

**Haim O. Rechnitzer**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

**CURRENT POSITION:**

- Professor of Jewish Thought, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati)
- Affiliated Scholar at the Department of Judaic Studies, University of Cincinnati (2012-present)

**PAST POSITIONS:**

- Jewish Thought and Education, University of Cincinnati Summer Institute, Center for Studies in Jewish Education & Culture (2009-10)
- Franklin and Marshall College, Department of Religious Studies (2004-05)
- Hebrew Union College: Jewish thought, Jerusalem (2003-04)
- Shalom Hartman Institute (Jerusalem) – Teachers Training for the Hebrew Secular Public Schools (1996-2000)
- Kerem Teachers College: Mishnah, Talmud and Jewish Thought, Jerusalem (2002-04)
- Sapir College: Modern and Medieval Jewish Thought, Shderot, (2002-04)
- Beit Shemuel – Beit Midrash: Talmud and Jewish Thought, Jerusalem, (1999-02)
- Israeli Democracy Institute – Church & State Project (1998-2000, 2002-3)
- Kerem Teachers College: Mishnah, Talmud and Jewish Thought, Jerusalem, (1998-99)
- Hebrew University, Interdisciplinary approach to Jewish cultural sources (1998-89)
- Directing and teaching adult workshops in Jewish Thought, Yozma Congregation, Modi'in (1998-99)
- The Masorti High School, Jerusalem (1997-98)

**EDUCATION:**

- Ph.D. Department of Jewish Thought, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (June 2003) Title: *Leo Straus and the theological political predicament*
- M.A. in Jewish Letters, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, (2003)
- Ordination, Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, Israel, (2003)
- The Jerusalem Fellows, Mandel Leadership Institute, (1996-8)
- M.A. (with distinction), Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, Department of Jewish Thought, (1996)

- B.A. (with distinction), Department Jewish Thought, Minor in Philosophy and Christian religion, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (1993)
- Shalom Hartman Institute: Mishnah and Talmud studies (1992-96)
- Music studies, Boston, Mass, USA (1988-2000)
- Rubin Academy of Music, Jerusalem, Israel: Composition, theory and instrumentation (1986-88)

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- Political Theology and Jewish and Israeli Thought

#### PUBLICATIONS:

##### Books:

- *Ars-prophetica: Theology in the Poetry of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Israeli Poets Avraham Halfi, Shin Shalom, Amir Gilboa and T. Carmi*, Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press (forthcoming, 2023).
- תמונות / Pictures – Reproductions (bilingual, Hebrew-English poems), Jerusalem: Carmel & Yediot Aharonot Press (December, 2022).
- נבואה והסדר המדיני המושלם: התיאולוגיה המדינית של ליאו שטראוס (*Prophecy and the Perfect Political Order: The Political Theology of Leo Strauss*), Jerusalem: Mosad Bialik (2012).
- שֶׁבֶלֶת (*Vortex*) Jerusalem: Carmel Publishing House (2015) (poems).
- משירי הגלות השלישית (*Songs of the Third Exile*) Jerusalem: Carmel Publishing House (poems) (2014).

##### Articles & Book Chapters:

- "From Words to Sounds – The singing of Piyyut as a Pedagogical Paradigm in Teaching Jewish Thought." Rosnak Avinoam. and Eli holzer eds. (forthcoming).
- "Zionism, Post-Zionism and the Crisis of Modernity: between Leo Strauss and Eliezer Schweid." (Hebrew) *The Philosophy of Eliezer Schweid: Jewish Culture and Universal Perspective* (eds.) Terner Yossi and Yehoyada Amir, Jerusalem: Carmel, (2020) pp. 251-179.
- "The Return of King Saul as a Messiah: Theo-political Heresy in Amir Gilboa's Poetry." *Israel: Studies in Zionism and the State of Israel-History, Society and Culture* 25, (2018) pp. 91-108.

