

Jonathan Cahana-Blum

Curriculum Vitae

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Academic Appointments

- 2017-2019** Postdoctoral Researcher, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2013-2017** Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Systematic Theology, School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University.
- 2012-2013** Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Divinity School.

Educational Qualifications

- 2016** Qualification as an Associate Professor in New Testament, Aarhus University (evaluation by an external international committee).
- 2006-2012** Ph.D., Department of Comparative Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Dissertation: "The Physiognomy of a Gnostic: Gnosticism as a Cultural Phenomenon." Supervisor: Dr. David Satran.
- 2000-2006** M.A., Department of Comparative Religion, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
Thesis: "The Rejection of the Past in 'Gnostic' Texts and Proprietary Rhetoric in the *Gospel of Thomas*." Supervisor: Prof. Guy G. Stroumsa.
Magna cum laude.
- 1996-2000** B.A., Classics and General Studies (modules in Archaeology and Bible), Hebrew University of Jerusalem. *Magna cum laude*.

Language Skills

Modern: Hebrew (Native), English (Fluent), Danish (module 4a reading/writing), German (Reading).

Ancient: Greek, Latin, Coptic.

Fellowships and Awards

- 2017** Jacob Rosenthal Award, Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem.
- 2017** Shlomo Pines Award, Hebrew University.
- 2013-2017** DFF-Individual Postdoctoral Grant and Sapere Aude: DFF-Research Talent Grant, The Danish Council for Independent Research.
- 2015** Paul Rehak Award, Lambda Classical Caucus.
- 2012-2013** Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- 2008-2012** Polonsky Doctoral Fellowship.
- 2007-2011** President's Fellowship Program.
- 2007** Sternberg Prize for Interfaith Understanding.
- 2006-2007** Human Rights Fellows Scholarship, Minerva Center.
- 2001** Sternberg Prize for Interfaith Understanding.
- 1998** Sara Dvoretzky Prize in Classical Studies.

Books

Wrestling with Archons: Gnosticism as a Critical Theory of Culture. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books (Impr. Rowman & Littlefield), 2018.

Gnostica: An Anthology of Gnostic Writings in Hebrew Translation, appended by Hans Jonas's article "Gnosticism and Modern Nihilism." General introduction, individual introductions, translations, and notes by Jonathan Cahana. Tel Aviv: Resling Publishing, 2017.

Edited Book

w/ Karmen MacKendrick, eds., *We and They: Decolonizing Greco-Roman and Biblical Antiquities.* In preparation by Aarhus University Press, in the series *Aarhus Studies in Mediterranean Antiquity.* Forthcoming 2019

Refereed Journal Articles

“A Gnostic Critic of Modernity: Hans Jonas from Existentialism to Science.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 86 (2018): 158-180.

“Salvific Dissolution: The Mystery of the Betrayal between the New Testament and the Gospel of Judas.” *New Testament Studies* 63 (2017): 111-124.

“Creating Sex: From Ovid’s Hermaphrodite to the Gnostic Eve.” *Patristica Nordica Annularia* 31 (2016): 97-121

“Androgyne or Undrogyne? Queering the Gnostic Myth.” *Numen* 61 (2014): 509-524.
Received the Paul Rehak 2015 Award from the Lambda Classical Caucus

“None of Them Knew Me or My Brothers: Gnostic Antitraditionalism and Gnosticism as a Cultural Phenomenon.” *Journal of Religion* 94 (2014): 49-73.

“Dismantling Gender: Between Ancient Gnostic Ritual and Modern Queer BDSM.” *Theology & Sexuality* 18 (2012): 60-75.

“Gnostically Queer: Gender Trouble in Gnosticism.” *Biblical Theology Bulletin* 41 (2011): 24-35.

Encyclopedia/Handbook Entries

“Sophia.” Forthcoming in *The Oxford Handbook for New Testament, Gender and Sexuality* (ed. Benjamin H. Dunning).

