

## YONATAN S. MILLER

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### EDUCATION

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
PhD, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Ancient Judaism), 2015

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
MA, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (Ancient Judaism), 2013

**The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Israel  
Visiting Graduate Student, Second Temple and Rabbinic Literature, 2005–2007

**Yeshiva University**, New York, NY  
BA, *summa cum laude*, Judaic Studies, 2005

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**University of Connecticut**, Storrs, CT  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Literatures, Cultures & Languages  
2023– Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies

**The University of Toledo**, Toledo, OH  
College of Arts & Letters, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies  
College of Graduate Studies, Full Member (as of 2021)  
2020–2023 Philip Markowicz Endowed Assistant Professor of Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies  
2019–2023 Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
2016–2018 Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
2016–2023 Director, Center for Religious Understanding

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
2015–2016 Harry Starr Postdoctoral Fellow in Judaica

## PUBLICATIONS

### MONOGRAPHS

*Rewriting Priestly Authority in Late Antiquity*, manuscript in progress for *Elements in Religion in Late Antiquity*, ed. Andrew Jacobs, Cambridge University Press (proposal under revision, October 2022).

*A Perpetual Priest: Phinehas in Biblical and Ancient Jewish Literature*, ca. 100,000 words; in preparation for *Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism* (Brill).

### EDITED VOLUMES

Co-Editor, with Jacqueline Vayntrub: *The Motif in Biblical Literature: Contours, Critiques, and New Horizons*, under contract with T&T Clark's Library of Hebrew Bible and Old Testament Studies.

### REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Elijah the Priest: The Genealogy of a Genealogy," in preparation.

"Violence and the Israelite Priesthood: Between Sacrifice and Bloodshed," *Harvard Theological Review* (forthcoming).

"Phinehas' Priestly Zeal and the Violence of Contested Identities," *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 26:2 (2019): 117–145.

"Sabbath-Temple-Eden: Purity Rituals at the Intersection of Sacred Time and Space," *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 9:1 (2018): 46–74.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

"Reading Pseudo-Philo as a Medieval Work," in preparation for *The Medieval Afterlife of Hellenistic Judaism in Western Europe Conference Proceedings*, SNSF / University of Bern.

"Hidden Talents: Examining Tales of Israelite Priestly Corruption," in preparation for *Chronicling Jews and Crime*, *Studies in Jewish Civilization* 34, ed. Leonard Greenspoon (Purdue University Press).

"Tractate Yoma – Introduction, Translation, and Commentary," in *The Oxford Annotated Mishnah*, ed. Shaye J.D. Cohen, Robert Goldenberg, and Hayim Lapin (Oxford University Press, 2022), I:589–627.

Esther Chazon with Yonatan Miller, “At the Crossroads: Anti-Samaritan Polemic in a Qumran Text about Joseph,” in *The “Other” in Second Temple Judaism: Essays in Honor of John J. Collins*, ed. D. Harlow et al. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011), 381-387.

#### ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

*Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*

Moses: Rabbinic Judaism, vol. 19, July 2021 (2400 words)

Phinehas: Judaism (1200 words; under contract, to be submitted by the end of 2022)

Priests, Priesthood: Rabbinic Judaism (950 words; under contract, to be submitted by the end of 2022)

Shekhinah: Judaism

#### OTHER WRITING

Philip Markowicz, *Losing God in Translation: A Study of the Hebrew Bible* (Toledo, OH: The University of Toledo Press, 2020).

- General Editor, author of Preface, and Editorial Afterword (2250 words)

“[Sedition at Moab: Josephus’ Retelling of the Phinehas Story](#),” TheTorah.Com, July 2019 (2500 words)

#### INVITED LECTURES

“Reading Pseudo-Philo as a Medieval Work,” presented at The Medieval Afterlife of Hellenistic Judaism in Western Europe, SNSF / University of Bern *Lege Josephum Project*, Bern, Switzerland, March 15, 2023.

“The Making and Unmaking of an Ancient Jewish Book,” presented at the University of Connecticut, February 23, 2023.

“Hidden Talents: Examining Tales of Israelite Priestly Corruption,” presented at the Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization, Omaha, NE, October 24, 2022.

“Gory, Glory, Hallelujah: Rethinking Biblical Sacrifice,” presented at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY, February 8, 2022.

