre Rothschild).

Sehepunkte: Rezensionjournal für die Geisteswissenschaften 15, no. 2 (2015) (Linda Jones): <http://www.sehepunkte.de/2015/02/26159.html>.

Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies 33, no. 4 (2015): 191-93 (Yaron Ben-Naeh).

Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies 91, no. 1 (2016): 214-16 (Ross Brann).

The Silk Road 13 (2015): 185-86 (Daniel C. Waugh).

Times Literary Supplement, July 3, 2015, 8-9 (Reuven Amitai).

Islamische Geschichte in jüdischen Chroniken: Hebräische Historiographie des 16. und 17. Jahrhunderts. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2004. 332 pages [Islamic History in Jewish Chronicles: Hebrew Historiography of the 16th and 17th Centuries].

Die Institution des jüdischen Patriarchen: Eine quellen- und traditionskritische Studie zur Geschichte der Juden in der Spätantike. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1995. 401 pages [The Institution of the Jewish Patriarch: A Source- and Tradition-critical Study in the History of the Jews in Late Antiquity].

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“Jewish Travellers.” In *A Global History of Medieval Travel Writing: European Perspectives*. Ed. Sebastian Sobiecki (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming) [peer reviewed].

“Flying Camels and Other Remarkable Species: Natural Marvels in Medieval Hebrew Travel Accounts.” In *Jews and Journeys: Travel and the Performance of Jewish Identity*. Ed. Joshua Levinson and Orit Bashkin, 100-15 and 300-5. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021 [peer reviewed].

“‘A Day’s Journey’: Spatial Perceptions and Geographic Imagination in Benjamin of Tudela’s *Book of Travels*.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 109, no. 2 (2019): 203-32 [peer reviewed].

“Sephardic Migration and Cultural Transfer: The Ottoman and Spanish Expansion through a Cinquecento Jewish Lens.” *Journal of Early Modern History* 21, no. 6 (2017): 516-42 [peer reviewed].

“The Sacred Text as a Mental Map: Biblical and Rabbinic ‘Place’ in Medieval Jewish Travel Writing.” In *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*. Ed. Ra‘anan S. Boustan, Klaus Herrmann, Reimund Leicht, Annette Y. Reed and Giuseppe Veltri, 1:395-417. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013.

“From Lofty Caliphs to Uncivilized ‘Orientals’: Images of the Muslim in Medieval Jewish Travel Literature.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 18, no. 1 (2011): 64-90 [peer reviewed].

“An Ex-Sabbatean’s Remorse? Sambari’s Polemics against Islam.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 97, no. 3 (2007): 347-78 [peer reviewed].

“Interreligious Polemics in Medieval Spain: Biblical Interpretation between Ibn Ḥazm, Shlomoh Ibn Adret, and Shim‘on Ben Ṣemaḥ Duran.” In *Gershom Scholem (1897-*

1982): *In Memoriam*. Ed. Joseph Dan, vol. 2, English part, 35-57. Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 2007.

“Exposed to all the Currents of the Mediterranean: A Sixteenth-Century Venetian Rabbi on Muslim History.” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 29, no. 1 (2005): 33-60 [peer reviewed].

“Joseph ha-Kohen, Paolo Giovio, and Sixteenth-Century Historiography.” In *Cultural Intermediaries: Jewish Intellectuals in Early Modern Italy*. Ed. David B. Ruderman and Giuseppe Veltri, 67-85. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004 [peer reviewed].

“Alexandria oder Kairo: Die Metamorphose einer Stadtgründungslegende in der hellenistischen, islamischen und jüdischen Literatur.” In *Jewish Studies between the Disciplines—Judaistik zwischen den Disziplinen: Papers in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*. Ed. Klaus Herrmann, Margarete Schlüter and Giuseppe Veltri, 279-98. Leiden: Brill, 2003 [“Alexandria or Cairo: The Metamorphosis of a Foundation Legend in Hellenistic, Islamic, and Jewish Literatures”].

