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## **Dr. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

#### **Teaching and Academic Experience**

2007 Skirball Professor of Talmud, Dept of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU  
 2003 Professor, Dept of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU  
 1999 Associate Professor, Dept of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU  
 1993 Assistant Professor, Dept of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, NYU  
 1996 Visiting Professor, Jewish Theological Seminary  
 1993 Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania, History Department  
 1992 Lecturer, Graetz College, Philadelphia, Jewish Philosophy  
 1990-2 Scholar in Residence, Har Zion Synagogue, Philadelphia  
 1990 Lecturer, Columbia University, Religion Department

#### **Education**

1992 Ph.D., Columbia University, Dept. of Religion  
 1991 Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary  
 1990 Visiting Doctoral Student, Hebrew University  
 1990 M. Phil., Columbia University, Dept. of Religion  
 1987 M.A., Talmud and Rabbinics, Jewish Theological Seminary  
 1985 B.A., Religion, Oberlin College

#### **Awards and Fellowships**

2013 Fellow, American Academy for Jewish Research  
 2013 Tikvah Fellow, Tikvah Center for Law and Jewish Civilization, NYU Law School  
 2004-5 National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship  
 1999 Finalist, American Jewish Book Awards, Scholarship division  
 1991 Whiting Fellowship, Columbia University (declined)  
 1990 University Fellowship, Hebrew University  
 1985 Phi Beta Kappa

## Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion  
 Society of Biblical Literature  
 Association for Jewish Studies, Book Review Editor (2002-2006), Editorial Board (2002-)  
 Jewish Law Association  
 Society of Jewish Ethics (board)

## Publications:

### Books:

*The History of Sukkot in the Second Temple and Rabbinic Periods.* (Brown Judaica Series 302; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995).

*Talmudic Stories: Narrative Art, Composition and Culture.* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.)

*Rabbinic Stories.* In “The Classics of Western Spirituality” series. (New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2002)

*The Culture of the Babylonian Talmud* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003)

*Stories of the Babylonian Talmud* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010)

*The Land of Truth: Talmudic Readings* (Nebraska: Jewish Publication Society, forthcoming 2017)

## Edited and Translated Volumes:

*Creation and Composition: The Contribution of the Bavli Redactors (Stammam) to the Aggada.* Edited by Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. (Tuebingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2005).

*The Formation of the Babylonian Talmud.* By David Weiss Halivni. Translated, Introduced and Annotated by Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013).

*Nominalism and Realism in Halakha Revisited*, special volume of *Diné Yisrael* 30 (2015). Edited by Jeffrey L. Rubenstein, Yair Lorberbaum, and Suzanne Last Stone.

*The Aggadah of the Bavli and its Cultural World.* Ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein and Geoffrey Herman (forthcoming.)

**Articles:**

- (1) "Siddur Sim Shalom and Developing Conservative Theology." *Conservative Judaism* 49 (Fall, 1988), 21-38.
- (2) "Ethics and the Liturgy of Conservative Judaism." *Judaism* 40 (Winter, 1991), 95-114.
- (3) "Purim, Liminality, Communitas." *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 17 (1992), 247-277.
- (4) "The Sukkah as Temporary or Permanent Dwelling: A Study in the Development of Talmudic Thought." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 64 (1993), 137-166.
- (5) "Cultic Themes in Sukkot Piyyutim." *Proceedings of the American Academy of Jewish Religion* 49 (1993), 185-209.
- (6) "The Symbolism of the Sukkah." *Judaism* 43 (Fall, 1994), 371-387.
- (7) "The Sadducees and the Water Libation." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 84:4 (1994), 413-440.
- (8) "The Talmudic Expression: 'Rabbi X, According to His Reasoning, Said'" ר' [פלוגי לטעמיה דאמר]. *Sidra* 10 (1995), 111-130 (Hebrew).
- (9) "From Mythic Motifs to Sustained Myth: The Revision of Rabbinic Traditions in Medieval Midrashim." *Harvard Theological Review* 89:2 (1996), 131-160.
- (10) "Sukkot, Eschatology and Zechariah 14." *Revue Biblique* 103-2 (1996), 161-195.
- (11) "An Eschatological Drama: Bavli Avodah Zarah 2a-3b." *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 21:1 (1996), 1-37.
- (12) "The Symbolism of the Sukkah (Part 2)." *Judaism* 45 (1996), 387-398.
- (13) "On Some Abstract Concepts in Rabbinic Literature." *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 4 (1997), 33-73.
- (14) "Mythic Time and the Festival Cycle." *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 6 (1997), 157-183.
- (15) "Bavli Gittin 55b-56b: An Aggada and its Halakhic Context." *Hebrew Studies* 38 (1997), 21-45.

