

Dr. Jodi Eichler-Levine

Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization
Professor, Department of Religion, Culture, and Society
Lehigh University
joe315@lehigh.edu

186 Williams Hall
31 Williams Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015
610-758-3370

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Education

- 2007 Columbia University, New York, New York. 2001-2007
Ph.D. conferred October 2007. Religion.
M.A. conferred May 2004. Religion.
- 2000 Brandeis University, Waltham Massachusetts.
B.A. conferred May 2000. Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, *summa cum laude*.

Employment History

- 2021 Philip and Muriel Berman Professor of Jewish Civilization, Lehigh University, 2021-present
Full Professor, Department of Religion, Culture, and Society
Director, Philip and Muriel Berman Center for Jewish Studies. July 2023-June 2026
- 2015 Philip and Muriel Berman Assoc. Professor of Jewish Civilization, Lehigh University,
2015-21 Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Culture, and Society
- 2013 Associate Professor, Religious Studies Dept., University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, 2013-2015
Joint Appointment, Women's and Gender Studies Program
- 2007 Assistant Professor, Religious Studies Department, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, 2007-
2013. Joint Appointment, Women's and Gender Studies Program
- 2007 Lecturer, Wesleyan University, Religious Studies Department, Spring
- 2006 Instructor, University Writing Program, Columbia University, Fall

PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER SCHOLARLY WORK

Books (all solo-authored or edited)

- 2026 Editor, *Disney and Religion: A Small Spiritual World, After All*. Wiley (November).
- 2020 *Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis: How Jews Craft Resilience and Create Community*
(University of North Carolina Press)
Finalist, Religion and the Arts Book Award, American Academy of Religion, 2021

Reviews: *AJS Review*, *American Jewish History*, *Contemporary Jewry*, *Images*, *Jewish Culture and History*, *Library Journal*, *Material Religion*, *Reading Religion*

2013 *Suffer the Little Children: Uses of the Past in Jewish and African American Children's Literature* (New York: NYU Press, 2013) (Paperback release: 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*

Chapters in Peer-Reviewed Edited Volumes

2024 "Dancing Out the Torah: Body, Ritual, and Transitions in Transparent," in *Blessings Beyond the Binary: Transparent and the Queer Jewish Family*, edited by Nora Rubel and Brett Krutzsch (Rutgers University Press, September). (19 pages, 5789 words)

2020 "Teaching American Jewish Children's and Young Adult Literature," in Roberta Rosenberg & Rachel Rubinstein, eds., *Teaching Jewish American Literature* (New York: MLA), 99-107.

2018 "American Judaism and Race," in Paul Harvey and Kathryn Gin Lum, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Race in American History* (New York: Oxford University Press), 191-204. (invited)

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), 149-168.

*Volume was a National Jewish Book Award Finalist in Women's Studies

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), 259-266. (invited)

Under review

2027 "Disney World and Jewish Experiences: A Very Short History," in Rachel Harris, ed., *Swamps, Suburbs, and Synagogues: Jews in the Sunshine State* (University of Florida Press)

2027/2028 "Jewish Americans and Jesus Christ Superstar: A Love Story?," in Stephen Selka and Moriah Reichert, eds. *Jesus Christ Superstar and the Shifting Boundaries Between Religion and Popular Culture*, (Bloomsbury)

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Academic Journals

2024 "Exploring Disney's Worlds Through Religious Studies." *Religion Compass*. December 22.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.70010>

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

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

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

Chapters in edited journals and books

2027 with Jenny Caplan. “Representing Jewish Culture,” in Amy Milligan and Joachim Schloer,
Cultural History of Judaism, Volume VI (Bloomsbury Academic), 10,000 words (accepted, awaiting
proofs)

2025 “Hanukkah,” in Sarah Imhoff, ed., *Judaism in 5 Minutes* (Equinox, 2025).

2021 “Hooked on Feelings: The Story of My Jewish Pathologies.” *CrossCurrents* 71:1 (March), 5-18.

2021 “Jewish Objects and Jewish Affects: A Conversation.” With Rachel B. Gross, Laura A.
Leibman, and Laura S. Levitt. *CrossCurrents* 71:1 (March), 82-94. (invited)

2014 “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).

Book Reviews in Academic Journals

2026 Forum response to Susannah Heschel and Sarah Imhoff, *The Woman Question in Jewish Studies*,
in *Studies in American Jewish Literature* (SAJL) 45:2, 191-195.

2024 Review of Lea Taragin-Zeller, *The State of Desire: Religion and Reproductive Politics in the Promised
Land*, in *Contemporary Jewry*, July 18.

