

Shulamit Shinnar

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Aug 2023 – Present Assistant Professor of Religion, Florida State University

Aug 2022 – July 2023 Simon and Ethel Flegg Postdoctoral Fellow in Jewish Studies, McGill University

July 2019 – July 2022 Postdoctoral Core Faculty Fellow: Core Lecturer in Literature Humanities, Columbia University, Department of History and the Center for the Core Curriculum

EDUCATION:

- 2019 Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of History
Dissertation: “‘The Best of Doctors Go to Hell’: Rabbinic Medical Culture in Late Antiquity (200-600 C.E.)” (Sponsor: Beth Berkowitz)
- 2015 M.Phil. Columbia University, Department of History
Comprehensive Examination Fields: Ancient Jewish History, Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History, Modern Jewish History, Ancient Science and Medicine
- 2014 M.A. Columbia University, Department of History
Thesis: “A Study of the Rabbinic Astronomical Tradition: Reconsidering the New Moon Ritual in the Mishnah Rosh Hashanah.”
- 2011 M.A. Jewish Theological Seminary, Rabbinic Literature
Thesis: “Conflict of Laws in Roman and Rabbinic Legal Traditions.”
Comprehensive Examination Fields: Rabbinic Literature
- 2009 B.A. Columbia University, Department of Philosophy.

AREAS OF RESEARCH AND TEACHING:

Ancient Judaism, Rabbinic Literature, Late Antiquity, Jewish History (Ancient – Modern), Early Christianity, Roman Empire, Medical Anthropology, The Body, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Disability Studies, Postcolonial Studies

PUBLICATIONS:

Book Manuscript in Preparation:

In Preparation: “‘The Best of Doctors Go to Hell’: Rabbinic Medical Culture in Late Antiquity”

Peer Reviewed Publications:

2021 “The Experiments of Cleopatra: Foreign, Gendered, and Empirical Medical Knowledge in the Babylonian Talmud.” In *Defining Jewish Medicine: Transfer of Medical Knowledge in Jewish Cultures and Traditions*, edited by Lennart Lehmhaus, 213–241. Wiesbaden: Harrasovitz, 2021.

In Preparation: “Stigma, Disease, and Disability: Constructing Rabbinic Ethnic Identity in Late Antiquity.”

In Preparation: Rabbinic Medical Encounters in the Shadow of Empire: Imagined Contact Zones in Roman Provincial Palestine.

Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries:

2024 (*Invited, In Preparation*) “Science and Medicine in Rabbinic Literature.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies*.

2021 “Miscarriage – Judaism” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception (EBR) Online*, ed. Barry Dov Walfish. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021.

2019 “Book Review: Julia Watts Belser, *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem*.” *AJS Review*, 43:2, November 2019.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2022 Finalist for the Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Faculty Member, Columbia University
- 2021 UC Davis New Directions in Jewish Studies Lecturer (4 Awardees, 120 Applicants)
- 2020 Book Manuscript selected for ReMedHe (Religion Medicine and Health in Late Antiquity) 2020 First Book Workshop
- 2019 Nominated for Salo Baron Dissertation Prize in Jewish Studies, Columbia University
- 2019 Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student, Columbia University (3 Awardees/400 Nominations)
- 2017 – 2019 Graduate Student Core Preceptorship, Columbia University Core Curriculum
- 2017 Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies Excellence Award, Columbia University

- 2017 Short-Term Fellow at the “Episteme in Motion” Collaborative Research Center (SFB 980), Freie Universität, Berlin
- 2015 – 2019 Bernard and Muriel Bloom Fellowship in Jewish History, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University (2015–2016, 2017–2019)
- 2015 Special Initiatives Grant Recipient, American Academy of Jewish Religion
- 2015 Société Européenne pour l'Astronomie dans la Culture Student Grant
- 2015 Advanced School for the Humanities at Hebrew University Student Grant
- 2014 – 2015 Morton Smith Fellowship for the Study of Religion in the Greco-Roman World, Morton Smith Trust, Columbia University
- 2014 – 2016 Graduate School of Arts and Science Travel Award, Columbia University (2014, 2016)
- 2014 – 2017 Brebner Travel Award, Department of History, Columbia University
- 2013 – 2017 Louise Hoffman Memorial Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University (2013–2014, 2016–2017)
- 2013 – 2015 Graduate Fellowship in Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies, Yeshiva University Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law
- 2012 – 2017 Richard Hofstadter Multi-Year Fellowship in the Department of History, Columbia University
- 2010 Samson-Lefkowitz Award in Jewish Gender and Women’s Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary
- 2010 Leo Baeck Summer University in German Jewish Studies Scholarship
- 2009 – 2011 Masters Society of Fellows and Merit Scholar (Full Fellowship for MA Studies), Jewish Theological Seminary
- 2009 King’s Crown Leadership Excellence Award, Columbia College, Columbia University

