

**CYNTHIA M. BAKER**

**CURRICULUM VITAE 2017**

Department of Religious Studies  
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**EDUCATION**

- 1997 Ph.D. Duke University, Religion/History of Judaism  
Secondary concentrations: Women's Studies, Islam and Judaism  
Certificate in Women's Studies
- 1987 M.T.S. Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University, Scripture and Interpretation
- 1984 B.A. Wesleyan University, Religion
- Additional undergraduate and graduate study:
- 1992 Hebrew University (Hebrew language), Jerusalem, Israel
- 1983 Hebrew University (Hebrew language), Jerusalem, Israel
- 1982 Hebrew University (Hebrew language, Philosophy), Jerusalem, Israel

**ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS AND AWARDS**

- 2010-16 Bates Faculty Development Research Grant
- 2010-11 Bates College Enhanced Sabbatical
- 2010-11 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship 2010-2011 for a project entitled:  
"Jew': A Multidimensional Study of a Key Identity Term"
- 2008 Discover Curriculum Development Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2006 NEH Summer Institute Fellow: "Venice, the Jews, and Italian Culture"
- 2006 Presidential Research Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2005 Dean's Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2003 Finalist, American Academy of Religion Best Analytical/Descriptive  
Book Award
- 2003 Bannan Pedagogy Grant, Santa Clara University (to fund Holocaust Courses)
- 2002 Grants to support "Globalization from Below" project:  
Bannan Pedagogy Grant, Santa Clara University  
Center for Multicultural Learning/Diversity and Dialogue Grant, Santa Clara University  
Institute on Globalization Grant, Santa Clara University  
Integrated Education Grant, Santa Clara University  
International Studies Grant, Santa Clara University  
Moran Family Trust and Dean of Arts and Sciences Grants, Santa Clara University  
Residential Learning Community Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2002 Brutocao Award for Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Santa Clara University
- 2002 Arthur Vining Davis Research Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2002 Koret Foundation Book Publication Grant
- 2001 Integrated Education Grant and additional seed monies, Santa Clara University
- 2000 Thomas Terry Teaching Grant, Santa Clara University

- 2000 Presidential Research Grant, Santa Clara University
- 2000 College of Arts and Sciences Research Grant, Santa Clara University
- 1998 Faculty Research Grant, Swarthmore College
- 1994-7 Graduate Women's Studies Scholar, Duke University
- 1995 Dissertation Travel Award, Duke University
- 1994 Dissertation Travel Award, Duke University
- 1992 Dorot Foundation Grant
- 1992 National Women's Studies Association, Jewish Women's Studies Award, Honorable Mention
- 1990-6 Nathan Perilman Fellowship in Judaic Studies, Duke University

## **TEACHING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE**

### TEACHING

- 2016- Bates College, Professor, Chair, Religious Studies Department
- 2008-15 Bates College  
Associate Professor, Religious Studies Department (Tenured at Bates in 2010.)  
Teaching associate in Classical and Medieval Studies Program; Women and Gender Studies Program
- 2005-8 Santa Clara University  
Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies  
Associate in the Women and Gender Studies Program (Acting Director, Spring 2006)
- 1999-2005 Santa Clara University  
Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies  
Associate in the Program for the Study of Women and Gender
- 1998-9 Swarthmore College  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Religion Department
- 1996-8 Cornell University  
1997-8 Visiting Assistant Professor, Near Eastern Studies Department  
1996-7 Visiting Lecturer, Near Eastern Studies Department
- 1993-6 Duke University  
Instructor
- 1993 Area Supervisor, Sepphoris Regional Project archaeological excavations, Israel

### OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

- 1996 Consultant and Fabricator, Sepphoris Exhibit, North Carolina Museum of Art
- 1995-6 Research Assistant, Duke History Department, for Dr. Joseph Shatzmiller
- 1995 Research Assistant, "Religions of the Book" textbook project
- 1991-4 Convenor, Judaic Studies Symposium, Duke University
- 1993 Convenor, Speakers Committee, Duke Religion Department
- 1992 Coordinator, Duke Women's Studies Graduate Research Conference
- 1992 Curator, photographic exhibition for Women's Studies Conference, Duke University

## **SCHOLARLY WORK**

### BOOKS:

- 2016 *Jew (Key Words in Jewish Studies, v.8)* New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

2002 *Rebuilding the House of Israel: Architectures of Gender in Jewish Antiquity*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press.