- (16) “Elisha ben Abuya: Torah and the Sinful Sage.” *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 7 (1998), 141-222.
- (17) “The ‘Laws of Heaven’ in *Sefer Hasidim*.” In *Freedom and Responsibility: Exploring the Dilemmas of Jewish Continuity*. Ed. M. Edelman and R. Geffen (Gratz College Festschrift) (New York: Ktav, 1998), 69-89.
- (18) “The Sukkot Wine Libation.” In *Ki Baruch hu, Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical and Judaic Studies in Honor of Baruch A. Levine*. Eds. R. Chazan, W.W. Hallo, and L. H. Schiffman (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1998).
- (19) “Nominalism and Realism in Qumranic and Rabbinic Law: A Reassessment.” *Dead Sea Discoveries* 6 (1999), 157-183.
- (20) “The Plot Against Rabban Shimon b. Gamaliel (bHorayot 13b-14a): A Literary Analysis.” *Proceedings of the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies-1998* (2001): 429-444
- (21) “The Bavli’s Ethic of Shame.” *Conservative Judaism* 53:3 (2001), 27-39.
- (22) “The Rise of the Babylonian Talmudic Academy: A Reexamination of the Talmudic Evidence.” *Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal* (<http://www.biu.ac.il/JS/JSIJ/jsij1.html>; 2002)
- (23) “Some Structural Patterns of Yerushalmi *Sugyot*.” In *The Talmud Yerushalmi in Graeco-Roman Culture III*. Ed. Peter Schaefer (Tubingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2003), 303-314
- (24) “The Thematization of Dialectics in Bavli Aggadah.” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 53:2 (2003), 71-84.
- (25) “Coping with the Virtues of the Land of Israel: An Analysis of Bavli Ketubot 110b-112a” [התמודדות עם מעלות ארץ ישראל: ניתוח סוגיית בבלי, כתובות קי ע"א-קיב ע"ב]. In *Israel-Diapora Relations in the Second Temple and Talmudic Periods*. Ed. I. Gafni (Jerusalem: Shazar Institute, 2004), 159-88 (Hebrew).
- (26) “The Explanation of Tannaitic Sources by Abstract Principles.” In *Neti'ot Ledavid: Jubilee Volume for David Weiss Halivni*. [פירושי מקורות תנאיים על ידי י. גפני]. Eds. Y. Elman, E. Halivni and Z. Steinfeld. (Jerusalem: Orhot Press, 2004), 275-304 (Hebrew).
- (27) “On the Culture of the Bavli.” In *Of Scribes and Sages: Early Jewish Interpretation and Transmission of Scripture*, vol. 2.. Ed. Craig E. Evans. (London: T & T Clark, 2004, 115-122.)

- (28) "Introduction." In *Creation and Composition: The Contribution of the Bavli Redactors (Stammaim) to the Aggada*. Ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. (Tuebingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2005), 1-21.
- (29) "Criteria of Stammaitic Intervention in Aggada." In *Creation and Composition: The Contribution of the Bavli Redactors (Stammaim) to the Aggada*. Ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein. (Tuebingen: Mohr-Siebeck, 2005), 417-440.
- (30) "The Story of the Oven of Akhnai: Literary Analysis" [סיפור תנור של עכנאי: ניתוח] [ספרותי]. In *Higayon L'Yona: New Aspects in the Study of Midrash, Aggadah and Piyyut. in Honor of Yonah Fraenkel*. Ed. J. Levinson. (Magnes Press, Hebrew University, 2006), 457-478 (Hebrew).
- (31) "Context and Genre: Elements of a Literary Approach to the Rabbinic Narrative." *How Should Rabbinic Literature be Read in the Modern World*. Ed. Matthew Krauss. (Piscataway, NJ: Gorgias Press, 2006), 137-166.
- (32) "Dialectics and the Aggada of the Bavli" [הדיאלקטיקה כנושא מרכזי באגדה הבבלית]. *Dinei Yisrael* 24 (2007), 215-233.
- (33) "Social and Institutional Settings of Rabbinic Literature." *The Cambridge Companion to Rabbinic Literature*. Eds. Charlotte Fonrobert and Martin Jaffee. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 58-74.
- (34) "Talmudic Astrology: *Bavli Šabbat 156a-b*." *Hebrew Union College Annual* 78 (2007)
- (35) "The Shaming of Abdan." *Torah le-Shamma: Shamma Friedman Jubilee Volume*. Edited M. Benovitz et al. (Jerusalem: Leshon Limudim, 2008), xx-xxvii.
- (36) "Talmudic Stories and Their Rewards." *Why Study Talmud in the Twenty-First Century?* Ed. Paul Socken (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), 177-94
- (37) "Astrology and the Head of the Academy." *Shoshanat Ya'aqov (Ya'aqov Elman Festschrift)*. Ed. Shai Secunda and Steven Fine (BRLJ 35; Leiden: Brill, 2012), 303-21.
- (38) "Introduction." In *The Formation of the Babylonian Talmud*, by David Weiss Halivni. Translated, Introduced and Annotated by Jeffrey L. Rubenstein (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), xvii-xxxv.
- (39) "King Herod in Ardashir's Court: The Rabbinic Story of Herod (Bava Batra 3b-4a) in light of Persian Sources." *AJSR* 38:2 (2014), 231-56.
- (40) "Nominalism and Realism Again," *Nominalism and Realism in Halakha Revisited*, special volume of *Diné Yisrael* 30 (2015), 79-120.

