

JOHN ROBERT MANDSAGER

Curriculum Vitae

3204 Wilmot Avenue
Columbia, SC 29205
mandsage@mailbox.sc.edu
(650) 533-3022

Religious Studies, Rutledge 332
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
(803) 575-0787

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Religious Studies, Stanford University

Stanford, CA, 2014

Dissertation

“To Stake a Claim: The Making of Rabbinic Agricultural Spaces in the Roman Countryside.”

Primary Advisor: Charlotte E. Fonrobert (Stanford University)

Visiting Research Fellow, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Rothberg International School, Jerusalem, Israel 2011-2012

M.A. Jewish Studies with Honors, Graduate Theological Union

Berkeley, CA, 2005

Thesis: “Do Not Disturb: Identity, Autonomy and the Inn in Rabbinic Storytelling.”

M.A. Religious Studies, Stanford University

Stanford, CA, 2003

B.A. Religious Studies with Honors and Psychology, Stanford University

Stanford, CA, 2002

Thesis: “The ‘Eruv: A Space for Negotiating Identity.”

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Religious Studies and Jewish Studies, University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC, 2019-

Lecturer in Jewish Studies and Assistant Director of the Jewish Studies Program, University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC, 2016-2018

Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies, University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC, 2014-2016

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Religion and spaces, Rabbinic literature, literatures and cultures of the Hebrew Bible, religions of Late Antiquity, the history of biblical interpretation, rhetorical and physical boundary-making, creation and maintenance of religious identities, gender and spatial theory.

PUBLICATIONS

Current projects

“The Visual Field: Communicating Knowledge through the Arrangement of Rabbinic Space.”

“A Tale of Two Fathers: Space and Leadership in the Origin Story of Eliezer ben Hyrcanus.”

Agricultural Space, Visuality, and Performance in Early Rabbinic Judaism.

Peer reviewed articles and book chapters

Forthcoming 2020 “Agriculture and Industry.” *A Companion to Jews and Judaism in the Late Antique World, 3rd Century BCE – 7th Century CE.* Edited by Gwynn Kessler and Naomi Koltun-Fromm. Wiley Blackwell.

Forthcoming 2020 “Premodern Jewish Travel Literature.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies.* Edited by Naomi Seidman. Oxford.

2011 “Travel, the Inn, and Identity in Rabbinic Storytelling.” *Symposia* 3 (2011): 70-88. Online.

Book reviews

2018 “Jordan D. Rosenblum. *The Jewish Dietary Laws in the Ancient World.* Cambridge University Press, 2016. 193 pp.” Review Article. *Ancient Jew Review.* Online.

2018 “Sonja K. Pilz. *Food and Fear: Metaphors of Bodies and Spaces in the Stories of Destruction.* Judentum—Christentum—Islam: Interreligiöse Studien, Band 14. Würzburg: Ergon-Verlag, 2016. 195 pp.” Review Article. *AJS Review* 42:1 (2018): 214-215. Print.

2017 “David A. Lambert. *How Repentance Became Biblical: Judaism, Christianity, and the Interpretation of Scripture.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2016, xiii, 266 pp.” Review Article. *JAAR* 85:1 (1 June 2017): 561-563. Print.

2016 “Problems of Poverty and the Recently Impoverished, on Gregg E. Gardner. *The Origins of Organized Charity in Rabbinic Judaism.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015, xvi, 235 pp.” Review Article. *Marginalia* (August 16, 2016). Online.

2010 “Yehudah B. Cohn. *Tangled Up in Text: Tefillin and the Ancient World.* Providence: Brown Judaic Studies, 2008, xi, 141 pp.” Review Article. *AJS Review* 34:2 (2010): 413-415. Print.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2019 “Ascent and *Adventus*: Questioning a Roman Ceremonial Context for Mishnah Bikkurim (First-Fruits).” Unpublished paper to be presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego CA. December 2019.

2019 “A Tale of Two Fathers: Leadership between the Estate and the Study House in the Origin Story of Eliezer ben Hyrcanus.” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, San Diego CA. November 2019.

2018 “Ascent, Performance, and Textual Space: Pilgrimage to the Mountain and its Temple in Early Rabbinic Literature.” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature

Conference, Denver CO. November 2018.

