

JAMES ADAM REDFIELD

redfieldja@slu.edu ♦ redfieldja@uchicago.edu ♦ <http://www.blackfire.life>

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Biblical & Talmudic Literatures, Theological Studies, Saint Louis University (2017–)

Fellow of the [Saint Louis University Research Institute](#) (2021–)

Visiting Assistant Professor, History of Judaism, University of Chicago Divinity School (3 years, Winter/Spring, 2021–)

EDUCATION

PhD, Religious Studies (Judaism), Stanford (2011-2017).

Visiting Researcher at Georgetown, Department of Theology and Religious Studies (2014-2016)

PhD candidate, Anthropology (Socio-cultural). U.C. Berkeley (2010-2011); M.A. (2010)

B.A. *magna cum laude* with high honors in Comparative Literature (German/French). Dartmouth College (2002-2006)

PUBLICATIONS (* blind peer review; · solicited and reviewed by editors)

BOOKS & JOURNAL VOLUME

*1. *Adventures of Rabbah & Friends: The Talmud's Strange Tales and their Readers*. Monograph, forthcoming 2024. *Brown Judaic Studies* series. In production (copyediting), 7/23/24 (≈ 199,000 words). Proofs expected 9/15/24.

*2. *Talmud /and/ Philosophy: Conjunctions, Disjunctions, Continuities*. Ed. w/Sergey Dolgopolski. Indiana University Press, *New Jewish Philosophy & Thought* series, 2024.

*3. *The Making of Rabbinic Pasts*. Ed. w/Simcha Gross. Special issue of *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, vol. 30 no. 4 (2023).

*4. *From a Distant Relation*. Ed. & trans. of the Yiddish stories of M.Y. Berdichevsky. Author of historical-critical introduction (52 pp.); bibliography; endnotes; glossary; and translation/revisions, from Hebrew, of Foreword by Avner Holtzman. Syracuse University Press, *Judaic Traditions in Literature, Music & Art* series, 2021. 407 pp.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

*1. "Creative Historiography Today: Re-enchanting Isaak Heinemann." *JSQ* vol. 30 no. 4 (2023):391-417.

*2. (w/Simcha Gross): "The Making of Rabbinic Pasts." Introduction to special issue, *JSQ* vol. 30 no. 4 (2023):355-66.

*3. (w/Tamar Gutfeld): "The Anxiety of Tradition: Unrealized Weddings in Berdichevsky's Yiddish Stories." *Naharaim* 16 (1):101-127, 2022

*4. "Redacting Culture: Ethnographic Authority in the Talmudic Arrival Scene" *Jewish Social Studies* 22 (1):29-80, 2016

*5. "Behind Auerbach's 'Background': Five Ways to Read What Biblical Narratives Don't Say" *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 39 (1):121-150, 2015

*6. "Towards a History of Presence: Husserl's Intersubjectivity and Rouch's Montage" *Journal of the Philosophy of History* 7 (1):1-31, 2013

*7. "Being Time: Zen, Modernity, the Contemporary" *Diogenes* 58 (4): 88-103, 2012. In French, *La revue diogène*, 2010, 123-46. In Chinese, 第欧根尼, 2014, 106-24.

*8. "Cultural Identity from habitus to au-delà: Leïla Sebbar Encounters Her Algerian Father" *Research in African Literatures*, 39 (3):51-64, 2008

BOOK CHAPTERS

*1. "Pragmatic Points of View: Kant and the Rabbis, Together Again." In *Talmud /and/ Philosophy: Conjunctions, Disjunctions, Continuities*, ed. Sergey Dolgopolski and James Adam Redfield. Indiana Univ Press, 2024, 112-54.