- “Let the Other be Me – The Theo-Political Predicament and the Arab in Shin Shalom’s Early Writings.” *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 20.1, (2018). pp. 1-10.
- “To be a Post-Nationalist Zionist – a Theo-Political Perspective,” in *Fragile Dialogue: The New Voices of Liberal Zionism*, Stanley M. Davids & Englander Larry eds. CCAR Press, (2017).
- “When Joseph Met Zuleika – The Theo-Political Underpinning of 'Joseph' in Avraham Shlonsky’s Ba-galgal and its Critique of the Halutz Ethos.” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*. (February, 2016). pp. 1-16.
- “From Honolulu to Tel Aviv Via Mt. Gilboa: The Rise and Fall of Shlonsky’s Messianic Halutz” *Hebrew Studies* 55, (2014). pp. 261-285.
- "The Reform Zionist Theology at the Turn of the 20th Century." (Hebrew) in *Reform Judaism: Thought, Culture and Sociology*, ed. Avinoam Rosnak, Tel-Aviv: Van-Leer Institute & Hakibbutz Hameuchad, (2014). pp. 72-91.
- "The Evolution of the Term *Talmud Torah* in the Reform Prayer Books and Platforms During the Last Three Decades." Haim O. Rechnitzer & Jonathan Cohen (Hebrew) in *Reform Judaism: Thought, Culture and Sociology*, ed. Avinoam Rosnak, Tel-Aviv: Van-Leer Institute & Hakibbutz Hameuchad, (2014). pp. 347-367.
- “The Reins of Freedom: on Religion and State in Israel Today.” in *Dror*, ed. Liora Ezrahi-Vered and Mirah Hovav et al, Jerusalem: The Progressive Movement in Israel, (2014). pp. 88-91.
- “To See God in His Beauty’: Abraham Chalfi and the Mystical Quest for the Evasive God.” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, issue 10 vol. 2. (2012). pp. 383-400.
- “Hobbes, Maimonides, Healthcare Reform and *Tzelem Elohim*: The Political Theology of Universal Health Care.” *CCAR Journal*, (Winter 2010). pp. 104-109.
- “Theological and Pedagogical Implications of the Role of Zionism in Reform Jewish Manifestos: A Bridge from Vision to Praxis.” Haim O. Rechnitzer & Gabriela Brandes-Minnes, *The Journal of Jewish Education*. 75 (2009). pp. 329-349.
- "The Political Theology of Leo Strauss." (Hebrew) in *God Will Not Stand Still: Jewish Modernity and Political Theology*, ed. Christoph Schmidt, Tel-Aviv: Van-Leer and Hakibbutz Hameuchad, (2009). 70-102.
- "Toward a Trans-Liberal Romanticism: The Case of A. E. Simon." (Hebrew) in *Modes of Educational Translation: Studies in Jewish Education* Vol.13, ed. Jonathan Cohen & Eli Holzer, Jerusalem: Magnes Press, (2009). pp. 71-100.
- “Judaism and the Idea of the Law: Leo Strauss and Yeshayahu Leibowitz’ Philosophical and Ideological Interpretation of Maimonides.” *Hebrew Union College Annual*, 79 (2008). pp. 165-191.
- "Haim Guri and Rabbi David Buzaglo: A Theo-Political Meeting Place of Zionist Sabra Poetry and Jewish Liturgy." *The Journal for the Study of*

*Sephardic and Mizrahi Jewry* Vol. 2, n. 1 (Summer 2008), pp. 37-62.

