

RACHEL SHARON HAVRELOCK

Jewish Studies Program and Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago
601 South Morgan Street (MC 228), Room 528, Chicago IL 60607-7104
312-413-4689 (office); 773-398-9464 (cell); Raheleh@uic.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Joint Doctoral Program in Jewish Studies, University of California, Berkeley and Graduate Theological Union, awarded May 2004.

Major Field: Hebrew Bible; Minor Fields: Rabbinics, Folklore.

Dissertation Title: "The Jordan River: Crossing a Biblical Boundary" examines the Jordan River as a boundary of territory and identity in biblical, rabbinic and patristic literatures.

Dissertation Committee: Daniel Boyarin (Chair); Alan Dundes, Ronald Hendel, Dina Stein.

M.A. Joint Doctoral Program in Jewish Studies, awarded December 2001.

B.A. with honors in Hebrew and English literature, University of California, Santa Cruz, June 1994.

APPOINTMENTS

University of Illinois at Chicago: Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies Program and Department of English (2005-present). Jewish Studies and Classics (2003-2005).

Courses Taught: Hebrew Bible; Bible as Literature; History of Jewish Biblical Interpretation; Bible, Genre and Interpretation (Graduate Seminar); Gender and Sexuality in Early Judaism and Christianity; Myth and Theory; Paradise Seminar; Authority and Authenticity in the Ancient Mediterranean; Prophets in Judaism and Islam; Judaism and Islam Seminar (cross listed at Chicago-Kent School of Law).

Swarthmore College: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Religion (2002-2003).

Courses Taught: Hebrew Bible; New Testament; Introduction to Religion; History of Jewish Biblical Interpretation; Sexual License and Gender Transgression in Late Antiquity.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

River Jordan: The Myth of a Dividing Line, completed manuscript.

Co-author, *Women on the Biblical Road: Ruth, Naomi, and the Female Journey*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1996.

Peer Reviewed Articles and Chapters

"The Two Maps of Israel's Land," *Journal of Biblical Literature* 126:4 (2007): 649-667.

"The Myth of Birthing the Hero: Heroic Barrenness in the Hebrew Bible," *Biblical Interpretation* 16 (2008): 154-178.

"My Home is Over Jordan: River as Border in Israeli and Palestinian National Mythology," *National Identities* 9:2 (2007): 105-126.

“Pioneers and Refugees: Arabs and Jews in the Jordan River Valley,” in *Understanding Life in the Borderlands: Boundaries in Depth and in Motion*. I. William Zartman (Ed.), Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2009.

Central Commentary: Vayeitzei (Genesis 28:10-32:3) “The Journey Within,” Vaeira (Exodus 6:2-9:35) “Marvelous Signs and Destructive Wonders,” Acharei Mot (Leviticus 16:1-18:30) “Boundaries of Rituals: The Sanctuary and the Body,” B’midbar (Numbers 1:1-4:20) “The Architecture of a Count and the Architecture of Account,” in *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi & Andrea Weiss (Eds.) New York: Union of Reform Judaism Press, 2008, pp. 157-175, 331-348, 679-693, 789-807.

Another View Commentary: B’shalach (Exodus 13:17-17:16), M’tzora (Leviticus 14:1-15:33), & Sh’lach-L’cha (Numbers 13:1-15:41), in *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*. Tamara Cohn Eskenazi & Andrea Weiss (Eds.) New York: Union of Reform Judaism Press, 2008, pp. 400, 672, 886.

Book Chapters and Articles

“Book of Genesis,” in *The Oxford Handbook to the Reception History of the Bible*. Michael Lieb, Emma Mason & Jonathan Roberts (Eds.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

“Outside the Lines: The Status of Women in Priestly Nationalism,” in *Embroidered Garments: Priests and Gender in Biblical Israel*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 25. Deborah W. Rooke (Ed.) Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2009, pp. 89-101.

“Book of Joshua,” “Book of Judges,” “Book of Samuel,” “Twelve Tribes,” in *The Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion and Culture*. Judith Baskin (Ed.) Cambridge University Press, forthcoming.

“A Double Portion of Your Spirit,” in *And God Said: “You Are Fired:” Elijah and Elisha*. Michael M. Caspi & John T. Greene (Eds.) North Richland Hills, Texas: Bibal Press, 2007, pp. 55-79.

