# Dr Michael T Miller

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**OUTPUTS: Published monograph and 9 articles; 8 years teaching experience; 26 conference papers presented.**

## QUALIFICATIONS

2014. PhD, Theology (Jewish Studies/Philosophy): University of Nottingham

Title: *The Metaphysical Meaning of the Name of God in Jewish Thought.*

This project analyses the role that the Divine Name plays in biblical, rabbinic, hekhalot and kabbalistic material, and explicates this through the use of modern Jewish philosophers – Rosenzweig, Derrida, Levinas, etc. I argue that the Divine Name forms an integral part of Jewish mystical thought, determining several areas of metaphysics which have since gone on to influence the thought of modern Jewish philosophers.

Supervisors: Prof. Agata Bielik-Robson, Dr Holger Zellentin.

Funding: Departmental Stipend for quality of research awarded for years 2-4.

2009. MA, Religious Studies (Distinction): Lancaster University

 Ninian Smart Prize for best MA dissertation.

1999. BA, Philosophy: University of Hertfordshire

## PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

2016 *The Name of God in Jewish Thought: A Philosophical Analysis of Mystical Traditions from Apocalyptic to Kabbalah* (Routledge, 2016)

**Refereed Journal Articles**

2020 “The Name of God and the Name of the Messiah: Jewish and Christian parallels in Late Antiquity” (with Mariano Troiano) *Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism* 15 (2019): 148-72

2020 “The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem and Ben Ammi’s Theology of Marginalisation and Reorientation” *Religions* 11.2 (2020)

2019 “Black Judaism(s) and the Hebrew Israelites” *Religion Compass* 13.11 (2019)

2018 “Allowing the Fly to Leave: The Chance Meeting of Wittgenstein and Buñuel at a Mexican Dinner Table” (with James Batcho) *Film-Philosophy* 22.3 (2018): 384-405

2016 “Kaplan and Wittgenstein: Atheism, Phenomenology, and the Use of Language” *Melilah: Manchester Journal of Jewish Studies* 12 (2015): 70-83

2016 “The Evolution of the Patriarch Enoch in Jewish Tradition” *Distant Worlds* 1.1 (2016): 128-141

2015 “Abraham Abulafia's Mystical Theology of the Divine Name and its Philosophical Revision in Walter Benjamin” *Medieval Mystical Theology* 24.1(2015): 80-94

2013 “Folk Etymology and its Influence on Metatron Traditions” *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 44.3 (2013): 339-355.

2012 “Chaos and Identity: Onomatology in the Hekhalot Literature” *Bamidbar* 2.1 (2012): 36-51.

**Book Chapters**

(Forthcoming) “Metaphysics of the Name in Israelite Thought: The Hebrew Conception of God’s Nature” in *A Paradise of Paradoxes: Resolute Perplexities of Israel’s Inscrutable Edenic Trees and Ineffable God*, ed. Alex S. Kohav & Ori Soltes (Routledge)

2021 (in press) “The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem: A Borderline Case” in *The Stranger in Early Modern and Modern Jewish Tradition*, ed. Catherine Bartlett & Joachim Schlor (Brill).

2020 “Jewish Practices and Traditions in the Medieval World” and “Journeys to the Other World: Medieval Jewish Traditions” in *Prognostication in the Medieval World: A Handbook,* ed. Matthias Heiduk et al (Walter de Gruyter, 2021) pp.342-355; pp.818-820.

2014 “The Name of the Beast: Monstrosity and Self in Michael Gira and Nietzsche” in *Monstrous* *Reflections,* ed. Petra Rehling & Elsa Bouet (Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2014) pp.63-70.

**Encyclopaedia Entries**

2021 “The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem” in *Critical Dictionary of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements* ed. James Crossley & Alastair Lockhart (Panacea Charitable Trust): www.cdamm.org/articles/ahij.

2017 “Apocalypse of Enoch” in *End of Days: An Encyclopaedia of the Apocalypse in World Religions* ed. Wendell Johnson (ABC-Clio): 20-22.

**Book Reviews**

2019 “Review: MaNishtana, *Ariel Samson: Freelance Rabbi*,” *British Association for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 134, May 2019*.*

2019 “Review: Daniel Lis, William Miles, & Tudor Parfitt, *In the Shadow of Moses: New Jewish Movements in Africa and the Diaspora*,” *Jewish Culture and History*

2017 “Review: Richard A. Cohen, *Out of Control: Confrontations between Spinoza and Levinas,” H-Net Reviews.*

2016 “Review: Brian Ogren, ed., *Time and Eternity in Jewish Mysticism*,” *Jewish Culture and History* 17: 178-81.

