

Department of Religious Studies
Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University
1860 Campus Drive, 4-140
Evanston, Illinois 60208-2164

barry@northwestern.edu
847-491-2618



POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Northwestern University, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences,
Department of Religious Studies (Fall 2013-Present)
Critical Theory, Jewish Studies and Legal Studies Committees
Director of Undergraduate Studies, (Fall 2019-Present)

Associate Professor, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (Fall 2013-Present)

Director, Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies & Jewish Studies Program,
Northwestern University (Fall 2012-Summer 2016)

Fellow, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University (Fall 2011-Spring
2012)

Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences,
Department of Religious Studies, (Summer 2007-Spring 2013)
Director of Undergraduate Studies, (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)

Assistant Professor, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (Summer 2007-Spring
2013)

College Fellow, Northwestern University, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Department of
Religion (Summer 2006-Spring 2007)

Assistant Professor. The Pennsylvania State University, Department of History and Religious
Studies; Malvin and Lea Bank Early Career Professor of Jewish Studies (Fall 2005-
Spring 2006).

Harry Starr Fellow. Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies (Spring 2006).

Instructor. University of Pennsylvania, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Spring
2005).

EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, New York.

Ph.D., with Distinction, October 2005. Religion.

Committee: Professors David Weiss Halivni, Elizabeth Castelli, Jeffrey Rubenstein, Alan Segal, Michael Stanislawski.

M.Phil., October 2004. Religion.

M.A., October 2003. Religion.

Yeshiva University, New York, New York. 1996-2000.

Rabbinic Ordination, June 2000.

M.A., June 2000. Talmudic Studies.

Columbia College, Columbia University, New York, New York.

B.A., October 1995. Mathematics and History.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Alice Kaplan Digital Humanities Summer Faculty Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Summer 2017.

School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, Summer 2003.

Latin and Greek Institute, City University of New York, New York, New York, Summer 2002.

Manfred R. Lehmann Memorial Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, University of Pennsylvania, May 2002 (Early Hebrew Printing) and May 2000 (Codicology).

The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, 2001-2002.

Visiting Student

Hebrew Language Exemption (*Ptor*)

Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2000-2001.

Exchange Scholar, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Sha'alvim Educational Center, Sha'alvim, Israel, 1995-1996, 1990-1992.

BOOKS

1. *The Talmud: A Biography* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018)
2. *Narrating the Law: A Poetics of Talmudic Legal Stories* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).
3. Editor, *Wisdom of Bat Sheva: The Dr. Beth Samuels Memorial Volume* (Jersey City, New Jersey: Ktav, 2009).

ARTICLES

4. "The Postmodern Mishnah: The Role of the Reader and the Instability of Meaning." Under Consideration at *Jewish Quarterly Review*.
5. "Conflict Over the Essential Nature of Law: Bava ben Buta's Activism in Tosefta Hagigah." In Jeffrey Rubenstein, ed., *NYU Studies in Rabbinic Narratives I*, Brown Judaic Studies (Providence, RI) forthcoming, 2020.
6. "Codes" in Julen Etxabe, ed., *A Cultural History of Law: Volume I Antiquity 2500 BCE-500 CE* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019), 59-74.
7. Review of Aaron Hughes, *Jacob Neusner: An American Iconoclast*. *Religious Studies Review* 44:1 (March 2018), 71-77.
8. "Footnotes to *Carnal Israel*: Infertility and the Legal Subject." in Moulie Vidas, Ishay Rosen-Zvi Charlotte Fonrobert, eds., *Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin* (Leiden: Brill, 2017): 161-200.
9. "Suborning Perjury: A Case Study of Narrative Precedent in Talmudic Law," in Martha Nussbaum, Allison Lacroix, Richard Macadams, eds. *Fatal Fictions: Crime and Investigation in Law and Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2017): 41-64.
10. "Rabbinic Literature: Mishnah and Talmuds" and "Babylonian Talmud." in Judith Baskin, ed., *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion and Culture* (Cambridge University Press, 2011).
11. "The Dialogical Talmud: A Response to Daniel Boyarin's *Socrates and the Fat Rabbis*." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 101 (2011): 245-254.
12. Review of Richard Kalmin, *Between Persia and Roman Palestine*. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 78:1 (March 2010): 312-315.
13. "The Shiva." in Paul Socken, ed., *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-First Century* (Lanham, Md: Lexington Books, 2010): 195-205.
14. "Interrupting Birth Control: Re-reading a Famous *Beraita*." in Barry Wimpfheimer, ed., *Wisdom of Bat Sheva: The Dr. Beth Samuels Memorial Volume* (2009): 247-274.
15. "Preface." in Barry Wimpfheimer, ed., *Wisdom of Bat Sheva: The Dr. Beth Samuels Memorial Volume* (2009): 1-4.
16. "Talmudic Legal Narrative: Broadening the Discourse of Jewish Law." *Dine Israel* 24 (2007): 157-196.
17. "'But It Is Not So': Toward a Poetics of Legal Narrative in the Babylonian Talmud." *Prooftexts* 24 (Winter 2004): 51-86.
18. "*Qeren Kieyn Sheganav*: An Analysis of BT Bava Qama 65a-66a (Hebrew)." *Beit Yitshaq* 31 (2000): 214-232.