“From Tel Aviv to Ramallah,” introduction and script in *Across All Lines: A Hip-Hop Theater Anthology*, Daniel Banks (Ed.), University of Michigan Press, forthcoming.

“Prince of Slaves: The Adventure of the American Jew,” *Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal* 48/3 (2001): 21-30.

“Deborah of the Wild West,” *Jewish Women’s Literary Annual*, volume 4 (2000-2001): 5-10.

“The Silent Journey: The Travels of Ruth and Naomi,” *Reading Between the Lines: New Stories from the Bible*. Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aronson Publishers, 1996, pp. 197-203.

Reviews

Erkki Koskeniemi, *The Old Testament Miracle-Workers in Early Judaism*. In *Henoch: Studies in Judaism and Christianity from Second Temple to Late Antiquity*, 28:2 (2006): 161-163.

Works in Progress

“Purity and Baptism,” article in progress.

“The State of the Body: Nation State and Body Politic in Biblical Sources,” article in progress.

“Interpretation Makes the Man: Reception of the Biblical Joshua,” study in progress.

PRESENTED PAPERS

“Ecology, Conflict and Culture at the Jordan River,” Holy Water: Expiation, Irrigation, and the Histories of the Geographical Imaginary, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, January 9th, 2010.

“The First Kibbutz and the Borders of the Jewish State,” The Kibbutz in Comparative Perspectives, Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, December 20-22nd, 2009.

“Myth and the Map: How Genesis Orders the World,” Bible, Myth and Myth Theory section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, November 23rd, 2009.

“The End of Moses,” Quran and Biblical Literature section, Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 23rd, 2008.

“Gender and Nationalism in Priestly Texts,” Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., December 21st, 2008.

“Outside the Lines: The Status of Women in Priestly Nationalism,” A Question of Sex: Embroidered Garments, conference on gender and priestly texts, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King’s College London, August 5th, 2008.

“Between State and Empire: The Map of Israel’s Land,” American School of Oriental Research Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 17th, 2007.

“Prophetic Authority and Time,” Conference in Honor of Professor Michael Lieb, Humanities Institute, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 9th, 2007.

“The Women’s Commentary on the Torah: Why is this Commentary Different from all Others?” Faye Greenberg Sigman Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, November 4th, 2007.

“The State of the Body: Mary Douglas and Leviticus,” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Vienna, July 2007.

“The Mother of Life and the Infertility of Eden,” Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Vienna, July 2007.

“Jews, Christians and Jordan Immersion,” Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, December 2006

“The Humanities in an Age of Fundamentalism,” Panelist, The Humanities and the Public University: The View from Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, October 2006.

“Elijah and Elisha: ‘Let a Double Portion of thy Spirit Be Upon Me,’” Society of Biblical Literature, International Meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland, July 2006.

“Baptism and the Body,” Late Antiquity in Illinois II, Symposium at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, March 2006.

“The Jordan River in Israeli and Palestinian National Self-Expression,” American Historical Association, Philadelphia, January 2006.

“Crossing Over: Prophetic Succession at the Jordan,” Association for Jewish Studies, Washington D.C., December 2005.

“The Myth of Birthing the Hero,” Department of Classics Colloquium, University of Illinois at

Chicago, September 2005.

“Folklore of the West Bank,” University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, September 2005.

“Pioneers and Refugees: Arabs and Jews in the Jordan River Valley,” Association for Borderland Studies, Albuquerque, April 2005.

“Religion and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” Religion, Fundamentalisms, and Global Politics, University of Illinois at Chicago, April 2005.

“The Other Side of the Jordan: The Bible’s Proximate Diaspora,” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2004.

“Rivers of Paradise: The Juncture of History and Redemption in the Vita of Adam and Eve and Genesis Rabbah,” University of Illinois at Chicago, Classics Department Conference on Paradise, November 2004.

“Mapping the Land of Israel: Space and Identity in the Hebrew Bible,” Midwest Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Chicago, October 2004.

“The Jordan River: How Cultural Traditions Draw Boundaries,” Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies Borderlands Interdisciplinary Project, May 2004.

“Origen and the Rabbis on Baptism and the Body,” Bryn Mawr College Forum on Jews and Christians Reading the Bible with live webcast, November 2003.

“Mapping the Promised Land,” Department of Classics Colloquium, University of Illinois at Chicago, December 2003.

“Prophetic Succession at the Jordan River,” Religion Colloquium hosted by Swarthmore, Haverford and Bryn Mawr Colleges, April 2003.

