

**Benjamin Steiner**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Trinity College, Hartford, CT  
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## **RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

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I am an American Jewish historian with a broad range of interests in the processes of acculturation, Jewish religious movements, and Jewish material culture. My educational and research background equips me to teach a wide variety of classes, including courses in Jewish history, Jewish gender studies, and Jewish religion. A book based on my dissertation on Jewish marriage contracts is currently under review by Indiana University Press.

## **EDUCATION**

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- 2020**      **Ph.D. in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies (NEJS)**, Brandeis University.  
Thesis: “The Jewish Marriage Contract: A Window into Jewish Social History”  
Faculty Advisor: Jonathan Sarna
- 2014**      **M.A. in Jewish Gender and Women’s Studies (JGWS)** with distinction, Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS).
- 2012**      **B.A. in History** with honors, University of California, Los Angeles.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

1. “Postscript on the Charleston *Shtar Halitzah*.” *American Jewish Archives Journal* (Forthcoming)
2. “The Lieberman Clause Revisited.” *American Jewish Archives Journal* 69:1 (2017), 41-70.
3. “Victorian Jewry, Religious Reform, and the Ketubah of the British Chief Rabbinate.” *Modern Judaism* 37:3 (October 2017), 316-337.
4. “That Judaism Might Yet Live: Pastoral Care and the Making of the Post-Holocaust Conservative Rabbinate.” *American Jewish History* 101:2 (April 2017), 265-286.

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

5. “David Wolpe.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*, ed. Gary S. Smith (AFL-CLIO, 2020).
6. “Harold Kushner.” *American Religious History: Belief and Society through Time*, ed. Gary S. Smith (AFL-CLIO, 2020).

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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### **Conference Talks**

1. “The Ketubah in Antebellum South Carolina and Georgia,” American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholars Conference. 2020.

2. "Jewish Marriage Contracts in Early California," Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Palm Desert, California. 2019.
3. "A Transnational Story: The Proliferation of a Ketubah Translation from England," British Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Durham, UK. 2018.
4. "From America to Australia: The Global Spread of the Ketubah of the British Chief Rabbinate," Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, D.C. 2017.
5. "The Rise of Pastoral Care in the Conservative Rabbinate," Third Annual Graduate Conference on Religious Studies, Boston University. 2017.

### **Other Presentations**

6. "Jewish Marriage Contracts from South Carolina and Georgia," Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Lecture, Waltham, MA. 2019.
7. "The Battle for the Soul of Indian Jewry, 1959-1960," Starkoff Fellowship Lecture, American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio. 2018.
8. "Unity or Continuity? Hebrew Pronunciation in the Conservative Movement, 1949," Leffell Seminar on The Impact of Israel upon American Jewry, White Plains, NY. 2017.
9. "Epstein's Ketubah Codicil Reconsidered," Jewish Family Workshop, Western Galilee College, Akko, Israel. 2017.
10. "The Lieberman Clause Revisited," Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Lecture, Waltham, MA. 2015.

## **PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

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Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, 2021-2022

Department of Religious Studies, Trinity College

Adjunct Professor, Spring 2021

Department of Humanities, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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| 2021      | Assistant to Professors Adam Mendelsohn and Jonathan Sarna<br>Crafted introductory essays for a new edited volume on Jews in Gilded-Age America, offering basic, broad-stroked, and engaging historical overviews for non-specialists.   |
| 2017-2020 | Research Assistant to Professor Jonathan Sarna, Waltham, MA.<br>Provided editorial assistance on several books and article projects. Researched hundreds of haggadot as a window into historic Jewish yearnings for Zion, furthering Sarna's work for the Gemunder Foundation. |
| 2016      | Research Assistant to Professor Jonathan Decter, Waltham, MA.<br>Created the bibliography for a recently published book on medieval European history.  |
| 2015      | Research Assistant to the Chancellor, JTS, New York, NY.<br>Worked on research projects for Professor Arnold Eisen, and edited his articles and speeches.  |
| 2013      | Graduate Research Intern, Hadassah-Brandies Institute, Waltham, MA.  |

Researched conflicts between Jewish and international law. Produced an original essay, the foundation of my subsequent master's thesis and later a published article.

2011-2012 Researcher, Posen Project, Los Angeles, CA.  
Compiled primary sources for a volume on ancient Judaism from the Posen Foundation; assisted the editor, UCLA Professor Carol Bakhos.

## **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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### **Fellowships**

Leo Wasserman Endowed Graduate Fellowship, Brandeis University. 2015-2020.  
Scholar-in-Residence, Hadassah Brandeis Institute. 2019.  
Bancroft Library Robert E. Levinson Fellowship, UC Berkeley. 2018.  
Starkoff Fellow, American Jewish Archives. 2018.  
Marguerite R. Jacobs Memorial Fellow, American Jewish Archives. 2016.  
Graduate Fellowship, Cardozo Law School. 2015.

### **Academic Recognition**

Nahum and Anne Glatzer Endowed Prize (Best dissertation in NEJS.) 2020.  
Henry L. Feingold Graduate Student Essay Prize, American Jewish Historical Society. 2016.  
Charles and Ruth Samson Lefkowitz Award, JTS (Award for excellence in JGWS.) 2014.  
Israel Goldstein Prize, JTS (Best college essay in Jewish History.) 2013.  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Mary Ritter Beard Award, UCLA (Best senior thesis in Women's History.) 2012.  
Frey Undergraduate Research Prize, UCLA (Best undergraduate essay in Jewish Studies.) 2012.

### **Research Grants**

Mellon Dissertation Research Grant, Brandeis University. 2019.  
American Academy for Jewish Research Summer Research Funding. 2019.  
Tauber Institute Graduate Research Awards, Brandeis University. 2016, 2017, 2018.  
Junior Research Awards, Hadassah Brandeis Institute. 2016, 2017, 2019.  
NEJS Department Graduate Student Research Fellowships. 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

### **Additional Activities**

Participant, "Privilege and Prejudice: Jewish History in the American South," NEH Summer Institute, College of Charleston. 2019.  
Participant, American Academy for Jewish Research's Graduate Student Seminar, U. of Michigan. 2018.  
Participant, American Jewish History & the World: Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop, NYU. 2017.  
Fellow, Steiner Yiddish Program, Northampton, MA. 2016.

## **LANGUAGES**

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Hebrew (conversational)  
Yiddish (reading knowledge)