

DAVID I. SHYOVITZ

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Employment

Associate Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University (2017-)
 Courtesy Appointment: Department of Religious Studies
 Director, Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies (Sept. 2018 -)
Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University (2011-17)
College Fellow, Department of History, Northwestern University (2010-2011)

Education

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History
 (May 2011)
M.A., University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of History
 (May 2007)
Yeshivat Har Etzion, College of Judaic Studies
 Alon Shvut, Gush Etzion (1999-00, 2004-05)
B.A., University of Pennsylvania, College of Arts and Sciences (May 2004)
 Summa Cum Laude, with Distinction in History
 Phi Beta Kappa

Publications

Book:

A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz (Philadelphia:
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017)

Articles:

“Unearthing the ‘Children of Cain’: Between Human, Animal, and Demon in Medieval Jewish Culture,” in *Monsters and Monstrosity in Jewish History: From the Middle Ages to Modernity*, ed. Iris Idelson-Shein and Christian Weise (London: Bloomsbury, 2019).
“‘You Have Saved Me from the Judgment of Gehenna’: The Origins of Mourner’s Kaddish in Medieval Ashkenaz,” *AJS Review* 39, 1 (2015): 49-73.

“Beauty and the Bestiary: Animals, Wonder, and Polemic in Medieval Ashkenaz,” in *The Jewish-Christian Encounter in Medieval Preaching*, ed. Jonathan Adams and Jussi Hanska (London: Routledge, 2015), 215-39.

“Christians and Jews in the Twelfth Century Werewolf Renaissance,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 75, 4 (2014): 521-43.

[Winner of the Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize of the Medieval Academy of America for Best First Article in Medieval Studies (2016)]

In Progress:

“Did Judah the Pious ‘Author’ *Sefer Hasidim*?” (under review, *Jewish History*)

“O Beastly Jew!” *Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in the Middle Ages* (book manuscript in progress)

“Nature” *Between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World* (edited volume to appear in Penn Press’s “Jewish Culture and Contexts” series)

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries:

Review of Elisheva Baumgarten, Ruth Mazo Karras, and Katelyn Mesler, eds., *Entangled Histories: Knowledge, Authority, and Jewish Culture in the Thirteenth Century* (Philadelphia: Penn Press, 2017), *AJS Review* (forthcoming)

Review of Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, ed., *Intricate Interfaith Networks in the Middle Ages: Quotidian Jewish-Christian Contacts* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2016), *Mediaevistik: Internationale Zeitschrift für interdisziplinäre Mittelalterforschung* (forthcoming)

Review of Robert Chazan, *From Anti-Judaism to Anti-Semitism: Ancient and Medieval Christian Constructions of Jewish History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), *Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations* (forthcoming)

Review of Ephraim Shoham-Steiner, *On the Margins of a Minority: Leprosy, Madness, and Disability among the Jews of Medieval Europe* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2014), *AJS Review* 40 (2016): 436-39

Review of Elisheva Baumgarten, *Practicing Piety in Medieval Ashkenaz: Men, Women, and Everyday Religious Observance* (Philadelphia: Penn Press, 2014) for *The Talmud Blog*

“Rabbi Petahiyah of Regensburg,” *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, ed. Norman Stillman and Philip Ackerman-Lieberman. 2nd ed. (Leiden: Brill, 2014)

Edited Journal Volume:

With Christopher Davis and Christina Normore, eds., *Medieval Environments. Essays in Medieval Studies*, vol. 34. (Morgantown: West Virginia University Press, forthcoming).