<http://sephardic.fiu.edu/journal/JSSMJinsidecover.htm>

- "Redemptive Theology in the Thought of Yeshayahu Leibowitz," *Israel Studies* Vol. 13,3 (2008). pp. 137-159.
- "Tell Me What Your Questions Are and I will Tell You Who You Are: Some Reflections on the 'Proposed Taxonomy for a Twenty-First-Century Theology of Reform Zionism' by S. M. Davids." *CCAR Journal* (Summer 2008). pp. 29-37.
- "The Journey Towards the Birth of Modern Liberalism: Leo Strauss's Hobbes." in *The Young Leo Strauss*, ed. Eugene Sheppard & Pierre Bouretz, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [forthcoming].
- "Maimonides' Messianism: Between Personal Salvation and Public Responsibility." in *Gog U'Magog*, ed. David A. Yoel, Moti Inbari, Yoram Mazor and Maya Leibowitz, Tel Aviv: Yediot Ha'Achronot Press, (2002). pp. 38-57.

**Book Review:**

- "Sound Tracks: The Ashkenazi Orient Express." A Review of Miryam Segal, *A New Sound in Hebrew Poetry: Poetic, Politics, Accent*, Bloomington-Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 2010. (H-Judaic, December 2011) <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=34420>

**OTHER PUBLICATIONS (recent years):**

- "Is There a Doctor in the House? – Yavneh Here and Now." *Scriptions: Jewish Thought & Responses to Covid-19 – Theological Responses to Current Situation and its Implications*. <https://scriptions.huc.edu/scriptions/is-there-a-doctor-in-the-house-yavneh-here-and-now>
- "And Where Do We Stand? Ezekiel's Vision and the Reform Rabbinate – A Commentary on *Emor* Torah portion, The Israeli Reform Movement Publication (Hebrew) (2019). <http://tinyw.in/KnMk>
- "A Word in Favor of "Golden Calves" – A Commentary on *Ki Tisa* Torah portion, The Israeli Reform Movement Publication (Hebrew) (2019). <https://goo.gl/gURtby>
- "But I will Harden Pharaoh's Heart," A commentary on *Va'era* Torah portion," in *Drishat Shalom – Torah Commentary by Israeli Reform Rabbis*, Tamar Duvdevani & Lisitsa Alona eds., Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad-Sifriat Poalim, (2018) pp. 127-130.
- "But you Shall Keep My Shabbat," A commentary on Torah portion *Ki Tisah*," in *Drishat Shalom – Torah Commentary by Israeli Reform Rabbis*, Tamar Duvdevani & Lisitsa Alona eds., Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad-Sifriat Poalim, (2018) pp. 173-180.

- “Where the Spies’ Sinners? A commentary on *Shelach LEchah* Torah portion,” in *Drishat Shalom – Torah Commentary by Israeli Reform Rabbis*, Tamar Duvdevani & Lisitsa Alona eds., Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad-Sifriat Poalim, (2018) pp. 273-276.
- “But Where can Poetry be Found; Where is the Source of Song? Ap. 273-276. commentary on *Ha’azinu* Torah portion,” The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (Hebrew) (2018). <https://goo.gl/uUaAJ8>
- “Between Muse and Law, Words and Worlds: a commentary on *Bamidbar* Torah portion,” The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (Hebrew) (2018). <https://goo.gl/JPVP9h>
- “On Eros, Lust and Worship – Introduction to the Golden Calf: a commentary on *Mishpatim* Torah Portion,” The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (Hebrew) (2018). <https://goo.gl/jYvwqF>
- “Things that You See from Afar – On Joseph’s Naïve Question: commentary on *Vayigash* Torah portion,” The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (Hebrew) (2018). <https://goo.gl/Uwcl6C>
- “Freedom within a Closed Canon,” A commentary on *Matot-Masei* Torah portion (English) People and the Boom (column), *The Jerusalem Report*, (July, 24 2017). <https://goo.gl/aFSYAS>
- “On the Zionist Project and the Temple’s Place – A commentary on *Behar-Behukotai* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2017). <https://goo.gl/nWfH8j>
- “The wellspring of silences: A commentary on *Chyei Sarah* Torah portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2016). <https://goo.gl/bgSTvC>
- “A Return through Love? – A Commentary on *Vayelekh* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2016). <https://goo.gl/k0yi9E>
- Between Lust to Last – Passion and Spiritual Ascent, A Commentary on *Ki Tetze* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2016). <https://goo.gl/rhsDwR>
- “The Secrets of Masa: on the root N.S.A as a leitmotif – A commentary on *Naso* Torah portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2016). <http://goo.gl/ANPS5Y>
- “Reversed History and the Path Towards Redemption – A Commentary on *Vayakhel* Torah portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement, (2016). <http://goo.gl/3y1dSI>
- “On Jethro and Melancholy of Sinai – A Commentary on *Jethro* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication (2015). <http://goo.gl/j4l22W>
- “The Land Beyond the Mountains: A Commentary on *Ki Tavo* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2015). <http://goo.gl/qwaBNm>