- *2. "The Iridescence of Scripture: Inner-Talmudic Interpretation and Palestinian Midrash."
Studies in Rabbinic Narratives, Volume 1, ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. *Brown Judaic Studies* series, 2021, 115-75.
- *3. "Rabbinic Rites of the Suspected Adulteress." *Global Medieval Sourcebook* (Stanford), January 2021. [Open-access](#)
Annotated translation introduction/bibliography/edited text of Babylonian Talmud Sotah 7a-8b. Peer-reviewed.
- *4. "Auerbach at Saints Peter and Paul: *Mimesis* as Figural Autobiography."
In *Domenicani a Constantinopoli: prima e dopo l'impero ottomano*. Eds. Claudio Monge & Silvia Pedone.
2 vols. *Biblioteca di Memorie Domenicane* series. Florence: Nerbini, 2017. I:193-218.
- *5. "Crossing Border Lines: Daniel Boyarin's Life/Work."
In *Talmudic Transgressions: Engaging the Work of Daniel Boyarin*. Eds. Charlotte Fonrobert, Ishay Rosen-Zvi,
Aharon Shemesh & Moulie Vidas with my collaboration. *JSJ Supplements* series. Leiden: Brill, 2017. 541-65.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- *1. "Ethnography in Antiquity," in *Oxford Bibliographies in Anthropology*. Ed. John Jackson. New York: Oxford
University Press. 2019. 156 annotated entries; historical introduction; syntheses of each section. Peer-reviewed.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

- 1. "Myth" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: de Gruyter), XX: 474-78. 2022.
- 2. "Names" (Rabbinic Literature). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: de Gruyter), XX:681-85. 2022.
- 3. "Nation" (Hellenistic Judaism). *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (Berlin: de Gruyter), XX:880-84. 2022.

TRANSLATIONS

- 1. "Migrants." Translation of 1905-6 Yiddish monologues by M.Y. Berdichevsky, with critical introduction and notes.
Dibur (Stanford). August 15, 2021. 10,059 words.
- 2. "Uri Zvi Before the Cross." Yiddish prose-poem by Uri Tsvi Grinberg (1922), with notes. In *Geveb*, 2020 (July).
- 3. Four Yiddish stories by M.J. Berdichevsky: *Pakn Treger*, June 2018; *Yiddish Book Center* website, October 2017.
- 4. Three essays on rabbinic literature from the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* (by Zunz; Graetz; Hoffmann), with notes.
In *Classic Essays in Early Rabbinic Culture and History*, ed. Christine Hayes. London: Routledge, 2018.

WORKING PAPERS

- 1. "Cooking the Books: The Golem and the Ethics of Biotechnology"
Center for Biological Futures Working Papers 1, 2011. *Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*, Seattle
- 2. "'When X Arrived, he said': The Historical Career of a Talmudic Formula." Appendix to "Redacting Culture," 2016.
Specialized philological study (12,400 words). Published open-access, 11/5/16. Link @ <http://www.blackfire.life>

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 1. "The Hostages and Why We Must Redeem Them: A History," *Commentary*, 10/20/2023. 7 pages.
(ed./trans. of Hebrew original by Avital Davidovich-Eshed, Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Youval Rotman, Haim Weiss.)
- 2. "Diaspora," in *Keywords in Political Theology*. Political Theology Network. 4/12/2022. 8 pages.
- 3. "Fifty: A View from the Middle," *AJS Perspectives*. Association for Jewish Studies, 12/15/2018. 2 pages.
- 4. "Fate on Hold: Jewish Collectors at War," *The Revealer*. NYU Center for Religion & Media, 9/10/18. 15 pages.
- 5. "Curiouser and Curiouser: In Search of the Rabbis' Ethnography," *Ancient Jew Review*, 2/20/2018. 10 pages.
- 6. "Der Opfer ist einfach zu dumm," *die tageszeitung*, 4/4/08, p. 15.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 1. Adi Ophir & Ishay Rosen-Zvi, *Goy: Israel's Multiple Others & the Birth of the Gentile*. *Reading Religion*, 8/28/19.
- 2. Jane L. Kanarek, *Biblical Narrative and the Formation of Rabbinic Law*. *AJSR* (40) 1:13-16, 2016
- 3. Sergey Dolgopolsky, *What is Talmud?: The Art of Disagreement*. *La revue diogène*, 131-136, 2013 [French].
English original in *Diogenes* 61 (1):97-100, 2016

IN PRESS (letters from publication editors available upon request)

- *. חדרוש. ["Innovation."] In *Philological Practices: A Comparative Historical Lexicon*, ed. Glenn Most et al. 1,212 words. Submitted 6/2/23, revision accepted 6/4/24, forthcoming with Princeton University Press in 2025.
- *2. "Kant's Racist Anthropology in Context: Ethnographic Archives of the German Enlightenment." Peer-reviewed journal article: 17,335 words, 112 notes. In press, forthcoming in *CROMOHS* 27 (2024).