Public Scholarship:

“The 2017 Eclipse Has Come and Gone, but What Secrets Did it Portend? Some Insights from the Jewish Middle Ages,” Katz Center for Advance Judaic Studies Blog

(<https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/content/2017-eclipse-has-come-and-gone-what-secrets-did-it-portend-some-insights-jewish-middle-ages>)

“The Subversive Kaddish,” TheTorah.com: A Historical and Contextual Approach
(<http://thetorah.com/the-subversive-kaddish/>)

Invited Lectures

Title TBA, Symposium on “Death and Dying in Medieval Islam, Judaism, and Christianity,” Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, University of Tennessee, Knoxville (April 2019)

Title TBA, Jewish Studies Seminar, University of Illinois, Chicago (February 2019)

“Some Jews said this Fish was a Jewish Fish’: Animality and Materiality in a Medieval Interreligious Encounter,” Beyond the Elite: Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Europe Symposium, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (November 2018)

“Soul Food and Salvation: Eating Animals in Medieval Ashkenaz,” Committee on Medieval Studies and Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA (October 2018)

“For Death Severs all Bonds: Family Life and the Afterlife in Medieval Ashkenaz,” International Conference on “Jewish Life in the Medieval Christian and Muslims Worlds,” University of Notre Dame (April 2018)

“Soul Food and Salvation in Medieval Ashkenaz,” Symposium on “Jews and the Natural World: Bodies, Animals, Evolution,” Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (December 2017)

“Secrets, *Sodot*, and the Inter-religious Transmission of Medieval Esotericism,” Premodern Judaism from Manuscript to Print: A History of the Book Symposium, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (November 2017)

“Holy Beasts: Animals, Angels, and the Boundaries of the Natural World in Medieval Jewish Culture,” Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (September 2017)

“Is Meat Murder? Confronting Carnivorousness in Medieval Ashkenaz,” Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University (April 2017)

“How Many are Your Works, O Lord! Monsters, Maps, and the Medieval Jewish Imagination,” Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, Yeshiva University, NY (April 2017)

“Theology or Superstition? Between Elite and Folk Beliefs in Medieval Jewish Culture,” seminar presentation to European Research Council research group “Beyond the Elite: Jewish Daily Life in Medieval Europe,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (March 2017)

Respondent to Keynote Address, International Conference on “*Sefer Hasidim* in Context,” Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel (March 2017)

“Reigning Cats and Dogs: Animals and Angelology in Late Medieval Ashkenaz,” International Conference on “Biblical Creatures. The Animal as an Object of Interpretation in Pre-Modern Jewish and Christian Hermeneutic Traditions,” Frei Universität Berlin, Germany (December 2016)

- “‘Man and Beast You Redeem, Oh Lord’: Animal Eschatology in the Theology and Art of Medieval Ashkenaz,” International Conference on “Ashkenaz at the Crossroads of Cultural Transfer: Tradition and Identity,” Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (November 2016)
- “Kol Yoshvei Tevel: The Antipodes and their Inhabitants between Mysticism, Narrative, and Halakhah,” International Conference on “Monsters, Demons and Wonders in European-Jewish History and Thought,” Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (May 2016)
- “‘Why Do the Goyim Call Us Dogs?’ Questioning Animals in the *Sefer Kushiyyot* (Book of Queries),” International Workshop on “Berechia Hanaqdan and Medieval and Early Modern Fable Lore and Moralizing Literature,” Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University Jerusalem (November, 2015)
- “‘Tevel and its Inhabitants’: Maps, Monsters, and the Medieval Jewish Imagination,” Klutznick-Harris-Schwalb Symposium, University of Nebraska and Creighton University, Lincoln/Omaha, NE (October 2015)
- “‘Oh Beastly Jew!’ Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in Medieval Europe,” Medieval and Renaissance Studies Seminar Series, University of Haifa, Israel (May 2015)
- “‘Linso’a im Sefer ba-Yad: Hebetim Hadashim al ha-‘Sivuv’ shel R. Petahiyah mi-Regensburg,” Yemei ha-Benayim Akhshav, The Historical Society of Israel, Jerusalem (February 2015)
- “‘Lakhem Tihyeh le-Akhlah: Akhilat Basar ke-Ba’ayah Ruhanit-Musarit be-Ashkenaz bi-Yeme ha-Benayim,’” Ben Gurion University’s Department of Jewish Thought Seminar Series, Beersheba, Israel (December 2014)
- “‘Bein *Olam Katan* le-*Minor Mundus*: Kavin Makbilim she-Einam Nifgashim?’” Medieval and Early Modern Ashkenaz Seminar Series, Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University Jerusalem, Israel (November 2014)
- “‘A World in Miniature: Medieval German-Jewish ‘Mysticism’ between Phenomenology and History,’” International Conference titled “Undisciplined: German Jewish Studies Today,” Leo Baeck Institute, Queen Mary University, London, UK (September 2014)
- “‘Animals in the Garden of Eden: Carnivorousness and Eschatology in Medieval Jewish Thought,’” Animal Studies Workshop, University of Chicago (February 2014)
- “‘A Bloody Cover-Up: Vegetarianism and ‘Animal Migration’ among Medieval Christians and Jews,’” Mellon Symposium on “The Middle Ages in Translation,” Northwestern University (July 2013)
- “‘The Specter of the Golem: ‘Playing God’ in Medieval and Modern Synthetic Biology,’” Symposium on “Making Good: Ethics, Religion, and Synthetic Biology,” Northwestern University (February 2011)
- “‘Science, Magic, and the Occult: Attitudes toward Nature in Medieval Jewish Thought,’” Jewish Studies Seminar Series, University of Delaware (2009)

