

GREGG STERN  
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## ***CURRENT POSITION***

**Academic Studies Press**, Boston, MA  
Acquisitions Editor, Jewish Studies, 2015 – present.

## ***EDUCATION***

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
Ph.D., Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, 1995.

**Brandeis University**, Waltham, MA  
B.A. *magna cum laude*, History of Western Thought, 1985.

## ***PUBLICATIONS***

### **A. Book**

- *Philosophy and Rabbinic Culture: Jewish Interpretation and Controversy in Medieval Languedoc* (London: Routledge, 2009), paper edition (Routledge, 2010), Kindle edition (Routledge, 2013).

### **B. Journal Articles**

- Gregg Stern, "Response to Freudenthal, "'Let the Waters be Gathered!' between 'Torah' and 'Science' in the Thirteenth-Century, the Issue of the Cosmogonic Waters: Samuel ibn Tibbon, Jacob ben Sheshet and Menachem ha-Meiri," *Daat* 79-80 (2015): 33-41 (English).

### **C. Book Chapters**

- "The Travels of Menaḥem ha-Meiri's *Bet ha-Behirah*," *Essays for a Jewish Lifetime: The Burton D. Morris Jubilee Volume*, Menachem Butler and Marian E. Frankston, editors. New York: Hakirah Press, 2017 (forthcoming).
- "Interpreting Aggadah Anew in the Medieval Philosophic Tradition: An Introduction to Louis Jacobs' 'Demythologizing the Rabbinic Aggadah'" *Essays for a Jewish Lifetime: The Burton D. Morris Jubilee Volume*, Menachem Butler and Marian E. Frankston, editors. New York: Hakirah Press, 2017 (forthcoming).
- "What Divided the Moderate Maimonidean Scholars of Southern France in 1305?," *Be'erot Yitzhak: Studies in Memory of Isadore Twersky*, Jay M. Harris, editor. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies distributed by Harvard University Press, 2005, pp. 347-375.
- "Philosophy in Southern France: Controversy over philosophic study and the influence of Averroes upon Jewish thought," *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval Jewish Philosophy*, Daniel H. Frank and Oliver Leaman, editors. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003, pp. 281-303.

- “The Crisis of Philosophic Allegory in Languedocian-Jewish Culture (1304-6).” *Interpretation and Allegory: Antiquity to the Modern Period*, Jon Whitman, editor. Leiden: Brill, 2000, pp. 189-209.

#### D. Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews

- “Provence,” in *Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion, and Culture*, Judith Baskin, ed., (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011).
- “Abba Mari ben Moses of Lunel,” “Abraham Bedersi” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, Paul Mendes-Flohr, ed., (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2010).
- “Moshe Halbertal, *Between Torah and Wisdom: Rabbi Menahem ha-Meiri and the Maimonidean Halakhists in Provence* (Hebrew). Jerusalem: The Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2000.” Book Reviews, *AJSreview*, Marc Saperstein, editor. Waltham, MA: Association for Jewish Studies, 27 (2003): 132-135.

#### E. On-Line Publications

“Allegorizers of Torah and the Story of their Prosecution in Languedoc (1305): The attempt of the great Catalonian Sage, Rashba, to limit philosophic study and interpretation of Torah in Languedoc and to excommunicate one of its well-known practitioners, Levi ben Avraham ben Hayyim of Villefranche-de-Conflent.” <http://thetorah.com/allegorizers-of-torah-and-the-story-of-their-prosecution-in-languedoc/> (Posted on November 5, 2015).

“The Maimonidean Controversy in 1305-6: Gregg Stern–Philosophy and Rabbinic Culture,” in *The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: notes on Jewish theology and spirituality* with Alan Brill <https://kavvanah.wordpress.com/2015/09/01/the-maimonidean-controversy-in-1305-6-gregg-stern-philosophy-and-rabbinic-culture/> (Posted on September 1, 2015).

#### F. In Progress: Books

- *The New Learning in Europe: Communities and Scholars* investigates and analyzes the near contemporary appropriation of philosophy and science in Europe by overlapping communities of Jewish and Christian scholars.
- *Flashpoints: The Struggle over Maimonides’ Legacy* investigates and analyzes the ways in which the Jewish community wrestled with the Maimonidean legacy in the first century and a half of its reception.

## TEACHING

Brooklyn College, CUNY

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2012 -2013

- “Maimonides: Portrait of a Medieval Jewish Thinker”
- “Sages and Scholars: Early Modern Jewish Intellectual History”
- “The Jewish Diaspora: Antiquity to Present”
- “Anti-Semitism: Antiquity to Present”

## Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2012 (fall)

- “Medieval Jewish Thought: An Introduction”

## Yeshiva University, Bernard Revel Graduate School

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2012 (summer), 2006 (fall), 2004 (spring), 2000 (summer)

- “Jewish Society in Southern France from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries”

## Jewish Theological Seminary

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2011 (fall)

- “Ancient Jewish History”

## University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Visiting Assistant Professor, 1999 - 2001, 2005-2010

- “Jewish People I: Ancient Israel to Medieval Judaism”
- “Jewish People II: Late Antiquity to the Twentieth Century”

## Hebrew College

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2003-5

- “Under Crescent and Cross: The Jewish Encounter with Muslim and Christian Culture in the Middle Ages,” MA-level (On-line)
- “Study of Judaism II: Medieval and Modern Periods,” MA-level (On-line)
- “Pro-Seminar: From Text to Context,” full -year, MA-level
- “Hanukkah – History and Meaning,” *Me’ah* Graduate Institute
- “Medieval Jewish Studies,” *Me’ah* Program
- “Modern Jewish History and Thought,” *Me’ah* Program