- 2017** “The Visual Field: Communicating Knowledge through the Arrangement of Rabbinic Space.” Seminar: “What did the Rabbis Know? Exploring Jewish Knowledge Culture(s) in Late Antiquity.” Paper and discussion presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington DC. December 2017.
- 2017** “Spatial Utopias in Late Antiquity: Travel to and from the Sacred Center.” Unpublished Paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Boston MA. November 2017.
- 2017** “The Border of the Field and the Gaze of the Neighbor: Intersections of Identity and Space in Early Rabbinic Literature.” Unpublished paper presented at the 4th Annual Workshop, The Postgraduate and Early Career Late Antiquity Network: Borders, Boundaries and Barriers, Institute of Classical Studies, London. September 2017.
- 2016** “The Roman Villa as a Model for Rabbinic Competition in the Judean Hills.” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, San Antonio TX. November 2016.
- 2015** “Sex, Food, and Family in Early Rabbinic Literature: Spoiling the Dish.” Unpublished paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston MA. December 2015.
- 2015** “Rabbinic Discourse on Marriage and Divorce: Questions of Image and Textuality in bGittin 90” (Lightning Session). Panel participant at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston MA. December 2015.
- 2015** “The Sabbatical Year in Tannaitic Literature: Halakha, the Borders of Rabbinic Identity, and Ecological Principle?” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Atlanta GA. November 2015.
- 2015** “The Rabbinic Estate and the Roman Villa: Jewish Agricultural Space in the Judaeen Hills.” Unpublished paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Southeastern Commission for the Study of Religion Conference, Nashville TN. March 2015.
- 2013** “Landscape Architecture and the Micro-Spaces of the Rabbinic Estate.” Unpublished graduate student “Lightning Round” paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston MA. December 2013.
- 2013** “Mapping the Rabbinic Estate: Kilayim and the Transformation of the Countryside.” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Baltimore MD. November 2013.
- 2012** “Building a Fence around the Torah: Fencing and Other Marks of Distinction in Tannaitic Literature.” Unpublished paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago IL. December 2012.

- 2011** “Rabbinic Literary Resistance to the *Sikarikon*.” Unpublished paper presented at the Society of Biblical Literature Pacific Coast Region Conference, Whittier CA. March 2011.
- 2005** “‘One Time Israel Desired to Send a Present to Caesar’: The Construction of Being Through Speech.” Unpublished paper presented at the American Academy of Religion Western Region Conference, Tempe, AZ. March 2005.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Introduction to Religious Studies, Introduction to Judaism, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible, the History of Biblical Interpretation, Religions of Late Antiquity, Second Temple Judaism, Jewish Spaces in Rabbinic Literature, Sacred Space, St. Paul and the Politics of Religion, Gender and Judaism, Rabbinic Literature, including Mishnah, Tosefta and the Babylonian Talmud, Ethics and Religion, Religion and the Arts.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of South Carolina

“Introduction to Judaism,” Religious Studies 230; Jewish Studies 230
(USC Spring 2019)

“Jewish History I: Late Antiquity to 1500,” Religious Studies 381; Jewish Studies 381; History 383
(USC Fall 2014, Fall 2017)

“Hebrew Bible (Old Testament),” Religious Studies 301; Jewish Studies 301; History 492
(USC Fall 2015, Spring 2017, Fall 2018)

“Old Testament Prophets,” Religious Studies 321; Jewish Studies 491
(USC Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

“The Bible in History: The Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible from the Rabbis to America,”
Religious Studies 291-02; History 492-02
(USC Spring 2015)

“Sex, Gender, and Religion,” Religious Studies 333; Women and Gender Studies 333
(USC Spring 2019)

“Religion and the Arts,” Religious Studies 270
(USC Fall 2017)

“Exploring Religion,” Religious Studies 101
(USC Fall 2018)

“Morality, Ethics & Religion,” Religious Studies 205
(USC Spring 2018)

“Social Advocacy and Ethical Life,” SAEL 200
(USC Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

Stanford University

“Sacred Space,” Religious Studies 134; Jewish Studies 134
(Stanford Winter 2013)

“Introduction to Zen Buddhism,” (Teaching Assistant) Religious Studies 18
(Stanford Spring 2010 and Fall 2008) Supervisor: Prof. Carl Bielefeldt.

“St. Paul and the Politics of Religion,” (Teaching Intern) Religious Studies 148A
(Stanford Winter 2010) Supervisor: Prof. Charlotte Fonrobert.

“Introduction to Judaism,” (Teaching Assistant) Religious Studies 23
(Stanford Spring 2009) Supervisor: Dr. Ariella Radwin.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPERIENCE

Excavator, IRC-Stanford-Oxford Forum Project, Rome Italy, Summer 2003.