“Violence and the Politics of Identity,” presented at the Northwestern University Jewish Studies

Colloquium, April 12, 2018, Chicago, IL.

“The Phinehas Problem: The Memory of Priestly Violence in Rabbinic Literature,” presented at the Yale University Ancient Judaism Workshop, December 4, 2014, New Haven, CT.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

“Beyond Auto-Sacrifice: Re-Centering Human Agency in Ritual Animal Slaughter,” [Humanimal Conference](#), March 10, 2023.

“Revisiting Assumptions in the Dating of Lamentations,” to be presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2020, Boston, MA (deferred to 2022 because of COVID-19).

“Is Pseudo-Philo Second Temple Literature?” presented at the Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2020, Washington, DC.

“Perfecting Moses: An Exegetical Counter-History,” presented at the Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2019, San Diego, CA.

“Romulus, Remus, and Rabbi Levi: Creating the Rabbinic Origins of Rome,” presented at the Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2017, Washington, DC.

“Why does the Septuagint Kill Phinehas (Joshua 24:33)? On the Stakes of Priestly Immortality,” presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2017, Boston, MA.

“Elijah the High Priest? On the Absence of the Phinehas-is-Elijah Motif from Rabbinic Literature,” presented at the Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2016, San Diego, CA.

“‘Up to Their Knees in Blood:’ Priestly Violence and Rabbinic Identity,” presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2016, San Antonio, TX.

“‘Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?’ Levites, Priests, and Manslayers in the Cities of Refuge,” presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2016, San Antonio, TX.

“Sacred Slaughter: A Sacrificial Understanding of Narrative Priestly Violence,” presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 2015, Atlanta, GA.

“Violence in Philo: Between Exegesis and Self-Fashioning,” presented at the Association of Jewish

Studies Conference, December 16, 2014, Baltimore, MD.

“The Memory of Phinehas: Rabbinic Rhetoric of Priestly Violence,” presented at the National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, November 24, 2014, San Diego, CA.

“The Fable of Cain and Abel and the Riddle of Priestly Violence,” presented at the New England and Eastern Canada Regional Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, April 25, 2014, Newton, MA.

“Preoccupied with Purity? Reading Mishnah Shabbat in Light of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Sectarian Sabbath Rituals,” presented at Dead Sea Scrolls: Life in Ancient Times Graduate Symposium, organized by Brandeis University, October 6, 2013, Waltham, MA.

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

“Do Jews, Christians, and Muslims Worship the Same God?” University of Toledo Religious Studies Colloquium, April 10, 2023.

“Reality as Spirituality: The Theology of Philip Markowicz,” The Philip Markowicz Annual Lecture in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies, The University of Toledo, September 13, 2020, Toledo, OH.

“The Conquest of Canaan: Between Morality and Myth,” The Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture, The University of Toledo, May 21, 2018, Toledo, OH.

“Is the Hebrew Bible a Jewish Book?” The Philip Markowicz Annual Lecture in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies, The University of Toledo, October 9, 2017, Toledo, OH.

“Unnecessary Roughness: American Perspectives on Biblical Violence,” The Philip Markowicz Annual Lecture in Judaism and Jewish Biblical Studies, The University of Toledo, October 26, 2016, Toledo, OH.

## **TRANSLATIONS (FROM HEBREW INTO ENGLISH)**

Gideon Aran, “On Religiosity and Super-Religiosity (I): Measures of Radical Religion,” *Numen* 60:2-3 (2013): 144-194.

Daniel R. Schwartz, “Menahem Stern (1924-1989): His Place in Historical Scholarship,” in *Jewish Identities in Antiquity: Studies in Memory of Menahem Stern*, ed. Lee I. Levine and Daniel R. Schwartz, *Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum* 130 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2009), 1-11.

Moshe D. Herr, “The Identity of the Jewish People Before and After the Destruction of the Second Temple: Continuity or Change?” in *Jewish Identities in Antiquity: Studies in Memory of Menahem Stern*, 211-236.

Isaiah M. Gafni, “How Babylonia Became ‘Zion’: Shifting Identities in Late Antiquity,” in *Jewish Identities in Antiquity: Studies in Memory of Menahem Stern*, 333-348.