19. "The Jewish Library: The Hebrew Bible (TaNaKh) and Rabbinic Literature." in Gary Porton, ed., *Bloomsbury Religion in North America* (electronic database). *Forthcoming*.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- "The Talmud: A Biography" Columbia University, New York, NY March 26, 2019.
- "The Talmud as Icon," Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, January 24, 2019.
- Panel participant, Roundtable: Theory and Practice of Talmud Commentary. Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 18, 2018.
- "The Beautiful Body as Capital," Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 16, 2018.
- "Rabbinic Narratives Reconsidered," Conference on Rabbinic Narratives, NYU, New York: NY, June 4-5, 2018
- "Infertility and the Legal Subject," Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, December 19, 2017.
- "Is Halakhah Jewish Law? The Implications of a Rubric," Society of Biblical Literature, Boston, MA, November 19, 2017
- "Three Talmuds: How the Talmud Matters," Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, May 15, 2017
- "The Talmud as Symbol: Reputation as Reception," Association for Jewish Studies Conference, San Diego, CA, December 19, 2016
- "The Talmud: A Methodological Introduction," Northwestern TeachX Conference, May 16, 2016
- "The Talmud as Icon," University of Colorado Boulder Jewish Studies, Boulder, Colorado, February 22, 2016
- "The Paris and Barcelona Disputations," NU/Pisa Conference: "Trials That Shook the World," May 20, 2015
- "Jewish Studies and the Community: The Challenges of Connecting," panelist, Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Baltimore, MD, December 15, 2014
- "Were All of Israel Established as Liars?: Perjury and Ancient Jewish Narratives." Crime in Law and Literature Conference, Chicago, IL, February 7, 2014.
- Respondent, "Talmudic Readings on Two Contemporary Ethical Challenges." Society of Jewish Ethics, Chicago, IL, January 4, 2013
- "The Amoraim and Stam as Readers." Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Chicago, IL, December 17, 2012

-
- “The Real in the Nominal: Money in Medieval Talmudic Exegesis” Halakhah and Reality Conference, New York University, New York, NY, May 1, 2012
- “What We Talk About When We Talk About Mishnah.” University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 17, 2012
- “Narrating the Law: How Stories Create Complex Law in the Talmud.” 2011 Robbins Lecture in Jewish Law. Program on Jewish Law, University of California at Berkeley Law School, Berkeley, CA, April 16, 2012
- “Sanhedrin as Signifier: Real and Imagined Rabbinic Politics.” Frankel Institute for Jewish Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 29, 2012
- “Talmudic Charity: Rights, Obligations and Ambivalence.” University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI March 19, 2012
- “Panopticism, Performativity, Passing and Peering: Maris Ayin as a Complex Site of Religious Meaning.” American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Francisco, CA, November 19-22, 2011.
- “Paradigms of Coherence in Jewish Law.” Ancient Judaism Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, October 26, 2011.
- “Hypocrisy in Rabbinic Hyperbole and Law” Workshop on Hypocrisy and Dissimulation. University of Chicago. May 5-6, 2011.
- Panel Organizer, “Classical Rabbis as a Prism for Jewish Historiography”
“The Talmud as it Was” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 19, 2010.
- Panel Participant, “The Impact of Contemporary Legal Theory on the Study of Halakhah”
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 19, 2010.
- “Where is Jewish Law Located?” Questioning the Law: Northwestern-Pisa Conference, Evanston, IL, April 14, 2010.
- “Talmudic Dynamics.” Annual Joint Doctoral Program Symposium. Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, January 26, 2010.
- “ ‘Go teach verse to your son’ : Rabbis and Schoolteachers in Rabbinic Babylonia.”
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Los Angeles, CA, December 21, 2009.
- “The Bavli as Classical Literature: The Argument from Rhetorical Forms.” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Washington, DC, December 22, 2008.
- “The Inverse of Talmudic Legal Narrative.” American Academy of Religion (AAR), Chicago, IL, November 2, 2008.