- “From a Dream to Prophecy – Pharaoh and Joseph” – A Commentary on *Miketz* Torah portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement, (2015). Publication <http://goo.gl/STPSzN>
- “Canaan as a Physiological Topography – A commentary: Torah Portion *Matot* Torah portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2015). <http://goo.gl/uHZKig>
- “Zionism and The Theology of Punishment and Reward in the Deuteronomy – A Commentary on Torah Portion *Eikev*” (Hebrew), The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2015). <http://goo.gl/dlKAvr>
- “‘With a Mighty Hand’ - A Theo-Political Commentary on *Beshalach* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2015). <http://goo.gl/vU5oSc>
- “Priestly Ceremony and the Construction of collective Memory – A Sermon for Yom HaShoah –*Shemini* Torah Portion,” (Hebrew), The Israeli Reform Movement Publication,(2015). <http://goo.gl/mOhLwn>
- Exodus as a Spiritual Redemption – A Commentary on *Bo*,” (Hebrew) The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2015). <http://goo.gl/IxYghE>
- “I Will Harden Pharaoh’s Heart – A Commentary on *Va-Eira* Torah Portion,” The Israeli Reform Movement Publication, (2014). <http://goo.gl/E3iElu>
- “The Mystical Mystery Tour – the stage is set for the final battle between the mystical mode and the magical one – A Commentary on *Balak* Torah Portion,” People and the Boom (column), *The Jerusalem Report*, (July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014). <https://goo.gl/wRvz2x>
- “Unconditional Love – distinguishing between the love of God and the love of country – A Commentary on *Va’etchanan* Torah Portion, People and the Boom (column) *The Jerusalem Report*, (July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013). <http://goo.gl/sl2fnM>
- “The Cloud of Hersey Hovers Above the Ark – A Commentary on the Torah Portion *Ki Tisa*” (Exodus, 30:11-34:35). (a book chapter, forthcoming, HaKibutz HaMeuchad Press, 2017).
- “Hebrew Poetry as a Wellspring of Theological Renewal,” *The Chronicle: a Publication of Hebrew Union College-Jewish institute of religion*, Fall 2012, p.12. <https://goo.gl/wdIKyt>
- “In the Summer of 1980,” in Ask the rabbis - How Should Jews Treat Their Arab Neighbors? *Moment Magazine*, (May-June 2009). <http://goo.gl/euU4EV>
- ‘Introduction,’; ‘Viduy (confession),’ in *The Way of Mourning: A Guide to the Rabbi and to the Lay Person*, Janine Wosberg ed. (Jerusalem: The Center for Jewish Pluralism and the Israeli Reform Movement, 2005).
- “Alternative Kaddish,” in *The Way of Mourning: A Guide to the Rabbi and to the Lay Person*, Janine Wosberg ed. (Jerusalem: The Center for Jewish Pluralism and the Israeli Reform Movement, 2005).