Conference Presentations

- “‘For Death Severs their Bonds’: Family and Eschatology in (and beyond) *Sefer Hasidim*,” 50th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA (December 2018)

- “‘Why do the Goyim Call Us Dogs?’ Animals, Angels, and Jewish Identity in Medieval Europe,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2018)
- “For Death Severs all Bonds: Family and Eschatology in Medieval Ashkenaz,” 17th Congress of the World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel (August 2017)
- Respondent to panel on “Jews and the Natural World,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (April 2017)
- “Reigning Cats and Dogs: Animals, Astrology, and Angelology in Late-Medieval Ashkenaz,” 47th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA (December 2015)
- “Pre-Modernity in the Digital Age,” Discussant, 45th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA (December 2013)
- “Science in Medieval Ashkenaz: Toward a Reassessment,” 16th Congress of the World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel (July 2013)
- “Exploring Nature without ‘Nature’: Science and/as Theology in Medieval Jewish Culture,” Conference on “Nature and the Natural in the Middle Ages,” University of Chicago (May 2013)
- “‘Teaching Jewish Medievals’ vs. ‘Teaching Medieval Jews,’” presented at a session organized by The Consortium for the Teaching of the Middle Ages, 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2013)
- “Between Sewer, Synagogue, and Cemetery in Medieval Ashkenaz,” 44th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL (December 2012)
- “Narrative, Theology, and *Minbag*: Custom and the Afterlife in Medieval Ashkenaz,” International Conference on “*Minbagim*: Custom and Practice in Jewish Life,” Tel Aviv University (May 2012)
- “Alexander he-Hasid”? *Mirabilia Mundi* in Medieval Ashkenaz,” 43rd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC (December 2011)
- “Praying and Punishing the Body in Medieval Ashkenazic Thought,” International Workshop on “Archives of the Body: Medieval and Early Modern,” Hughes Hall, University of Cambridge, UK (September 2011)
- “Praying for (and with) the Body in Medieval Ashkenaz,” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2011)
- “Theology, Science, and Polemic in Medieval Ashkenazic Sermonic Literature,” International Conference on “Preaching On the Jews, For the Jews, and By the Jews,” Institutum Romanum Finandiae and the Centro Romano di Studi sull’Ebraismo (February 2011)
- “Judah and the Wolf: The Lycanthropic Theology of the *Hasidei Ashkenaz*,” 42nd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA (December 2010)
- “Scatology and Eschatology: Excrement and the Limits of the Human Body in the Thought of the *Hasidei Ashkenaz*,” 45th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (May 2010)
- “The Origins of the ‘Mourner’s Kaddish’: Theological Adaptation and Inter-religious Polemic in Medieval Jewish Liturgy,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Yale University (March 2010)

