

LEAH HOCHMAN
CURRICULUM VITA

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Education

- 1990-2000 BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston, Mass. M.A./Ph.D., Religion and Literature, Division of Religious and Theological Studies.
- 1988-1989 HEBREW UNIVERSITY, Jerusalem, Israel. Junior Year abroad, the One Year Program at the Rothberg School for Overseas Students.
- 1986-1990 PITZER COLLEGE, Claremont, Calif. B.A., Honors graduate, self-designed major in Jewish studies with double major in English; commencement speaker.

Areas of Specialization

Religion and literature, medieval, modern and contemporary Jewish thought; modern and contemporary religious thought; Jewish studies; aesthetics, European Enlightenment; German-Jewish studies; Jewish literature; Judaism in the US and the Americas; food and religion.

Teaching Experience

- 2010-present DIRECTOR, Jerome H. Louchheim School for Judaic Studies at University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2014-present ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, Jewish Thought, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Appointment to Rabbinic School and Louchheim School for Judaic Studies. Affiliate appointment in School of Religion, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Southern California.
- 2008-2014 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Jewish Thought, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2000-2008 ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, Religion and Jewish Studies, Department of Religion and Center for Jewish Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida. Affiliate appointments in Germanic and Slavic Studies, Women Studies and Gender Research.
- 1999-2000 INSTRUCTOR, Core Curriculum, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University.

Publications

Books and Collections

co-editor, *Re-Forming Judaism: Moments of Disruption in Jewish Thought* (with Stanley Davids) (CCAR Press, forthcoming 2022)

co-editor, *Scriptions: Jewish Thoughts and Responses to Covid-19* (with Michael Marmor).
<https://scriptions.huc.edu> (2020)

editor, *Tastes of Faith: Jewish Eating in the United States* (Purdue University Press, 2017)

The Ugliness of Moses Mendelssohn: Aesthetics, Religion and Morality in the Eighteenth-Century (Routledge, 2014). Finalist, Goldstein-Goren Book Award in Jewish Thought

Teaching Theology: Jewish Resources for Educators, in progress

Articles

"Lavater in Hebrew," in progress

"Minka's Sword: Jewish Female Heroines and Orthodox Judaism," in progress

"The Ineffability of Form: Speaking and Seeing the Sacred in *Tina's Mouth* and *The Rabbi's Cat*," in *Sacred Texts and Comics: Religion, Faith, and Graphic Narratives*, eds. Assaf Gamzou and Ken Koltun-Fromm (University Press of Mississippi, 2017).

"On Eating and Being Jewish: How Taste Has Shaped Identity," in *Tastes of Faith: Jewish Eating in the United States* (Purdue University Press, 2017)

"Judaism," in *A Desk Reference to Personalizing Patient Care*, Fourth Edition, ed. Aurora Realin and Louis R. Preston, Jr. (Florida Hospital Publishing, 2017)

"Mendelssohn and Kant: Ethics and Aesthetics," in *The Value of the Particular: Lessons From Judaism and the Modern Jewish Experience*, eds. Michael Zank and Ingrid Anderson (Leiden: Brill, 2015).

"Moses Mendelssohn," "Salomon Maimon," "Nachman Krochmal," *Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion, and Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin and Kenneth Seeskin, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

"The Ugly Made Beautiful: Mendelssohn As Icon," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*. July 2006, 5:2.

"Approaches to Jewish Studies: Teaching a Methods Course," *Teaching Theology and Religion*. Spring 2005, 8:2

"The Other As Self: Mendelssohn, Diogenes, Bayle, and Spinoza," *Eighteenth Century Life*. Spring 2004, 28:2

"Mendelssohn and the Aesthetic: The Importance of the Ugly," *Haskala: Die Jüdische Aufklärung in Deutschland 1769-1812* (ed. C. Schulte), a special forum in *Das Achtzehnte Jahrhundert*. Wolfenbüttel, 1999.

Responses

"Theology: How Reform Jews Picture God," *Reform Judaism*, Spring 2013.
<http://reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=3185>

"Learning From Korah," Ten Minutes of Torah, Union for Reform Judaism, June 2012.
<http://www.reformjudaism.org/who-may-lead-people-god>

"Response to Catherine Madsen, 'A Heart of Flesh: Beyond "Creative Liturgy,"'" *CrossCurrents*, 62:1, March 2012. pp. 33-36.

"Response to Jerome Copulsky, 'The Last Prophet: Spinoza and the Political Theology of Moses Hess,'" Religion & Culture Web Forum, The Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion, The University of Chicago Divinity School, March 2008.
(<http://divinity.uchicago.edu/martycenter/publications/webforum/032008/discussion.pdf>)

Fellowships and Honors

2012 ABRAHAM GEIGER GUEST PROFESSOR, Abraham Geiger College, Potsdam, Germany.
Invitation declined.

2009 SCHUSTERMAN Fellow, Summer Seminar in Israel Studies, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.

2007 POSEN FACULTY SEMINAR, "Secularization, Judaism and the Political," Center for Jewish Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, Three Week Summer Seminar, "Aesthetics of the Scottish Enlightenment," Paul Guyer and Rachel Zuckert, Directors, St. Andrews University, St. Andrews, Scotland.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES, Six Week Summer Seminar, "Religious Diversity and the Common Good," Alan Wolfe, Director, Boisi Center for Religion and Public Life, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA.

