

Jodi Eichler-Levine

Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization
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POSITIONS

Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Lehigh University, 2015-
Associate Professor, Religion Studies Department

Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Religious Studies Department, 2013-2015
Joint Appointment, Women's and Gender Studies Program

Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, Religious Studies Department, 2007-2013
Joint Appointment, Women's and Gender Studies Program

Lecturer, Wesleyan University, Religious Studies Department, Spring 2007

Instructor, University Writing Program, Columbia University, Fall 2006

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York New York. 2001-2007.
Ph.D. conferred October 2007. Religion.
M.A. conferred May 2004. Religion.

Brandeis University, Waltham Massachusetts.
B.A. conferred May 2000. Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, *summa cum laude*.

PUBLICATIONS

Suffer the Little Children: Uses of the Past in Jewish and African American Children's Literature
(New York: New York University Press, April 2013).
(Paperback: New York University Press, April 2015)
Reviewed in: *American Literary History Advance*, *American Jewish History*, *Catholic Library World*, *Children's Literature*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, *Choice*, *The Lion and The Unicorn*.

"Jews, Race, Religion," in Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History* (New York: Oxford University Press). (*forthcoming*, 2017)

"Golems and Goblins: The Monstrous in Jewish Children's Literature," in Stephen Parker, Susan Ridgely, and Ann Strhan, eds. *The Bloomsbury Reader in Religion and Childhood*. (London: Bloomsbury, 2017)

"Maurice Sendak's Jewish Mother(s)," in Jane Kanarek, Marjorie Lehman, and Simon Bronner, eds., *Mothers in the Jewish Cultural Imagination* (Oxford, UK: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2017).

“Minyan-less in Oshkosh: Or, How the JWA Brought *Yiddishkeit* to Northeast Wisconsin,”
in Joyce Antler, ed., *Why Jewish Women’s History Matters: An Archive of Stories in Honor of
Gail Reimer* (Boston: Jewish Women’s Archive, 2014).

“Imagining Mary Magdalene: The Discourse of Hidden Wisdom in American Popular Culture.”
Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts and Contemporary Worlds (April 2011).

“The Curious Conflation of Hanukkah and the Holocaust in Jewish Children’s Literature.” *Shofar: An
Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* (Winter 2010), 92-115.

“‘As Americans Against Genocide’: The Crisis in Darfur and Interreligious Political Activism,” with
Rosemary R. Hicks. *American Quarterly* 56:3 (September 2007), 711-735.

Book Reviews

Review of Rebecca T. Alpert, *Religion and Sports: An Introduction and Case Studies. Material Religion:
The Journal of Objects, Art, and Belief*. 12:4 (2016), 511-512.

Review of Erika Seamon, *Interfaith Marriage in America* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012) in
Theology and Sexuality 20:1 (2014), 83-84.

“Crossing National and Religious Boundaries.” (book review). Karen I. Leonard, Alex Stepick, Manuel
A. Vasquez, and Jennifer Holdaway, eds., *Immigrant Faiths: Transforming Religious Life in
America* for, H-net Reviews, March 2007

Works in Progress

Crafting Judaism: American Jewish Women and Creativity (book project)

“Teaching American Jewish Children’s and YA Literature,” in Roberta Rosenberg and Rachel
Rubinstein, eds., *Options in Teaching American Jewish Literature* (Modern Language Association, 2018)

“Zen and the Art of Jewish Knitting: The Romanticization of the East in the American Jewish Crafting
Revival.” Journal article manuscript in preparation, to be submitted to *American Jewish History*.

“Dancing Out the Torah: Body, Ritual, and Transitions in Transparent,” in preparation for inclusion in a
volume to be edited by Nora Rubel (University of Rochester) (proceedings of The Transparent
Symposium).