- (41) “Can a *Goses* Survive for More Than Three Days? The History and Definition of the *Goses*,” *Jewish Ethics* 2 (2016), 1-37.
- (42) “A Rabbinic Translation of Relics.” *Crossing Boundaries in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity: Ambiguities, Complexities, and Half-Forgotten Adversaries: Essays in Honor of Alan F. Segal*. Ed. Kimberly Stratton and Andrea Lieber (Leiden: Brill, 2016), 314-334.
- (43) “Hero, Saint, and Sage: The Life of R. Eleazar b. R. Shimon in *Pesiqta deRav Kahana* 11.” *The Faces of Torah: Studies in the Texts and Contexts of Ancient Judaism in Honor of Steven Fraade*. Ed. Michal Bar-Asher Siegal, Tzvi Novick and Christine Hayes (Vanderhoeck and Ruprecht, 2017).
- (44) “Levels of Generality and Rabbinic Law.” *Burton D. Morris Jubilee Volume*. Ed. Menachem Butler. (Forthcoming).
- (45) “Martyrdom in the *Persian Martyr Acts* and in the Babylonian Talmud.” *The Aggadah of the Bavli and its Cultural World*. Ed. Jeffrey L. Rubenstein and Geoffrey Herman (Forthcoming.)

### Review Essay:

“The Exegetical Narrative: New Directions.” Review of Joshua Levinson, *Ha-Sipur she-lo’ supar* [The Twice-Told Tale: A Poetics of the Exegetical narrative in Rabbinic Midrash]. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2005. *JQR* 99 (Winter, 2009), 88-106.

### Reviews and Notes:

- (1) Review of *Understanding Jewish Ethics*, by Richard A. Freund. *Conservative Judaism* 44:4 (Summer, 1992): 83-85
- (2) Review of *The Stranger Within Your Gates: Converts and Conversion in Rabbinic Literature* by Gary Porton. *Jewish Quarterly Review* 88 (1997), 99-101.
- (3) Review of *The Burnt Book: Reading the Talmud*, by Mark-Alain Ouaknin. *Ha-Doar* 76 (June, 1997), 13-14 (Hebrew).
- (4) “The Etrog in the Mishna and the Talmud.” *Beit Miqra* 42 (1997), 261-267 (Hebrew).

- (5) Review of *Jewish Festivals in the Time of the Mishnah and Talmud*, by Joseph Tabory (Hebrew). *Religious Studies Review* 24 (1998), 204.
- (6) “Sukkot” and “Talmudic Biography.” *Reader’s Guide to Judaism* (Detroit: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 1999), 511-12, 579-80.
- (7) Review of *Mystik und Theologie des rabbinischen Judentums*, by Arnold Goldberg. *Religious Studies Review* 24 (1998), 204.
- (8) Review of *Rabbinic Authority*, by Michael Berger. *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 26:2 (2002), 356-59.
- (9) Review of *The Heretic and the Amnesiac*, by Alon Goshen-Gottstein. *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 27:1 (2003), 117-19.
- (10) Review of *Elijah and the Rabbis* by Kris Lindbeck. *Shofar* 31 (2013), 154-57.