2023 Review of Dainy Bernstein, ed., [*Artifacts of Orthodox Jewish Childhoods*](#), in *In Geveb: A Journal of
Yiddish Studies*, June 21, 2023.

2021 Review of Matthew Baigell, *Jewish Identity in American Art: A Golden Age since the 1970s*, in
American Jewish History 105:4 (2021), 566-568.

2021 Review of Laura A. Leibman, *The Art of the Jewish Family: A History of Women in Early New York
in Five Objects. Material Religion* DOI: [10.1080/17432200.2021.1947033](https://doi.org/10.1080/17432200.2021.1947033)

2018 Review of Jennifer Glaser, *Borrowed Voices: Writing and Racial Ventriloquism in the Jewish American
Imagination. American Jewish History*, 444-446.

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

2014 Review of Erika Seamon, *Interfaith Marriage in America. Theology and Sexuality* 20:1, 83-84.

2007 “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

Public Scholarship: Bylines in Edited Venues (selected)

2026. “A Tale of Two Archives.” *AJS Perspectives: The Archives Issue* (forthcoming, Winter 2026)

2023 “Opinion: The right is right to fear Disney.” CNN. May 17, 2023.
<https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/17/opinions/florida-disney-teacher-movie-desantis-eichler-levine?fbclid=IwAR1PHM1-CHMaTbrCFBwmcU9heLrYSPH1aIhALj4Pcrcluf4MS-HdQrAlNtw>

2022 “Muppet Religion.” *The Revealer*. December 8, 2022.
<https://therevealer.org/muppet-religion/>

2022 “Don’t Judge Disney Adults. Try to Understand Them.” NBC Think. June 9, 2022.

2022 “Disney’s brand is stories—and American stories keep evolving.” *Made by History. The Washington Post*. May 9, 2022.

2022 “Forget Bruno. ‘Dos Oruguitas’ is the *Encanto* song we really need.” *Salon*. February 19, 2022.
<https://www.salon.com/2022/02/19/forget-bruno-dos-oruguitas-is-the-song-we-really-need/>

2021 “The Invisible Mehiza.” *AJS Perspectives* Spring 2021, 74-76.
<https://www.associationforjewishstudies.org/publications-research/ajs-perspectives/the-protest-issue/the-profession-the-invisible-me%E1%B8%A5%E1%BA%93ah>

2020 “In Memory of Touch.” *April Online*. November 28, 2020.
<https://www.aprilonline.org/in-memory-of-touch/>

2020 “[A Link to Jewish History, RBG’s Iconic Collars Were a Beacon for the Marginalized.](#)” *Religion Dispatches*. October 1, 2020.

2020 “Why ‘Hamilton’ is the ‘Most Disney’ Disney Film.” *Newsweek*. July 3, 2020.
<https://www.newsweek.com/why-hamilton-most-disney-disney-film-opinion-1515158>

2020 “What We Miss When We Miss Disney World.” *The Revealer*. June 3, 2020.
<https://therevealer.org/what-we-miss-when-we-miss-disney-world/>

2020 “[Holy Shit.](#)” *Killing the Buddha*. March 23, 2020.
<https://killingthebuddha.com/mag/confession/holy-shit/>

2020 “Why Christian nationalists think Trump is heaven-sent.” (Review of Katherine Stewart’s *The Power Worshippers*). *The Washington Post*. March 20, 2020.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/why-christian-nationalists-think-trump-is-heaven-sent/2020/03/20/a3c42734-5983-11ea-9b35-def5a027d470_story.html

- 2019 “Blossoms (Hadeish Yameinu).” *Killing the Buddha*. April 29, 2019.
<https://killingthebuddha.com/mag/confession/blossoms-hadeish-yameinu/>
- 2019 “Returning to Mary Poppins, This Time with Stage 4 Cancer.” *Kveller*. January 11, 2019.
<https://www.kveller.com/returning-to-mary-poppins-this-time-with-stage-4-cancer/>
- 2018 “Mary Poppins Can’t Return Fast Enough: An Adult in the Room is the Best Fantasy of 2018.” *Salon*. October 3.
<https://www.salon.com/2018/10/05/mary-poppins-cant-return-fast-enough-an-adult-in-the-room-is-the-best-fantasy-of-2018/>
- 2018 “Mediating Moses and Matzah.” *AJS Perspectives*. May.
<http://perspectives.ajsnet.org/the-oldnew-media-issue/mediating-moses-and-matzah/>
- 2018 “The long, nasty moral war over sexuality in America.” (Review of Marie Griffith’s *Moral Combat*). *The Washington Post*. January 26.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/the-long-nasty-moral-war-over-sexuality-in-america/2018/01/26/2f900ade-dde5-11e7-8679-a9728984779c_story.html?utm_term=.60f198b2bc4f
- 2018 “The Needle and the Planetarium.” *The Immanent Frame*. January 11, 2018.
<https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/01/11/the-needle-and-the-planetarium/>
- 2017 “Transparent Season 3: The Intersectional Messiah.” *Religion Dispatches*. September 30.
<http://religiondispatches.org/transparent-season-3-reaching-the-promised-land-on-the-jewish-new-year/>
- 2014 “The Blockbuster Spirituality of *The Fault in Our Stars*.” *Religion Dispatches*. June 12.
<http://religiondispatches.org/the-blockbuster-spirituality-of-john-greens-the-fault-in-our-stars/>
- 2014 “Beyond the Narrow Straits of Memory.” *Tikkun*. June 4.
<http://www.tikkun.org/nextgen/beyond-the-narrow-straits-of-memory>
- 2014 “The Jew in the Lotus.” *The Christian Century*, “Then and Now” blog. August 20.
<https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2014-08/jew-lotus>
- Further Religion Dispatches pieces, 2012-2016: <http://religiondispatches.org/author/jodi-eichler-levine/>