“Ping-Pong: Genre and the Talmud.” University Seminar, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY, March 12, 2008.

“All Rise: The Significance of Courtroom Ritual in the Babylonian Talmud.” The Ancient Judaism Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, CT, February 6, 2008.

“Saving the Study of Bavli from Wissenschaft and Daf Yomi.” Teaching Rabbinic Literature, Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, January 28, 2008.

“Reconceiving Jewish Law: Tosefta Hagigah 2.” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Toronto, Ontario, Canada, December 19, 2007.

“The Sanhedrin on Trial: A Comparison.” Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), San Diego, CA, November 17-20, 2007.

Respondent. “The Feminine Divine in the Jewish and Christian Middle Ages.” The Feminine Divine in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, November 27, 2006.

“Birth Control, Wet Nursing and Rabbinic Legislative History.” Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, Cambridge, MA, March 23, 2006.

“Shyamalan’s “The Village” and the Overlap of Law and Culture.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and Humanities, Syracuse University College of Law, Syracuse, NY, March 17, 2006.

“An Unlikely Source: Sanhedrin 19a-b and Josephus Revisited.” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Washington, DC, December 18-20, 2005.

“Jewish Law as Narrative History: The Case of Birth Control.” Lehigh University, November 9, 2005 (invited lecture).

“Love and Law: The Dialogical Nature of Talmudic Legal Narrative.” Law and Humanities Interdisciplinary Junior Scholar Workshop, University of Georgetown Law School, June 12, 2005.

“Scholarly Envy Increases Wisdom: A Law and Literature Reading of Torah as Cultural Capital in the Talmud.” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Chicago, IL, December 21, 2004.

“ ‘What’s This All About’: Lovesickness and the Dialogical Nature of Legal Narrative in the Talmud.” Society of Biblical Literature (SBL), San Antonio, TX, November 22, 2004.

“ ‘But It Is Not So’: A Talmudic Moment.” Association for the Study of Law, Culture and Humanities, University of Connecticut Law School, Hartford, CT, March 12, 2004.

“Birth Control and the Interdependence of *Halakhah* and *Aggadah*.” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Boston, MA, December 22, 2003.

• Dorot Foundation Travel Grant

“But It is Not So: The Literary Life of Legal Narrative in the Babylonian Talmud.” University of Pennsylvania, April 8, 2003 (invited lecture).

“*Ashgera Delishna: A Case Study in List Transmission.*” Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Los Angeles, CA, December 16, 2002.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

“How Jewish Mysticism Revolutionized Being Jewish.” Temple Beth Israel, Skokie, IL, November 2019

“The Talmud’s Greatest Hits.” The Alumnae of Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Fall 2019

“An Introduction to the Talmud.” Winnetka Congregational Church, Winnetka, IL, October 6, 2019

“Jewish Religion.” Holocaust Education Foundation, Northwestern University, June 26-28, 2019.

“Rabbinic Stories Are Not About Morals.” North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, Highland Park, IL, June 2, 2019.

“The Talmud: Its Tremendous Impact beyond the Confines of the Jewish Faith.” Lake Shore Unitarian Society, Winnetka, IL April 14, 2019

“The Talmud: A Biography.” Princeton Jewish Center, Princeton, NJ, March 26, 2019

“The Talmud: A Biography—Community Read.” Sutton Place Synagogue, New York, NY, March 16, 2019

“Charity in the Talmud: Religious Feelings and Macroeconomics.” Valley Beit Midrash, Phoenix, AZ, January 23, 2019

“The Talmud: A Biography.” Valley Beit Midrash, Phoenix, AZ, January 23, 2019

“The Talmud as Icon.” Kehillat Keshet, Englewood, NJ, November 11, 2018

“The Place of God in Jewish Law.” Valley Beth Shalom, Los Angeles, CA, November 5, 2018

“Charity Begins at Home: A Talmudic Rejoinder?” Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC, October 16, 2018.