“Religious Studies, Historical” and “Religious Studies, Contemporary.” Under contract and submitted for *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Theory* (eds. James Mattingly and J. Geoffrey Golson).

Book Chapters

“Decolonizing Ancient Sexuality: Three Case Studies” in *We and They: Decolonizing Greco-Roman and Biblical Antiquities* (eds. Jonathan Cahana and Karmen MacKendrick; Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, *forthcoming* 2019).

“Gnosticism and Radical Feminism: From Pathologizing Submersion to Salvaging Re-emergence” in *Submerged Literature in Ancient Greek Culture: The Comparative Perspective* (eds. Andrea Ercolani and Manuela Giordano; Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2016), 183-200.

Selected Conference / Seminar Papers and Invited Lectures

“Christian Wittig vs. Rabbinic Irigaray? Boyarin’s Parting of the (Gender) Ways Reconsidered.” Presented at the *Society of Biblical Literature 2018 Annual Meeting*, Denver, Colorado, 17-20 November, 2018.

“Who are ‘like the angels’? Redemption through Sin in the *Gospel of Judas*.” Invited paper presented at the seminar *Counter-Narratives: Telling the Christian Story Differently*, Australian Catholic University Rome Campus, 28 September – 1 October, 2018.

“Hans Jonas as a Gnostic Critic in a Post-Metaphysical World.” Invited paper presented at the *Internationale Hans Jonas Konferenz*, Hans Jonas-Institut, University of Siegen, 6-9 June, 2018.

“A bitch, a mother, a sinner, a saint: Gnostic Sophia Reconsidered in Light of Second Temple Judaism and the New Testament.” Invited lecture at the *University of Tokyo* (sponsored by the Italian and Mediterranean Studies Course, the Center for Philosophy and the Japanese Society for Patristic Studies), Japan, July 9, 2016.

“Ghostbusting Climate Change, Matrixing the Demiurge and Parfuming Thunder: Religion in the Popular Media.” Invited lecture and seminar at the *University of Toyama* (Faculty of Art and Design), Japan, July 8, 2016.

“It’s not the Girl, It’s the Building: *Ghostbusters* and the Politics of the American Bible.” *Society of Biblical Literature 2016 International Meeting*, Seoul, Korea.

“Between the Heresiologist and the Monk: Are there any Primary sources for Gnosticism?” *Fathers of the Church in the Polemics Against Heresies*, 2016, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

“Wrestling with the Archons: Gnosticism as a Critical Theory of Culture.” *Wrestling with the Angels: Exploring Stuart Hall's Theoretical Legacy*, 2016 Dortmund University, Germany.

“The Desert of the Real *itself*? Language, Materiality, and Bodies in Gnosticism and Critical Theory.” *Bible, Critical Theory, and Reception Seminar 2015*, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

“Transformation and Accommodation: Proto-Orthodox Christianity as an Adaptive Reform of Gnosticism.” *The XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religion 2015*, Erfurt, Germany.

“A Gnostic Critic of Modernity: Hans Jonas from Existentialism to Science.” *Institute for Critical Social Inquiry's Summer Seminar on Heidegger conducted by Simon Critchley at the New School for Social Research*, 2015, New York, New York. An earlier version was presented at the *Society of Biblical Literature / European Association of Biblical Studies 2014 International Meeting*, Vienna, Austria.

“Salvific Dissolution: The Death of Jesus in the *Gospel of Judas*.” *Asia Pacific Early Christian Society 9th Annual Conference 2014*, Yokohama, Japan.

“What does Frankfurt have to do with Alexandria? Adorno's Culture Industry and the Conspiracy of the Archons in Gnosticism.” *Society of Biblical Literature / European Association of Biblical Studies 2014 International Meeting*, Vienna, Austria.

“Dismantling Gender: Between Ancient Gnostic Ritual and Modern Queer BDSM.” *2011 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, San Francisco, California.

“Androgyne or Undrogyne? Queering the Gnostic Myth.” *XVI conference on Patristic Studies* in Oxford, United Kingdom, 2011, as a part of a workshop on “Confronting Greco-Roman Culture: The Discursive Practices of Early Christian Texts,” organized by Erin Evans (University of Edinburgh) and myself.