“‘He Has Created a Remembrance of His Wonders’: Science and Mysticism in the Thought of the *Hasidei Ashkenaz*,” Sacred Leaves Symposium on “Comparative Mysticism of the Middle Ages,” University of South Florida (2009)

“The *Celestial Hierarchy* of the *Hasidei Ashkenaz*? Medieval Jewish Mysticism and the Pseudo-Dionysian Tradition,” Patristics, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies Conference, Augustinian Institute, Villanova University (2008)

“Medieval Jewish Mysticism and the Rediscovery of the Pseudo-Dionysian Corpus in Western Europe,” University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Graduate Colloquium, (2008)

Fellowships and Awards

Affiliated Fellow, Katz Center for Advance Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2017)

Faculty Honor Roll, Northwestern University Associated Student Government (2016-17)

Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize, awarded by the Medieval Academy of America to “Christians and Jews in the Twelfth Century Werewolf Renaissance” (2016)

Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, International Fellowship in Jewish Studies and Jewish Culture (2015-16)

Yad Hanadiv/Beracha Foundation Fellowship, Jerusalem, Israel (2014-15)

Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, Northwestern University (2014-15) (declined)

Yeshiva University Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Graduate Fellow in Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies (2008-2010)

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, awarded by Penn’s Dept. of History to fund graduate study (2009-10)

Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellowship (2005-2009)

Margaret Schoenfeld Falk Fellowship, awarded by Penn’s Jewish Studies Program to fund graduate study (2006-2009)

Walter Annenberg Research Grant, awarded by Penn’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences to support manuscript research in Jerusalem (Summer 2009)

Merle Saunders Schaff Prize, awarded by Penn’s Religious Studies Department for best graduate student essay (2008)

Ray and Ruth Brenner Award, awarded by Penn’s Jewish Studies program to support research trip to Jerusalem (Summer 2008)

Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Finalist (2007)

ICJS Fellowship, Fellow in two-year program run by the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies dedicated to interfaith dialogue in the American Christian and Jewish communities (2005-2006)

Philip E. Goldfein Award, awarded by Penn’s Jewish Studies Program (2005)

ATUDA Fellowship, Fellow at the ATID Foundation in Jerusalem, Israel (2004-05)

Lynn M. Case Award, for Best Senior Honors Thesis in European History, awarded by the University of Pennsylvania's History Department. (May 2004)

Undergraduate and Graduate Instruction

Areas of Teaching:

Jewish History and Thought, Jewish-Christian Relations, Medieval European History and Thought

Courses Taught (at Northwestern University):

HIST 101: The Crusades
HIST 201-1: European Civilization I (1000-1750)
HIST 203-1: Jewish History, 750-1492
HIST 300: Jewish Messianic Movements
HIST 300: Monsters and the Occult
HIST 347: Christians and Jews
HIST 393: The Blood Libel
HIST 392-95: Nature and the Supernatural in the Middle Ages
HIST 392-95: Jewish Law
HIST 492: Jews in Medieval Europe (Graduate Seminar)

Disciplinary Service

Program Committee, Seventeenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Division of Rabbinic Literature, Jewish Law, and Jewish Thought (2016-17)

Lead Author, proposal accepted by Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania for 2017-18 fellowship year, on the theme "Nature between Science and Religion: Jewish Culture and the Natural World." (2015)

Section Editor on "History of Abrahamic Religions" for *Marginalia: A Review of Books in History, Theology, and Religion*

Article Referee: *Jewish Quarterly Review*; *Journal of the History of Ideas*; *Journal of Religion*; *Hebrew Union College Annual*