“The Talmud as Icon.” Allan and Norma Harris Day of Jewish Study, co-sponsored by The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies and JCC of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 14, 2016

“Agreeing to Disagree: Multiplicity in Rabbinic Judaism.” Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, February 28, 2011

“The Place of God in Jewish Law.” Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, May

16, 2010.

“Is Jewish Law Meaningful or Just Mean?” Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago, IL, May 28, 2009.

“Rabbi May I? Taking Responsibility for P’sak In a Post-Feminist Age.” Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance, New York, NY, February 11, 2007.

“Talmud: The Source-Critical Challenge.” The Meorot Foundation, Riverdale, New York, April 23, 2001.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Co-Chair, Rabbinics Division, Association for Jewish Studies, 2020-

Co-Editor-in Chief, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2017-

American Academy of Religion Book Award Jury (Textual Studies) 2014-2018

NEH Summer Fellowship Panel, 2012

Associate Editor, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, 2005-2017.

Committee Member, James Boyd White Prize Committee, Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities, 2011.

Participant, *Mandel Center for Studies in Jewish Education* Bridging Initiatives Consultation on the Teaching of Rabbinic Literature. New York, NY, February 8, 2007.

Rabbinics Advisor, *Outside the Bible*, Jewish Publication Society, 2014.
National Jewish Book Award 2014

Dissertation Fellowship Evaluator, Foundation for Jewish Culture, 2010, 2011.

External Dissertation Reader, Bar Ilan University, 2009.

Board Member, Holocaust Education Foundation, Northwestern University, 2014-2016.

Board Member, Chicago Regional Board, JCC of Chicago, 2015-2017.

SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2019-2020; 2008-2009

Undergraduate Committee, 2018-2019

Speakers Committee, 2016-2019

Faculty Search Committee Member, 2010-2011; 2011-2012

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Foundational Disciplines Convention Delegate, Spring 2018
Candidate for Committee on Tenure, WCAS, Fall 2017
Internal Reviewer, Program Review of Department of German, 2016
Member, Ad Hoc Committee for Tenure, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, 2015-2016
Search Committee Member, Director of Holocaust Education Foundation, 2015-2016
Search Committee Chair, Post-Doc in Israel Studies, 2015-2016; 2014-2015; 2013-2014; 2012-2013
Search Committee Chair, Assistant Professor of Israel Studies, 2014-2015
Director, Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, 2012-2016 (also served as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Director of the Graduate Cluster in Jewish Studies and on the board of the Holocaust Education Foundation).
Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, 2011-2012

DISSERTATIONS ADVISED

Sarah Wolf (Lead Adviser), Religious Studies, 2018
Grace Overbeke, Theatre and Performance Studies, 2018
Alyssa Henning, Religious Studies, 2015
Joshua Feigelson, Religious Studies, 2014
Katelyn Mesler, Religious Studies, 2011

External

Timothy Debold, Stanford University Department of Religious Studies, 2015
Elana Stein Hain, Columbia University Department of Religion, 2013

FELLOWSHIPS RECEIVED

Hewlett Fellows Program, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University (2017)
Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University (2011-2012)
Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization, NYU Law School (2011-2012) [Declined Offer]
Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan (2011-2012) [Declined Offer]
College Fellow, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University (2006-2007).
Harry Starr Fellow, Harvard Center for Jewish Studies (Spring 2006).
Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University (2000-2005).
Fellow of the Center of Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University (2001-2005).

Irene C. Fromer Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Columbia University (2000-2001, 2003-2004).

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellowship (2002 and 2003).

Inter-University Fellowship, Hebrew University (2001-2002).

Wexner Graduate Fellowship (1996-2000).

Meorot Foundation Fellowship, Yeshiva University (1997-1998).

Monroe Fragin Fellowship, Yeshivat Sha'alvim (1995-1996).

PRIZES

National Jewish Book Award in Education and Identity 2018. Jewish Book Council.

Salo and Jeannette Baron Prize for Best Columbia University Jewish Studies Dissertation over a Five-Year Period (January 22, 2008).