“Das ambivalente Islambild eines venezianischen Juden des 16. Jahrhunderts: Capsalis Osmanische Chronik.” *Judaica: Beiträge zum Verstehen des Judentums* 58, no. 1 (2002): 2-17 [“The Ambivalent Attitude of a Sixteenth-century Venetian Jew toward Islam: Capsali’s Ottoman Chronicle”].

“David ha-Re’uveni: ein ‘zionistisches Experiment’ im Kontext der europäischen Expansion des 16. Jahrhunderts?” In *An der Schwelle zur Moderne: Juden in der Renaissance*. Ed. Giuseppe Veltri and Anette Winkelmann, 191-206. Leiden: Brill, 2002 [“David ha-Re’uveni: A ‘Zionist Experiment’ in the Context of the Sixteenth-century European Expansion?”].

“Pagane Tempel in Palästina: rabbinische Aussagen im Vergleich mit archäologischen Funden.” In *The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture II*. Ed. Peter Schäfer and Cathrine Hezser, 139-59. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2000 [“Pagan Temples in Palestine: Rabbinic Statements Compared to Archeological Findings”].

“Römische Thermenkultur im Spiegel des Talmud Yerushalmi.” In *The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture*. Ed. Peter Schäfer, 219-311. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998 [“Roman Bathing Culture as Mirrored in the Talmud Yerushalmi”].

“Theatres and Performances as Reflected in the Talmud Yerushalmi.” In *The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture*. Ed. Peter Schäfer, 327-47. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998.

SHORT PAPERS

“Sephardic Identity and the Rhetorical Conquest of the Americas.” *Frankel Institute Annual* (2019): 22-24.

“Jewish-Muslim Encounters in the Holy Land.” In *Jerusalem, 1000–1400: Every People Under Heaven*. Ed. Barbara Drake Boehm and Melanie Holcomb, 21-22. New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2016.

COLLABORATION

Magische Texte aus der Kairoer Geniza. Vol. 1. Ed. Peter Schäfer and Shaul Shaked. In collaboration with Martin Jacobs, Claudia Rohrbacher-Sticker and Giuseppe Veltri. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1994. 329 pages [Magical Texts from the Cairo Geniza; an edition with German translation and commentary of Hebrew and Aramaic texts].

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture. Ed. Judith R. Baskin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, 614-15:

“Travel Writing, Middle Ages and Early Modern Period.”

Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages. Vol. 3. Ed. Robert E. Bjork. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 1327:

“Polemics, Jewish (with Muslims).”

Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart (RGG). 4th edition. Ed. Hans Dieter Betz, Don S. Browning, Bernd Janowski and Eberhard Jüngel. 9 vols. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998-2007:

“Aaron: II. Antikes Judentum”; “Aaronitischer Segen: II. Antikes Judentum”; “Aqiva (Akiba) ben Joseph”; “David: III. Judentum, 1. Antike”; “Ethnarch”; “Jehuda ha-Nasi”; “Jochanan ben Zakkai”; “Molcho, Shlomo”; “Nasi”; “Pesiqta”; “Qohelet Rabba”; “Rabbi (Rabban, Rabbinen, Rav), Rabbiner: I. Zum Begriff”; “Rabbi II. Judentum, 1. Antike”; “Resh Galuta”; “Sanhedrin”; “Schriftgelehrte (Soferim)”; “Tannaiten”; “Tarphon”; “Usha”; “Wajjiqra Rabba”; “Zehn verlorene Stämme Israels.”