2014 “Review: Peter Schäfer, *The Origins of Jewish Mysticism,*” *Reviews of the Enoch Seminar.*

**Other Publications**

2020 “Black Hebrew Israelites: Extremes of Hate and Hope” *Centre for the Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements* blog (commissioned)

2019 “ReThinking: James Landing’s *Black Judaism,*” *British Association for the Study of Religion Bulletin* 135, November 2019: 11-13.

**In preparation**

“A Speculative Reading of Kabbalistic Traces in Wittgenstein’s *Tractatus*” in *Marrano Phenomenon* ed. Agata Bielik-Robson & Adam Lipszyc (de Gruyter)

“The African Hebrew Israelite Community: How the Theological Motif of Marginalisation Helped a Liminal Black-Jewish Group Overcome Oppression” in *Mind the Gap,* ed. Zohar Hadromi-Allouche & Mike McKay

(under review) “Ben Ammi’s Adaptation of Veganism in the Theology of the African Hebrew Israelites” *Journal of Religion and Transformation*

“From Behind the *Pargod*: Jewish Traditions on the Heavenly Curtain and Knowledge of the Future”

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2020-2022: Associate Researcher (Gerda Henkel Stiftung Scholarship). Polish Institute of Advanced Studies, Warsaw.

2019-2020: Research Fellow. IKGF, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Erlangen-Nürnberg, *Fate, Freedom and Prognostication: Strategies for Coping with the Future in East Asia and Europe*. Project: “Verbal and Visual Vistas: Differentiating two modes of Prophetic Revelation and Prognostication in Medieval Jewish Mysticism”

2018-2019: Research Assistant. Dept of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Liverpool Hope University. Project: Liverpool Archdiocese Survey

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

2020: Gerda Henkel Stiftung Research Grant: “The Evolution of a Black Jewish ‘Hebrew Israelite’ Group from Messianic Revolutionaries to State Sponsors, 1969-1990” Oct 2020 – Jun 2022.

2020: Religion Compass “Most Downloaded Article” award for “Black Judaism(s) and the Hebrew Israelites”.

2019: Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies – Bursary to present research at Oxford Summer Institute for Modern and Contemporary Judaism

2019: Anglo-Jewish Association / Spalding Trust – Dual Grant to cover teaching expenses for Jewish Studies modules (Liverpool Hope University)

2018: European Association for Jewish Studies – Conference grant to present research at EAJS Congress 2018, (Krakow)

2017: European Association for Jewish Studies – Full bursary for *Multidisciplinarity in Jewish Studies Program and Teaching* workshop

2015: The Herzl Institute – Full bursary for *Young Scholars Workshop* (Jerusalem) and to present research at *Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash* (Jerusalem).

2014: The Woolf Institute – Full bursary for *Bridging the Great Divide* e-learning course.

2013: The Spalding Trust – travel grant to present research at Society of Biblical Literature (St. Andrews) & World Congress of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem).

2011: Graduate School Travel Prize – travel grant to present research at *Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash* (Jerusalem).

2010: Departmental Stipend – partial funding for duration of doctoral studies.

2010: Full scholarship – Dip. *Messianism: Jewish and Christian Perspectives* (CEU Budapest).

2009: Ninian Smart Prize for best MA dissertation.

## INVITED TALKS

2020 “Modes of Prophecy in Medieval Jewish Mysticism” (IKGF, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, 14 January)

2019 “Wittgenstein and Jewish Thought” (Revisiting Wittgenstein and Religion seminar, Jagiellonian University Krakow, 6 November)

2019 “New Diasporas and Shifting Centres of Power: Black Judaism(s)” (Oxford Summer Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, 1 July)

2019 “Black Jesus, Black Power: Visual and Musical aspects of the African American identification with Ancient Israelites” (Archbishop Desmond Tutu Seminar Series *Religion, Art and Conflict*, 15 March)

2019 “Claiming the Power to Define: The Black ‘Jewish’ Theology of the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem” (Theology and RS Research Seminar Series, University of Chester, 27 February)

2018 “Life after the PhD” EAJS Emerge Early Career scholars section (*European Association for Jewish Studies*, Krakow, 18 July)

2018 “The Name of God in Jewish Thought”, Friends of Louis Jacobs (London, 24 June)

2017 “Anti-Semitism”, Hope Not Hate (Nottingham, 25 September)