CONFERENCES AND TALKS:

Invited Talks:

- 2022 “Jewish Disability Discourse: Inventing the Rabbinic Normate in Late Antiquity.” *UC Davis New Directions in Jewish Studies Lecture Series*. April 2022.
- 2019 “Duties to the Marginalized: Poverty and Illness in Palestinian Rabbinic Literature.” *Rabbinic Judaism and Its Context at the University of Chicago*. Nov 2019.
- 2015 “Rabbinic Techniques for Examining Parturient Tissue: Considering the Place of Greco-Roman Medical Traditions within the Rabbinic Textual Corpus.” *International Conference on Practical Knowledge and Medical Practice in Ancient Mediterranean Cultures*. Berlin: Nov 2015.
- “Rabbinic Discourse on Miscarriage: Rabbinic Examinations of Parturient Tissue.” *Workshop: Practical Medicine in Jewish Scriptures and Adjacent Traditions*. Berlin: Nov 2015.

Conference Papers:

- 2023 (Upcoming) “Rabbinic Compulsory Able-Bodiedness: Queer Disability Studies and Rabbinic Accommodations for the Sick.” *Association for Jewish Studies*. Aug 2023.
(Upcoming) “Casting Dinah as Job’s Wife: Theodicy and Sexual Assault in Ancient Jewish Thought.” *Society for Biblical Literature*. Nov 2023.
- 2022 “The Animalization of Illness in Rabbinic Literature: Models of Illness and Rabbinic Subjectivity.” *Association for Jewish Studies*. Dec 2022.
“Counting Cases: Plague in Ancient Rabbinic Literature.” *Society of Biblical Literature*. Nov 2022.
- 2021 “Rabbis who were Blind: Exploring the Representation of Blindness in Rabbinic Literature.” *Association for Jewish Studies*. Dec 2021.
“The Embedded Body: Environmental Models of Illness in Rabbinic Literature.” The Study of Judaism Unit. *American Academy of Religion*. Nov 2021.
- 2020 “Intercultural Encounters in the Birthing Room: Portraits of Midwives in Rabbinic Literature.” *Association for Jewish Studies*. Virtual: Dec 2020.
- 2018 “Disgusting Bodies: *Tsara'at* and the Stigmatization of Disease in Leviticus Rabbah.” *Association for Jewish Studies*. Boston: Dec 2018.
“Leprosy, the Etiology of Illness, and Late Antique Rabbinic Public Health Practices: Discourse on Skin Afflictions in Leviticus Rabbah.” *North American Patristics Society* Chicago: May 2018.
- 2017 “Women’s Medical Expertise and Networks of Support in Palestinian Rabbinic Literature: Interactions Between Female Patients and Rabbis in tractates Niddah, Shabbat, and Yoma.” *Association for Jewish Studies 2017*. Washington D.C.: Dec 2017.
“A Hostile Landscape: The Etiology of Plague in Rabbinic Literature.” *Association for Jewish Studies 2017*. Washington D.C.: Dec 2017.
“Competing Healthcare Models in Late Antiquity: Considering Healthcare in Rabbinic Literature.” *Society for Biblical Literature 2017*. Boston: Nov 2017.
“Fearing the Unseen Snake: Models of Illness in Rabbinic Literature.” *European Association for Biblical Literature/Society for Biblical Literature International Meeting 2017*. Berlin: Aug 2017.
- 2016 “Rabbis, Doctors, and Patients: Conceptions of Medical Expertise and Knowledge in Rabbinic Literature.” *Association for Jewish Studies 2016*. San Diego: Dec 2016.
“Rabbinic Epistemology and the Greco-Roman Medical Sects: An Analysis of Rabbinic Practices for Examining Parturient Tissue.” *Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar at the University of Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: Mar 2016.

- 2015 “Rabbinic Standards for Accuracy in Lunar Observation: Regulating the Calendar in the Mishnah Rosh Hashanah.” *Société européenne pour l’astronomie dans la culture 2015: Astronomy in Past and Present Cultures*. Rome: Nov 2015.
- “The Rabbinic Astronomical Tradition: Specialized Knowledge, Expertise and Rabbinic Lunar Observations.” *Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar at Columbia University*. New York: Apr 2015.
- 2014 “The Experiments of Cleopatra: Rabbinic Attitudes towards Other Ancient Medical Traditions.” *Tenth Conference for the European Association for Jewish Studies*. Paris: Jul 2014.