**Poems** (Hebrew and English recent years):

- “Absolved Grace,” (forthcoming, *Pseyphas*).
- “Those Who Submerge,” (forthcoming, *Mahut*, 33).
- “Twilights,” (forthcoming, *Mahut*, 33).
- “Dawn” (forthcoming, *Mahut*, 33).
- “Here It Comes Again,” (forthcoming, *Mahut*, 33).
- “To Moses and Aristotle Tode Ti,” A commentary in verse on *Exodus* Torah portion,” in *Drishat Shalom – Torah Commentary by Israeli Reform Rabbis*, Tamar Duvdevani & Lisitsa Alona eds., Tel Aviv, Hakibbutz Hameuchad-Sifriat Poalim, (2018) p.122.
- “From the Songs of the Garden,” (three poems) *CCAR Journal* (Winter 2016) pp. 131-132.
- “This is the Eyar” *Dror*, the Israeli Progressive Movement Publication.
- Six Poems (Lea Prayer, The Voice of My Beloved, Between Me and You, A Day in the Garden, My Beloved, and All my Daughters), *Carmel Journal* no. 17 (Jerusalem: 2014).
- “Mine-Not-Mine,” *Seeking Your Face: Holydays, Festivals (mevakshey panecha: Hagim, Moadim Veyemay Zion)*, ed. Guli Amir & Yehoyada Amir, (Jerusalem, 2009).

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

- *They Way We Talk – Evolving Hebrew Theology*, [book]
- *Tel Aviv: a Bible Commentary* [book].
- A New Blueprint for a Reform Shulhan – Notes on Amir’s Philosophy of Halakhah. [article].
- On the Importance of Teaching Jewish Responsa Genre in Jewish Reform Seminaries. [article].
- Putting Philosophy to Work: political philosophy as a backdrop for teachers’ development program in teaching American Jewish history [article].

**PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES (recent years):**

- “Sefaria – Digitization of Jewish Sources and its Cultural-Political Implications,” Colloquium on Digitization, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, (New York, Cincinnati, Jerusalem) November 2022.
- “Alt-Piyyut in 21<sup>st</sup> century Altneuland – The Revival of Ethnic Religious Musical Piyyut and the Blurring of Socio-religious Divides,” Globalization and Culture in Israel, Tulane University (April 2019).

- “Zionism, Post-Zionism and the Crisis of Modernity: between Leo Strauss and Eliezer Schweid,” The 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, (August 2017).
- “Poetry and Contemporary Prayer Practice,” Association for Jewish Studies, (San Diego, 2016).
- “Let the Other be Me - The Theo-Political Predicament and the Arab in Shin Shalom’s Early Writings,” The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (Calgary, 2016).
- “Poems of Sanctification and the Reinvention of the Poet as a Prophet” the 7<sup>th</sup> Israeli Conference for the Study of Contemporary Religion and Spirituality –Tel Aviv University (Tel Aviv, 2015).
- “The Thousand Faces of Integrity: Between Individual and Communal Authenticity,” The Israeli Conference of Progressive Rabbis, (Summer 2013).
- “From Honolulu via Mt. Gilboa to Tel-Aviv: the Rise and Fall of Shlonsky’s Messianic *Halutz*,” 27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference of the Association for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Boston (June 2011).
- “Abraham Shlonsky’s Poetry and the Theo-Political Wheel: The book *Bagalgal* (1927),” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston (December 2010).
- “To See God in His Beauty: Hebrew poets and mystical union,” Ann-Arbor, The Honors College at Eastern Michigan University (March 2010).
- “Reading Modern Hebrew Poets as Theologians,” Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles (December 2009).
- “Teaching, Inquiry and Texts: new approaches to Jewish education,” Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles (December 2009).
- “Transformative and Reflective Journal: exploring ideology and developing a personal theology while analyzing texts of medieval Jewish thinkers,” The Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem (August 2009).
- “The Act of Creating Poetry: theological themes in Abraham *Halfi*’s work,” The History Seminar, Hebrew Union College –Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati (March 2009).
- "Freedom in the Closed Canon: Maimonides and Rosenzweig on language and the limits of revelation," The Rothschild Caesarea School of Communication, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv (January 2009).
- "Bab El Wad": Between a Traditional Mizrahi Liturgy and modern Zionist Israeli Sabra Poetry: David Buzaglo and Haim Guri,” Florida International University, Center for the Study of Sephardic/Oriental Jewry. (February 2008).
- “The Art of Building the Mishkan (Tabernacle) and the Art of Music in Contemporary Israel,” Florida International University, Center for the Study of Sephardic/Oriental Jewry. (February 2008).



