
RACHEL WAMSLEY

CURRICULUM VITAE

(updated September 14, 2017)

Mandel Scholion Interdisciplinary Research Center
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Education

- 2006 **B.A. in Comparative Literature with Distinction of Highest Honors**
University of California, Berkeley
Honors Thesis, awarded Comparative Literature Departmental Citation: "*Keyner iz shoyn mer nito tsvishn: Avrom Sutzkever's Helfandn bay nakht and the Construction of a Hermaphrodite Poetics*"
- 2011 **Advanced to Candidacy in Comparative Literature**
- 2007-15 **Ph.D., Department of Comparative Literature,**
University of California, Berkeley

Employment

- 2016-19 **Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and Jewish Studies**
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2015-16 **Harry Starr Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judaica, Center for Jewish Studies**
Harvard University

Dissertation

Exegetical Poetics: Tanakh and Textuality in Early Modern Yiddish Literature

Committee: Chana Kronfeld (UC Berkeley, Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies)
Robert Alter (UC Berkeley, Comparative Literature, emeritus)
Simon Neuberger (Universität Trier, Germanistik-Jiddistik)
Naomi Seidman (Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, GTU)
Elaine Tennant (UC Berkeley, German)

Areas of Academic Interest

Yiddish and Hebrew Literature (1500-1950)
Reception of the Hebrew Bible in Early Modernity
Print Culture and Material Bibliography
Intertextuality and Literary Historiography
Translation Theory

Publications

- 2018 "Translating for Modernity: Shmuel Bukh and Historical Imagination." *Yiddish Language and Culture. A Relay Station of Modernity and Lieu de Mémoire of Postmodernity*. Eds., Olaf Terpitz and Marianne Windsperger. Boehlau. (accepted for publication)
- 2018 "A Pure Language (or Lip): Representing Hebrew in Colonial New England." *Studies in American Jewish Literature: A Journal of Literary Criticism and Theory*. (in press)
- 2018 "Editorial Policy in *Shmuel Bukh*: Between Augsburg and Cracow." *The Worlds of Old Yiddish*. Eds., Simon Neuberger and Diana Matut. Legenda Press: Oxford. (in press)
- 2017 "Characters Against Type: Conversion, Mise-en-Page, and Counter-Exegesis in a Seventeenth-Century Purim Play." *Lias: Journal of Early Modern Intellectual Culture and its Sources* 44/1, Special Issue on Critical Bibliography (2017): 59-88.
- 2016 "Book Review: Early Yiddish Epic, Jerold Frakes." *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. (October 2016)

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2016-19 **Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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- 2016-21 **Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Van Leer Institute of Jerusalem, *declined*
- 2016-17 **Sassoon Visiting Research Fellowship at the Bodleian Library**
Oxford University
- 2015-16 **Harry Starr Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judaica, Center for Jewish Studies**
Harvard University
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences**
Johns Hopkins University, *declined*
- 2014-16 **Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School**
University of Virginia
- 2007-14 **Berkeley Fellowship**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2012 **Harold Hyam Wingate Fellowship**
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- 2008 **Diller Research Fellowship in Jewish Studies**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2006 **Goor Prize in Jewish Studies, Best Undergraduate Research Paper**
The Living Bird in the Blood of the Bird which was Slaughtered: The Purity Laws of Leviticus 15 and the Paradox of the Israelite
University of California, Berkeley
- Theresa Hak Kyung Cha Fellowship for Best for Undergraduate Honors Thesis**
Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive
University of California
- Departmental Citation in Comparative Literature for Honors Thesis**
University of California, Berkeley

Presentations and Invited Talks

- 2017 "Translating for Modernity: Shmuel Bukh and Historical Imagination,"
EJJS Laboratory Yiddish Language and Culture. A Relay Station of Modernity and Lieu de Mémoire of Postmodernity, February 13-14, University of Vienna.
- "Anachronism Reconsidered: Historical Imagination in the Yiddish Biblical Epic"
Scholion Seminar, April 27, Mandel-Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University.
- "Judah Monis and His *Dickdook Leshon Gnebreet*: Representing Hebrew in Colonial New England"
Doctoral Honors Program Lecture Series, May 18, Mandel School, Hebrew University.
- "Scripted Futures: Foreknowledge and Agency in the Poetry of Itzik Manger"
Prophetic Urgency: From Romantic Visions to Contemporary Apocalypses, June 5-6, Mandel-Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University.
- 2016 "The Jewish Convert as Bibliographic Entrepreneur: Judah Monis in New England"
Starr Seminar in Judaic Studies, May 12, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University.
- "Judah Monis's *Dickdook Leshon Gnebreet* and Its (Absent) Audiences"
Annual Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History, Apr. 29, Yale University.
- "The Finest Rose in All of Psalms: Itzik Manger and the Poetics of Biblical Anachronism"
Annual Conference for the American Comparative Literature Association, Mar. 18, Harvard University.
- 2015 "The Ironic Uses of Convention: A Seventeenth-Century Purim-Play and Its Paratexts"
Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Lecture Marathon, Dec. 31, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2014 "This is the gate of the LORD...: Jewish Baptism as Textual Transmission"
Trans-it: Annual Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Conference, Apr. 11, University of California, Berkeley.
- "The Talking Id: Literary Privilege and Sexual Privacy in the *Purim Shpil*"
Private Languages in the Early Modern Era, Apr. 18, Princeton University.
- "Importing Hebrew Print: Material Texts between Venice and Cracow"
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U.C. Berkeley Townsend Working Group, *Mobilities and Materialities of the Early Modern World*, Oct. 28. University of California, Berkeley.