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2024 Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences, College Teaching Award (Humanities & Arts Division), March.
- 2021 Finalist, Religion and the Arts Book Award, American Academy of Religion, for *Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis: How Jews Craft Resilience and Create Community*
- 1996 Rabb Scholarship, Brandeis University (\$15,000/year, four years, merit-based)

RESEARCH FUNDING

Internal Grants (selected)

- 2024 Lehigh University College of Arts and Sciences. “Futurists Collective: The Humanities in the Age of AI and Other Emerging Technologies.” Part of 6-member team. (\$100,000).
- 2019 Lehigh University, Fast Track Faculty Development Grant. for “Disney Devotees: Religion and the Walt Disney Company” (\$6,000)
- 2019 Lehigh University, Creative Inquiry Faculty Fellowship. “The Religion of Disney Corp.” *With colleague Professor Khurram Hussain.* (\$2,000).
- 2017 Lehigh University, Fast Track Faculty Development Grant, for “Crafting Judaism,” (\$6,000)
- 2013 University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Program Research on use of memoirs in “Women and Religion” (\$1,500)

PRESENTATIONS

Invited, Academic

- 2025 “Disney World and Florida Jewish Experiences: A Very Short History.” [The Florida Jewish Experience Symposium](#). Florida Atlantic University. Boca Raton, Florida. October 27.
- 2025 “Bezalel’s Daughters: How Jewish Women Make Objects.” [Faye Greenberg Sigman “Woman of Valor” Lecture](#), University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. April 4.
- 2024 “What We Talk About When We Talk About Jewish Objects.” Keynote speaker. Schwartz Reisman Graduate Student Conference in Jewish Studies: Gazes and (Self) Constructions. Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada. April 15.
- 2023 “Girls and Giant Killers: Leadership and Authority in the Works of Emily Solis-Cohen” (1886-1966). Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Jewish Studies. Oxford, England. July 5, 2023.
- 2022 “Jewish Soundscapes, Disney Dreams: Performance and Rituals at the Happiest Place on Earth.” Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Jewish Studies. University of Oxford. Oxford, United Kingdom. July 4.
- 2022 “Fifty Ways to Leave an Heirloom: Jewish Families and Crafting.” The University of Wisconsin, Madison. Greenfield Summer Institute. Madison, WI. July 13.
- 2022 “Faith in Disney: How a Jewish Studies Professor Found Religion in the Happiest Place on Earth.” The Sherry Levy-Reiner Memorial Lecture. University of Cincinnati. April 27.

2022 “Faith in Disney: Finding Religion at the Happiest Place on Earth.” Columbia University Seminar in Religion in America. Columbia University. New York, New York. December 5.

2021 “Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis.” Detroit Jewish Book Fair (Zoom). November 14.

2021 “[The Fabric of Forever: Crafting Jewish Memory](#).” The University of Toronto, Anne Tanenbaum Center for Jewish Studies. (Zoom). November 1.

2021 “[Stitching Jewish Lives](#).” The Jewish Museum of Maryland (Zoom). October 27, 2021.

2021 Roundtable. “Queer Jews: A Twentieth Anniversary CLGS Symposium in Memory of David Shneer.” Pacific School of Religion (Zoom). May 2, 2021.

2021 “Tomorrow’s Child: Disney, Religion, and the Panacea of Youth.” Keynote lecture. Columbia University Graduate Student Conference on Childhoods and Religion. (Zoom). March 19, 2021.

2021 “[Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis: Crafting and Material Religion Among Contemporary Jewish Americans](#).” Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. David Patterson Lecture series. (Zoom). March 4, 2021.