English translation: *Religion Past and Present* (RPP). 14 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2006-2013:

“Aaron: II. Early Judaism”; “Aaronic Blessing: II. Early Judaism”; “Akiba ben Joseph”; “David: III. Judaism, 1. Antiquity”; “Ethnarch; Judah ha-Nasi”; “Molko, Solomon”; “Nasi”; “Pesiqta”; “Qohelet Rabbah”; “Rabbi: I. Terminology”; “Rabbi: II. Judaism, 1. Antiquity”; “Resh Galuta”; “Sanhedrin”; “Scribes (Soferim)”; “Tannaim”; “Tarfon”; “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel”; “Usha”; “Wayyiqra Rabba”; “Yohanan ben Zakkai.”

Handwörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtsgeschichte. Vol. 5 (1998). Ed. Adalbert Erler, Ekkehard Kaufmann and Dieter Werkmüller. Berlin: E. Schmidt, 118-22:

“Talmud.”

Lexikon für Theologie und Kirche. 3rd edition. Ed. Walter Kasper. Freiburg: Herder:

“Patriarchen II. Judentum.” Vol. 7 (1998), 1461-62.

“Sanhedrin.” Vol. 9 (2000), 9-11.

BOOK REVIEWS

- “Esperanza Alfonso. *Islamic Culture through Jewish Eyes.*” *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 33 (2009): 404-7.
- “Azariah de’ Rossi. *The Light of the Eyes.* Translated from the Hebrew with an Introduction and Annotations by Joanna Weinberg.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 93, no. 1-2 (2002): 299-302.
- “Martin Kramer (ed.). *The Jewish Discovery of Islam.*” *Judaica* 56 (2000): 223-25.
- “David Goodblatt. *The Monarchic Principle.*” *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge* 21 (1994): 171-76.

CONFERENCE REPORT

- “Jewish Scholarship and Philosophy in the Renaissance, Wolfenbüttel, 17-19 September 2000.” *European Association of Jewish Studies Newsletter* 10 (2001): 20-24 [also in: *Wolfenbütteler Bibliotheks-Informationen* 2 (2000)]. www.ahf-muenchen.de/Tagungsberichte/Berichte/htm/2001/21-01.htm.

INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

- “The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela.” Jews and Journeys: Travels and the Performance of Jewish Identity. Exhibition from the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. 2011-2012 Fellows at the University of Pennsylvania; <https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits/jews-journeys?tab=exhibit>
- “Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Polemics in Spain.” *And We Have Revealed to You ...: Jewish Biblical Interpretation in a Comparative Context.* Exhibition from the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. 2001-2002 Fellows at the University of Pennsylvania; <https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits/and-we-have-revealed-you?tab=exhibit&subtab=Medieval%20Jewish,%20Christian%20%26%20Islamic%20Exegesis>

INVITED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

- “Empire from the Margins: Early Modern Jewish Historians on the Spanish and Ottoman Expansion.” *Medieval Studies Writing Workshop*, Washington University in St. Louis, September 15, 2023.
- “Spain’s New World Expansion through a Post-Expulsion Sephardi Lens: Joseph ha-Kohen’s Translation of Gómara,” *Translating the Americas: Early Modern Jewish Writing on the New World*, Virtual Workshop cohosted by Washington University in St. Louis and Yeshivah University, January 25-26, 2021.
- “Sephardi Identity and the Rhetorical Conquest of the Americas: Joseph ha-Kohen’s Subversive Readings of Gómara,” *Symposium on Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern*, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, March 27-28, 2019.