Digital Media (contributor or interviewee)

The Huffington Post. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jodi-eichlerlevine/>

Religion Dispatches. <http://www.religiondispatches.org/>

Tikkun. <http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/>

The Christian Century, “Then and Now” blog. <http://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/then-and-now>

Religion in American History. <http://usreligion.blogspot.com/>

New Books in Jewish Studies. <http://newbooksinjewishstudies.com/2015/12/14/jodi-eichler-levine-suffer-the-little-children-uses-of-the-past-in-jewish-and-african-american-childrens-literature-nyu-press-2013/>

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

“Golems and Goblins and Dybbuks, Oh My! The Monstrous in Jewish Children’s Literature.” The Jeremy Zwelling Lecture. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. April 11, 2016

Conferences (selected)

“Canonizing Jewish Difference,” on panel “People of the Picture Book: PJ Library and American Jews.” Association for Jewish Studies. San Diego, California. December 19, 2016.

“Taking the ‘Alt’ Out of Alternate Academic Careers,” roundtable chair and organizer. Association for Jewish Studies. San Diego, California. December 19, 2016.

“Dancing Out the Torah: Body, Ritual, and Transitions in Transparent.” *Transparent: A Multidisciplinary Symposium*. University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. December 1, 2016. (Fully funded by the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Institute).

Roundtable panelist. “Introducing the *Bloomsbury Reader in Childhood and Religion*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. November 20, 2016.

“Abrahamic Bargains: Reflections on Memory and Religion in Jewish and African American Children’s Literature.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. November 19, 2016.

“Crafting Judaism: American Jewish Women and Creativity.” Oxford Summer Institute in Modern Jewish Studies. (Co-sponsor: Berman Center for Jewish Studies). Oxford, UK. June 28, 2016.

“Zen and the Art of Jewish Knitting: The Romanticization of the East in the American Jewish Crafting Revival.” 2016 Biennial Scholars’ Conference on American Jewish History (American Jewish Historical Society). June 20, 2016. New York, New York.

Chair and session organizer. “Teaching Beyond the Canon: New Approaches to the Jewish Studies Classroom.” Roundtable. Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 2015.

“Patriots and Maccabees: Emily Solis-Cohen’s *Hanukkah: Feast of Lights*.” Paper as participant in seminar on “Jews in Postwar America, 1945-1965: New Approaches.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. December 2014.

“Where the Wild Hells Are: Dystopia, Darkness, and Monstrosity in American Jewish(ish) Children’s Literature.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, California. November 24, 2014.

“Attracting Students to the Jewish Studies Classroom: Reports from the Field.” Roundtable. Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 16, 2013.

“Heroes, Heroines and Heritage: Imagining the Child in Texts for American Jewish Children.”

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, Maryland. November 24, 2013.

“What Can the Study Of American Judaism Bring to Religious Studies?: A Roundtable on Theory and Methods.” Roundtable. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. November 25, 2013.

“Looking at Anne Frank’s Baby Pictures: A Midwestern Odyssey.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. November 18, 2012.

“Primers in Sacrifice: American Jewish Children’s Literature and Notions of Liberal Democracy.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 21, 2010.

“Thinkable Fantasies: The Supernatural, the Really Real, and the Invented Memoir in Holocaust Literature for Children.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia, November 1, 2010.

“Weren’t Never Friends’: The Ruptures of Race, Religion, and Gender in Tony Kushner’s *Caroline, or Change*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia. November 1, 2010.

Panelist, “Teaching Judaic Studies in a Non-Jewish Setting.” Association for Jewish Studies, Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, California. December 20, 2009.

“Raising Up Citizens of Memory: Girlhood in Jewish and Palestinian American Children’s Literature, 1945-2007.” North American Association for the Study of Religion, in cooperation with the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Montreal, Quebec. November 6, 2009.

“Maccabees and Memory: The Conflation of Hanukkah and the Holocaust in Jewish Children’s Literature.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. November 20, 2005.

