

YANIV FELLER

University of Florida
Religion Department
122 Anderson Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Florida

Assistant Professor of Religion 2022-present

Core Faculty, Bud Shorstein Center for Jewish Studies 2022-present

Wesleyan University

Jeremy Zwelling Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies,
Religion Department 2017–2022

Core Faculty, Jewish Studies 2017–2022

Jewish Museum Berlin

Jewish Religion Exhibition Curator, New Permanent
Exhibition Project 2015–2017

University of Toronto

Instructor, Religion Department Spring 2015

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

Ph.D., Department for the Study of Religion November, 2016
Jewish Studies Program Certificate November, 2016

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

M.A., Political Science and the Center for German Studies,
summa cum laude June, 2011

B.A. Philosophy, Political Science and Economics (PPE),
Amirim Honors Program in Humanities, *magna cum laude* June, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Single-Authored Monographs

The Jewish Imperial Imagination: Leo Baeck and German-Jewish Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

- 2023 Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award of the Association for Jewish Studies

Edited Volumes

Covenantal Thinking: Essays on the Theology and Philosophy of David Novak. Co-edited with Paul Nahme. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024.

Articles in Refereed Journals

“An Island Named Zion: The Political Theology of Theodor Herzl.” *Political Theology*, (May 2024): 1–18. doi:10.1080/1462317X.2024.2354989.

“The Specter of Marcion: De-Canonizing the Old Testament in Twenty-First Century Germany,” *Journal of Religion* 103, no. 4 (October 2023): 409-430.

“Revolt against Time: Jean Améry on the Constitution of the Self,” *New German Critique* 148 (2023): 155-178.

“Whose Museum Is It? Jewish Museums and Indigenous Theory,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63, no. 4 (2021): 798-824.

“From Aher to Marcion: Martin Buber’s Understanding of Gnosis.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 20.4 (2013): 374-397.

“Revelation and Anti-Theology in the Thought of Martin Buber.” *Identities: Journal of Jewish Culture and Identity* 3 (2013): 61-74 (Hebrew).

Refereed Book Chapters

“Living with Others: Religious Objects and the Ritual of the Museum in Post-Secular Society.” *Museums as Ritual Sites: Civilizing Rituals Reconsidered*, edited by James Bielo and Lieke Wijnia, 19-34. London and New York: Routledge, 2025. In print.

Co-authored with Paul Nahme, “Covenantal Thinking in the Post-Polemic Age.” In *Covenantal Thinking: Essays on the Theology and Philosophy of David Novak*, edited by Paul Nahme and Yaniv Feller, 3-10. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2024.

“Romantic Politics in the Thought of Gustav Landauer and Leo Baeck.” In *Skepsis and Antipolitics: The Alternative of Gustav Landauer*, edited by Cedric Cohen-Skalli and Libera Pisano, 273-296. Leiden: Brill, 2022.

“Oy Tannenbaum, Oy Tannenbaum!: The Role of a Christmas Tree in a Jewish Museum.” In *The Public Work of Christmas: Difference and Belonging in Multicultural Societies*, edited by Pamela Klassen and Monique Scheer, 142-160. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2019.

German translation: “Oy Tannenbaum, Oy Tannenbaum!: Zur Rolle des Weihnachtsbaums in einem jüdischen Museum.” In *Der Unterschied, den Weihnachten macht: Differenz und Zugehörigkeit in multikulturellen Gesellschaften*, edited by Monique Scheer and Pamela Klassen, translated by Christian Marchetti, 171-191. Tübingen: Tübinger Vereinigung für Volkskunde, 2019.

“What Hope Remains? Leo Baeck as a Reader of Job.” In *Hope*, edited by Ingolf U. Dalferth and Marlene A. Block, 353-368. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016.

“Martin Buber’s Dialogical Humanism.” In *Jewish-Israeli Political Thought*, edited by Dan Avnon and David Feuchtwanger, 256-278. Jerusalem: Magnes University Press, 2016 (Hebrew).

“Über den Makom: Exil und Schöpfung im Werk Barbara Honigmanns.” In *Kurz hinter der Wahrheit und dicht neben der Lüge*, edited by Amir Eshel and Yfaat Weiss, 95-112. Munich: Fink, 2013.