## School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Lecturer, LSJS Fellow, and Director of MA Studies (Judaica) 2001-2003

- “Hasidism: 1750-1914,” full-year
- “Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” full-year, postgraduate-level
- “Medieval Jewish History,” full-year
- “History of Jewish Liturgy,” full-year

## Smith College

Program in Jewish Studies, Lecturer, 2000-1

- “Hebrew Poetry through the Ages”
- “The Bible through Rabbinic Jewish Eyes”
- “Introduction to the Jewish Tradition”
- “Readings in the Hebrew Bible and Mishnah”

## Brown University

Judaic Studies, Tutor, 1998-99

- “Introduction to Rabbinic Literature: A Tutorial”

## Rutgers University

Center for the Study of Jewish Life, Visiting Lecturer, 1998-99

- “Jewish Society and Culture I: From Antiquity to the Middle Ages”
- “Kabbalah, Science, and Magic: An Investigation of the Role of Magic in Jewish Culture”

## University of Toronto

Near Eastern Studies, Lecturer, 1995-6

- “Medieval Jewish-Christian Polemics: Seminar”
- “Cultural-Historical Perspectives on the Passover *Seder*: Seminar”
- “Judaism’s Struggle with Rationalism in the Middle Ages”
- “History of the Jews in Spain”

## SUMMER COLLOQUIA

“Religious Pluralism and Jewish Christian Dialogue,” Coolidge Research Colloquium, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY, July 2011.

“Free Will and Human Perfection in Medieval Jewish Philosophy,” NEH Summer Seminar, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, July, 2010.

## INVITED LECTURES

“The Theory of Halakah in Provence in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century,” Reading Group in *Mishpat Ivri*, School of Law, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, November 10, 2016

“Judaism and Philosophy: A Reinterpretation of Traditions,” Program in Jewish Studies, Trinity College, Hartford, CT, February 18, 2009.

“Magic in Medieval Jewish Culture,” Religious Studies Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa, September 25, 2008.

“Life Before The War: One Civilization, Many Cultures,” Facing History and Ourselves, Summer Seminar for Educators in Jewish Settings, Hebrew College, Newton Centre, MA, July 16, 2007.

“Human Knowledge and Its Limits: The View of Menaḥem ha-Meiri, a Medieval Philosopher-Talmudist,” presented at the research seminar of the London School of Jewish Studies, London, November 29, 2001.

“Menaḥem ha-Meiri of Perpignan: A Medieval Talmudist and His Revolutionary Valuation of Christianity,” presented at the Centre for Jewish Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, October 24, 2001.

“Christian-Jewish Intellectual Contacts in Medieval Southern France,” presented at the London School of Jewish Studies, London, February 5, 2001.

“Conventional Prayer and Philosophic Worship in Medieval Judaism,” presented to the Department of Religious Studies, Rice University, Houston, Texas, January 16, 2001.

“Blood Libel or Blood Fact?: The Origins of the Myth of Jewish Ritual Murder,” presented at the Center for Jewish Studies and the Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, November 18, 1999.

“The Cultural Ideal of Southern French Jewry,” presented at London School of Jewish Studies, University of London, England, February 15, 1999.

“Jewish Spirituality and Cultural Controversy in Medieval Southern France,” presented at the Department of Jewish History, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, February 8, 1999.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Ritva: A Respectful and Sophisticated Defender of Early Maimonideanism,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, ON, Canada, December 17, 2007.

“Relations between the Jews of Occitania and Catalonia in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries,” *III Congrés per a l'estudi dels jueus en territoris de llengua catalana*, Universitat de Barcelona, October 17, 2007.

“Why did Jewish scholars in the South of France Engage in Scientific and Philosophic Study?” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, December 20, 2004.

“Averroes’ writings in Paris and in Montpellier,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA, December 21, 2003.

“Menaḥem ha-Meiri of Perpignan on the Function of ‘Religion’,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, CA, December 15, 2002.

“‘Exile’ and ‘Homeland’ in Southern French Jewish Thought” presented at the International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 9, 2002.

“Rashba’s Critique of Maimonidean Science and the Vicissitudes of Maimonidean Allegiance in Southern France,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, December 16, 2001.

“Medieval Philosophic Approaches to Prayer,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, December 17, 2000.

“Medieval Jews and Christians in Context: The Case of the Tibbon Family,” presented at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Austin, Texas, April 14, 2000.

“Thirteenth-Century Jewish Culture in Transition: The New Magical Literature,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, Illinois, December 20, 1999.

“Controversy and Jewish Cultural History in Medieval Southern France,” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 21, 1998.

### **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

Publications Program Subsidy, Koret Foundation, San Francisco, 2003  
Ray D. Wolfe Fellowship, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Ontario Ray D. Wolfe Fellowship, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Ontario, Canada 1995-6.  
Research Fellow with rank of Lecturer, Talmud Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1993-5  
Fulbright Junior Researcher, United States-Israel Education Foundation, Tel Aviv, 1993-5.  
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York, 1992-3.  
Doctoral Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York, 1992-3.

## ***REFERENCES***

**David Berger**, Broeklundian Professor of History, Emeritus, Brooklyn College, CUNY; Head, Jewish Studies Department, Yeshiva College, 500 West 185th Street, New York, NY 10033. Tel: [\(212\) 960-5253](tel:(212)960-5253). E-mail: [dberger@yu.edu](mailto:dberger@yu.edu)

**Jay Berkovitz**, Professor of Jewish History; Chair, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies, Herter Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003. Tel: [\(413\) 545-5868](tel:(413)545-5868). E-mail: [jrb@judnea.umass.edu](mailto:jrb@judnea.umass.edu)

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