RESEARCH ARTICLES:

- 2015 “Nationalist Narratives and Biblical Memory.” In *Celebrate Her for the Fruit of Her Hands: Studies in Honor of Carol L. Meyers*, ed. Susan Ackerman, Charles Carter and Beth Alpert Nakhai. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns.
- 2014 “Jewish Feminist Biblical Studies.” In *Feminist Biblical Studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*, ed. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature Press/Brill.
- 2011 “A Jew By Any Other Name?” *Journal of Ancient Judaism* 2.2.
- 2010 “Biblical Studies: A View from the Feminist Margins and the Jewish Fringes.” In *Transforming Graduate Biblical Education: Ethos and Discipline*, ed. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and Kent Harold Richards. Society of Biblical Literature Global Perspectives on Biblical Scholarship Series.
- 2009 “From Every Nation Under Heaven: Jewish Ethnicities in the Greco-Roman World.” In *Prejudice and Christian Beginnings*, ed. Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and Laura Nasrallah, 63-78. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.
- 2009 “Roundtable on the Future of Feminist Biblical Studies.” (Co-authored with several Bates College and Santa Clara University students and recent alumnae.) *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 25.2 (2009): 125-9.
- 2008 “Whose ‘Outer Limits’? Historiography in an Age of Destruction.” In *Redefining First-Century Jewish and Christian Identities*, ed. Fabian E. Udoh et al., South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press.
- 2007 “The Queen, the Apostate, and the Women Between: (Dis)Placement of Women in Tosefta *Sukkah*.” In *A Feminist Commentary on the Babylonian Talmud: Introduction and Studies*, ed. Tal Ilan, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck.
- 2006 “When Jews Were Women.” *History of Religions* 45:2 (November 2005): 114-134.
- 2004 “Imagined Households.” In *Religion and Society in Roman Palestine: Old Questions, New Approaches*, ed. Douglas R. Edwards, 113-28. New York: Routledge.
- 1998 “‘Ordering the House’: On the Domestication of Jewish Bodies.” In *Parchments of Gender: Deciphering the Bodies of Antiquity*, ed. Maria Wyke, 221-42. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Originally peer reviewed and accepted for the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*.]
- 1996 “Bodies, Boundaries, and Domestic Politics in a Late Ancient Marketplace.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 26 no. 3 (fall 1996): 391-418.

- 1989 "Pseudo-Philo and the Transformation of Jephthah's Daughter." In *Anti-Covenant: Counter-Reading Women's Lives in the Hebrew Bible*, ed. Mieke Bal, 195-209. Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1989.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS:

- 1992 Editor, *Engendering Knowledge, Engendering Power: Feminism as Theory and Practice*. Proceedings of the Second Annual Women's Studies Graduate Research Conference, Duke University.

REVIEW, RESPONSE, POPULAR, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES:

- 2014 "The Emergence of Judaism"
- 2014 "Conversion and Identity in the Hebrew Bible"  
In *Bible Odyssey*, an online digital humanities project of the Society of Biblical Literature funded by the NEH.
- 2007 "Response to Renata Segre: Origins of the Venetian Jewish Community." In *The Venetian Jewish Anthology* (online resource).
- 2007 "Hair." In *The Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*, ed. Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Detroit: Macmillan.
- 2007 "Veiling." In *The Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender*, ed. Fedwa Malti-Douglas, Detroit: Macmillan.
- 2004 "Reconstructing Jesus' Death: A Historical Context." In *Santa Clara Magazine*, Web Exclusives (Summer 2004).
- 2000 "Am ha-arets." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry, 19-20. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 2000 "Women: Ancient through Modern." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry, 626-8. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 2000 "Women: Biblical." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry, 623-6. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 2000 "Women: Contemporary." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry, 628-30. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 2000 "Women: Status." In *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, ed. Michael Terry, 630-2. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn.
- 1999 "Hair." In *The Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*, ed. Serinity Young, 389-91. New York: Macmillan.
- 1995 "Feminist Jewish Studies and the Academy." *Sbofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 14 no. 1 (fall 1995): 140-3.