2021 “[American Jewish Women Craft Resilience and Community: Making Meaning Through Everyday Action](#).” Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University (Zoom). February 25, 2021.

2021 “[Quarantine\(ish\) Book Talk](#).” The Jewish Women’s Archive. (Zoom). February 11, 2021.

2021 “Crafting Judaism: Creation, Resilience, and Jewish Americans.” Congregation Kol Rinah, St. Louis, Missouri (Zoom). February 7.

2021 “Crafting Objects, Crafting Community: Gender and Material Culture in American Religion,” with Alyssa J. Maldonado-Estrada. Barnard Center for Research on Women. (Zoom). January 21.

2020 “Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis.” Research Seminar, University of Chester, England. (Zoom). November 18, 2020.

2020 “[Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis: How Jews Craft Resilience and Create Community](#).” Penn State University Jewish Studies Program. (Zoom). Nov 17.

2019 “Citizens of Memory: Suffering and Girlhood in Holocaust Commemoration.” Jewish Studies Program, University of Kentucky. November 11.

2019 “Suffering Citizens: Past Traumas in Jewish and African American Youth Literature.” Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations, St. Joseph’s University. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October 23.

2019 “Disney Devotees: Religion and the Walt Disney Company.” Department of Religious Studies Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. September 26.

2019 “Crafting a Promised Land: Israel, Past and Present, in Diaspora Material Culture.” Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Jewish Studies. Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire, England. July 2019.

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.

2016 “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

Invitation received but cancelled due to extenuating circumstances

2018 Keynote, LUCSor Annual Conference, “Interpreting Rituals: Historiographical Perspectives and Pluralistic Contexts.” Universiteit Leiden, Leiden, Netherlands, October 2018.

Refereed panels and papers

2026 Roundtable panelist. “Tomorrowlands: Disney and the Future of Religion.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. November 21. (*upcoming*).

2026 Roundtable panelist. “Reviving and Reinventing Music in the Jewish Studies Classroom.” American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) Biennial Scholars Conference. Cleveland. Ohio. June 2.

2025 Roundtable panelist. “*Nobody Wants This* Panel.” British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies. University of Glasgow. Glasgow, Scotland. July 8.

2024 Presenter, “From Margins to Make-Believe: Emily Solis-Cohen, Jr., and the gendered challenges of authority.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Zoom. December 18, 2024.

2024 Roundtable panelist, “Imagining Other Worlds: Teaching Religious Studies and Ethics Through Science Fiction.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, California. November 24.

2024 Roundtable panelist, “The Opportunities and Affordances of Centering the Arts in the Study of Contemporary Judaism.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, California. November 24.

2024 Chair and respondent, “Memory Bearers and Mediators of Traditional Knowledge in American Jewish Girls’ Novels.” American Academy of Religion Online Summer Meeting. June 25.

2024 Roundtable panelist, “Jewish Women’s Leadership Beyond New York.” American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholars Conference. New York, New York. May 14, 2024

2023 Presenter, “No Church on Main Street: How the Walt Disney Company Went from Implicitly

- Protestant to Every Religion, Everywhere, All at Once.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. November 19, 2023.
- 2023 Roundtable panelist, “Hello, Gorgeous: Barbra Streisand and the Way She Was, Is, and Evermore Shall Be.” American Academy of Religion Annual meeting. November 20.
- 2022 Respondent, “Yiddish Print Culture Beyond Words.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 19.
- 2022 Respondent, “The (Life) Stages of Memory: Religion, Commemoration, and the Cultivation of Identity.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. Nov.19.
- 2021 Roundtable panelist, “Implicated Subjects: The Ethics and Politics of Writing Jewish Studies.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. December 21.
- 2021 Roundtable panelist, “Jews and the Disney Media Empire.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. December 20, 2021.
- 2021 Roundtable panelist, “The Pathological and Religion in North America.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. (Virtual panel; meeting in San Antonio, Texas). Nov. 22.
- 2021 Panelist, “Book Panel: Laura Levitt’s *The Objects that Remain*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. November 21.
- 2020 Roundtable panelist. “Imperfect Panacea? American Jewish Education and the Response to Crisis.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Online. December 2020.
- 2020 Roundtable panelist, “Jewish Objects and Affects.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Online. December 2020.
- 2018 Respondent, “Children’s Spirituality: Beyond Institutional Structures.” American Academy of Religion. Denver, Colorado. November 19.
- 2018 “Grandma Salle’s Needlepoint Rabbi.” Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, Massachusetts. December 18.
2018. “From Pomegranates to Pussyhats: On Studying Craft, Creativity, and American Jews.” American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Convention, Philadelphia, PA. June 17.
- 2017 “‘I Made it a Jewish Quilt’: Telling Stories, Crafting Difference.” Association for Jewish Studies. Washington, DC. December 18.
- 2017 Respondent, “Jews and Whiteness in Trump’s America.” Association for Jewish Studies. Washington, DC. December 18.
- 2018 “Black Fire, White Pixels, and Golden Threads: Digital and Material Intersections in Jewish Women’s Creations.” Oxford Summer Institute in Jewish Studies. Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. July 6.