- “Zionism in Contemporary American “Official” Reform Jewish Discourse and its Theological and Pedagogic Implications,” Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, Canada, (December 2007).
- “The Political Theology of the Contemporary American Reform Zionism,” The International Conference on Contemporary Reform Judaism: Sociology, Education and Theology, Van-Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel (24-25 December 2007).
- “The Genealogy of the Term ‘Talmud Torah’ in the Reform Prayer-books and Platforms of the Last Three Decades,” The International Conference on Contemporary Reform Judaism: Sociology, Education and Theology, Van-Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel (24-25 December 2007).
- “The Redemptive Theology of Yeshayahu Leibowitz,” Jewish Studies Colloquium, The Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies and The Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry Brandies University, Boston (January 2007).
- “Strauss’ Interpretation to *Aleinu* Prayer as a Political Theology in the Making,” MAJS conference, Cincinnati (September 2006).
- “The Ethical Predicament of the Liberal Use of the Term *Talmud Torah*,”
  - MAJS conference Cincinnati, (September 2006).
- “From Zionism to Israelism and from Aliya to cultural engagement,” Key-note speech, *Arza* think-tank conference, Cincinnati Ohio (April 2006).

### **PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS FOR HUC-JIR & OTHER COMMUNITIES (recent years):**

- “Introduction to Jewish Mysticism,” Temple Sholom Congregation, (Cincinnati, Jan 2023).
- “The Concepts of Time in Jewish Mysticism,” Concert Nova, *5 Duration*, (Cincinnati, April, 2022).
- *Mysticism and Ecstasy in Modern Hebrew Poetry – Meeting of the Third Kind*. (A fundraising event , Open Lecture via Zoom to Hebrew Speaking Audience – Organization for Children in Need in Haifa and the North) Public Lecture (May 2020): <https://bit.ly/2L1mC4X>
- “The cultural complexities in Israel today,” The Evangelical Community Church, (October 2018).
- “Language as a Vehicle for a Mystical Journey,” Temple Shalom, Cincinnati, (April 2018).
- “The Mystical-Magical Facet of Sacred Text and Holy Language in Kabbalah,” The College of Wooster. (Wooster, OH September 2017).
- “New Shibolet: a reading with poet Haim O. Rechnitzer,” Miami University, (Oxford OH, March 2017).