Conferences and Panels Organized:

- 2018 Panel Co-organizer. “Imagined Bodies in Rabbinic Literature” Panel at the *Association for Jewish Studies Conference*. Boston: December 2018.
- 2015 Conference Organizer. “Ancient Judaism Regional Seminar” at Columbia University. New York: March 2015.

Pedagogy and Public Lectures:

- 2021 “Strategies for Teaching Anti-Judaism in the Gospels.” *Columbia University Core Curriculum Pedagogy Seminar*, Feb 2021.
- 2020 “The Book of Job and the Ethics of Caring for Others.” *Teach for Corona: Fundraiser for NYC Foodbanks*, Mar 2020.
- “Wine, Women, Men, and Song: Visions of the Good Life in Medieval Jewish Poetry.” *Teach for Corona: Fundraiser for NYC Foodbanks*, Mar 2020.
- 2019 “Primo Levi and Dante: The Western Canon After Auschwitz” *Judaism and the Columbia University Core Curriculum Seminar*, Nov 2019.
- “Teaching Biblical Wisdom Literature: Job and Song of Solomon.” *Columbia University Core Curriculum Faculty Lectures*, Oct 2019.
- “Jewish and Islamic Andalusian Poetry: Rethinking the Western Canon.” *Columbia University Core Curriculum Pedagogy Seminar*, Feb 2019.
- 2017 “Models of Justice in Aeschylus’ *Oresteia* and Ancient Jewish Traditions,” *Judaism and the Columbia University Core Curriculum Seminar*, Oct 2017.

TEACHING:

Teaching Awards:

- Finalist for the Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Faculty Member, Columbia University, 2022.
- Presidential Teaching Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student, Columbia University, 2019.

Primary Instructor of Record:

McGill University, Department of Jewish Studies

- Intro to Jewish Literature (Summer 2023)
- The Book of Job: Jewish Interpretations of the Book of Job from the Bible to Angels in America (Fall 2022)

Columbia University, Center for the Core Curriculum

“Literature Humanities: Intro to Western Literature” Parts I and II. Freshman Year-Long Seminar. (Fall 2017 – May 2022)

- “Literature Humanities Part I, From Homer and the Bible to Ovid: Gender and Sexuality in Ancient Literature” (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
- “Literature Humanities Part II, From the Gospels to Toni Morrison: Inventing the Modern Self” (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Jewish Theological Seminary, Nishma Summer School

- “Intermediate Talmud: Crafting Sacred Space and Ritual in Ancient Judaism” (Summer 2021)
- “Intermediate Talmud: Personal Injury Law and Justice in Rabbinic Literature” (Summer 2016, 2017)

Hadar Institute for Jewish Studies

- “Key Rabbinic Texts on Blessings: Critical Methods in Reading Rabbinic Literature” (Spring 2011)

Teaching Assistant:

Columbia University, Department of History

- “Intro to Byzantine History” – Alexandre Roberts (Spring 2016)
- “Intro to the Modern Middle East” – Rashid Khalidi (Fall 2015)
- “Ancient History of Egypt” – Marc Van De Mierop (Spring 2015)
- “Medieval Jewish Cultures” – Elisheva Carlebach (Fall 2014)
- “Ancient Political Theory” – Richard Billows (Spring 2014)
- “Roman Imperialism” – William Harris (Fall 2013)

Jewish Theological Seminary

- “Government and Politics in Israel” – Shmuel Sandler (Spring 2011)
- “Intro to Rabbinic Literature” – Richard Kalmin (Spring 2010)

Teaching Certifications:

- Columbia University Center for the Core Curriculum Pedagogy Seminar (2017 – 2018)
- Certificate in Collaborative Learning, Columbia Center for Teaching and Learning (2015)

LANGUAGES:

Teaching Proficiency: Hebrew (Biblical, Mishnaic, and Medieval)
Aramaic (Biblical, Jewish Palestinian, Jewish Babylonian)
Reading and Speaking Proficiency: Modern Hebrew, German, and French
Reading Proficiency: Ancient Greek, Syriac

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES, SERVICE, ACADEMIC, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING:

2022 Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Jewish Studies*
2021 ReMedHe: Religion, Medicine, Disability and Health Article Workshop
Respondent
2020 – 2021 Mentor, Columbia Mentorship Program for New Graduate Student Instructors
2020 Invited Panel Respondent, *American Academy of Religion*, Traditions of Late
Antiquity Unit
2016 – 2017 Participant, Columbia University Ancient Near East Graduate Workshop
2013 – 2015 Founder and Organizer, New York Colloquium for Ancient Jewish Studies

Professional Memberships or Affiliations:

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
Society for Biblical Literature (SBL)
American Academy of Religion (AAR)
ReMedHe: Working Group for Religion, Medicine, Disability and Health in Late Antiquity
(ReMedHe)