“Gnosticism and Radical Feminism: Can Two Walk Together Except They Be Agreed?” *2010 Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society*, Chicago, Illinois.

“Gnostically Queer: Gender Trouble in Gnosticism.” *Society of Biblical Literature 2009 Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, Louisiana.

“Gnostically Queer: Gender Trouble in Gnosticism.” (in Hebrew) *An Other Sex 09: The Ninth Annual Lesbian & Gay Studies and Queer Theory Conference*, 2009, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

Academic venues organized

2017 *Humanity in Crisis: Rereading Hans Jonas’s Philosophical Essays in the Age of Climate Change and Post-Truth Politics*. 3-days international workshop, 8 participants coming from 4 different countries. Aarhus University Conference Center in Sanbjerg Estate.

2016 *We and They: Decolonizing Greco-Roman and Biblical Antiquities*, 3-days international conference, 16 participants coming from 8 different countries. Keynotes by Prof. Jorunn Økland (University of Oslo), Prof. Karmen MacKenderick (Le Moyne College), and Prof. Manuela Giordano (University of Calabria). Aarhus University Conference Center in Sanbjerg Estate.

2015 *Mysteries of Matter: Music and Meaning, Monsters, and Material Mysticism*, a week-long methodological intensive seminar conducted by Prof. Karmen MacKenderick (Le Moyne College). Seminar drew participants from Aarhus, Jerusalem and Toyama (Japan). Also included a public lecture on “Material Mysticism: New Materialisms,

Ancient Mysteries, and the Unfolding of the Possible.” Aarhus University.

2014 *Cultural Theory, Historiography, and the Study of Early Christianity*, a week-long methodological intensive seminar conducted by Prof. Benjamin H. Dunning (Fordham University). Seminar drew participants from Aarhus, Jerusalem and Lund. Also included a public lecture on “Reading Paul with and against Contemporary Continental Philosophers: Typology, Anthropology, and Bodily Difference.” Aarhus University.

Teaching Experience and Pedagogical Training

2019 Hebrew University, Department of Comparative Religion, Adjunct Lecturer
Gender, Sexuality, and Creation in Gnosticism and Greco-Roman Religions (Undergraduate Seminar, Spring Semester)

2015-2016 Aarhus University, Teacher Training Program Diploma (required for tenure in Danish universities). Diploma Received: January 2016.

2015-2016 Aarhus University, Department of Theology, Lecturer (Postdoc)
Creating Sex: Greco-Roman, Jewish and Christian Stories of Origins and Sexuality (Religious Roots of Europe Program, Graduate Seminar, Spring Semester)
A Gnostic Critic of Modernity: Hans Jonas on Heidegger, Post-Holocaust Theology, and the Natural Sciences (Graduate Seminar, Autumn Semester)

2009-2010 Hebrew University, Department of Comparative Religion,
Teaching Assistant
24235: Source Readings in the History of Christianity

2008-2010 Private instructor for Ancient Greek.

2006 Yad Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem: lectures on the first 400 years of Christianity as a part of a course on religions.

2003-2004 Hebrew University, Department of Comparative Religion,
Teaching Assistant

24155: New Testament (A): Jesus and the Gospels

24156: New Testament (B): Paul and Early Church

Service

2018 *Philosophy & Social Criticism*: Manuscript Peer Review.

2015 Lambda Classical Caucus' Paul Rehak and Graduate Student Awards,
Jury member.

2014 *Studies in Religion / Sciences Religieuses*: Manuscript Peer Review.

2007-2011 Resling Publishing: Academic advisory on early Christianity, the Greco-Roman world, and ancient Greek language.

Professional Experience

2010-2012 Bibliography projects' coordinator and Webmaster of the Center for the Study of Christianity, Hebrew University.

2005-2010 Research coordinator and Webmaster of the Center for the Study of Christianity, Hebrew University.