- “Whence then Cometh Wisdom and Where is the Place of Understanding? The Mystical Path of Talmud Torah,” Keneseth Israel, Adath Jeshurun, Temple Shalom, (Louisville, June 2016).
- “Ecstatic Mysticism in Modern Hebrew Poetry – Close Encounters of the Divine Kind,” Franklin and Marshall College, (Lancaster, P.A, April, 2016).
- “Mystical Encounters in Modern Hebrew Poetry,” Taft Research Center, University of Cincinnati, (March 2016).
- “Language Beyond Language: The Universal Message of Ecstatic Kabbalah,” Alumni Learning Project, (June 2015)
- “Prophecy, Ecstasy, and the Universal Message of Kabbalah,” Eastern Michigan University, (March, 2015).
- “Between the Binding of Isaac and the Sacrifice of Job – An Israeli Perspective as Explored in Hebrew Poetry,” Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Cincinnati, (February, 2015)
- “To the Nature of the Question “What Is Reform Zionism,” Arza think Tank, New Jersey, (January,2015)
- “Supreme Court's decision, *Town of Greece v. Galloway* - a Jewish Perspective,” Wise Temple, Cincinnati (December, 2014)
- “Prophecy and the Perfect Poetical Order” Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, (April, 2014).
- “The Anarchic Elements of Jewish Orthodoxy – Leo Strauss’ Political Theology and the Jewish State,” The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, (April 2013).
- On Church & State – Reflections on Leo Strauss Political Philosophy and the Meaning of a Jewish and Democratic State,” Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Jerusalem (March 2013).
- “Judaism and Politics – Religion and State Then and Now,” Rockdale Temple, Cincinnati, (October 2012).
- “What is a ‘Just Society’? The interplay between Freedom, Ideology and Religion,” University of Cincinnati, Department of History, (September 2012).
- “Religious Freedom and Interfaith Dialogue in the US,” U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, Xavier University, Cincinnati (April 2012).
- “The Political Theology of Avraham Shlonsky’s Early Poetry,” Hebrew University, Department of Jewish Thought, Jerusalem, December 2011.
- “James’ Journey to Jerusalem,” Jewish Film through an Interfaith Lens: Series, Cincinnati, (February, 2011).
- “West Bank Story,” Jewish Film Through an Interfaith Lens: Lecture Series, Cincinnati, (March 2011).
- “Establishment Debate: Rules of Civic Engagement: Tomas Jefferson versus Patrick Henry debate and the separation of church and state,” Jewish Day of Global Learning, Roselawn Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Cincinnati, (November 2010).

- “Playing Hide & Seek with God in His Orchard: modern mystical quests,” Global Day of Jewish Learning, JCC, Cincinnati, (November, 2010).
- “Limud (Torah Study) – Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayelech: *midor ledor* – From Generation to Generation: methods for transmitting cultural heritage,” The Board of Overseers – Cincinnati, (September 2009).
- “Judaism as Faith or Judaism as Law: should we reform the Reform?” Temple Sholem, Cincinnati, (May 2009).
- “Israelism and American Judaism; implications to curriculum planning,” Lecture at the *Jewish Lens – Living Bridge Project*, UJA Federation of New York, The Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Israeli Ministry of Education - Karev Foundation, Jerusalem, (January 2009).
- “Claiming the Sacred Cows – the battle over Jewish-Israeli cultural identity as reflected in the poetry of immigrants vs. the poetry of the *sabra*,” CCAR Conference, Cincinnati, (April 2008).
- “The Transformation of Jewish Value-Concepts: from classic text to Reform context,” CCAR Conference, Cincinnati, (April 2008).
- “Between a Traditional Mizrahi Liturgy and Modern Zionist Israeli Sabra Poetry: Guri versus Buzaglo”, Board of Overseers – Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, (November 2007).
- “The Borders of Interfaith Dialogue,” The Children of Abraham Conference: Jews, Christians and Muslims, Thomas More College, Kentucky, (October 2007)
- “How to Teach ‘Modern Israel’?” Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Department of Youth Programs, High School Leadership Conference, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, (April 2007).
- “The ‘Conflict’ in Israeli Law and Culture – March 25 – 26, 2007,” Brandeis University, Boston, Massachusetts, (Summer Institute for Israel Studies, alumni workshop).
- “Looking for Redemption in Unforeseen Places: the redemptive undercurrents in non-messianic Jewish and Israeli thought, literature, popular music, and dance,” Adath Israel Temple, Lecture Series, Cincinnati, (February 2007).
- “The Prayer *Aleinu Leshabeach* in Light of *Hanukah*,” Ryterband Brunch lecture Series, Temple Israel, Dayton OH (December 2006).
- “From Zionism to Israelism and from Aliya to Cultural Engagement,” Key-note speech, *Arza* think-tank conference, Cincinnati, (April 2006).
- “Zion: A Place or an Idea?” The Ivria, Israeli Community, Cincinnati, (February 2006).
- “A Weekend in the Garden of Good and Evil,” HUC-JIR, Department of Youth Program, Cincinnati, (January 25–01–2006).
- “Do first Then Listen,” HUC-Jewish Institute of Religion, Food For Thought Series, Cincinnati, (December 2005).

