

Robert Erlewine
Department of Religion,
Illinois Wesleyan University
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Illinois Wesleyan University, Department of Religion, 2006
Isaac Funk Endowed Professorship in Religion, Fall 2019-
Professor of Religion, Fall 2018-
Associate Professor of Religion, Illinois Wesleyan University, 2012-2018
Assistant Professor of Religion, Illinois Wesleyan University, 2006-2012
Interim Chair, Religion Department 2014 (Spring Semester)
Chair of Religion Department 2016-2019

Visiting Lecturer, Jewish Studies Program, Dartmouth College, Summer 2019

University of Houston, Department of Religious Studies
Adjunct Instructor, Fall 2002

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Rice University, 2006 (Religious Studies)
(Doctoral Thesis: “The Religion of Reason Revisited: Monotheism and Tolerance in Moses Mendelssohn, Immanuel Kant, and Hermann Cohen.”) Advisor: Edith Wyschogrod

M.A. Boston College, 2001 (Philosophy)

B.A. St Mary’s College of Maryland, 1999 (Major: Philosophy)
Summa Cum Laude, Honor’s Program: Distinction

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Judaism and the West: From Hermann Cohen to Joseph Soloveitchik, Bloomington, Indiana University Press, 2016

- Reviewed in *Harvard Theological Review* 111.1 (January 2018): 135-143 (Samuel Hayim Brody)
- Reviewed in *Journal of Religion* 98.1(January 2018): 133-135 (Michael Zank)
- Reviewed in *Reading Religion* (October, 3 2017) (Dustin Atlas)
- <http://readingreligion.org/books/judaism-and-west>
- Reviewed in *Choice* (May 2017) (A. J. Avery-Peck)

- Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review* 43.1 (March 2017) (Daniel Herskowitz)

Monotheism and Tolerance: Recovering a Religion of Reason, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010

- Reviewed in *Religious Studies Review* 37 4. No. 4 (Dec 2011) (Edward Langerak)
- Reviewed in *European Journal for the Philosophy of Religion* 3.2 (2011) (Christian Hengstmann)
- Reviewed on North American Hermann Cohen Society website, (September 2011) (Ingrid Anderson) <http://criticalidealism.blogspot.com/2011/09/review-of-robert-erlewin-monotheism.html>
- Reviewed in *Choice* (October 2010) (G. M. Smith)
- Reviewed on Notre Dame Philosophical Review (June 2010) (Ronald M. Green) <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/24374-monotheism-and-tolerance-recovering-a-religion-of-reason/>

Current Project

I am currently working on a monograph tentatively titled “The God of Israel.” This work will trace the ways in which the dominant strategies for conceptualizing God within modern Jewish thought, namely, ethical monotheism, theocentrism, and immanentism emerge as different attempts to articulate Judaism’s place within the world religions discourse especially as it is employed in G. W. F. Hegel’s accounts of religion, history, and modernity. Particular attention is devoted to nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century works published in Germany, France, and the United States, from neo-Kantian, existentialist, phenomenological, and feminist Jewish thinkers.

Works Under Contract

Editor, “Abraham Joshua Heschel Anthology,” *Spiritual Lives*, Plough Press, scheduled for publication in 2020

Works in Process

“Monotheism in Modern Judaism,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, De Gruyter

Essays and Book Chapters

“Resolving Contradictions: Samuel Hirsch and the Stakes of Modern Jewish Thought,” *AJS Review*, (accepted for publication, forthcoming Fall 2020 issue)

“Samuel Hirsch, Hegel, and the Legacy of Ethical Monotheism,” *Harvard Theological Review* (accepted for publication, forthcoming 2020)

“*At the Mind’s Limits* and German-Jewish Identity: Or Améry on Guilt and the Possibility of Redemption” *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy* V. 24, no. 3 (2016): 140-156

“Isolation and the Law: Germanism and Judaism in Hermann Cohen’s reading of Moses Mendelssohn “ in *Moses Mendelssohn: Enlightenment, Religion, Politics*,

Nationalism, eds. Micah Gottlieb and Charles H. Manekin (Bethesda, MD: University of Maryland Press, 2015), 257-280