Book Referee: Oxford University Press; Bloomsbury Academic Publishers; Brill Academic Publishers; Brepols Publishers

Fellowship Referee: Institute for Research in the Humanities, University of Bucharest

University Service and Student Advising

Graduate Prize Committee, Department of History (2018)

Sole Instructor, "Christians and Jews," a continuing education course offered by the Alumnae of Northwestern University (Spring 2018)

Sava Ranisavljevic Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judeo-Spanish Studies, Search Committee Member (2016-17, 2017-18)

Gray Boyce Memorial Lecture in European Medieval History, Planning Committee Chair (2017)
Director, Jewish Studies Graduate Cluster, Graduate School of Northwestern University (2016-)
Steering Committee Member, Jewish Studies Graduate Cluster, The Graduate School of Northwestern University (2011-2016)
Sole Instructor, "The History of the Occult," a continuing education course offered by the Alumnae of Northwestern University (Spring 2016)
Lecturer at Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study, Organized by the Crown Center for Jewish and Israel Studies (February 2016)
Minor Field Exam, General Field Exam, and Dissertation Committee Member, Robin Pokorski, Department of History (2018)
Minor Field Exam Committee Member, Brian Forman, Department of History (2017)
Minor Field Exam Committee Member, Lev Daschko, Department of History (2016)
Minor Field Exam Committee Member, Vanda Rajcan, Department of History (2016)
Advisory Council Member, Chabraja Center for Historical Studies (2015-17)
Joint Instructor, "Illuminating the Medieval World," a continuing education course offered by the Alumnae of Northwestern University (Fall 2013)
Minor Field Exam Committee Member, Gavin Fort, Department of History (2013)
Gray Boyce Memorial Lecture in European Medieval History, Planning Committee Member (2013)
Search Committee Member, Israel Studies Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Crown Center of Jewish Studies (2012-13)
Guest lecturer to Northwestern Alumni Club of Philadelphia, at the National Museum of American Jewish History (May 2012)
Minor Field Exam Committee Member, Melissa Vise, Department of History (2012)
Dissertation Committee Member, Katelyn Mesler, Department of Religious Studies (PhD 2012)
Jill Stacy Harris Prize Committee Member, Northwestern Jewish Studies Program (2011, 2012, 2016)

Conferences and Colloquia Organized

Convener, Northwestern Medieval Colloquium (2017-18)
Convener, Northwestern Jewish Studies Colloquium Series (2016-)
Annual Meeting of the Illinois Medieval Association, Evanston, IL (February 2017)
"Olam Haba: The World to Come in Jewish Thought, Culture, and Politics," Conference Co-organizer for the Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellowship's Summer Institute in Burlington, VT (2007)

Other Activities

Faculty Member, Advanced Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies, "Out of This

- World: The Supernatural in Jewish History and Culture.” Co-convened by the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, and Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Hebrew University (June 2018)
- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Led study trip for rabbinic delegations to Madrid, Toledo, Seville, and Cordoba, Spain (January 2019); Paris, France (January 2016); and Speyer, Mainz, Worms, and Frankfurt, Germany (January 2012)
- Text and Context, The Open University, Ra’anana, Israel. Invited participant in annual working group on pre-modern textual analysis (February 2015)
- Chicago Jewish-Catholic Dialogue Group. Participant in sessions jointly convened by Chicago Archdiocese and Chicago Jewish Federation concerning contemporary Jewish-Catholic relations (2010-present)
- Spertus Center for Jewish Learning and Culture, Chicago. Faculty, Jewish Studies Doctoral Program (2011)
- Witherspoon Institute, Princeton, NJ. Participant in advanced seminar on “Jewish Thought and Enduring Human Questions,” co-sponsored by the Tikvah Fund (August 2009)
- Institute for Advanced Study, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Participant in workshop on medieval religious polemics (July 2008)
- Shalom Spiegel Institute for Medieval Hebrew Literature, Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Participant in seminar on Isaac Ibn Sahula’s *Meshal ha-Kadmoni* (2009-10), and workshop on medieval Hebrew poetry (June 2008)
- CUNY Latin Institute (Summer 2007)
- Drisha Institute of Jewish Education, New York. Faculty (2006-2009)
- Tempesta Di Mare, Consultant. Assisted in the production and staging of an early-modern Hebrew cantata for Philadelphia, PA Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Players (2007)
- Center for Online Judaic Studies, Education Team Member. Produced and published online (at www.cojs.org) a series of pedagogic guides and curricular materials for use in the teaching of Medieval Jewish History (2006)
- “The Future of the Past: Digital Imaging, the Internet, and Jewish History Education,” Junior Faculty. Helped design and lead a week-long workshop for high school Jewish History teachers at New York University’s Steinhardt School of Education (2006)