Popular Writing and Interviews

“[Ein Blick auf und in die Museen](#).” *Jüdische Geschichte Kompakt* podcast, July 6th, 2024.

[A conversation with Amir Engel](#) (Hebrew University) on *The Jewish Imperial Imagination*. *New Books Network* podcast, March 3, 2024

“[Imagining Empire with Leo Baeck](#).” *Fifteen Eighty-Four*, the blog of Cambridge University Press.

[A conversation with Shaul Magid](#) on Meir Kahane and Political Theology. *The Kroc Cast: Peace Studies Conversations* podcast, July 7, 2022.

“[Tradition and Enlightenment](#),” *JMB Journal* 23: 29-35. Spring 2022.
Parallel German translation: “Tradition und Aufklärung,” translated by Sylvia Zirden.

“[Too Good to be True? The new, pluralistic permanent exhibit at the Museum of the](#)

[Jewish People feels increasingly at odds with its surroundings,”](#) *Tel Aviv Review of Book*, Summer 2021.

Book Reviews

“Panthers and Lions,” book panel on Shaul Magid’s *Meir Kahane* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021), *Journal of Religious Ethics* (August 2022).
[Journal of Religious Ethics - Wiley Online Library](#)

Steffi de Jong, *The Witness as Object: Video Testimony in Memorial Museums* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2018), *Reading Religion* (2018).
<http://readingreligion.org/books/witness-object>

Maurice-Ruben Hayoun, *Leo Baeck: Repräsentant des liberalen Judentums* (Darmstadt: Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2015), *Medaon: Magazin für jüdisches Leben in Forschung und Bildung* 21 (2017) (German).
<https://www.medaon.de/de/artikel/maurice-ruben-hayoun-leo-baeck-repraesentant-des-liberalen-judentums/>

W. John Morgan and Alexandre Guilherme, *Buber and Education: Dialogue as Conflict Resolution* (New York: Routledge, 2014), *Diogenes* 243-244 (July-December 2013): 241-249. Translated to French by Brigitte Rollet.

English version: *Diogenes* 61.3 (2017): 167-171.

Judith Butler, *Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2012), *Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses* 42.3 (2013): 384-6.

Willi Goetschel, *The Discipline of Philosophy and the Invention of Modern Jewish Thought* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), *Symposia* 5 (2013): 38-40. <https://symposia.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/symposia/article/view/20838/17033>

Diana Lobel, *The Quest for God and the Good* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2011), *University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought* 3 (2012).
<https://tjtt.cjs.utoronto.ca/volume-3-2013/>

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“The Building is the Message.” Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg. June 2024

“Prophetic Optimism and Greek Pessimism: Leo Baeck in Theresienstadt.” Leipzig University, June 2024.

“Zwischen Baebturm und Golem: KI und jüdisches Denken.” Theology and AI lecture series (Ringvorlesung). Leipzig University, June 2024.

“Leo Baeck und die jüdische imperiale Imagination.” With a response from Liliana Feierstein. The Center for Intellectual Diaspora at the Catholic Academy Berlin, May 2024.

Response to a book panel on *The Jewish Imperial Imagination*. Panelists: Annabel Herzog, Marc Volovici, and Cedric Cohen-Skalli. Bucerius Center for Research of Contemporary German History and Society, Haifa University, May 2024.

“The Political Thought of Leo Baeck: A Conversation with Markus Krah.” Columbia University and the Leo Baeck Institute New York, February 2024.

“Jewish and Colonial Questions in German-Jewish Thought.” Wesleyan University, February 2024.

Book discussion of *The Jewish Imperial Imagination*. Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University, online, January 2024.

“The Public Square of the Jewish Museum.” The Body Imagines: Current Research Inspired by David Novak’s Scholarship. University of Toronto, October 2023.

“Integrated History of Religion and Violence.” Book panel on Doris Bergen’s *Between God and Hitler: Military Chaplains in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge UP, 2023). University of Toronto, September 2023.

“Symbiosis, Negative Symbiosis, and Other Obscuring Metaphors.” Muslim Intellectuals, Jewish Intellectuals, and the Co-Writing of Europe. Granada, September 2023.