BOOK AND FILM REVIEWS:

- 2015 *Her Israel*. Directed by Marjan Tehrani. New York: Tru Films, 2003; *The Queen Has No Crown*. Directed by Tomer Heymann. Tel-Aviv: Heymann Brothers Films, 2011; *Esther Broner: A Weave of Women*. Directed by Lilly Rivlin. New York: Women Make Movies, 2013, for *Films for the Feminist Classroom*.
- 2014 Katie B. Edwards, *Admen and Eve: The Bible in Contemporary Advertising*, for *Review of Biblical Literature*.
- 2008 Hayim Lapin, *Economy, Geography, and Provincial History in Later Roman Palestine*, for *AJS Review* 32.2
- 2008 Douglas R. Edwards and C. Thomas McColough, eds., *The Archaeology of Difference: Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the "Other" in Antiquity: Studies in Honor of Eric M. Meyers*, for *Review of Biblical Literature*.
- 2003 Carol Delaney, *Abraham on Trial*, for *Bible Review*, April 2003, 44-6.
- 2002 Ingrid Hjelm, *The Samaritans and Early Judaism*, for *Religious Studies Review* 28: 285.
- 2002 Victoria J. Barnett, *Bystanders: Conscience and Complicity in the Holocaust*, for *Religious Studies Review* 28: 57.
- 2001 Byron L. Sherwin, *Jewish Ethics for the Twenty-first Century*, for *Religious Studies Review* 27: 387.
- 2001 Carol Meyers, ed., *Women in Scripture*, for *Religious Studies Review* 27: 279.
- 1995 Judith Romney Wegner, *Chattel or Person? The Status of Women in the Mishnah*, for *Religious Studies Review* 21: 248.

OTHER RESEARCH AND WRITING PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AND FORTHCOMING

"Crypto-Theology, Critical Race Theory, and the Study of Antiquity," (working title) for an invited panel presentation at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2017.

"One Final Word on *Jew: A Response*," invited essay for *Marginalia Review of Books* "Forum on Cynthia Baker's *Jew*," online publication June 2017.

"Gender, Genealogy, Genomics, and Tales of Jewish Origins," (working title) for a book or journal volume based on papers from the Brown University conference on "Revisiting the Question of Jewish Origins" (see below).

"Material Culture: Early Judaism," for *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Bible and Gender Studies (Oxford Biblical Studies Online)*, forthcoming.

"How do Jews Matter? Exploring Jewishness in Late Antiquity through Material Culture," (working title) for the *Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Late Ancient Jews and*

*Judaism, 3rd Century BCE to 7th Century CE* (Ed. Naomi Koltun-Fromm and Gwynn Kessler).

“How do Ancient Jews and Gender Matter?” for *Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplements*, 2017.

“Jewish Identity” for *Jewish Annotated Apocrypha*. Ed. Lawrence Wills and Jonathan Klawans (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017).

“Clothing and Dress” for T&T Clark *Companion to Second Temple Judaism*, 2017.

*The Wisdom of Apostasy* (working title): a collection of essays on the Talmudic traditions concerning Elisha ben Abuya.

*Jessica* (working title): a play exploring the lives of “*conversos*” (Jews converted to Catholicism) in Renaissance Venice through the later years of Jessica and Shylock, characters from Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*.

*A Consuming Passion* (working title): a collection of essays on themes of environmental ethics and spirituality.

#### PAPERS AND THE LIKE:

“Gender, Genealogy, Genomics, and Tales of Jewish Origins,” invited paper for “Revisiting the Question of Jewish Origins: Myth/Construct/Reality,” Brown University, March 2017.

“The *Jew* Question,” invited paper for a panel on “The Jew Question” at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, December 2016.

“Becoming *Jews*,” invited paper for “Religion before ‘Religion’” Symposium, Bowdoin College, October 2016.