“Hermann Cohen and the Jewish Jesus” *Modern Judaism* 34, no. 2 (2014): 210-232

“Reason and the Bounds of Religion: Assmann, Cohen, and the Possibilities of Monotheism,” in *Judaism, Liberalism, and Political Theology*, eds. Randi Rashkover, and Martin Kavka (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013), 269-288

“Rediscovering Heschel: Theocentrism, Secularism, and Porous Thinking,” *Modern Judaism* 32, no. 2 (2012): 1-20

“Hermann Cohen, Maimonides, and the Jewish Virtue of Humility,” in “Ancients and Moderns in Jewish Philosophy: The Case of Hermann Cohen,” ed. Aaron Hughes, special issue, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 18, no. 1 (2010): 27-47

“Reclaiming the Prophets: Cohen, Heschel, and Crossing the Theocentric/Neo-Humanist Divide,” *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 17, no. 2 (2009): 177-206

“The Stubbornness of the Jews: Resources and Limitations of the Jewish-Christian Dialogue of Rosenstock-Huessy and Rosenzweig,” in *The Cross and the Star: The Post-Nietzschean Christian and Jewish Thought of Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy and Franz Rosenzweig*, eds. Wayne Cristaudo and Frances Huessy (New Castle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2009) 191-208

“Herman Cohen and the Humane Intolerance of Ethical Monotheism,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 15, no. 2 (2008): 147-173

“When the Blind Speak of Colour: Narrative, Ethics and Stories of the Shoah,” *Journal of Visual Arts Practice* 1, no. 1 (2001): 25-36

Book Reviews and Short Writings

Review of Paul Mendes-Flohr, *Martin Buber: A Life of Faith and Dissent* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019), H-Judaic Reviews (May 2019) <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=53910>

Review of *Jew*, Cynthia Baker in *Antisemitism Studies* 1, no. 2 (2017): 430-434

“Robert Erlewine Interview—Judaism and the West: From Hermann Cohen to Joseph Soloveitchik” *The Book of Doctrines and Opinions: Notes on Jewish Theology and Spirituality* (blog), August, 24, 2016 <https://kavvanah.wordpress.com/2016/08/24/robert-erlewine-interview-judaism-and-the-west-from-hermann-cohen-to-joseph-soloveitchik/>

“Constructing Judaism and Claiming Christianity: Modern Jewish Philosophy in the Age of Theory,” *Studying Religion in Culture: Ongoing Discussions at the University of*

Alabama, 8/23/16 <http://religion.ua.edu/blog/2016/08/constructing-judaism-and-claiming-christianity-modern-jewish-philosophy-in-an-age-of-theory/>

Review of *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture*, Yoram Hazony, *Politics and Religion* 8, no. 2 (June 2015): 409-411

Review of *Moses Mendelssohn: Sage of Modernity*, Shmuel Feiner, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 30, no. 4 (Spring 2012): 169-171

Review of *Moses Mendelssohn: Writings on Judaism, Christianity, and the Bible*, Micah Gottlieb ed., Curtis Bowman, Elias Sacks, and Allan Arkush (trs.) Brandeis University Press, 2011 <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/29143-moses-mendelssohn-writings-on-judaism-christianity-and-the-bible/>

“The Legacy of Abraham Joshua Heschel,” *Tikkun* 26, no. 3 (2011) Approximately 6,000 words

Book Note: *Religious Tolerance in World Religions*, eds. Jacob Neusner and Bruce Chilton, *Religious Studies Review* 37, no. 2 (June 2011): 107

Review of *Nietzsche and Levinas ‘After the Death of a Certain God,’* eds. Jill Stauffer and Bettina Bergo, *Sophia* 98, no. 3 (2009): 325

EDITORSHIPS

Managing Editor: *Journal of Jewish Thought & Philosophy*, July 2011-August 2015

PAPERS PRESENTED

“Banishing Hegel from the Garden of Eden: Samuel Hirsch’s *Die Religionsphilosophie der Juden*,” Association of Jewish Studies (Boston, MA) December 2018