“Reversing the Colonial Gaze? Jews as Objects in the Jewish Museum Berlin.” Grenzen und Wechselbeziehungen – Ambivalenzen und Strategien. Centrum für Jüdische Studien, University of Graz, June 2023.

“The Ellipse of Jewish History: Leo Baeck and the Spanish Golden Age.” Cultures of Continuity: Jewish-Muslim Conversations on a Contested Ideal. Humboldt University Berlin, October 2022.

“An Island Named Zion.” Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, March 2022.

“Jewish Philosophy beyond the Nation-State.” Center for Religion, Culture and Society, University of Tübingen, June 2021.

“Entangled Fantasies: The Jewish, Colonial, Woman, and Worker Questions in the

- German Imagination.” Ludwig-Uhland-Institut für empirische Kulturwissenschaft, University of Tübingen, May 2021.
- “Silencing the Torah in Museums.” Making Promises: Oaths, Treaties, and Covenants in Multi-Jurisdictional and Multi-Religious Societies. Toronto and online, November 2020.
- “Romantic Politics in the Thought of Gustav Landauer and Leo Baeck.” International Conference for the 100th Anniversary of Gustav Landauer’s Death. University of Haifa, November 2019.
- “Native and Wandering Jews.” Museums, Religion, and the Work of Reconciliation & Remembrance. Jewish Museum Berlin, May 2019.
- Film presentation: *The Museum*, Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Boston, December 2018.
- “A Portrait of Leo Baeck.” Sites of Memory: Religion, Multiculturalism, and the Demands of the Past workshop. University of Toronto, September 2016.
- “‘O Tannenbaum, ‘O Tannenbaum’: The Role of a Christmas Tree in a Jewish Museum.” Christmas in the Multicultural City workshop. University of Tübingen, December 2015
- “New Marcionism? Jewish Reflections on Notger Slenczka’s Recent Work.” Thinking (in) the Present workshop. Center for Literary and Cultural Research Berlin, November 2015.
- “Sayed Kashua’s Multiple Exiles.” *Bamidbar* journal workshop. Toronto, May 2015.
- “The Covenant after Auschwitz: Reflections on Novak and Fackenheim.” Rethinking the Covenant: Engagements with the Theology of David Novak. University of Toronto, September 2014.
- “On the Makom: Places, Exile, and Creation in the Work of Barbara Honigmann.” International Conference on the Work of Barbara Honigmann. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, October 2011.

Conference Papers

- “The Good German from Hannah Arendt to Clint Smith.” American Academy of Religion annual conference. San Diego, November 2024 (forthcoming).
- “German-Jewish Thought and Empire: A Conceptual Framework.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. San Francisco, December 2023.

- “At Home with the Holocaust: Survivor Family Homes Before and After 1945,” roundtable discussion. Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. San Francisco, December 2023.
- “Wearing and Exhibiting Sacredness.” Interrogating the Sacred workshop. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, August 2023.
- “The True Maccabees: Leo Baeck on Jews and Germans in the Great War.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Boston, December 2022.
- “The Birth of the Indigenous from the Spirit of Exile: Jean Améry on the Paradoxes of Home.” American Academy of Religion annual conference. Denver, November 2022.
- “Jewish Philosophy as Ruinography: The View from Theresienstadt.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Chicago, December, 2021.
- “Of Panthers and Lions: The Enduring Legacy of Meir Kahane.” Book panel on Shaul Magid’s *Meir Kahane* (Princeton UP, 2021). American Academy of Religion annual conference. San Antonio and virtually, November 2021.
- “Persecution and the Art of Writing History: A Contested Manuscript by Leo Baeck.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Virtually. December, 2020.
- “Negotiating Jewish Memory between Synagogue and Museum.” American Academy of Religion annual conference. Denver, November 2018.
- “Communal Duty: Leo Baeck’s Philosophy, 1933-1943.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Boston, December, 2017.
- “The First Reformer of the Church? Leo Baeck on the Marcionite Origins of Protestantism.” 500 Years of Reformation: Jews and Protestants – Judaism and Protestantism. Jerusalem, February 2017.
- “The Epistemology of (Jewish) Essence.” How Jews Know: Epistemologies of Jewish Knowledge conference. Berlin, June 2015.
- “Against Marcionism: Leo Baeck’s Covert Dialogue with Harnack.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Baltimore, December 2014.
- “Debating Essences: Leo Baeck’s Critique of Adolf Harnack and the Study of Religion.” American Academy of Religion annual conference. San Diego, November 2014.
- “Election and Suffering: Leo Baeck’s Jewish Hope after the Shoah.” Claremont Annual Philosophy of Religion Conference. Theme: Hope: Re-examinations of an Elusive Phenomenon. Claremont, February 2014.