- 2016 "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 Presenter, "Dancing Out the Torah: Body, Ritual, and Transitions in 'Transparent.'" *Transparent: A Multidisciplinary Symposium*. University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. December 1. (Fully funded by the University of Rochester Susan B. Anthony Institute).
- 2016 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 "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. New York, New York.
- 2014 "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 Presenter, "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 Presenter, "Maurice Sendak's Otherworldly Jewish Mothers, and Other Wild Relatives." Children's Literature Association. Columbia, South Carolina. June.
- 2013 Roundtable presenter, "Attracting Students to the Jewish Studies Classroom: Reports from the Field." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. Dec. 16.
- 2013 Roundtable presenter, "What Can the Study Of American Judaism Bring to Religious Studies?: A Roundtable on Theory and Methods." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. November 25.
- 2012 Presenter, "Looking at Anne Frank's Baby Pictures: A Midwestern Odyssey." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. November 18.
- 2010 Presenter, "Primers in Sacrifice: American Jewish Children's Literature and Notions of Liberal Democracy." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 21.
- 2010 Presenter, "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.
- 2009 Roundtable presenter, “Teaching Judaic Studies in a Non-Jewish Setting.” Association for Jewish Studies, Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, California. December 20.
- 2009 Presenter, “Raising Up Citizens of Memory: Girlhood in Jewish and Palestinian American Children’s Literature, 1945-2007.” North American Association for the Study of Religion. Montreal, Quebec. November 6.
- 2005 Presenter, “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.

Panels Chaired or Organized

2026. Chair and respondent, “Straightening Objects and Judaism: Anthropological Approaches.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. December 20. (*upcoming*).
- 2025 Chair, “Jewish Voices in Harmony: Examining Jewish A Cappella Music. Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. December 14.
- 2025 Chair, “The Afterlives of Jewish Memory.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November 23.
- 2023 Chair, “Twenty-First Century Jewish Endings.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. December 19.
- 2022 Chair, “Jewish Women in Comics: Bodies and Borrowings.” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. December 18.
- 2021 Chair, “Big Matters, Small People: Processing Difficult Topics in Children’s Literature.” Network for Research in Jewish Education 2021 Conference (Zoom). May 20.
- 2019 Chair and respondent, “Judaism, Gender, and Modern Change-Makers: An Interdisciplinary Discussion.” Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, California. December 16.
- 2016 Chair and organizer, “Taking the ‘Alt’ Out of Alternate Academic Careers,” Association for Jewish Studies. San Diego, California. December 19.
- 2015 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.

Working Group (invited)

- 2023-2025 Center for Jewish History Scholars Working Group, “Shared and Contested Spaces:

American Jews and African Americans” (participant)

Conferences, Seminars, and Meetings Convened

2026 Co-convener. “Workshop in Jewish American History.” The Berman Center for Jewish Studies and the American Jewish Archives. Cincinnati, Ohio. May 11-15.

2025 Co-convener, “Sacred Politics in a Secular Age: Jewish Political Theology Through History.” Co-sponsored by the Berman Center for Jewish Studies, the Fondazione per le scienze religiose, and the Università Degli Studi di Modena E Reggio Emilia. Bologna, Italy. June 23-24.

2024 Co-convener, “Young, Old, and Everything in Between: Age as a Category of Analysis in Modern Jewish Studies. Oxford Summer Institute in Contemporary and Modern Judaism. University of Oxford, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Lehigh’s Berman Center for Jewish Studies. Oxford. England. 30 June-5 July.

2023 Co-convener, “Authority and Leadership in Modern and Contemporary Judaism.” Oxford Summer Institute in Contemporary and Modern Judaism. University of Oxford, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Lehigh’s Berman Center for Jewish Studies. Oxford. England. July 2023.

2022 Co-convener, “Worship, Space, and Performance in Modern and Contemporary Judaism: Ritual and Innovation.” Oxford. Summer Institute in Contemporary and Modern Judaism. University of Oxford, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and Lehigh’s Berman Center for Jewish Studies. Oxford. England. July 2022.