Media Appearances

- “Star Wars: Science Strikes Back,” The Pulse, WHYY Philadelphia (NPR affiliate)
<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/381443461/the-pulse>
- New Books in Jewish Studies Podcast, discussing *A Remembrance of His Wonders* (June 2017)
<http://newbooksnetwork.com/david-i-shyovitz-a-remembrance-of-his-wonders-nature-and-the-supernatural-u-penn-press-2017/>

Professional Affiliations

- Association for Jewish Studies
 Medieval Academy of America

Community Outreach

- Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. To lead study trip for rabbinic delegations to Madrid, Toledo, and Cordoba, Spain (January 2019)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Lecture to Midwest Jewish Artist Lab on “The ‘Translation’ of Jewish Culture in Medieval Spain” (October 2018)
- Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Congregation, “Jewish Intellectual History: The Middle Ages” (three-part series, June 2018)
- Congregation Beth Israel Abraham & Voliner, Overland Park, KS. Shavuot Scholar in Residence (June 2018)
- Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “Mystical Monsters and Magical Monks: Jewish Stories of the Supernatural” (two-part series, April 2018)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Lecture to Midwest Jewish Artist Lab on “Text and Textile: The Literal Body in Medieval Kabbalah” (March 2018)
- Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, IL. “The ‘Conflict’ of Science and Religion: Some Historical Perspectives” (February 2018)
- Congregation Hakafah, Glencoe, IL. “Hidden Wisdom: The Esoteric and the Occult in Premodern Jewish Culture” (three-part series, December 2017)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Lecture to Midwest Jewish Artist Lab on “‘Between the Holy and the Mundane’: Sabbath and *Havdalah* in the Jewish Mystical Tradition” (October 2017)
- Contemporary Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL. “The Mystical Roots of the Scientific Revolution” (November 2017)
- Gershman Y, Philadelphia, PA. “Science and Religion: Nature in Jewish Culture,” Panelist (September 2017)
- Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “Crisis and/as Jewish History” (two-part series, May 2017)
- Northshore Israeli Adult Learners, Northbrook, IL. “Jewish History and Thought in the Middle Ages” (seven-part series, Spring 2017)
- Lakeshore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, IL. “The Mystical Roots of the Scientific Revolution” (April 2017)
- Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL. “Antisemitism in the Middle Ages and Reformation” (March 2017)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Lecture to Midwest Jewish Artist Lab on “Crossing Boundaries: Time, Space, Identity” (February 2017)
- Congregation Hakafah, Glencoe, IL. “Stories of the Supernatural in Jewish Culture” (three-part series, January 2017)
- North Shore Congregation Israel, Glencoe, IL. Nachman Scholar, “Between Ishmael and Edom: Judaism’s Encounter with Islam and Christianity” (four-part series, November 2016)
- Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Congregation, “And the Glory of God Rested on Mt. Sinai: Visualizing Revelation in Jewish Thought and Worship” (June 2016)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. “Jewish History and/as Crisis” (June 2016)
- Chicago Board of Rabbis, Chicago, IL. “A Real Kick in the Teeth: Confronting Violence in the Passover Haggadah” (April 2016)
- Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, “Messianic Movements in Jewish History” (two-part series, February 2016)
- Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Lecture to Midwest Jewish Artist