Respondent, “Book Panel: Robert Erlewine’s ‘Judaism and the West,’ American Academy of Religion (Boston, MA) November 2017

“The ‘Catastrophe Jew’ and German-Jewish Symbiosis: Jean Améry’s *At the Mind’s Limits* as a Source for Modern Jewish Thought” Association for Jewish Studies (San Diego CA) December 2016

“The Philosopher as Interpreter: Hermann Cohen’s Critique of the History of Religions School” American Academy of Religion (Atlanta GA) November 2015

“In Marcion’s Shadow: Heschel, the God of Pathos, and the Prophets,” Moral Grandeur and Spiritual Audacity: A Conference in Honor of Abraham Joshua Heschel, UCLA (Los Angeles CA) May 2015

“Strange Bedfellows: Lessons from Changing Views of Islam in German-Jewish Thought,” European Studies Symposium, Illinois State University (Normal IL) April 2015

“The Orientalist Foundations of Modern Jewish Thought,” Association of Jewish Studies (Baltimore MD) December 2014

“The Function of Islam in Franz Rosenzweig’s *Star of Redemption*,” Association of Jewish Studies (Boston MA), December 2013

“Hermann Cohen and the Jewish Jesus,” Association of Jewish Studies (Chicago IL), December 2012

“From Exclusivity to Partnership: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the Legacy of Liberal Judaism,” American Academy of Religion (San Francisco CA), November 2011

“Before Jesus was Aryan: Susannah Heschel and German-Jewish Thought,” American Academy of Religion (Atlanta GA), November 2010

“Reciprocity and Religious Difference,” Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs (Central) American Philosophical Association (Chicago IL), February 2010

“Humane Intolerance: Kant, Cohen and the Monotheism Debate,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting (Los Angeles CA), December 2009

“Cohen and Assmann on the Telos of Religion,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Montreal QC), November 2009

“Maimonides among the Prophets: Hermann Cohen and Making the Old New Again,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting (Washington DC), December 2008

“The Stubbornness of the Jews: Symmetries and Asymmetries in Judaism Despite Christianity,” “Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy/Franz Rosenzweig: Aspects of a Friendship” conference, Dartmouth College (Hanover NH), July 2008

“Resisting Divine Tyranny: On the Limits of Mendelssohn’s Pluralism,” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Meeting (Toronto ON), December 2007

“Heschel’s Monotheism,” “Honoring Heschel at 100” conference, Baylor University (Waco TX), November 2007

“Revealed Truths and Fissured Societies: Habermas and the Problem of Monotheism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Philadelphia PA), November 2005

“Purging Myth, Purging Intolerance: Cohen, Assmann and the Promise of Ethical Monotheism,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (San Antonio TX), November 2004

“Kant’s Conflicted Divinity: Contradictory Thrusts in Kant’s Philosophy of Religion,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (San Antonio TX), November 2004

“Never Without Shame: Intersubjectivity, the Holocaust, and Narratives of Ethical Responsibility,” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting (Toronto ON), November 2002

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Illinois Wesleyan Diversity Grant, Spring 2019

Illinois Wesleyan Artistic/Scholarly Development Grant, Fall 2016

Illinois Wesleyan Continuing Professional Development Grant, Fall 2016

Re-centering the Humanities Research Grant, funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2014

Illinois Wesleyan Artistic/Scholarly Development Grant, Spring 2013

Student Senate, “Teacher of the Year,” Finalist, 2010-2011

Illinois Wesleyan Junior Research Leave, Fall 2009

Illinois Wesleyan Artistic/Scholarly Development Grant, Spring 2009

Illinois Wesleyan Artistic/Scholarly Development Grant, Spring 2008

The Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance at Rice University, Research Fellowship (2005-2006)

Presidential Fellowship, Rice University (2001-2005)

Rice Religious Studies Summer Research Grant (2003) – to study Talmud at Jewish Theological Seminary in New York

INVITED LECTURES AND PAPERS

“Banishing Hegel from the Garden of Eden: Samuel Hirsch, Hegel, and the Question of Idolatry,” lunch seminar, Dartmouth College (Hanover, NH), August 2019