**PRESENT PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES:**

- Faculty Chair (2021- present)
- Board of Editorial Directors - HUC Press, Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (2015-present)
- Graduate and Rabbinic Students Committee – faculty representative (2021-present)
- Friends of *Yad Tabenkin* Advisory Board (2021 – present)
- The Library of the Future, committee on HUV-JIR Library planning (2019-2020)
- Chair of Library Special Task Force (2014)
- Graduate School (2011- present)
- CPE (pastoral care program) (2012-2017)
- Assessment Committee (2013-2020)

**ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS:**

- Affiliate Faculty, Department of Judaic Studies, University of Cincinnati
- Association of Canadian Jewish Studies
- Association for Jewish Studies
- Association for Israel studies
- The World Union of Jewish Studies
- Research Fellow, Van-Leer Jerusalem Institute, (Jerusalem, 2006-8)
- Central Conference of American Rabbis

**COURSES TAUGHT AT HUC-JIR, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, AND XAVIER UNIVERSITY – (partial List)**

- “Introduction to Theology”
- “Introduction to Modern Jewish Thought”
- “Introduction to Medieval Jewish Thought”
- “Introduction to Midrash Literature”
- “Popular Folk-Song and Nation Building – From *Yeshuv* to a State”
- “Liberalism and the Limits of Religious Tolerance”
- “Reading Mystical Text for Intellectual and Spiritual Growth”
- “From an Earthly Temple to a Spiritual Architecture: An introduction to Kabbalah”
- “Hassidism and the Mystical Quest”
- “Modern readings of Maimonides’ *Guide*”
- “Reconstruction of Theology out of modern Hebrew Literature”

- “Religion and State – between political philosophy and Israeli thought”
- “Writing Theological ‘Rashi’ Interpretation to Talmudic Sugiyut”
- “Zionism and post-Zionism – interdisciplinary construction of Israeli thought”
- “Theology of Redemption or Redemptive Theology?”
- “Orthodoxy and Heresy”

**COURSES TAUGHT PRIOR TO HUC-JIR (Partial List):**

- “Israelite Religion,” Franklin & Marshal College
- “Classic Judaism in Translation,” Franklin & Marshal College
- “Seminar - Rabbinic Judaism,” Franklin & Marshal College
- “Jewish Faith & Jewish People?” Franklin & Marshal College
- “Introduction to Jewish Mysticism,” Franklin & Marshal College
- “Modern Jewish Denominations and their Theologies,” Sapir College
- “Introduction to Medieval Jewish Thought,” Sapir College
- “Introduction to Jewish Mysticism,” Sapir College
- “Between Religion and State,” Kerem Teachers College
- “The Binding of Isaac – Philosophy, Literature and Art,” Hebrew University

**AWARDS AND GRANTS:**

- Lucius Littauer Foundation book publishing award (2011)
- Werner Wienberg Foundation book publishing award (2011)
- Celebration of Teaching 2007 Award Honoree for Excellence in Teaching, the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities (2007)
- The Brandeis Institute for Israel Studies – The Tauber Institute (2006)
- Hebrew Union College, Jerusalem, scholarship & stipend (2000-03)
- Lakritz Award in Jewish studies (2001)
- Research fellowship grant – The Institute for advanced studies, Shalom Hartman Institute (1998-00)
- Arie Lubin Award (Graduate students), Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (2000)
- Fellowship, Shalom Hartman Institute (1994-96)
- Dean’s Award, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (1990-6)
- Rahman Bachana Award in Jewish Studies (1994)
- Lakritz award in Jewish Studies (1993)