Supervisor: Prof. Jennifer Trimble, Stanford University.

Participated in the archaeological excavation of a trench in the Roman Forum. Excavated trench and recorded strata levels and finds according to the London Museum recording scheme.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Taube Center for Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Grant
Stanford University, 2012-2013

Taube Center for Jewish Studies Dissertation Research and Travel Grant
Stanford University, 2011-2012

Reinhard Fund in Humanities and Sciences Research Grant
Stanford University, 2011-2012

Jewish Community Endowment Newhouse Fund Research Grants
Stanford University, 2011, 2010, 2009, and 2008

Robert C. and Mary Layne Gregg Fellowship
Stanford University, 2010-2012

Religious Studies Departmental Fellowship
Stanford University, 2007-2010

HONORS AND AWARDS

M.A. Honors, Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies
Graduate Theological Union, 2005

Bernard Osher Foundation Award Scholarship
Graduate Theological Union, 2004 and 2005

Award for Best Honors Thesis in Religious Studies
Stanford University, 2002

David M. Kennedy Award for Best Undergraduate Essay in Jewish Studies
“The ‘Eruv: A Space for Negotiating Identity,” Stanford University, 2002

Undergraduate Honors, Department of Religious Studies
Stanford University, 2002

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TALKS

- 2018** “Theology on Tap.” Columbia, SC, July 2018.
- 2015** “Finding God between the Sheets,” Panelist, Wellness Week: Sextacular
University of South Carolina, September 2015.
- 2015** “The Order and the Beauty of the Jewish Garden in the Roman Empire”
Jewish Community Center, Columbia, SC, July 2015.
- 2015** Panel Moderator for David Nirenberg, Solomon-Tenenbaum Lecture
University of South Carolina, February 2015.
- 2014** “Body, Mind and Soul: Exploring Perspectives on Religion, Spirituality, and Sexuality,”
Panelist, Carolina SPEAKS Conference
University of South Carolina, October 2014.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature, and Association for Jewish Studies.

LANGUAGES

Reading proficiency:

Modern Hebrew

Ancient Hebrew

Aramaic

Reading capability with a dictionary:

Ancient Greek

German

Spanish

SERVICE

Undergraduate Director, Religious Studies Program, University of South Carolina. (2018-)

Assistant Director, Jewish Studies Program, University of South Carolina (2016-2019)

Objectives achieved: approval of an Undergraduate Minor in Jewish Studies, expansion of the Jewish Studies curriculum.

Current objectives: approval and search for Hebrew instruction on campus, expansion of the Jewish Studies curriculum, and a capital campaign to raise funds for a Jewish Studies Center on campus, as well as foundation growth, community outreach, and campus programming

Active participant in Religious Studies department and Jewish Studies program meetings. Active participant in Jewish Faculty and Staff Council.

Ongoing planning and support for the annual Solomon-Tenenbaum Lectureship in Jewish Studies, University of South Carolina.

Planning and support for the 17th Annual Comparative Literature Conference, University of South Carolina, “Women and the Holocaust: Cultural Productions and Interpretations,” March 2015.

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor

2019 Aaron Schnupp

Master's Thesis Reader

2019 Carlos Gomez Marquez

2019 Hannah Ford

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2019- Steering committee member, Religious Competition in Late Antiquity Group, Society of Biblical Literature.

2019 Book proposal review, Oxford University Press.

2019 Article evaluation, Journal of Religious Competition in Antiquity.

REFERENCES

Prof. Stanley Dubinsky, University of South Carolina
Former director of the Jewish Studies Program
(803) 777-2208, Dubinsky@sc.edu
Humanities Office Building 217
1620 College Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Associate Prof. Federica K. Clementi, University of South Carolina
Interim Director of the Jewish Studies Program
(803) 576-5885, clementi@mailbox.sc.edu
Humanities Office Building 508
1620 College Street
Columbia, SC 29208

Prof. Charlotte Fonrobert, Stanford University
(650) 725-1713, fonrober@stanford.edu
Building 70, 71G1
Stanford, California 94305-2165

Prof. Steven Weitzman, University of Pennsylvania
(215) 238-1290, x 505, wsteve@sas.upenn.edu
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies 420 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Prof. Shahzad Bashir, Brown University
Shahzad_bashir@brown.edu
Middle East Studies
111 Thayer Street, Brown University, Box 1970, Providence, RI 02912