2021 Co-convener, Eckardt Symposium. Lehigh University. October 2021.

2021 Co-convener, Virtual Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Judaism. July.

2020 Co-convener, Virtual Oxford Summer Institute in Modern and Contemporary Judaism.

2019. Convener, Symposium, “Religion and Its Many American Publics.” Lehigh University American Studies Program. April 7-8.

2019. Co-convener, “Looking in and Looking Out.” Berman Center Working Group. Sept. 8-9.

2017. Co-convener, “Situating American Jewish Studies.” Berman Center Working Group. March 26-28.

Local Lectures, Eastern Pennsylvania/New Jersey Region and Northeast Wisconsin.

2026 “Finding Religion in Unusual Places: A Scholar’s Journey.” 49th Annual Women’s Shabbat Service Speaker. Germantown Jewish Centre. Germantown, Pennsylvania. March 21. (invited)

2023 “From Baking to Barbie: Jewish Women’s Changing Roles in the Modern World.” Congregation Oheb Shalom. Reading, Pennsylvania. November 10. (invited)

2023 “Jewish Women: Crafting, Resilience, and Community.” Temple Beth Chaim. Princeton, New Jersey. October 29. (invited)

2023 “Crafting Judaism: How American Jews Thrive Through Objects.” Congregation Keneseth Israel. Allentown, Pennsylvania. April 2. (invited)

2023 “World Views: Domestic Passover Commemoration.” Muhlenberg College Institute for Religious and Cultural Understanding.” March 9. (invited)

2021. Invited speaker, “Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis.” Mainline Reform Temple. Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. October 10.

2021 “The Unmelting Pot” (Zoom). Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley/Berman Center for Jewish Studies series on Jewish History. May 4.

2021 East Brunswick Public Library, Friends of the Library. “Author Event: Painted Pomegranates and Needlepoint Rabbis.” (Zoom). February 18.

2020 “Hamantaschen and Her Story.” Temple Beth El, March. Allentown, PA. (invited).

2019. Panelist, “Israel/Palestine/Peace.” Lehigh University. November 7.

2018. Panelist, LUMI student-sponsored interfaith initiative, “Feminism and Religion.” Lehigh University. February 1.

2017. “Jews and the Broadway Musical.” Jewish Family Service of the Lehigh Valley clients. August.

2017. “Crafting Judaism: Jewish Women and Creativity.” Congregation B’rith Shalom. Bethlehem, PA. May 6. (invited)

2017. “Wild Things and Chosen Children: Maurice Sendak as Jewish Author.” Congregation Keneseth Israel, Allentown, PA. March 19. (invited).

2016 “Judaism and Comic Books” for Kibbutz Lehigh, Fall 2016 (Winner of Residence Life programming award)

2014 Community Lecture. Book talk: “*Suffer the Little Children*: Religion, and Children’s Literature.” First Presbyterian Church, Neenah. October 12. (invited)

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

2012. Community Lecture, “Judaism and Comic Books.” First Presbyterian Church, Neenah. September 23 (invited).

Media Appearances (selected)

2025 Quoted in Asaf Elia-Shahav, “Rabbi quits Conservative movement after facing discipline over interfaith weddings.” The Jewish Telegraphic Agency. August 11, 2025

<https://www.jta.org/2025/08/11/united-states/third-generation-conservative-rabbi-resigns-from-movement-after-facing-punishment-for-performing-intermarriages>

2024 Featured guest, “Is Disney Utah’s True Religion?” City Cast Salt Lake. August 6, 2024.

<https://saltlake.citycast.fm/podcasts/is-disney-utahs-true-religion>

2023 Featured guest, [Keys to the Kingdom](#). Podcast. Episode 4, “We Need to Talk About the Fans.” Podcast, produced and hosted by Matt Gourley and Amanda Lund. October 30, 2023.

2023 Quoted in Shira Li Bartov, “An American Tail, the classic animated film about Russian-Jewish mice who immigrate to America, is now a musical.” April 17, 2023.

<https://www.jta.org/2023/04/17/culture/an-american-tail-musical-adaptation-bets-the-story-jewish-immigration-story-will-resonate-in-2023>

2023 Featured guest, “What’s religious about Disney?” *Soul Search* with Dr. Meredith Lake. Australian Broadcasting Company. Broadcast March 16, 2023.

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/soul-search/what-s-religious-about-disney/102057922>

2022 Featured guest, *Tapestry with Mary Hynes*, CBC Radio. “[Disney adults.](#)” October 2, 2022.

2022 Quoted in Dais Johnston, “Is Fandom a Cult? The Religious Fervor Fueling Star Wars, Marvel, and More.” *Inverse*. September 14, 2022.

