CV as of 1 November 2016

Education

2002 – 2007  
Princeton University
Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies, November 2007
Dissertation Title: “A Partnership Culture: Jewish Economic and Social Life Viewed through the Documents of the Cairo Geniza”
Dissertation Adviser: Mark R. Cohen
Master of Arts in Near Eastern Studies, November 2004

1996 – 2002  
Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York
Rabbinic Ordination, May 2002
Master of Arts in Talmud and Rabbinics, August 2002

1990 – 1991  
London School of Economics, London
Master of Science in Economics

1987 – 1990  
University of Washington, Seattle
Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in Economics

Employment History

2009 – Present  
Vanderbilt University
Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and Law
Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Affiliated Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and History

2008 – 2009  
New York University
Dorot Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, Hebrew and Judaic Studies

2008 – 2009  
University of Pennsylvania, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
Adjunct Fellow

Spring 2008  
New York University
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

2007 – 2008  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Pomona, New Jersey
Visiting Assistant Professor of Middle East History

Awards and Fellowships

- Finalist, National Jewish Book Award in the category of Sephardic Culture, 2014
- Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Fellowship, 2012-2013
- J. William Fulbright Scholar, al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt, 2010-2011 (relinquished due to political turmoil)
• Junior Faculty Fellow, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2010-2011
• Irmgard Coninx Stiftung Berlin Roundtable, April 2011 (declined)
• Publication Subvention Grant, Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, 2009
• National Foundation for Jewish Culture Dissertation Fellow, 2006-2007
• Lawrence of Arabia Fellow, Princeton University, 2006-2007
• Donald and Mary Hyde Fellowship for Overseas Study, Princeton, University, Summer 2006
• Ertegun Prize for All Years of Study, Princeton University
• David Scharps Memorial Prize in Talmud, Jewish Theological Seminary, 2002
• Joseph Zubow Memorial Prize in Codes, Jewish Theological Seminary, 2002
• William B. Hackenburg Prize in Midrash, Jewish Theological Seminary, 2002
• Berliner Prize in Jewish History, Jewish Theological Seminary, 2001 and 2002

Research

Books

From the Rising of the Sun...to Where it Sets: The Shifting Fate of Iraqi Jewry in the Medieval Period (Manuscript in preparation)


Finalist in the category of Sephardic Culture for the National Jewish Book Award 2014

Books (as Editor)


Articles in Refereed Journals


“The Historiography of Jewish Economic Life”. Jewish History. With Roxani Margariti of Emory University (Forthcoming, Fall 2016).

“What Historians Can Yield From Medieval Jewish Commercial Contracts”. Jewish History (Forthcoming, Fall 2016).


“A Reflection on Goitein’s Unfinished Legacies”. Jewish History (Forthcoming, Fall 2016)


**Book Chapters**


“Legal Writing in Medieval Cairo”. In Siam Bhayro and Benjamin Outhwaite (eds.), *‘From a Sacred Source’: Genizah Studies in Honour of Professor Stefan C. Reif* (Leiden: Brill, 2010): 1-
24.

**Encyclopedia Articles**


**Book Reviews**


Menahem Mautner, Law and the Culture of Israel. Journal of Modern Jewish Studies (September 2013):1-3

Étan Levine, Marital Relations in Ancient Judaism. Catholic Biblical Quarterly 73.4 (October 2011): 874-876


**Invited Scholarly and Popular Presentations**

“Augmenting Geniza Studies with Archaeological Research”. Fustat Haifa Conference, Haifa University, May 2017

“From Partners to Debtors: A Partnership Investment Turns into a Loan”. Ethics, Globalisation and Business in the Judeo-Islamic Milieu, Cambridge University, July 2016


“Partnership Law in the Medieval Mediterranean”, The Funding of Business in the Pre-Industrial World, Yale University, May 2015

“Linguistic and Rhetorical Norms in Legal Writing”, UCLA Geniza Conference, December 2014

“Jewish Law, Agency Documents and Long-Distance Trade”, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, October 2014


“The Permeability of Intercommunal Boundaries in Early Abbāsid Iraq”, First International Conference on Conversion and Interreligious Encounters, Ben Gurion University, May 2014

“Compassion as an Element of Judicial Wisdom”, Law and Emotion in Comparative Perspective, Yeshiva University Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, New York, April 2014. With Terry Maroney, Professor of Law, Vanderbilt Law School

“S.D. Goitein as a Scholar of Jewish Studies”, “Goitein in Perspective”, Brandeis University, March-April 2014

“Jewish Conversion to Islam in Early Abbāsid Iraq”, Vanderbilt Department of Religion Overlook Seminar, February 2014

December 2013

“The Early Phonetic Judeo-Arabic Spelling and the Influence of Iraqi Jewry on the West”,
“Everyday Writing in the Medieval Near East: Documentary History and the Cairo Geniza”,
Yale University, November 2013

“Introduction to the Study of Legal Documents,” Typologies and Diplomatics Workshop,
“Everyday Writing in the Medieval Near East: Documentary History and the Cairo Geniza”,
Yale University, November 2013, session convener and primary presenter

“A Jew’s Best Friend: The Image of the Dog Throughout Jewish History, A Discussion,” The
Jewish Theological Seminary of America, October 2013