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

**Conferences Organised**

2011 Narratives of Trauma (University of Nottingham, May 2011)

**Papers Presented**

2021 “The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem: Rewriting the Boundaries of Judaism” (*International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture*, Chester, 11-13 September)

2021 “The worship of God and the worship of nothingness in an African American ‘Hebrew Israelite’ group” (*Thinking About Nothing: Negation, Philosophy and the Mystical*, Liverpool Hope, 3-5 July)

2021 “Isaac and Ishmael: the shared heritage of Black Judaism and Black Islam in twentieth century America” (*Jewish-Muslim Research Network*, Manchester, 19-20 May)

2020 “The African Hebrew Israelites and the Building of Peace with Israel” (*Virtual Oxford Summer Institute Modern Judaism*, 5-8 July)

2020 “The African Hebrew Israelites’ Construction of Jews as White” (*Jews and Whiteness in Colonial Spaces,* SOAS (Virtual), 4-5 July)

2019 “A Speculative Reading of Kabbalistic Traces in Wittgenstein's Tractatus” w/ Katarzyna Wierzbicka, (*The Marrano Phenomenon: Jewish ‘Hidden Tradition’ and Modernity*, Warsaw, 17-18 September)

2019 “The End of This World: The Black 'Jewish' Apocalypticism of the African Hebrew Israelites” *The Study of Apocalyptic and Millenarian Movements: Critical and Interdisciplinary Approaches*, Bedford, 27-8 June)

2019 "The African Hebrew Israelite Community’s Theology of Marginalisation" (*Liminal Spaces, Images and Texts,* Trinity College, Dublin 12–14 June)

2018 “The African Hebrew Israelite Community and the Theology of Marginalisation” (*British Association for the Study of Religion Conference,* Belfast, 3-5 September)

2018 “Redefining Religion, Nationhood and Belonging: The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem” (*British Association for Jewish Studies Conference*, Durham, 9-11 July)

2018 “Jewish concepts of God’s Body: A Survey” (*European Association for Jewish Studies Congress*, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, 15-19 July)

2018 “Claiming the Power to Define: The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem” (*Identity and Memory in War and Peacebuilding*, Liverpool Hope University, 2 July)

2018 “One Body or Two: Eros and the Kabbalistic Tree of Sefirot” (*Mystical Theology in Dialogue with Contemporary Thought,* KU Leuven, 30 May-2 June)

2016 “The Empty Self: Annihilation and *unio mystica* in Medieval Jewish thought” (*Mysticism in Comparative Perspective,* Glasgow University, 14-16 December)

2016 “Words on the Body of God: The Texture and Physicality of the Divine Stature” (*British Association for Jewish Studies,* Birmingham, 10-12 July)

2016 “The Original Language, and the Seventy Languages in Jewish Tradition” (*Untying the Mother Tongue,* ICI Berlin, 11-12 May)

2015 “God's Perfection and His Name” (*The Question of God's Perfection,* The Herzl Institute, Jerusalem, 20-23 December)

2015 “Kaplan and Wittgenstein: Atheism, Phenomenology, and the Use of Language” (*British Association for Jewish Studies,* Manchester University, 5-7 July)

2014 “The Name of the Beast: Monstrosity and Self in Michael Gira and Nietzsche” (*Mechanisms of Monstrosity,* Oxford University, 25-27 July)

2014 “Walter Benjamin's Messianic Theology of the Name of God” (*Mystical Theology and Continental Philosophy,* Liverpool Hope University, 11-13 July)

2014 “Redemption in the Name: Walter Benjamin's transformation of a Kabbalistic motif” (*Jewish Studies as Philosophy: Beyond Historicism and Sociology?* University of Cambridge, 23-25 March)

2013 “Creation through the Name: A Re-examination of the Concept in Early Rabbinic Literature” (*16th World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, 28 July – 1 August)

2013 “The Name of God and Creation: A Reassessment of Jarl Fossum’s Evidence” (*International Meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature*, St Andrews, 7-11 July)

2013 “Prophecy and the Active Intellect in thirteenth-century Kabbalah” (‘Jewish Prophecy’ Panel, *Second Sight and Prophecy*, Aberdeen, 14-16 June)

2013 “After the Life of Enoch: the Active Intellect in thirteenth-century Kabbalah” (*Eighteenth Joint Postgraduate Religion and Theology Conference*, Bristol University, 7-9 March)

2011 “An examination of Metatron and principal angel figures within early rabbinic tradition” (*Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash*, The Shalem Center, Jerusalem, June)

2010 “The Metaphysics of Truth: The divine abstract in Enoch and Philo” (*Enoch Graduate Seminar*, Peter Pazmany University, Budapest, July)

2010 “Cutting the Shoots: Metatron as the human face of God” (*Angels and Demons*, University of Kent Canterbury, June)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2016-2019, Visiting Lecturer in Jewish Studies, Liverpool Hope University.