“Transgressive Jewesses: From Esther and Judith to Broad City and Transparent,” Max and Pearl Herman Lecture, University of Regina, Saskatchewan, April 2016.

“Queer Animalities, ImProper Intimacies, and Other (Gender) Troubles in the Rabbinic Pardes,” invited paper for Talmud Interrupted: Queering the Study of Rabbinic Literature” at University of Michigan Ann Arbor (Institute for Research on Women and Gender), March 2016.

“How do Ancient Jews and Gender Matter?” invited paper for “Gender and Social Norms in Early Judaism and Christianity: Texts and Material Culture” of the *Landesforschungsinitiative Kulturelle Orientierung und normative Bindung*, Koblenz, Germany, February 2016.

“Innovating in the College Humanities Classroom: A Hands-on Workshop,” for The Hawaii International Conference on Education, January 2016.

“New Jews: Tales of Mobility and Identity,” invited paper delivered at the New England and Eastern Canada Regional Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Newton, Massachusetts, April 2015.

“Religion in the Ancient Marketplace,” invited response paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Baltimore, November 2013.

“Christianity’s Jews”; “Holding Jews in Common”; “The Portable Jew”  
Talks given as sole presenter at Clergy Conference, Temple B’rith Kodesh, Rochester, New York, March 2013.

“The Essentially Ambiguous Jewess: Exploring Images of Jewish Women through the Centuries” (revised and expanded), Klingenstein Lecture at New College, Sarasota, Florida, January 2013.

“Converting to Jews: Theology as Sociology and *Other* Category Confusions,” paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2012.

“The Jewish Annotated New Testament and Jewish Studies,” invited paper delivered at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2012.

“What’s in a Name?” invited talk at Temple Shalom, Auburn, Maine, January 2012.

“The Essentially Ambiguous Jewess: An Ancient Trope in Modern Europe,” invited keynote for the conference “Women, Jews, Venetians,” UC Santa Cruz, California, May 2011.

“Jewish Matters: Texts and Architecture in the Study of Jewish Antiquity,” invited paper for the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Boston, December 2010.

“Jewish Feminist Biblical Studies,” invited presentation for the colloquium “Scholarship and Movement: Feminist Biblical Studies in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” University of Oslo, Norway, June 2010.

“On the Matter of Jews: An Object Lesson in Historiography,” invited paper for the conference “Words and Things: Texts and Material Culture in Late Antiquity,” Cornell University, April 2010.

“Diasporas and Their Jews,” invited conference paper for a Special Topics Forum: “Diasporas of Religions and Religions of Diasporas,” International Connections Committee, American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 2009.

“Food, Identity, and Rabbinic Literature,” invited roundtable presentation at Colby College, Waterville, Maine, April 2009.

“Rabbinic Masculinity and the Gender of the Other,” paper for the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D. C., December 2008.

“Job’s Rabbinic Descendant,” conference paper for the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media Section at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2008.

“Talmudic Jewish Women: Removed, Reproved, Replaced” for the Text and Culture Speaker Series at the Taube Center for Jewish Studies, Stanford University, May 2008.

“A Breach in Heaven: *Aber*, Genesis, and Job” annual Talmudic lecture at Congregation Kol Emet, Palo Alto, California, February 2008.

“The Queen, the Apostate, and the Women Between: (Dis)Placement of Women in Tosefta Sukkah” (revised), conference paper for the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, December 2006.

“Packaging the Past: Late Antiquity as Modern Cultural Production,” conference response paper for the Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section at the Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2006.

“Response to Jorunn Økland’s *Women in Their Place*,” response paper for Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., November 2006.

“Notes on the Jessica Project,” final conference presentation for the NEH Summer Institute “Venice, the Jews, and Italian Culture,” July 2006.

“The Queen, the Apostate, and the Women Between: (Dis)Placement of Women in Tosefta Sukkah,” invited conference paper for the conference *Gam hen be-oto ha-nes (They also Participated in the Miracle): Women and Gender in Talmudic Festivals*, Berlin, Germany, May 2006.

“‘There’s No Place like Home’: Locating Early Rabbinic Families,” invited conference paper for the Early Christian Families Group, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas, November 2004.