<https://www.inverse.com/culture/star-wars-marvel-cult>

2022 EJ Dickson. “How ‘Disney Adults’ Became the Most Hated Group on the Internet.” *Rolling Stone*. June 21, 2022.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/disney-adults-tiktok-hated-internet-1370226/>

2022 Quoted in Hannah McKillop, “Some people treat Disney as sacred. Does that make it a religion?” *The Conversation*. July 11, 2022.

<https://theconversation.com/some-people-treat-disney-as-sacred-does-that-make-it-a-religion-185092>

2022 Quoted in Hannah Sampson. “‘Disney adults’ are online punching bags. Why are they so happy?” *The Washington Post*. June 15, 2022.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2022/06/15/disney-adults-wedding-mickey-minnie/>

2022 Featured in Kelsey Dallas, “When does love for Disney become a religion?” *Deseret News*. June 14, 2022.

<https://www.deseret.com/faith/2022/6/14/23161508/when-does-love-for-disney-become-a-religion-disneyland-disney-adult-reddit>

2022 Interview with Jackie Hajdenberg, “What can ‘Disney adults’ teach us about religion? A lot, according to this professor.” *The Jewish Telegraphic Agency*. June 8, 2022.

<https://www.jta.org/2022/06/08/culture/what-can-disney-adults-teach-us-about-religion-a-lot-according-to-this-professor>

2022 Featured guest, Flip the Switch Podcast. “The Parallels Between Rabid Fandoms and Religions w/Jodi Eichler-Levine.” Episode 118. July 2022.

<https://engagemintpartners.com/parallels-between-rabid-fandoms-and-religions/>

2022 Interview, Jewish History Matters. “Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* and Contemporary Debates with Victoria Aarons, Jenny Caplan, and Jodi Eichler-Levine.” February 27, 2022.

<https://www.jewishhistory.fm/art-spiegelmans-maus-and-contemporary-holocaust-debates-with-victoria-aarons-jenny-caplan-and-jodi-eichler-levine/>

2021 Interview with Eric C. Miller, “[The Power of Crafting as Jewish Practice](#).” Religion&Politics. March 9, 2021.

2021 Quoted in Maria Cramer, “[For ‘Buffy’ Fans, Another Reckoning With the Show’s Creator](#).” *The New York Times*, February 15, 2021.

2020 Featured in Flora Rosefsky, “[Crafting Future Legacies](#).” *Atlanta Jewish Times*. December 9.

2020 Featured interview, The Revealer Podcast Episode 9: “[Crafting Jewish Identity](#).” December 1.

2020. Quoted in Melissa Rayworth, “[Rethinking the Holidays: Traditions, Change Are on the Table](#).” The Associated Press. October 16, 2020.

2020. Quoted in Flora Rosefsky, “Baby Naming During COVID.” *Atlanta Jewish Times*. August 19.

2020. Quoted in Julia Sklar, “[‘Zoom Fatigue’ is taxing the brain. Here’s why that happens](#).” *National Geographic*. April 24, 2020.

2015. Feature Interview, Religion in American History. April 7, 2015.

<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/2015/04/interview-with-jodi-eichler-levine.html>

2013. Feature Interview, New Books in Jewish Studies. “Jodi Eichler-Levine, *Suffer the Little Children*.”

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/jodi-eichler-levine-suffer-the-little-children-uses-of-the-past-in-jewish-and-african-american-childrens-literature-nyu-press-2013/>

TEACHING

Courses

Lehigh University (2015-present) (1 section per term, varying in size from 12-70 students)

REL 0010 World Religions (Spring 2019)

REL/GS 013 Religion and Food (Spring 2016, Spring 2023)

REL/JST 030: Beyond Bagels: Jews and Food (Fall 2021; Fall 2023; Fall 2025)

REL 032: The Religion of Disney (Spring 2020, Sum. 2021, Spring 2022, Sum. 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2026)
 REL 079 Religion and Fantasy Literature (Fall 2017, Spring 2021)
 REL 090 American Gods and Monsters (First-year seminar, Fall 2019)
 REL 095 Religion and Science Fiction (Spring 2018)
 ECK 082: Sensing Religions (Fall 2024) (Eckardt Honors Program Seminar)
 REL 098 Disney Religion Research (Fall 2020)
 REL/JST/WGSS 096 Women Writing Judaism (Fall 2016)
 REL/ENGL/JST/AS 102 Promised Lands: Jewish and African American Children's Literature (Fall 2016, Spring 2020)
 REL/JST/WGSS 138 Sex, Gender, Jews (Sp 2016, Sp 2018, Fall 2020, Sp 2023, Sp 2026)
 REL/JST 152: American Judaism (Spring 2022, Spring 2024)
 REL/JST 156 Judaism and Comic Books (Fall 2015, Fall 2021, Spring 2025)
 REL/JST/Theatre 177 Jews and the Broadway Musical (Fall 2018, Spring 2021, Spring 2025)

Research Advising and Mentoring

Dissertation Committee—External Examiner

Sarah Hedgecock. Department of Religion, Ph.D. Columbia University (New York). June 20, 2024.