“Straying Just Far Enough: the Jewish Courts of Medieval Egypt”, “In-Between: Trade and
Legal Pluralism in the Era of the Geniza”, Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University, May 2013

Panel Chair, “Sephardi/Mizrahi Jews and representations of Otherness: Photographs,
Movies, Music and Novels”, Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2012

Panel Respondent, “Minority and Dissenting Opinions”, Legal Heterodoxy in Islamic and Jewish
History, University of California, Berkeley, April 2012
Panel Chair, “Medieval Judaism in East and West”, Association for Jewish Studies,
Washington, DC, December 2011

“Competing Ethnic Identities: Jewish Life in Muslim Lands”, Edward Said Lecture
Portland State University, May 2011

“Alternate Dispute Resolution and the Social Role of the Courts of Medieval Jewish Egypt”,
Golieb Legal History Colloquium, New York University School of Law, November 2009

“Seeking Justice: the Social Role of the Jewish Courts of Medieval Egypt”. Skirball Department
of Jewish Studies Lunchtime Colloquium Series, New York University, April 2009

“An Introduction to Islamic Law”, Islam in the Middle East and South Asia, Middle East
Institute, Columbia University (March 2009)

“What Can the Cairo Geniza Tell Us about the Organization of Trade in the High Middle Ages?”
Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, January 2009

Invited Respondent at the Economics and Sociology Workshop 2008-09
Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, December 2008

“Jerusalem: Holy City in Judaism and Islam”, Joshua Trachtenberg Memorial Lecture, Temple
Emeth, Teaneck, New Jersey (October 2008)

“The Judeo-Muslim Connection”, Everett Institute at the 92nd Street Y, New York (May 2008)
“Studying the Jews: the Substance and the Profession”
American Academy for Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar, June 2007

“Jewish Life under Islam”, Long Island Scholars Program at UJA/Federation of Syosset, Long Island (Spring 2005)

Academic Talks and Seminars

“Onomastics and Migration in the Cairo Geniza”, Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies, Vanderbilt University, August 2016


“From the Rising of the Sun in the East...to Where it Sets in the West: Jewish Migration from Iraq in the Early Middle Ages,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2015

“Jewish Onomastics, the Cairo Geniza, and Westward Migration in the Medieval Period”, The Twelfth Annual International Conference on Jewish Names, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel, March 2015


“Are Jewish Court Decisions Bounded by Those of Muslim Courts?” European Association for Jewish Studies, Paris, July 2014

Moderator, “Premodernity in the Digital Age”, Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2013

“Malthusian Economics and the Decline of Babylonian Jewry,” Economic History of the Jews throughout the Ages: Sources, Methodologies, Narratives, Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, June 2013

“The Publication of Michael Toch’s Economic History of European Jews,” Economic History of the Jews throughout the Ages: Sources, Methodologies, Narratives, Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, June 2013, presenter and respondent

“Judeo-Arabic Linguistic and Demographic Shifts in the 10th-11th Centuries”
American Oriental Society, Portland, Oregon, March 2013

“Literacy, Urbanization, and Religious Identity in Early Abbasid Iraq”
Medieval Academy of America, Knoxville, Tennessee, March 2013
“Jewish Urbanization under the Abbasids”, Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2012

“Arabic (Muslim) Documents in the Jewish Courts of Medieval Egypt”, Jewish Law Association, Yale University, July/August 2012

“Arabic Legal Terminology in Judeo-Arabic: Loanwords or Loan Shifts?”, The First International Conference on Written Arabic and Writing Arabic, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2012


“The Geniza and the Islamic ‘Commercial Revolution’”. The Archive and Jewish Migration, Capetown, April 2011

“The ‘S’ Word—the Jewish Slave Trade in Islamic Lands in the Medieval Period”. Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2010

“Mediation, Arbitration, and Legal Norms among the Jewish Community of Medieval Egypt”. Jewish Law Association, Netanya, Israel, June 2010

“Sacred Institution or Charitable Institution: The Self-Conception of the Babylonian Yeshivot”. Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, March 2010


“The Influence of Islamic Law on Jewish Partnership Practice”. Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, December 2007

“Copy or Likeness: Scribal Practice in 11th-13th Century Egypt”. Taylor-Schechter Geniza Studies Conference, Cambridge, August 2007

“Formalism and Informalism in the Economic Institutions of Medieval Islam”. Jews and Muslims in the World of Islam Conference, University of Maryland, Baltimore, August 2007


“Revisiting Coalitions among Maghribi Traders in the 11th-13th Centuries”. World History Association, Ifrane, Morocco, June 2005

**Service to the University and to the Profession**
Co-book series editor, “Christians and Jews in Muslim Contexts”, Brill Publishers
Co-book review editor, *Intertwined Worlds* (peer-reviewed online journal)
Co-Chairperson, Jewish Law Association
Secretary/Treasurer, Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies
Book manuscript reviewer, Oxford University Press, Brill Publishers, Touro College Press, and Springer Verlag
Proposal reviewer, Foundation for Jewish Culture
Student-Faculty Relations Committee, College of Arts & Science, Vanderbilt
Steering Committee, Classical and Mediterranean Studies, Vanderbilt
Jewish Studies Representative to the Heard Library at Vanderbilt

**Professional Affiliations**
American Oriental Society
Association for Jewish Studies
Jewish Law Association
Medieval Academy of America
Society for Judeo-Arabic Studies