“Leo Baeck’s Colonial Fantasy.” Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. Boston, December 2013.

“Out of the Sources of Judaism: Judith Butler and the Jewish Tradition.” Book panel of Judith Butler’s *Parting Ways: Jewishness and the Critique of Zionism*. American Academy of Religion annual conference. Baltimore, November 2013.

“The Language of Prayer: Abraham Geiger and the Prayer Book Reform in Germany.” Modern Language Association annual conference. Boston, January 2013.

“The Search for a Jewish Essence in Twentieth-Century Germany.” Midwest Jewish Studies Association annual conference. Toronto, October 2012.

“Essence and Apologetics: A Dialogue between Franz Rosenzweig and Leo Baeck.” International Rosenzweig Society congress. Toronto, September 2012.

“Revelation and Anti-Theology in the Thought of Martin Buber.” Phenomenology of Faith conference. Van Leer Institute Jerusalem, August 2010.

Presentations to Community Groups, Schools, and Non-Academic Organizations

“Jüdische Geschichte ausstellen heute: Ein Gespräch mit Mirjam Wenzel.” Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg, June 2024.

“Philosophy and Leadership in Dark Times.” Partners in Jewish Programming, virtually, November 2023.

“Our Moral Responsibilities to Each Other in Times of War.” Part of an Ethics in the Public Sphere panel on the war in Gaza. University of Florida, November 2023.

“War and the Museum.” Oak Hammock’s Institute for Learning in Retirement, Gainesville, August 2023.

“[Leo Baecks Vermächtnis an der deutsch-jüdischen Philosophie](#).” Lecture in honor of Leo Baeck’s 150th birthday. Deutsche Koordinierungsrat, Zoom-event, May 2023.

Panel discussion of Ken Burns’s *The U.S. and the Holocaust* documentary. Congregation B’Nai Israel, Gainesville Florida, September 2022.

“The Contemporary Refugee Crisis and the Politics of Holocaust Comparisons.” Wesleyan Refugee Project Advocacy Week, April 2022.

Film presentation: *Plan A*. The Ring Family Wesleyan University Israeli

- Film Festival, 2022.
- “A Leader in Dark Times: The Life and Work of Leo Baeck.” Congregation Kol Haverim. Glastonbury CT, March 2019.
- “Civil Disobedience and the Jewish Tradition.” The Bayit, Wesleyan University. Middletown, November 2018.
- “Environmental Justice and Climate Refugees.” Science Hall, Wesleyan University. Middletown, April 2018.
- Film presentation: *The Women’s Balcony*. The Ring Family Wesleyan University Israeli Film Festival. Middletown, March 2018.
- “Before the Law: Modern Jewish Philosophy.” The Bayit, Wesleyan University. Middletown, March 2018.
- “Gebetbücher als Ausstellungsobjekte.” Jüdische Liturgie course, Freie Universität Berlin, June 2017.
- “Human, All Too Human: A Night on the Mount of Olives.” Tikkun Shavuot, Fraenkelufer Synagogue. Berlin, May 2017.
- “Die Notwendigkeit und Grenze des jüdisch-christlichen Gesprächs.” West London German Lutheran congregation. London, November 2014.
- “What Shall We Do with Our Heretics?” First Narayever Congregation. Toronto, February 2013.
- “Martin Buber’s Dialogical Humanism.” Tikkun Shavuot, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Toronto, May 2012.
- “Zur politischen Lage in Israel.” Lecture to German theology students going for a year abroad in Israel. Leipzig, February 2011.
- “Don’t Mention the War! A Different History of Germany.” Lecture to Israeli volunteers at the Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste). Jerusalem, June 2010 (Hebrew).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