Shalom Rosenberg, “Fate and Destiny: The Metamorphosis of a Partnership,” *Tradition* 39:3 (2006): 47-53.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

Who Are the Jews? Jewish Identities through the Ages  
The Bible, the Holy Land, and History

### **UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO**

World Religions (classroom-based, online/synchronous, and online/asynchronous)  
Introduction to Religion  
Introduction to Judaism  
Dead Sea Scrolls  
Early Judaism  
Introduction to the Pentateuch  
Introduction to the Prophetic Literature  
The Book of Genesis  
The Book of Exodus  
Biblical Prophecy  
Israelite Priesthood (Seminar)  
Translations of the Bible  
Readings in Genesis Rabbah (Independent Study)  
Concepts of God (Graduate Seminar)

### **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

Introduction to Rabbinic Hebrew

## **GRADUATE RESEARCH ADVISING**

MA Thesis Reader for Riad Alarian, “Nostalgia as Critique: How the Regime of Progress Draws Us to the Past,” The University of Toledo, Graduate Program in Philosophy, 2021

## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ADVISING**

George Benson, “Was Jesus a Pharisee?” Honors Thesis in Religious Studies, Fall 2022.

Leigh Cole, “The Origins of the Term *Shekhinah*,” Honors Thesis in Religious Studies, Summer 2021. Awarded USR-CAP grant (\$3000), Office of Undergraduate Research, (administratively withheld due to COVID-19), Summer 2020. Leigh and I planned to co-write the entry on Shekhinah for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, but he passed away in November 2022.

Rupesh Boddapati, “Parallels in the Hindu and Biblical Flood Traditions.” Awarded USR-CAP grant (\$3000), Office of Undergraduate Research, The University of Toledo (administratively withheld due to COVID-19), Summer 2020.

Caitlin Feehan, “Be Fit and Multiply: Determining the Scope of Proto-Eugenic Discourse within Late Antique Rabbinic Literature,” Honors Thesis in Religious Studies, Spring 2020. Awarded USR-CAP grant (\$3000), Office of Undergraduate Research, The University of Toledo, Summer 2019.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

*Founding Editor*, Center for Religious Understanding imprint, The University of Toledo Press  
*Hebrew Language Examiner*, University of Toledo Department of World Languages and Cultures

*Invited Peer Review:*

Hebrew Union College Annual

Oqimta (Hebrew)

Journal of Ancient Judaism

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

*Member*, Search Committee for UToledo Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Fall 2021

*Board Member*, The University of Toledo Center of the Muslim Woman, 2019–2021

*Steering Committee Member*, The University of Toledo School of Interdisciplinary Studies, 2019–2021

*Co-Chair*, Graduate Student Lightning Session, AJS Conference, December 2015

*Reader*, Weinstein and Podhoretz Prizes, Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, Spring 2013; Spring 2014

*Coordinator*, Center for Jewish Studies Graduate Colloquium, Fall 2013

*Coordinator*, Judaism in Antiquity Workshop, Sept. 2010 – June 2012

*Coordinator*, Halakhah and Legal Theory Reading Group, Harvard Law School, Fall 2011

## GRANTS

2023 University of Toledo, Research Awards and Fellowships Program (\$16,500) – *declined*

## FELLOWSHIPS

2014 Alan M. and Katherine W. Stroock Fellowship, Harvard University  
2014 GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University  
2014 Anna Marnoy Feldberg Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University  
2012 Anna Marnoy Feldberg Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University  
2012 Mandell L. Berman Fellowship, Harvard University  
2011 Edward H. Kavinoky Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University  
2010-2014 Sosland Family Fellowship, Harvard University  
2010-2012 Leo Flax Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Harvard University  
2010 Anna Marnoy Feldberg Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University  
2009 Mandell L. Berman Fellowship, Harvard University  
2005 Abraham Mazer Fellowship, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2004 Handler Foundation Summer Research Fellowship, Yeshiva University

## AWARDS

2021 “Shout Out” for Innovative Instructors and Staff, UToledo Office of the Provost  
2017 Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture Fund, Toledo Community Foundation  
2014 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching  
2013 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching  
2012 Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching  
2004 Histadruth Ivrit of America Award for Excellence in Hebrew Language and Literature  
2004 Lawrence P. Fischer Memorial Award for Best Hebrew Paper in Jewish History  
2004 Yeshiva University Women’s Organization Award for Excellence in Ethics and Character

## COMMUNITY LECTURES

“The Canonization of the Jewish Bible: Myth vs. Reality,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, May 25, 2023.