"Shmuel Bukh After Italy: Renaissance Editing and the Rabbinic Intertext"
Annual Conference for the Association of Jewish Studies. Baltimore, December 2014.

2012 "Narrative Departure in *Shmuel Bukh*: Krakow 1578," *Words and Worlds of Yiddish Literature*, Feb. 23-24, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

2011 "Shmuel Bukh 55-64: A Case of Omission," *Annual Symposium of Yiddish Research Students*, Jun. 5, Hebrew University.

2008 "'Lion-Heart, Frate Mio, and So On in Two Languages': Louis Zukofsky and Dismantling the Hebrew-Yiddish Polysystem," *'Mongrel' America*, Oct. 2-3, University of Texas at Austin.

2006 "Keyner iz shoyn mer nito tsvishn: Avrom Sutzkever's Helfandn bay nakht and the Construction of a Hermaphrodite Poetics," *Yiddish/Jewish Cultures: Literature, History, Thought in Eastern European Diasporas*, Feb. 26-27, New York University.

Teaching Experience

2016 **English 44407: Eros and Sacred Poetry**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Junior seminar, cross-listed with Comparative Literature.

2012-13 **German 95A: Elementary Yiddish**
German 95B: Intermediate Yiddish
German 95C: Advanced Yiddish: an Introduction to Yiddish Literature
University of California, Santa Barbara
Designed and taught a year-long introduction to Yiddish language, literature and culture, employing an integrated curriculum of primary cultural sources, rigorous linguistic training and conversational competence. The course culminates in an introduction to the classic writers and periods of Yiddish literature, with a focus on their emergence from traditional Jewish culture.

2009 **Yiddish 101: Introductory Yiddish for Advanced Students**
University of California, Berkeley

2008 **Yiddish 101: Introductory Yiddish for Advanced Students**
University of California, Berkeley
Designed curriculum of first-semester introduction to Yiddish language and culture.

Further Study and Research

2016 **Advanced Seminar in Critical Bibliography**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, taught by Michael Suarez.

The Bible and Histories of Reading
Rare Book School at the University of Pennsylvania, taught by Peter Stallybrass.

Censorship of Jewish Books in the Early Modern Period
Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, taught by Piet van Boxel

2015 **Book Production and Social Practice in Early Modern Europe and America**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, Harvard University/Houghton Library, taught by Ann Blair and David Hall.

2014 **Colloquium for Andrew W. Mellon Fellows in Critical Bibliography**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.

Analytical Bibliography
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, taught by Stephen Tabor.

London-Oxford Field School for Mellon Fellows in Critical Bibliography
Facilitated by the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.

2012 **Old Yiddish: Old Texts, New Contexts**
European Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, convened by Simon Neuberger
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies

2010 **Mendele the Novelist**
Seminar in Modern Yiddish Literature, convened by Yitskhok Niborski,

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- Bibliothèque Medem, Paris
- 2010 **The Old Yiddish Biblical Epic, Shmuel Bukh**
Independent research supervised by Jean Baumgarten.
- 2009 **Brandeis Summer Hebrew Ulpan**
Brandeis University
Brandeis University-Middlebury Summer School of Hebrew
Middlebury College
- 2008 **Goldreich Research Seminar in Yiddish Studies**
Tel Aviv University
Breadloaf Annual Writers' Conference
Middlebury College
- 2007 **German Immersion Intensive Course**
Goethe-Institut Berlin
- 2006 **Vilnius Summer Yiddish Program**
Vilnius Yiddish Institute at Vilnius University
Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture
New York University/YIVO

Editorial and Organizational Work Experience

- 2016 **Member of the Editorial Board**
In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies
- 2014 **Editorial Assistant**
The World of Old Yiddish, eds. Simon Neuberger and Diana Matut
- 2012 **Editorial Assistant**
The Annual Report of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Old Yiddish specialist in collaboration with Senior Editor Jeremy Schonfield. Content and style editing of articles emerging from the 2012 ESAJS, Oxford
- 2009 **Conference Organizer**
History and Literature: Intersecting Methodologies, annual meeting of the Bay Area Jewish Studies Academic Consortium
- 2008 **Conference Organizer**
Altered States, Annual Comparative Literature Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Berkeley.
- 2006-present **Yiddish Manuscript Research and Translation**

Research Languages

English
Yiddish (Old, Middle, Modern)
Hebrew (Biblical, post-biblical, Modern Israeli)
German (Old, Middle High, Modern)

Professional Memberships

American Comparative Literature Association
Association for Jewish Studies
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Studies Association

References

Chana Kronfeld (Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley)

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University of California, Berkeley
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Robert Alter (Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, emeritus)

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Naomi Seidman (Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Theological Union)

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Simon Neuberg (Universität Trier, Germanistik-Jiddistik)

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