- “Constantinople vs. Tenochtitlán: Imperial Expansion through a Post-Expulsion Sephardic Lens,” Workshop at Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, October 17, 2018.
- “Humanist Historiography through a Post-Expulsion Sephardic Lens: The Hebrew Adaptations of a Genoese Jew,” The Tasks of the Translator: Developing a Sociocultural Framework for the Study of Translation across the Early Modern World (15th to 18th Centuries), Saint Louis University, March 20-21, 2017.
- “Flying Camels and Other Wondrous Creatures: Natural Marvels in Medieval Jewish Travel Literature,” International Conference on Monsters, Demons and Wonders in European-Jewish History, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, May 22-24, 2016.
- “Sephardic Migration, Cinquecento Book Circulation, and Cultural Translation: The Hebrew Chronicles of a Genoese Jew,” International Symposium on Knowledge in Motion: Constructing Transcultural Experience in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods (1200–1750), Washington University in St. Louis, March 31-April 2, 2016.
- “Reconstituting Religious Boundaries: Yosef Sambari’s Polemics against Islam and the Sabbatean Crisis,” Colloquium on Jewish-Muslim Polemics in the Middle Ages and Beyond, Milstein Center for Interreligious Dialogue, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, and Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, June 29, 2015.
- “Cultural Disorientation or Orientalism? The Levantine Travails of Meshullam of Volterra (1481),” Travelers and Travels: Representations, Experiences, and Meanings, 37th Annual Conference of the Historical Society of Israel, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, June 9, 2014.
- “Linguistic Hybridity and the Muslim-Jewish Imaginary in Benjamin of Tudela’s Description of Baghdad,” Conference on Arab Jewish Texts, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, March 4-6, 2014.
- “Translation as Subversion: A Jewish Scholar Quotes Islamic Sources during the Sabbatean Crisis,” Translation, Translators, and Converts: Transmission of Knowledge in the Seventeenth Century Ottoman Lands, a symposium at the University of Chicago, March 1-2, 2013.
- “The Male Gaze: Women, Gender, and Dress in the Accounts of Medieval Jewish Travelers to the Levant,” Jews and Journeys: Travel and the Performance of Jewish Identity, Eighteenth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, May 1, 2012.
- “On Voyages and Visions: Iraq in Benjamin of Tudela’s *Massa’ot*,” Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University, New York, April 19, 2012.
- “From Medici Florence to Mamluk Jerusalem: The Hebrew Travel Journal as a Mechanism for Exploring Jewish Identity,” Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University, March 16, 2012.
- “Perils and Privations of Medieval Jewish Travelers to the Middle East: Real Dangers vs. Tall Tales,” Intersections: Jews and Travel, a workshop at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, December 14, 2011.

“Rereading a Medieval Classic: Benjamin of Tudela and Travel Theory,” Ruth Meltzer Seminars, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, October 5, 2011.

“Neue und Alte Welten und Horizonte: Jüdische Chronisten um 1500”, History Department, Humboldt University, Berlin, July 13, 2011 [“New and Old Worlds and Horizons: Jewish Chroniclers around 1500”].

Workshop on Sixteenth-century Jewish Historiography, History Department, Humboldt University, Berlin, July 11, 2011.

“Baghdad’s Caliphal Court: A Jewish Traveler’s Tale and Its Purpose,” Medieval Courtly Culture: A Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, April 29-30, 2011.

“A Jewish Counter Discourse: Hebrew Travel Accounts of Crusader Palestine,” Crusades: Medieval Worlds in Conflict, an International Symposium, Saint Louis University, February 17-20, 2010.

“Orientalism in the Making? The Case of Early Modern Hebrew Travel Writing,” Association for Jewish Studies, 41st Annual Conference, Los Angeles, December 20-22, 2009.

“Hebrew *Belles Lettres* and the Memory of Spain: Ibn Verga’s *Staff of Judah*—an early printed book from Washington University’s Shimeon Brisman Collection of Jewish Studies,” Special Collections, Olin Library, Washington University in St. Louis, April 29, 2009.

Respondent to David Nirenberg, “Clash or Alliance? The Modern Exemplarity of Medieval Spain,” Jewish Spain: A Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, February 27, 2009.

“Iraq—a Medieval Interfaith Utopia? Benjamin of Tudela on Shrines Venerated by Jews, Christians, and Muslims,” Association for Jewish Studies, 39th Annual Conference, Toronto, December 16-18, 2007.

“Between Panegyrics and Polemics: Capsali of Candia, A Venetian Rabbi and his Ottoman Chronicle (1523),” International Workshop on Networks of Interaction in the Early Modern Mediterranean, University of Toronto, October 12-13, 2007.