“Reflections on Academic Feminist Studies on Jewish Antiquity,” *Jewish Studies and Feminism: The State of the Field*, Spring Program of the Bay Area Academic Consortium for Jewish Studies, San Francisco, CA, May 2004.

“Strategies of Nationalism: Ancient Rabbinic Midrash Meets Early Secular Zionism,” David Weintraub Memorial Lecture, Congregation Kol Emet, Palo Alto, CA, November 2003.

“Whose ‘Outer Limits’? Historiography in an Age of Destruction,” *New Views of First-Century Jewish and Christian Self-Definition Conference*, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, April 2003.

“The Moral Afterlife of Biblical Texts,” *Social History of Biblical Scholarship Consultation*, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November 2002.



“When Jews Were Women,” invited paper for the Europe and the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity Group, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November 2002.

“Many Teachers, Many Perspectives,” Pedagogies Session, The Holocaust and the Churches Conference, Newark, NJ, March 2002

“Imagined Households,” Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2001.

“Nationalist Narratives: Ancient Rabbis and Modern Zionists Read the Hebrew Bible,” Ideological Criticism Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, November 2001.

“The Rabbis’ Jewish Others,” Hellenistic Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, November 1999.

“Colonialism, Postcolonial Theory, and the Study of Ancient Jewish Palestine,” Social History of Formative Christianity and Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

“Talking Heads: Jews, Gentiles, and New Testament Hair-meneutics,” Women in the Biblical World Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, November 1998.

“Jewish Turf Battles in Roman Palestine?” Europe and the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity Consultation, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 1997.

“Mismatched Maps and Missing Persons: Gender and Space in Roman Jewish Palestine,” invited paper for conference on Religion and Gender in the Ancient Mediterranean, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 1997.

“Neighbor at the Door or Enemy at the Gate? Notes toward a Rabbinic Topography of Self and Other,” Europe and the Mediterranean in Late Antiquity Consultation, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 1996.

“The Sex of the Streetwalker: Romans, Rabbis, and a Market in Bodies,” Study of Judaism Section, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 1995.

“Gender as Cultural Currency in a Late Ancient Marketplace,” Women’s Studies Graduate Research Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1995.

“Learning to Envision: A Course in Imagining a Feminist Future,” South Eastern Women’s Studies Association Annual Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL, 1995.

“ ‘Ordering the House’: On the Domestication of Jewish Sexuality,” Rethinking Roman-Period Judaism Consultation, American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 1994.

“Yes, but Is It Kosher?: Questions of Community and Co-optation in Feminist Ritual,” Women’s Studies Graduate Research Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, 1991.

**SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

SERVICE TO THE COLLEGE:

2015- Chair, Religious Studies Department  
2016 Chair, Music Department Internal Review Committee  
2014- Purposeful Work Infusion  
2014- Institutional Research Board  
2011- Medical Studies Committee  
2009- Classical and Medieval Studies Program Committee  
2009- Community Engaged Learning initiatives

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION:

2015 Tenure and promotion outside evaluator, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles  
2013-16 Chair, Program Steering Committee of the Religious Worlds of Late Antiquity  
Section of the Society of Biblical Literature  
2011-14 Program Steering Committee Member of the Social History of Formative  
Christianity and Judaism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature  
2005-2011 Chair, Program Steering Committee of the Social History of Formative  
Christianity and Judaism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature  
2010-2013 Program Steering Committee Member of the Religious World of Late Antiquity  
Section of the Society of Biblical Literature  
2008 Tenure evaluator, New College of Florida  
2000-2008 Steering Committee Member, Bay Area Academic Consortium for Jewish Studies  
1998-2005 Program Steering Committee Member of the Social History of Formative  
Christianity and Judaism Section of the Society of Biblical Literature  
1996- Manuscript reviewer for: *Journal of Ancient Judaism*, University of Pennsylvania Press,  
Brown Judaic Studies, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal  
of the History of Sexuality*, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Oxford University  
Press.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

1994- Association for Jewish Studies and Women’s Caucus of the AJS  
1990- Society of Biblical Literature and Women’s Caucus of the SBL  
1988- American Academy of Religion