GRANTS & RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS (post-baccalaureate)

- Humboldt Foundation research fellowship at the University of Potsdam's *Institut für jüdische Theologie* (2021–2024)
- Cornell University Society for the Humanities/Program in Jewish Studies faculty fellowship (2019-2020)
- Stanford Humanities Center/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation dissertation fellowship (2016-2017)
- Yiddish Book Center translation fellowship (2015-2016)
- Center for Biological Futures/Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center research fellowship (2010-2011)
- Regents fellowship/Dean's Normative Time fellowship for doctoral work in Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley (2008-13)
- Fulbright Foundation scholarship (Israel. Declined due to conflict with U.C. Berkeley doctoral fellowship; 2008-09)
- Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin, research fellowship in core Institute project *Tension/Spannung* (2007-2008)
- DAAD scholarship at the Free University of Berlin Peter Szondi Institute of Comparative Literature (2006-2007)

INVITED LECTURES (post-doctoral; selected)

- University of Toronto (SSHRC-sponsored): "Commentary as Ethnography: The Case of Early Rabbinic Law," 3/1/24
- Berlin Center for Intellectual Diaspora, "*Aggadah* between Myth & Literature: Heinemann's Theopolitics," 7/11/23
- Northwestern, Jewish/Religious Studies Depts.: "The Ethnography of Superstition in Late Ancient Judaism," 1/17/23
- עמדה במינוח האגדה ["'Stance' in the Terminology of Aggada"], *World Union of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, 8/9/22
- University of Chicago, "Reading Strange Talmudic Stories from Medieval to Early Modern Ashkenaz," 1/24/22
- École Pratique des Hautes Études (Paris), "Quels genres grecs en Babylonie juive?: esquisse d'un modèle," 11/23/21
- Princeton, Religion Dept. : "Dispatches from Whale Island: Babylonian Jewish Hellenization Revisited," 11/18/19
- Cornell, Near Eastern Studies Dept. : "Alexander Goes East: Finding Romance in the Talmud," 11/11/19
- Duke, Clark Ctr. for Late Ancient Studies: "Stranger than Fiction: Talmudic Paradoxography," 10/24/19
- Northwestern, *German-Jewish Hermeneutics* faculty conference: "Berdichevsky's Christianities," 10/29/18
- NYU, Rabbinic Narratives faculty conference: "From Place to Space: The Remaking of Late Antiquity," 6/4/18
- Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies, Patterson Lecture: "Berdichevsky's Yiddish Translations," 6/5/17

HONORS (post-doctoral)

- Finalist for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching award, St. Louis University (2019 & 2020)
- Belgian American Educational Foundation Honorary Fellow (declined due to conflict w/Cornell fellowship; 2019-20)
- Finalist for Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study faculty fellowship (2019-20)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Editorial board, editor for pre-modern book reviews, *Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History*, since 2018
- Advisory Board member, *Center for Religious and Legal History*, Saint Louis University, since 2020
- Co-coordinator of Law, Religion, and Politics Program, Saint Louis University, since 2024
- Co-chair, since 2022; steering committee member, 2017-21: SBL program unit, "Religious World of Late Antiquity"
- Peer reviewer, Cambridge University Press; *Journal of Jewish Thought & Philosophy*; *Oqimta*; *Prooftexts*; *Religions*

DOCTORAL SUPERVISION (* : advisor or co-advisor; ** : committee member)

- *1. Laura Locke Estes, Assistant Professor of Religion, Pepperdine University (PhD Saint Louis University, 2022)*
- **2. Samuel Catlin, Visiting Assistant Professor, SUNY Buffalo (PhD University of Chicago, 2022)**
- *3. Jenifer Mabray, Saint Louis University, Theological Studies (M.A. SLU 2023; PhD student in History at Brandeis)*
- *4. William Potter, Saint Louis University, Theological Studies PhD student (2020; U. of Illinois MLIS, 2022–present)*

TEACHING (listed by newly taught course titles, in reverse-chronological order)