“Midrash, alternative Geschichte und Polemik: Der Islam im Bild eines Ex-Sabbatianers,” Institute for Judaic Studies, Free University of Berlin, June 15, 2006 [“Midrash, Alternative History, and Polemics: Islam as Portrayed by an Ex-Sabbatian”].

“Ibn Adret against the ‘Madman’: A Jewish Polemic against Islam and Its Christian Background,” Fourteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 31-August 4, 2005.

“Keine Ringparabel: ein iberischer Disput zwischen Juden und Muslimen und sein christlicher Hintergrund,” Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, May 13, 2005 [“No Ring Parable: An Iberian Dispute between Jews and Muslims and its Christian Background”].

“Exposed to all the Currents of the Mediterranean: Capsali of Candia on Muslim History,” Association for Jewish Studies, 36th Annual Conference, Chicago, December 19-21, 2004.

Discussant at: Jerusalem, City of Three Faiths: History of the Past, Present and Future, Northwestern University, May 3-5, 2004.

- “Exegesis of the Qur’ān, Its History and Major Figures,” Workshop on Scripture and Scripturalism, The Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis, October 9-10, 2003.
- “Pagan Temples as Reflected in Rabbinic Literature: Questions of Historical Method,” Seminars on Jewish History and Literature in the Graeco-Roman Period, Oriental Seminar, University of Oxford, May 20, 2003.
- “Interreligious Polemics in Mediaeval Spain: A Jewish Response to Ibn Ḥazm’s Biblical Criticism,” The David Patterson Seminars, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, April 30, 2003.
- “Interreligious Polemics in Medieval Spain: Biblical Interpretation between Jews, Muslims, and Christians,” University of Chicago Divinity School, February 24, 2003; and University of Notre Dame, April 16, 2002.
- “Fälschung und Abrogation der Torah: ein jüdisch-muslimischer Disput im mittelalterlichen Spanien,” Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, February 7, 2003 [“Falsification and Abrogation of the Torah: A Jewish-Muslim Dispute in Medieval Spain”].
- “Ishmael in Rabbinic Literature: From Classical Midrash to Jewish-Muslim Polemics,” Washington University in St. Louis, January 23, 2003; and Rutgers, State University of New Jersey, February 5, 2002.
- “Historiography and Polemic: Yosef Sambari’s Depiction of Early Islam,” Association for Jewish Studies, 34th Annual Conference, Los Angeles, December 15-17, 2002.
- “Historiographie, Exegese und Polemik: Das Islambild eines jüdischen Chronisten aus Kairo,” Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany, June 18, 2002 [“Historiography, Exegesis, and Polemic: Islam as Depicted by a Jewish Chronicler from Cairo”].
- “Die Bibel in der jüdisch-muslimischen Polemik des Mittelalters,” Free University of Berlin, Germany, May 8, 2002 [“The Bible in Medieval Jewish-Muslim Polemics”].
- “Biblical Allusions as Polemic in Yosef Sambari’s Depiction of Early Islam,” Eighth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies: Jewish Biblical Interpretation in Comparative Context, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 29 – May 1, 2002.
- “Spanish Jewish Responses to Muslim Bible Criticism: Shlomo ibn Adret of Barcelona and Shim‘on ben Şemaḥ Duran,” Washington University in St. Louis, March 19, 2002; and Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, November 21, 2001.
- “Eliayyahu Capsali: A Venetian View of the Ottomans” (in Hebrew), Thirteenth World Congress for Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 12-16, 2001.
- “Yosef ha-Kohen, Paolo Giovio and Sixteenth-Century Historiography,” International Conference on Jewish Scholarship and Philosophy in the Renaissance, Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany, September 17-19, 2000.

LANGUAGES

Fluency in English, German (native), and Hebrew; reading ability in Arabic, Aramaic, French, Greek (Ancient), Italian, Latin, and Spanish.