Designing, delivering and assessing:

1st year survey module “Introduction to Jewish Traditions”

3rd year module “Advanced Jewish Traditions”, (Jewish mysticism from biblical to modern times, including the influence on popular culture).

3rd year module “Modern Jewish Theology”, (Rosenzweig, Fackenheim, Mordecai Kaplan, Joseph Soloveitchik, Judith Plaskow, and Ben Ammi).

2nd year unit “Jewish Ethics” (Abortion and animal ethics)

2017-2018, Visiting Lecturer in Jewish Studies and Philosophy, Chester University.

Lectured and assessed:

1st year Encountering Religions: Judaism

1st year Philosophy & Ethics

3rd year Violence and Nationalism in Religious and Philosophical Perspectives.

2015-Ongoing, Private tutor.

 One to one A level, BA and MA tuition in RS, Philosophy.

2017, Guest Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion, Newman University Birmingham

Lectured and assessed 3rd year Philosophy classes on Metaphysics, Post/Modernity, and Death of God.

2016-18, Cover Lecturer, Philosophy/Theology, Liverpool Hope University

Lectured and ran seminars for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year Philosophy and Theology classes due to research leave.

2011-2015, Teaching Associate, University of Nottingham

1st year Philosophy for Theologians, covering the influence and use of philosophy in monotheistic theology, from Ancient Greece to 20th century and including Philo, Saadya Gaon, Solomon ibn Gabirol, Maimonides, Spinoza and Wittgenstein. Led seminars, lectured and assessed.

1st year survey module Introduction to Judaism, covering the post-biblical evolution of rabbinic Judaism from Late Antique roots and incorporating apocalyptic literature, the schism of Christianity, the diaspora, formation of the Talmud, development of mysticism and philosophy, and other topics later in the history. Led seminars, lectured and assessed.

## EDITORSHIP

2014-Ongoing. Religion and Theology Editor – *HARTS and Minds* journal, University of Bristol

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Editorial assistance: Nicola Polloni, *Gundissalinus* manuscript (2019)

Editorial assistance: Federico Dal Bo, *Emanation and Philosophy of Language. An Introduction to Joseph ben Abraham Giqatilla*, (Cherub Press, 2019)

Assistant grant writer for Departmental project “Hermeneutics of Im/Mortality:

Continuity and Discontinuity Between the Self and the Absolute in Religious Narratives of Death and Dying” (Liverpool Hope University, 2016)

Administrator for conference: Return to the Origins: The Qur’an’s Reformation of Judaism and Christianity (University of Nottingham, Jan 2013)

MOODLE (VLE) administration for 1st year course Atheism

Assistant editor for festschrift: *Faithful Reading: New Essays in Theology in Honour of Fergus Kerr, OP* (T&T Clark International, 2012)

## LANGUAGES

English: Native

Hebrew (Biblical-Medieval): Advanced

Hebrew (Modern): Advanced

Russian (Modern): Intermediate

## SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

2011 British Association for Jewish Studies

2012 Society for Biblical Literature

2012 World Union of Jewish Studies

2013 European Association for Jewish Studies

2016 Mystical Theology Network

2016 Association for the Continental Philosophy of Religion

2018 British Association for the Study of Religion

2019 Jewish-Muslim Research Network

## CONTINUING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019 Oxford Summer Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies)

2018 Northern Partnership Post-Doctoral Training (Northern Jewish Studies Partnership, Manchester)

2017 *Multidisciplinarity in Jewish Studies Program and Teaching* workshop (EAJS, Girona)

2014 Certificate, Bridging the Great Divide: The Jewish-Muslim Encounter (The Woolf Institute, Cambridge)

2010 Diploma, Messianism: Jewish and Christian Perspectives, CEU Summer University (Budapest)

## REFERENCES

Agata Bielik-Robson (Professor of Jewish Studies)

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University of Nottingham

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University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD

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Revd Dr Peter McGrail (Associate Professor, FHEA)
Head of the Department of Theology, Philosophy and Religious Studies,
Liverpool Hope University,
Hope Park,
Liverpool L16 9JD

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Michael Fagenblat (Senior Lecturer)

Department of History, Philosophy & Judaic Studies

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4353701, Israel

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Daniel Langton (Professor of Jewish History)

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Centre for Jewish Studies
University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL

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