- "Writing the Other in the Ancient World," University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2023 & 2022
- "Law & Culture in Rabbinic Literature," University of Chicago Divinity School, Spring 2023 & 2022

3. "The Legal Imagination in Judaism." Theological Studies, Saint Louis University, Summer 2024, Spring 2023, Summer 2023, Spring 2021. (Core course in Law, Religion & Politics program; see further Professional Service)
4. "World Religions & Human Problems." Theological Studies, Saint Louis University
Fall 2024, Spring 2022, Fall 2020 (2 sections)
5. "Tradition & Modernity: The Jewish Case and Beyond." Cornell University, Program in Jewish Studies, Spring 2020
6. (w/Eleonore Stump): "The Pathos of Narrative: Jewish & Christian Perspectives on Human Suffering."
Graduate seminar. Theological Studies/Philosophy, St. Louis University, Spring 2019
7. (w/Atria Larson): "At the Crossroads of Jewish & Christian Law." Honors program undergraduate seminar
Theological Studies, St. Louis University, Spring 2019
8. "Stranger Things: People & Places through Religious Travelers' Eyes." Saint Louis University, Fall 2018
9. "Judaism & Christianity in Antiquity: Textual & Comparative Approaches." Theological Studies, St. Louis
University, Graduate seminar, Spring 2018
10. "Introduction to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible." Theological Studies, Saint Louis University. Undergrad (Spring
2024, 2 sections; Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017) & Grad (Fall 2024; Spring 2021, Fall 2017)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

1. *Futures of Tradition* symposium hosted by Cornell Society for the Humanities/Jewish Studies, 11-12 September 2022
(Speakers: J. Boyarin; S. Catlin; E. Fiano; T. Gutfeld; A. Kirk; N. Lebovic; L. Monroe; D. Padilla-Peralta; K. Sonia; M. Vidas; E. Yiğit; K. Yu; A. Zirkle.)
2. Faculty seminar: *Rabbinic Historical Horizons*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/2019. Chair: J. Rubenstein.
(organized with S. Gross. Presenters: Gross & Redfield; M. Balberg; N. Dohrmann; H. Lapin; A. Yoshiko Reed).
3. Panel: *Re-reading the Self (Biblical/Rabbinic)*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/17/2018
(served as respondent. Panelists: J. Levinson; J. Vayntrub; D. Lambert. Chair: K. Sonia)
4. Panel: *The Art of Nostalgia in Ancient Jewish Literatures*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/17/17
(Panelists: J. Vayntrub; A. Yoshiko Reed. Respondent: I. Rosen-Zvi. Chair: S. Weitzman)
5. Panel: *The Rite of the Suspected Adulteress*, Association for Jewish Studies, 12/19/16
(organized with Z. Septimus. Panelists: C. Fonrobert, S. Dolgopolsky, D. Weiss. Chair: G. Hasan-Rokem)
6. Panel: *Rabbinic Anthropologies*, American Anthropological Association, 11/20/15
(organized with J. Boyarin, chair. Panelists: N. Rubin, S. Fishbane, E. Berkowitz, S. Guzman Carmeli)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (post-doctoral, selected)

1. "From Cultural Ambassadors to Babylonian Avatars: The Naḥote Revisited,"
Talmudic Literature Conference, Yale University, 4/23/23
2. "Traveling Rabbis and the Talmud as History"
Teaching & Transmitting the Past, 6th Annual Symposium on Medieval & Renaissance Studies (SLU), 6/20/18
3. "Embedding, Sublation, Ambivalence: Ethnographic Techniques in Early Rabbinic Law"
What Did the Rabbis Know?, Association for Jewish Studies faculty seminar, 12/18/2017
4. "Lost & Found." *Six Things about Late Antiquity* panel, Society of Biblical Literature, 11/19/2017

LANGUAGES

Proficient Reading, Orality, Writing: French, German

Proficient Reading, Advanced Orality, Intermediate Writing: Hebrew, Yiddish

Advanced Reading: Jewish Aramaic (Palestinian & Babylonian); Italian

Good Reading (1-year equivalent formal study, several years of regular reading groups + study): Classical Syriac

Some Reading (min. 1-year-equivalent each of formal study + further reading): Latin; Koine Greek; Attic Greek

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: Society of Biblical Literature; Association for Jewish Studies