“Jesus out of the Sources of Judaism: Hermann Cohen’s Challenge to Christianity,” invited talk at Goethe-University, Frankfurt, (Fr, DE), June 2017

“The Prophetic Mind: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the God of Pathos,” invited talk Rice University, Program in Jewish Studies and Department of Religion (Houston, TX) October 2016

“Shifting Allegiances: Islam’s Place in Modern Jewish Thought,” Religion Colloquium, Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL), February 2015

“What do the Prophets Mean Today: Abraham Joshua Heschel and the God of Pathos,” Dialogues Across the Discipline Series, Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington, IL)

September 2015

“Tolerant Muslims and Inquisitorial Christians: Franz Rosenzweig and the Terrors of Divine Love in Modern Jewish Thought,” invited Lecture, Boniuk Institute for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance, Rice University (Houston TX), September 29, 2014

“Before Jesus Became Aryan” Faculty Colloquium, Illinois Wesleyan University (Bloomington IL), November 2010

“Eliciting the Universal from the Particular: Hermann Cohen and Jan Assmann on Monotheism,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Urbana IL), September 2010

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion: 2002-

Member of Study of Judaism Section Steering Committee: 2013-
Association of Jewish Studies: 2005-

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External Reviewer, Department of Philosophy and Religion, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, April 10-12, 2016

Referee, Manuscript/Book Proposals: Indiana University Press 2012, 2014, 2015, Brown Judaic Studies 2014, SUNY Press 2015, Fordham University Press 2016. Bloomsbury, 2018, Jewish Publication Society 2019.

Referee Journal Articles: *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, *Journal of Religion & American Culture*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*,

Member of Steering Committee, Study of Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion (2014-)

INFORMAL TALKS AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

“Introducing Abraham Joshua Heschel,” Moses Montefiore Temple, Bloomington, IL, December 2013

“Abraham Joshua Heschel and Prophecy,” Temple B’rith Sholom, Springfield, IL January 2015

RESEARCH LANGUAGES (Reading Proficiency)

German
Hebrew (Biblical)
French

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Chair, Religion Department (Fall 2016-August, 2019)
Interim Chair, Religion Department (Spring 2014)

Elected Committees:

Faculty Development Committee, (Elected, 2019)
Assessment Committee (Elected, 2014-2015, Chair: 2015-2016)
Curriculum Council (Elected, 2010-2011)
 Curriculum Development, Subdivision of Curriculum Council (2010-2011)
Hearing Committee (Elected, 2008-2009, 2009-2010)

Appointed and Voluntary Committees:

External Review Preparation Committee for Chaplain's Office, IWU (2017-2018)
Admissions Committee (Fall 2016-)
IWU Writing Committee (Fall 2016-)
Council of Religious Life (2013-2015)
Library Advisory Committee (2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2012-2015)
Writing Implementation Committee (2008-2009)
Member of Writing Institute (2008-2009)
Co-convener of Non-Org [informal faculty colloquium] (2007-2008)
Member of Search Committee, Religion Department (2006-2007, 2007-2008, chair 2013-2014)

Other Service:

Council for Advancement of Standards (Evelyn Chapel, IWU) 2017-2018
Evelyn Chapel Strategic Planning Group, Co-chair, 2018-2019
Dialogues Across The Disciplines, Co-founder and Steering Committee Member (2015-)
Founder and Organizer of Humanities Alumni Events (Homecoming Reception, Work with Career Center) (2014-2017)

COURSES TAUGHT

Humanities 100: Facing Evil
Religion 102: Introduction to Religious Thought
Religion 220: The Bible and Ancient Israel
Religion 241: Modern Religious Thought
Religion 242: Philosophers Read the Bible
Religion 246: Who is (not) a Jew?
Religion 290: Interpreting Religious Experience
Religion 293: God and Postmodernism
Religion 341: Religious Tolerance and Pluralism

Religion 342: Judaism through the Ages
Religion 343: American Jewish Thought
Religion 460: Senior Seminar (Methodology and Research Project)