Lab on “Wisdom in Classical Jewish Sources” (February 2016)

Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in Jewish Thought and Tradition” (three-part series, February 2016)

Congregation Hakafah, Glencoe, IL. “Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals in Jewish Thought and Tradition” (two-part series, January 2016)

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Led study trip for rabbinic delegations to Paris, France (January 2016)

Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Congregation, “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem? Hannukah, Hellenism, and History” (December 2015)

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. Session with Adult Jewish Learning Professional Group on “The Joy of Text” (December 2015)

YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago, Kollel Yom Rishon. “No Jews or Dogs Allowed: Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals” (Nov. 2015)

Beit Kneset Yad Shim'on, Oranit, Israel. “Hishuv o Havaya? Ma'amad Har Sinai ve-Hagdarat ha-Emunah” (January 2015)

Kehilat be-Orkha, Jerusalem, Israel. “Shnei Goyim be-Vitnekh—ha-Yitakhen?” (November 2014)

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, IL, Scholar in Residence, Shavuot 5774 (three lectures, June 2014)

Chicago Jewish-Catholic Dialogue Group, Presentation titled “Change We Can Believe In” (April 2014)

Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, Wilmette, IL. “Jews, Animals, and Jewish Animals: The Boundaries of Humanity in Jewish Thought,” University Scholar Series (March 2014)

YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago, Kollel Yom Rishon, “The Two Headed Man: Monstrosity, Humanity, and Halakhah” (February 2014)

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Northshore Kallah, “Kabbalah in Art and Architecture,” Plenary Speaker (February 2014)

Jewish Theological Seminary, Scholar in Residence, “Chicago Jewish University for a Day” (January 2014)

Congregation Hakafah, Glencoe, IL. “Jewish Identity in the Middle Ages” (four lectures, November-December 2013)

Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “Between Ishmael and Edom: Judah ha-Levi and Moses ben Nahman” (four lectures, November 2013)

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, IL, lectures at Hillel and for Jewish Education Team’s Maimonides Scholars (November 2013)

YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago, Kollel Yom Rishon, “The Wandering Jews: The Lives and Afterlives of some Medieval Jewish Travelers” (June 2013)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “Little Red Riding Jew and the Origins of *Akedamut Milin*” (May 2013)

Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “Belief, Superstition, and the Supernatural in Medieval Judaism” (four lectures, April 2013)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “Rashi, the Man and his Image” (February 2013)

Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. “An Introduction to the Thought of Maimonides” (four lectures, November-December 2012)

Congregation Hakafah, Glencoe, IL. “Between Religion, Magic, and Science in Medieval Judaism” (two-part series, October 2012)

Congregation KINS, Chicago, IL. Yom Iyun in Memory of Yaakov Matanky. “Body and Soul: What our Methods of Repentance Say about Us” (September 2012)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “The First Crusade and the Jews” (July 2012)

YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago, Kollel Yom Rishon, “We Want Mashiach Now...Or Do We? Jewish Messianism and Its Meanings” (June 2012)

Congregation Beth Emet, Evanston, IL. Two lectures in a series on “Observant Heretics or Holy Dissenters?” (May 2012)

Congregation Or Torah, Skokie, IL. “Creating Golems: Theory and Practice” (May 2012)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “Paradise Lost and Found” (May 2012)

Congregation Etz Chaim, Lombard, IL, Scholar in Residence. “Judaism and the Occult: From the Middle Ages to Middle America” (four lectures, March 2012)

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. Led study trips for rabbinic delegations to Speyer, Worms, and Mainz, Germany (January 2012)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “A Temple or a Prison? Views of Human Embodiment in Medieval Jewish Theology” (December 2011)

Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. “The History of the Jews of Ashkenaz” (two part series, November 2011)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “The Lion, the Witch, and the Werewolf: Medieval Jewish Monsters and their Meanings” (October 2011)

Congregation Or Torah, Skokie, IL. “Jewish Life in Medieval Ashkenaz: From its Origins to the Black Plague” (four-part series, July 2011)

Skokie Valley Agudath Jacob Synagogue, Skokie, IL. “The Origins of Mourner’s Kaddish” (June 2011)

Kehilat Chovevei Tzion, Skokie, IL. “Memory and the Mountain: Ma’amad Har Sinai in Theology and Halakhah” (June 2011)

YU Torah Mitzion Kollel of Chicago, Yarchei Kallah 5771. “Till Death Do Us Part? Family and Eschatology in Medieval Jewish Thought” (June 2011)

Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, Chicago, IL. “Judaism 101: An Introduction to Classical Jewish Texts” (March 2011)

Chicago Board of Rabbis, Chicago, IL. “The Origins of the ‘Mourner’s Kaddish’: Theological Adaptation and Interreligious Polemic in Medieval Jewish Liturgy ” (October 2010)

Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY. “Creating Golems: Theory and Practice” (May 2010)

Young Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY. “Judah and the Wolf: Lycanthropic Theology in Medieval Jewish Culture” (February 2010)

Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA. “The Natural and the Supernatural in Medieval Jewish Theology” (January 2010)

Beth Israel Abraham Voliner, Kansas City, KS. “Human-Angelic Relations in Biblical, Apocryphal, and Rabbinic Literature” (May 2009)

Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA. “What Does it Mean to Believe in God? Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Approaches” (March 2009)

Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY. “Can God’s Existence be Rationally Proven? Medieval and Modern Philosophical Approaches” (four-part series, February 2009)

Young Israel of Tampa, Tampa, FL. Scholar in Residence (two lectures, February 2009)

Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA. “Jews and Messianism: Political, Polemical, and Practical Approaches” (three-part series, December 2008)

Yeshivat Chovevei Torah, New York, NY. “Messianic Politics in the Middle Ages: ‘Experience Counts,’ or ‘Change We Can Believe In?’” (November 2008)

Main Line Reform Temple, Wynnewood, PA. “Do Jews Believe in Hell? Reading a Medieval Jewish Ghost Story” (November 2008)

Kehilat Hadar Beit Midrash, New York, NY. “Prayer, Repentance... Dismemberment? Faith, Doubt, and Martyrdom in the Yom Kippur Liturgy” (September 2008)

Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY. "Jerusalem on the Rhine: The Motivations and Self-Image of the Martyrs of the First Crusade" (August 2008)

Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY. "Metatron, Shemhazai, and Azazel: Three Angelic Intermediaries and their Role in Rabbinic Literature" (July 2008)

Riverdale Jewish Center, Riverdale, NY. "Memory and the Mountain: *Ma'amad Har Sinai* in Theology and *Halakhab*" (July 2008)

Har Zion Temple, Penn Valley, PA. "An Introduction to the Thought of Maimonides" (three-part series, May 2008)

Suburban Jewish Community Center, Havertown, PA. "Shalom Aleikhem? Jewish Views of Angels in the Medieval and Modern Periods" (2008)

Wexner Foundation Graduate Fellowship Summer Institute, Stowe, VT. "'Till Death Do Us Part? Family and Eschatology in Medieval Jewish Thought" (August 2007)

Suburban Jewish Community Center, Havertown, PA. "The Origins of the Mourner's Kaddish, Or, How to Read a Medieval Jewish Ghost Story" (2007)

Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El, Merion, PA. "Medieval Jewish Philosophy from Saadia to Maimonides" (ten-part series, 2006)

Lower Merion Synagogue, Bala Cynwyd, PA. "*Halakhab* in History, History in *Halakhab*" (three-part series, 2005)