“Making Order of the Messiness of Monotheism,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, October 16, 2021.

“Will the Real Elijah Please Stand Up?” Keneset Israel Torah Center (virtual), Sacramento, CA, January 24, 2021.

“Isaac and the Continuity of Tradition,” Jewish-Muslim Dialogue (virtual), Toledo, OH, November 16, 2020.

“The Hebrew Bible: A Material History,” Cong. B’nai Israel (virtual), Sylvania, OH, May 29, 2020.

“Do Jews, Christians, and Muslims Worship the Same God?” B’nai Israel Congregation, West Bloomfield, MI, November 16, 2019.

“Violence in/and the Jewish Tradition,” B’nai Israel Congregation, West Bloomfield, MI, November 15, 2019.

“How Perfect is the Text of the Hebrew Bible?” Jewish Living Center of Greater Toledo Active Learners Day, September 12, 2019.

“A Closer Look at the Ten Plagues,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, April 7, 2019.

“Will the Real Elijah Please Stand Up,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, April 6, 2019.

“The Greek Torah: Triumph or Tragedy,” Cong. Etz Chayim, Toledo, OH, November 11, 2018.

“Jewish Studies: Between the Pulpit and the Ivory Tower,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, May 6, 2018.

“Sects and Controversy in the Second Temple Period,” Cong. Etz Chayim, Toledo, OH, March 18, 2018.

“Israel and Judah at War,” Cong. Etz Chayim, Toledo, OH, February 18, 2018.

“The Korah Controversy,” Cong. Etz Chayim, Toledo, OH, January 21, 2018.

“The Passover Haggadah and Jewish-Christian Tensions,” Cong. B’nai Israel, Sylvania, OH, March 19, 2017.

## **MEDIA AND INTERVIEWS**

[“UToledo Marketing Manager Enlightened Through Second Degree,”](#) UToledo News, December 16, 2022.

[“Elon Musk’s Twitter Takeover,”](#) UToledo Rocket Talk (YouTube), December 9, 2022.

[“Not Always the Faithful Learning About Faith at Area Colleges,”](#) *The Toledo Blade*, September 4, 2022.

[“Yoma No. 1: King of Priests,”](#) Interleaved: A Talmudic Podcast, April 2021.

[“Chanukah’s Long and Winding Road,”](#) Washington Jewish Week, December 10, 2020.

[“Center for Religious Understanding to Screen Documentary,”](#) UToledo News, September 24, 2019.

[“Religious Imagery Remains Popular Among Tattoo Requests,”](#) *The Toledo Blade*, March 31, 2018.

[“Canaan Topic of UT Center for Religious Understanding Lecture,”](#) UToledo News, May 16, 2018.

[“Hebrew Bible to be Discussed Oct. 9,”](#) UToledo News, October 6, 2017.

[“Biblical Violence Topic of UT Center for Religious Understanding Lecture,”](#) UToledo News, October 24, 2016.

## **LANGUAGES**

Modern Hebrew: fluent.

Biblical and Classical Hebrew: excellent.

Biblical and Rabbinic Aramaic: reading knowledge.

Classical, Koine Greek: reading knowledge.

French: reading knowledge.

German: reading knowledge.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Associate Member, Columbia Hebrew Bible Seminar

Research Affiliate, University of Michigan, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Society of Biblical Literature  
Association for Jewish Studies  
North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)  
BRANE Collective

## **REFERENCES**

Shaye J.D. Cohen  
Littauer Professor of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy  
Chair, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations  
Harvard University  
6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 496-6422  
scohen@fas.harvard.edu

David Stern  
Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature  
Harvard University  
6 Divinity Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
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Benjamin D. Sommer  
Professor of Bible and Ancient Semitic Languages  
The Jewish Theological Seminary of America  
3080 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
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Jonathan Kaplan  
Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Judaism  
University of Texas at Austin  
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Martha Himmelfarb  
William H. Danforth Professor of Religion  
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