2006 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida.

COOLIDGE FELLOW, *ARIL/CrossCurrents*, Union Theological Seminary, New York City.

HUMANITIES ENHANCEMENT FELLOWSHIP, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Florida.

- 2005 SKIRBALL FELLOWSHIP, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford
University, Yarnton, England.
- 2002 EINSTEIN-DUBNOW FELLOW, Einstein Forum, Potsdam, Germany and Simon Dubnow
Institute, Leipzig, Germany.
- 2001 HUMANITIES ENHANCEMENT FELLOWSHIP, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,
University of Florida.
- 1998 DAAD ANNUAL GRANT, Post-doctoral fellowship, Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum,
Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany.

LBI/DAAD FELLOWSHIP, Leo Baeck Institute, New York, NY.

MELLON FOUNDATION SEMINAR, "Aesthetics, Ideology, and Modernity," Brandeis
University, Waltham, Mass.

Conference Presentations

"When Mendelssohn Met Steve Bannon: Maskilic Advice and Political Uncertainty," "Capricious
or Inevitable: The Alt-Right, 1930s Germany and Us," "In Our Own Image: Refashioning An
American Rabbinate," PARR, Palm Springs, CA. January 2017.

"Reimagining Sacred Texts through Comics," Panelist, Comics and Sacred Texts, Haverford
College. May 2016

"The Grinch, Fan Fic and *Pleasantville*: Teaching the Bible as Literature," Association for Jewish
Studies Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. December 2015.

"Developing Your Own Theology," Let's Eat Already! Jews and Food," "Moses Mendelssohn's
Jerusalem," "Transforming Texts, Transforming People," "What Modern Jews Think and
Thought," URJ Biennial, Orlando, FL. November 2015.

Response, "What Are We Looking At? Mendelssohn's Theory of Mixed Sentiments
Reconsidered," American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA. November
2015.

"Teaching with Social Media," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore,
MD. December 2014.

"The Icon As Art: Aesthetic Theory, Portraiture and Mendelssohn," Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA. December 2013.

"Symposium: The Intersection of Jewish Studies and the Humanities," Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University, Boston, MA. October 2013.

Response, "Is American Jewry 'Exceptional'?: Comparing Jewish Emancipation in Europe and America," Jerome Nemer Lecture, University of Southern California. November 2011.

"In/Hospitality: Abraham, Lot and the Post-Apocalyptic World," The Hospitable Text: New Approaches to Religion and Literature, London Notre Dame Center, UK. July 2011.

"An Introduction to Martin Buber," Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA. March 2011.

"Religion and Leadership: Women, Rabbis, and the "Feminization" of the Rabbinate," Interdisciplinary Research Group, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, University of Southern California. March 2011.

"Who's the Ugly Stick In The Mud? Kant, Judaism and (Beauty's) Freedom," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, CA. October 2010.

"Are You There God? It's Me, Moses: Maimonides' Divine, Mendelssohn's Perfect," The Modern Reinvention of the Medieval in Jewish Studies, SUNY, Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. June 2010.

"The Face of the Jew: Physiognomy, Lavater and the Coded Image," American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies Annual Conference, Portland, OR. March 2008.

"Beauty in Judaism: The Ugly Truth," Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. February 2008.

"Why Mendelssohn Still Matters," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario. December 2007.

"Kissing A Lot of Frogs: Approaching Modern Jewish Thought Warts and All," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. November 2007.

"Reading Faces, Reading Souls: Jews, Lavater and Physiognomy in Modern Europe," History of Science Reading Group, University of Florida, Gainesville. March 2006.

"Reading Faces, Reading Souls: Jews, Judaism and Physiognomy in Modern Europe," David Patterson Seminar, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Yarnton, UK. May 2005.

"Making the Jews Ugly: Aesthetics, Politics and Religion in Modern European Thought," Centre for European Studies, St. Antony's College, Oxford University, Oxford UK. February 2005.

"The Aesthetics of Otherness: Jews, Gender and Ugliness in the Enlightenment," Other Enlightenments: Gender and the Long 18th Century, University of Florida, Gainesville. January 2004.

"Aesthetics, Romantics, and Jews," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles. December 2002.

"Approaches to Jewish Studies: Teaching a Methods Class," Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles. December 2002.

"Ugly and Ugliness: Jews, Germans, and Africans," Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig, Germany. November 2002.

Languages

German (reading, writing, speaking); Hebrew (reading, writing); French (reading)

Professional Affiliations

American Academy of Religion; American Academy of Religion; Association for Jewish Studies; American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.