

Curriculum Vitae and Publication List

Mordechai Z. Cohen

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Current Position: Professor of Bible and Associate Dean
Director of the Chinese-Jewish Conversation
Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University
500 West 185th Street
New York, NY 10033

Areas of specialization

- Jewish Bible interpretation in its Christian and Muslim cultural contexts
- literary approaches to the Bible
- comparison between the dynamics of interpretation of Jewish and Chinese classical texts
- Chinese-Jewish cultural exchanges

Academic Positions and Employment

REGULAR EMPLOYMENT

2008–present Professor of Bible and Associate Dean, Bernard Revel Graduate School,
Yeshiva University
2000–2008 Associate Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University
1994–2000 Assistant Professor of Bible, Yeshiva University
1992–1994 Instructor of Bible, Yeshiva University
1988–1992 Adjunct Instructor of Bible, Yeshiva University
1987–1988 Bible Instructor, Yeshivat Har Etzion (Israel)

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

2018–present Founding director of the Chinese-Jewish Conversation (CJC) and Faculty
Advisor to the Chinese Student Union at YU. In cooperation with Chinese
scholars, CJC organizes lectures, symposia, and online courses comparing
Jewish and Chinese traditions. Apart from providing a welcome space for
Chinese students at YU, CJC has developed video libraries in English and
Chinese on topics of mutual interest, as well as a Chinese-language blog about
Jewish culture . See <https://www.yu.edu/cjc>
2010–2011 Coordinator of a 14-member international research group at the Israel Institute
for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. Project title: “Encountering Scripture in
Overlapping Cultures: Early Jewish, Christian and Muslim Strategies of
Reading and Their Contemporary Implications,” leading to the publication of
*Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Overlapping
Inquiries* (Cambridge University Press, 2016; see details below).
2008–2011 Division editor (responsible for medieval Judaism) for *The Encyclopedia of the
Bible and its Reception*, a comprehensive multi-volume print and online
reference work, published by Walter de Gruyter (Berlin-New York) 2009-2018
(volumes 1 & 2 published in 2009; volume 3 published in 2011)

FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING PROFESSOR POSITIONS
2016–2019, 2024

EDITED VOLUMES

Semitic, Biblical and Jewish Studies in Honor of Richard C. Steiner, ed. with Aaron Koller and Adina Moshavi. 434pp. Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2020.

8. “Nahmanides’ Four Senses of Scriptural Signification: Jewish and Christian Contexts,” in *Entangled Histories: Knowledge, Authority, and Transmission in Thirteenth-*

4. "Maimonides." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2019), 17:551–566.
5. "Ibn Ezra, Moses." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2016), 12: 719-726.
6. "From epistemic skepticism to spiritual exercises: Maimonides' concept of intellectual perfection." Review of Josef Stern, *The Matter and Form of Maimonides' Guide* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013). *The Review of Metaphysics* 68:4 (2014/15): 871-874.
7. "Gaon, Geonim," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2014), 9:961-967.
8. "En-Dor, Medium of," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 7:873-874.
9. "Eliezer of Beaugency," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 7:674-677.
10. "Doors [in Jewish interpretation]," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 6:1093-1094.
11. "Commandments, 613," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2012), 5:531-535.
12. "Bahya ben Asher," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2011), 3:345-348.
13. Entries on: Abravanel, Eliezer of Beaugency, Moses ibn Gikatilla, Abraham Ibn Ezra, Moses Ibn Ezra, Kimhi Family, *PARDES*, *Peshat*, Rashi in the *Oxford Dictionary of the Jewish Religion*, 2d edition, ed. Maxine Grossman and Adele Berlin (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)
14. "Andalusia, Jewish I01 (nc)4 (y)4 (r)3r Bation," *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* 91 (R)1 (e)4 (c)4 (e)3 pvti Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2011):

“Chinese and Jewish New Year Concepts Compared.” Chinese-

“‘The Distinction of Creative Ability’ (*fa l al-*): From Poetics to Legal Hermeneutics in Moses Ibn Ezra,” paper delivered at the international conference of the IAS research group,

“On the Expression

“Samson’s Sin and Salvation: Comparative Readings of a Biblical Hero,” Yeshiva College English Honor Society; February 1990.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

External dissertation reader at North American, European, and Israeli universities

Referee for tenure and promotion at North American, European, and Israeli universities

Manuscript Reader for Brill Academic Press

Research / Publication Grant Consultant: Israel Academy of Science; Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; Koret Jewish Studies Publications Program

Publication Referee for *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Internet Journal*, *Tarbiz*, *The Torah U-Madda Journal*

TEACHING

Graduate:

Rashi's Peshat Revolution
Faith and Doubt in the Book of Job
Philosophical vs. Kabbalistic biblical interpretation
Readings in Biblical Narrative: Book of Samuel
Readings in Biblical Poetry: Psalms
Readings in Biblical Poetry: Song of Songs
French Tradition of Biblical Exegesis
Spanish Tradition of Biblical Exegesis
Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis
Nahmanides' Exegesis and Thought
Literary Approaches to Biblical Metaphor