“Negotiating Narrative: Joshua at the Jordan,” Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Toronto, November 2002.

“Taking the Jordan Plunge: Baptism and Ritual Purity,” Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Denver, November 2001.

“*Prince of Egypt*: The Adventure of the American Jew,” Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Boston, November 1999.

“The Akedah in Muslim Interpretation,” by Reuven Firestone, Respondent, Society of Biblical Literature Meeting, Philadelphia, November 1995.

PLAYS AND MEDIA

Host, “Who Was Jesus?” three-part Discovery Channel series on the historical background of Jesus and the Gospels, first aired April 5, 2009.

Playwright/Director, *From Tel Aviv to Ramallah*, nominated for The Charles MacArthur Award for Outstanding New Play of 2003-04, The Helen Hayes Awards, Washington, D.C.

Playwright/Director, *Soundtrack City*.

Narrator, *Parashat Va-etchanan* (Deuteronomy 3.23-7.11), G-dcast animated shorts on the weekly Torah reading, www.g-dcast.com.

Speaker/Panelist, “Religious Texts and Women’s Issues,” Hidden Treasures Conference: The Voices of Women in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, November 2007.

Speaker/Moderator, “The Torah: A Women’s Commentary,” Association of Women Reform Rabbis, Chicago, May 2007.

Judge, Third Coast Radio Documentary Contest, National Public Radio WBEZ Chicago, August 2006.

Panelist, “Changing Culture,” Jewish Women Changing America Conference, Barnard Center for Research on Women, New York City, October 2005.

Panelist, “Jewish Theater,” National Foundation for Jewish Culture Board Meeting, Chicago, March 2005.

Academic panelist, Next Theater, Evanston, IL: The Lovesong of J. Robert Oppenheimer by Carson Kreitzer (February 2004) and Miss Witherspoon by Christopher Durang (December 2006).

Dramaturg, *The Chosen*, Writer’s Theater, Chicago, February-March 2006.

Moderator, Nextbook author events, live interviews and discussions at Harold Washington Library, Chicago, Northbrook Public Library and Newberry Library with Rebecca Goldstein (October 2003), André Aciman (January 2004), Anne Michaels (April 2004), Myla Goldberg (May 2004), Jonathan Rosen and Marilynne Robinson (May 2008).

On air expert, Mysteries of the Bible, Joshua and the Walls of Jericho, BBC/Discovery Channel, June 2003.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Selected participant, Posen Summer Seminar in Jewish Secularism, Berkeley, CA. June 15-25th, 2009.

The Institute for the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago, faculty fellowship, August 2006-May 2007.

UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research – Arts, Architecture and Humanities Research Award, 2006.

Selected participant, Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, Frankel Center for Jewish Studies, University of Michigan, May 13-16th 2007.

Faculty Research Grant, Swarthmore College, November 2002.

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, U.C. Berkeley, May 2002.

Benjamin Goor Graduate Essay in Jewish Studies Award, U.C. Berkeley, January 2002.

Graduate Theological Union, SBL Travel Award, November 2001.

Newhouse Summer Language Grant for the study of German, June 2001.

Haas-Koshland Memorial Fellowship for Study in Israel, March 2001.

FLAS Grant for Arabic Language, Summer 1999.

Koret Doctoral Fellowship, August 1998-June 2001.

Koret Israel Study Fellowship, 1997.

Limud Innovative Teaching Award, San Francisco, Bureau of Jewish Education, June 1997.

Languages

Biblical, Rabbinic and Modern Hebrew; Aramaic; Arabic; Greek; German and French (Reading Knowledge).

University Service

Search Committee, Schmitt Chair of Catholic Studies, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2008-09.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jewish Studies Program, University of Illinois at Chicago 2004-2008.

Co-director of Jewish-Muslim Initiative, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, UIC, 2005-2009.

Graduate Committee, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2005-06.

Faculty Advisor, Jewish, Muslim, Arab Students (JAMS) Board, 2005-2007.

Committee on Interdisciplinary Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, 2004.

Professional Service

Co-Editor, *AJS Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies*.

Board member, Women's Caucus, Association for Jewish Studies, 2005-2008.

Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion, member since 1995.

Association for Jewish Studies, member since 2001.

Reboot, think-tank on contemporary Jewish culture, since 2003.

Coordinator/discussion leader, Nextbook Chicago Salon, 2004-2009.