TEACHING

Lehigh University (2015-present)

REL/GS 013 Food and the Sacred

REL 0XX, Religion and Science Fiction (*upcoming Spring 2018*, to be co-taught with Khurram Hussain)

REL 079 Religion and Fantasy Literature (*upcoming Fall 2017*)

REL/JST/WGSS 096 Women Writing Judaism

REL/JST/WGSS 098 Sex, Gender, Jews

REL/ENGL/JST/AS 102 Promised Lands: Jewish and African American Children’s Literature

REL/JST 156, Judaism and Comic Books

REL/JST/Theatre 1XX, Jews and the Broadway Musical (*upcoming Fall 2018*)

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (2007-2015)

Introduction to Religious Studies (Relstds 108)

Bible and Current Events (Relstds 106)

Religion, Children’s Books, Difference (Relstds 120/African Am St 120)

Introduction to Women’s Studies (Womstds 201)

Hebrew Bible (Relstds 203)

Judaism (Relstds 215)
Women, Sustainability, Religion (Relstds/Womstds 263) (Begins Spring 2014)
Women and Religion (Relstds/Womstds 265)
Gendering Jewish Children's Literature (Relstds/Womstds 317)
Religion and Sexuality (Relstds/Womstds 318) (Begins Fall 2013)
Judaism and Comic Books (Relstds 320)
The Holocaust and American Memory (Relstds 334)
Judaism Since Gender (Relstds/Womstds 360)
Special Topics: American Judaism (Relstds 395)
Special Topics: Judaism, Gender, Environment (Rel/Wom/Env 395/390)
Honors Seminar: Gender and Sexuality (Hnrs 175)

Wesleyan University (2007)

American Religions Through Children's Media (Reli/Amst 304)

Columbia University Writing Program (2006)

University Writing (English C1010)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Program
Research on use of memoirs in "Women and Religion," 2013

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Faculty Development Program
Teaching Award Summer 2011. Research Award Fall 2009.

Brandeis University

Phi Beta Kappa 2000

Shapiro Family Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, 2000

Spinoza Prize in the History of Ideas, 2000

Schiff Undergraduate Fellow, 1998-1999

Rabb Scholarship, 1996-2000

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

American Academy of Religion. Religion, Memory History Group. Co-chair, (2013-2016)
Steering Committee, (2011-2013; 2017-)

American Academy of Religion. Religion, Holocaust, Genocide. Steering Committee (2012-2016)

Association for Jewish Studies. Women's Caucus. Co-chair (2015-)

Association for Jewish Studies. Women's Caucus Board (2013-2015)

Association for Jewish Studies. Pedagogy Working Group, Member (2009-2014)

Jewish Women's Archive. Academic Advisory Board (2013-)

Reviewer, University of North Carolina Press. Oxford University Press. *Children's Literature Quarterly*.

SERVICE TO LEHIGH UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY

Jewish Studies Minor and Berman Center for Jewish Studies. Core Faculty. (2015-)

Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Core Faculty (2015-)

Religion Studies Department, Publicity Committee, Tenure Guidelines Committee. (2015-)

Humanities Center Executive Committee (2016-)

American Studies Master's Degree Working Group (2016-)

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH AND COMMUNITY (selected)

Faculty Senate, Humanities Representative. (2013-2015)

Women's and Gender Studies Program Steering Committee (2007-2015)

African American Studies Program Advisory Board (2008-2014)

Faculty Development Program, Reviewer (2009-2015)

Program Review Committee, College of Letters and Science (2010-2012)

Diversity Committee, College of Letters and Science (EDIC) (2009-2015)

Selected Campus and local lectures, Wisconsin

Community Lecture. Book talk: "*Suffer the Little Children: Religion, and Children's Literature.*" First Presbyterian Church, Neenah. October 12, 2014.

Community Lecture. "Greening Judaism: From the Israelites to Brooklyn." Jewish Social Services of Madison, Levy Summer Salon Series. July 27, 2014.

Community Lecture, "Judaism and Comic Books." First Presbyterian Church, Neenah. September 23, 2012.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Reading knowledge: French, German, Hebrew (Biblical, Modern)

Working knowledge: Greek (Attic, Koiné), Latin

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion

American Jewish Historical Society

Association for Jewish Studies

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Children's Literature Association

Modern Language Association