Senior Thesis Advisor

Gabriella Rub, cognitive science, project on empathy, antisemitism, and AI. Second reader and advisor. Spring 2024.

Senior Honors Thesis Director

Felicia Galvez, "Religion and Latinx Youth Literature." May 2019.

Master's thesis reader

Kayla Lombardo, "Women Athletes and Career Success: How Are They Related?" Lehigh University, American Studies, May 2019.

Teaching, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh (2007-2015) (*selected, 25-75 students, 3-3 load*)

Introduction to Religious Studies (Relstds 108)
 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)
 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)

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Service and Leadership, Lehigh University

University Level

Presidential committee on Free Expression (*ad hoc*). Spring 2024.
Research Advisory Council, Fall 2023-F2024 (Vice Provost for Research office, representing CAS)

College of Arts and Sciences, Directorships, Committees, and other Responsibilities

Director, Berman Center for Jewish Studies (July 2023-June 2026)
Director, American Studies Program (January 2018—June 2019)
Interim Director, Berman Center for Jewish Studies (July 2019-December 2019)
Jewish Studies Minor and Berman Center for Jewish Studies. Core Faculty. (2015-2023)
Humanities Center Executive Committee (2016-2018) (2024-2026)
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Core Faculty (2015-2018)

Other Lehigh Service

- 2023 Search committee member, Advancing Future Faculty Diversity Postdoctoral Program, Religion Studies Search, Spring 2023.
- 2021 First-year academic advisor, academic year 2021-2022.
- 2018 Search committee member, search for Endowed Director of Jewish Life Student Life and Associate Chaplain (Spring)
- 2016 American Studies Master's Degree Working Group
- 2015-2018 Religion Studies Department, Publicity Committee, Tenure Guidelines Committee.

- Frequent participant, College of Arts and Sciences recruitment events

Service and Leadership, External

2026 American Jewish Historical Society, Biennial Scholars' Conference, Conference Committee

2024-2027 Association for Jewish Studies. Board of Directors. Member at Large. (3-year term).

2017-2021 American Academy of Religion. Childhood Studies & Religion Group, Steering Comm.

2013-2022 American Academy of Religion. Religion, Memory History Group.

Co-chair, 2013-2016. Steering Committee 2011-2013; 2017-2022

2012-2016 American Academy of Religion. Religion, Holocaust, Genocide Group. Steering Com.

2020-2023 Association for Jewish Studies. Director, Paula Hyman Mentoring Program.

2025- Association for Jewish Studies. Hyman Mentoring Program, Steering Committee

2014-2017 Association for Jewish Studies. Co-chair, Women's Caucus

2019-2022; 2013-2015. Association for Jewish Studies. Women's Caucus Board

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

Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (HBI), Brandeis University. Research Awards Academic Advisory Committee/Reviewer. (2020-2021; 2025)

2013-2025 Jewish Women's Archive. Academic Advisory Council

- Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women—2020 edition; Editorial Board

Manuscript reviewing

Presses: University of Chicago Press. New York University Press. University of North Carolina Press. Oxford University Press. Princeton University Press. Rutgers University Press. Stanford University Press. Yale University Press.

Journals: *AJS Review*, *Children's Literature Quarterly*, *The Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Jewish Identities*, *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, *Material Religion*, *MAVCOR Journal*, *Religion and American Culture*, *Shofar*, *Religion Compass*

Foundations, Centers: National Endowment for the Humanities. Hadassah Brandeis Institute.

Guest lectures in the field (teaching)

Presentation to Dr. Kathryn Gin Lum's course, "Race and Religion in the United States." Stanford University (Zoom). February 22, 2024.

Presentation to Dr. Jennifer Thompson's Introduction to Judaism course. University of California, Riverside. (Zoom). Spring 2022.

Presentation to Dr. Kathryn Gin Lum's course, "Constructing Race and Religion in America."
Stanford University (Zoom). November 6, 2020.

Presentation to Dr. Jonathan Krasner's course, "Jewish education." Brandeis University (Zoom).
March 18, 2016.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH AND COMMUNITY

- 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)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Reading knowledge: French, German, Hebrew (Biblical, Modern)
Working knowledge: Greek (Attic, Koiné)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
American Jewish Historical Society
Association for Jewish Studies