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| Dr. Gabriele Meyer/Zeit Foundation Bucerius Fellowship,
Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg | Summer 2024 |
| Interrogating the Sacred workshop, United States Holocaust | Summer 2023 |

Memorial Museum, Washington DC Scholarship Enhancement Fund, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Florida	Summer 2023
Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award, Association for Jewish Studies	Spring 2023
Faculty Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University	Spring 2022
Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship, University of Tübingen	Spring 2021
Service-Learning Initiative Grant, Wesleyan University	2018-2019
Naim S. Mahlab Ontario Government Scholarship in Jewish Studies, Government of Ontario, Canada	2015-2016
Leo Baeck Fellowship, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes and the Leo Baeck Institute London	2014-2015
Ontario Trillium Scholarship, Government of Ontario, Canada	2011-2015
Granovsky-Gluskin Graduate Scholarship in Jewish Studies, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto	2014-2015
Forum Humanum Claremont Conference Grant, Udo Keller Stiftung	Feb. 2014
Tanenbaum Graduate Scholarship, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto	2013-2014
Shiff Family Graduate Student Award, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto	2012-2013
Molly Spitzer Award for the Study of Judaism, Religion Department, University of Toronto (won twice consecutively)	2011-2013
Shier Family Award, Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Toronto	2011-2012
Study Abroad Scholarship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2010-2011
Shoshana and Milton Shier Jewish Political Thought Scholarship, Gilo Center for Citizenship, Democracy, and Civic Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2009-2010
Research Grant for the Project "Homeward Bound? The Role of Zion in Contemporary German-Jewish Literature," Center for German Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	2009-2010
Berlin Stipend, Erinnerung, Verantwortung, Zukunft Stiftung, Germany	2008-2009

COURSES TAUGHT AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Jews, Judaism, Jewishness

What is Religion? JewsBus, Museums, and the First Amendment

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament)

Introduction to Jewish Thought

Refugees & Exiles: Religion in the Diaspora

Radio shows available for listening on <https://reli213.site.wesleyan.edu/>

Discussed in London School of Economics' [Religion and Global Society](#) website.

Jesus through Jewish Eyes
 Jewish-Christian Dialogues
 Why Is There Evil in the World? (Quest I class)
 Post-Holocaust American Jews (Quest I class)
 Ethics after the Holocaust
 Political Fantasies of Zion
 Comparative Religion (senior seminar)

Student Advising

Graduate committee member, University of Florida:

Emma Dennison, “Our Work Challenges What We Believe; What We Believe
 Must Challenge Our Work.”
 Master of Arts, Museum Studies, 2024.

Undergraduate theses advised, Wesleyan University:

Jacob Abbisso, “In Conversation: Modern Jewish Mediums, Spirits,
 and the Politics of Jewish Identity”
 Religion Department, 2022.

Sophie Brett-Chin, “Girl in Progress,”
 English Department (creative non-fiction), 2019.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Current Positions

Steering Committee of the Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit at the American
 Academy of Religion

Manuscript reviewer: *Comparative Studies in Society and History*
Journal of the American Academy of Religion
 Brown University Press
 Routledge Press

Past Positions

Co-organizer (with Kim Wünschmann and Björn Siegel): “The Space of the Museum” workshop, Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg.	June 2024
Co-organizer (with Asher Biemann): “Zero Hour: Rethinking 1945 from a Jewish transnational Perspective” international workshop, University of Virginia.	April 2024
Associate editor, <i>The University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought</i>	2012-2014

UNIVERSITY SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Undergraduate Coordinator, Religion Department	2024-present
Graduate Committee, Religion Department	2022-2024
Scudder Lecture Series coordinator, Religion Department	2022-2024
Alexander Grass Chair in Jewish Studies Search Committee, Bud Shorstein Center for Jewish Studies	2023-2024
Department Chair Search Committee, Religion Department	Fall 2023

UNIVERSITY SERVICE, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Annual Best Paper in Jewish Studies Award committee	2018-2022
Jeremy Zwelling Annual Lecture	2017-2022

LANGUAGES

Hebrew: native speaker

German: fluent

Aramaic: basic reading