**Rachel Brooke Katz**

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EDUCATION

2018– Ph.D. Candidate, History of Judaism, University of Chicago Divinity School

Dissertation: “Christian Scholasticism and Philosophical Radicalism: Confronting Crises in Isaac Arama’s *Aqedat Yizhaq*”

Qualifying Examinations:

Late Medieval Iberian Jewish Philosophy (James T. Robinson)

Medieval Jewish Scholasticism: The Latin Context (Caterina Rigo)

Interreligious Polemics in Medieval Iberia (David Nirenberg)

Islamic Philosophy (Yousef Casewit)

2017 M.A., University of Chicago Divinity School

2015 B.A., Mathematics, University of Chicago, general honors

AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE and RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Exegesis; Islamic Philosophy; Jewish-Christian Polemics; Abrahamic Religions in the Medieval Period

Secondary: Jewish Studies; History of Scriptural Exegesis; Comparative Medieval Mysticisms; Historiography; History of Science

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

2022 Oxford Advanced Seminar in Jewish Studies: “Philosophy in Search of Scripture” Fellow. Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies.

2019 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (Advanced Hebrew). US Department of Education (Declined).

2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Grant (Intermediate Arabic). US Department of Education.

University of Chicago

2022 Inclusive Pedagogy Fellowship. Colman Program in the Craft of Teaching.

2018–25 University of Chicago Fellowship. University of Chicago Divinity School.

2015–17 Regenstein Fellowship. University of Chicago Divinity School. Awarded to one admitted MA student in History of Judaism or Hebrew Bible.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2022 “Arama’s Solomon: Maimonideanism and anti-Maimonideanism on the Eve of the Expulsion.” Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies lecture series at Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Oxford, UK, May 2022.

2022 “Fear in the thought of Isaac Arama.” Invited to deliver a talk at the Oxford Chabad Society, Oxford, UK, May 2022.

Conference Presentations

2022 “Arama’s *ta’amei ha-mitzvot* in context.” Paper to be presented at 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 2022. Panel on Reasons in a Rational System: Post-Maimonidean Ta’amei ha-Mitzvot.

2022 “Embodiment (?) in the thought of Isaac Arama.” Paper to be presented at conference “Philosophy in Scripture: Jewish Philosophical Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible in the Late Medieval Period,” Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Oxford, UK, June 2022.

2020 “Abarbanel and Arama on (and against) the utility of the commandments: A reappraisal.” Paper presented at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, online (COVID-19 pandemic), December 2020. Panel on Human and Divine in Isaac Abarbanel’s Biblical Interpretation.

2019 “It is not too wonderous if God collected the entire world in a single individual: Ibn Hasdai’s portrait of Aristotle in/and the Maimonidean controversies.” Paper presented at Philosophy in the Abrahamic Traditions Conference, Milwaukee, WI, June 2019.

2016 “The Sabians in Medieval Hebrew Literature: 13th–15th Centuries.” Paper presented at American Association for Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2016.

Workshop Presentations

2019 “Ibn Hasdai’s Moznei Zedeq: al-Ghazali’s ethical manual in Hebrew Translation.” Paper presented at Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Chicago

2022\* “Introduction to Religious Studies,” Religious Studies. Inaugural intensive summer course to be taught over Zoom.

Teaching Assistant, University of Chicago

2020 “Jewish Civilization I: Ancient Beginnings to the Early Medieval Period,” Jewish Studies; cross-listed in Religious Studies, Near Eastern History and Civilizations, Medieval Studies

(James T. Robinson)

2019 “Readings in Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed,” History of Judaism; cross-listed in Religious Studies, Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies (James T. Robinson)

Pedagogical Training (\*=expected)

2023\* Certification in the Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion Program, University of Chicago Divinity School (currently in progress)

2023\* Certification in College Teaching with Emphasis in Writing Pedagogy, University of Chicago Center for Teaching and Learning (currently in progress)

2021–22 Inclusive Pedagogy Fellowship, Colman Program in the Craft of Teaching, University of Chicago Divinity School

2021 Pedagogies of Writing Course, University of Chicago

SERVICE

2020–22 Managing Editor, *The Journal of Religion*

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–22 7th Grade Judaic Studies Teacher at IKAR. Los Angeles, CA. Taught supplementary school courses on Rabbinics and Judaism and Social Justice.

2018 Shalom Spiegel Institute Seminar on Medieval Hebrew Poetry. Jewish Theological Seminary. New York, NY.

LANGUAGES

Primary Research Languages: Biblical, Rabbinic, and Medieval Hebrew; Philosophical Latin; Philosophical Arabic

Modern Scholarly Languages: Hebrew; Spanish; French