

Education

- 2015-2020 **PhD**, University of Minnesota
Primary field: Middle East and North Africa; secondary field: Medieval Mediterranean; graduate minor: Museum Studies
Dissertation: *Making Jewish Books in North Africa, 1700-1900*
Advisor: Daniel Schroeter
- 2013-2015 **Master of Arts**, Religious Studies, University of Toronto
Research project: *Invisible Neighbours: Jews and Demons in North Africa*
Advisor: Amira Mittermaier
- 2011-2012 **Master of Arts in Teaching**, Judaic Studies (Bible), Brandeis University
- 2007-2011 **Bachelor of Arts**, Anthropology / Classics / Religion, Brandeis University
Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with highest honours in Anthropology
Honours thesis: *Jewish Henna Ceremonies and the Politics of Heritage*

Employment History and Teaching Experience

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science (2023-2025)
- Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College (2022-2023)
“The Art of the Medieval Book” (ART 276)
“The Hebrew Bible: Historical and Literary Approaches” (REL 122)
“Introduction to Judaism” (REL 248)
“Jews in the World of Islam” (REL 120)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (2023)
“The Art of Scripture” (AT4004)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota (2022-2023)
“History of Modern Israel and Palestine: Society, Culture, and Politics” (HIST 3512)
“Muslims and Jews: Conflict and Co-existence” (HIST 3511)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of St. Thomas (2020-2021)
“The Middle East and North Africa in Global Perspective” (HIST 118)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, Franklin & Marshall College (2020-2021)
“Premodern Jewish History: Jews of East and West Through the Middle Ages” (HIS 153)
- Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota (2016-2018)
“Civilization and the Environment: World History to 1500” (HIST 1011)
“The Age of Global Contact: World History since 1500” (HIST 1012)

Selected Grants, Academic Awards, and Honours — External:

- Junior Fellow, Andrew Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography (2022-2024)
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Association for Jewish Studies (2019)
Doctoral Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (2018)
Research Award, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute (2018)
Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2014)

Selected Grants, Academic Awards, and Honours — University of Minnesota:

- Jerome L. Joss Graduate Student Research Grant, Center for Jewish Studies (2019)
Research Scholarship, Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World/Mia (2018)
Riv-Ellen Prell Award for the Study of Jewish Culture, Center for Jewish Studies (2018)
Dissertation Fellow, Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World (2018)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- ““In Search of Special Sensations”: Moïse (Maurice) Zekri’s Disorderly Life between Algeria and France (1879-1942).” Co-authored with Leslie Choquette (Assumption University). *French Colonial History* 21 (2023).
- “Confession of Sodomy & Judaizing (Brazil, 1593),” “A Gender-Bending Jewish Runaway (New France, 1738),” and “A Rabbi Counsels a Gay Jewish G.I. (New York, 1944).” In *Jews Across the Americas, 1492-Present*, eds. Adriana Brodsky and Laura Leibman (NYU Press, 2023), 20-22; 70-72; 385-388.
- “The Bible in North Africa: Modern Judaism.” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, Vol 21, eds. Constance M. Furey et al. (De Gruyter, 2023), 766-768.
- “Ask Now the Beasts and They Shall Teach You’: Qalonymos ben Qalonymos and his Hebrew Translation of the *Epistle of the Animals*.” In *Iberian Babel: Multilingualism and Translation in the Medieval and the Early Modern Mediterranean*, eds. Michelle Hamilton and Nuria Silleras-Fernandez (Brill, 2022), 105-123.
- “Invisible Neighbors: Encounters with Demons among Jews and Muslims in Morocco.” In *Jews and Muslims in Morocco: Their Intersecting Worlds*, eds. Joseph Chetrit, Drora Arussy, and Jane Gerber (Lexington Press, 2021), 163-188.
- “Shakshuka for All Seasons: Tunisian Jewish Foodways at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” In *Making Levantine Cuisine: Modern Foodways of the Eastern Mediterranean*, eds. Anny Gaul, Graham Auman Pitts, and Vicki Valosik (UT Press, 2021), 170-183.
- “Rabbis with Inky Fingers: the Making of an 18th-Century Hebrew Book between Amsterdam and North Africa.” *Studia Rosenthaliana*, vol. 46, no. 1-2 (Fall 2020), 155-189.
- “Remarkable Objects of the Three Religions’: Judaica in Early Modern European Collections.” *Journal of the History of Collections*, vol. 31, no. 1 (2019), 17-29.
- “It is a Minhag’: Algerian Judaism Through the Eyes of a Hebrew-Christian Missionary.” *University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought*, vol. 1, no. 5, 2015.
- “Henna.” *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, 2nd ed. (ed. Noam Stillman). Brill, 2013.

Publications in Press

- “Wrapping the Word: The Textiles of the Torah Scroll.” Invited chapter for *Textiles in Manuscripts: A Local and Global History of the Book* (Penn State University Press, forthcoming).
- “This is Called Haliq: On the Etymology of a Jewish Food Term.” *Journal of Jewish Languages*, forthcoming, 2024.
- “*Tzēna u-Re’ēna* (Go Out and See): The World of Jewish Books.” Invited chapter for *An Introduction to Early Modern Jewish Civilization: Unity and Diversity in a Diasporic Society* (Routledge, forthcoming, 2024).
- “Book Production in North Africa (Medieval to Modern).” Invited entry for *Encyclopedia of Jewish Book Culture* (Brill, forthcoming, 2024).
- “Between the Local and the Oriental: Collecting Torah Scrolls in Early Modern Germany.” *Oriental Collection Histories in Germany*, Studies in Manuscript Cultures 33 (Universität Hamburg, forthcoming, 2024).
- “He Should Prepare a Sauce’: Recovering a Haroset Recipe from ‘Abbasid Iraq.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 113.4 (forthcoming, 2023).

Publications Submitted for Review

Jewish Book Culture in North Africa between the Early Modern and the Modern Worlds (Indiana University Press, passed reader review).

Books Reviewed

“Review: Demons in the Details: Demonic Discourse and Rabbinic Culture in Late Antique Babylonia.” *Journal of Jewish Identities*, vol. 16, no. 3, 2023.

“Review: Wild Visionary: Maurice Sendak in Queer Jewish Context.” *Journal of Jewish Identities*, vol. 15, no. 1, 2022, 107-109.

“Review: On the Word of a Jew: Religion, Reliability, and the Dynamics of Trust.” *Church History*, vol. 89, no. 2, 2020, 424.

“Review: Across Legal Lines: Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco.” *Arab Studies Journal*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2019, 156-159.

“Review: The Rhythm of the Pen and the Art of the Book: Islamic Calligraphy from the 13th to the 19th Century.” *Journal of Sixteenth-Century Studies*, vol. 49, no. 4, 2018.

“Review: Extraterritorial Dreams: European Citizenship, Sephardi Jews, and the Ottoman Twentieth Century.” *Journal of North African Studies*, vol. 22, no. 5, 2017, 914-916.

“Review: A Cultural History of Jewish Dress.” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, vol. 13.3, 2014.

Non-Refereed Publications

“Ten Unanswered Questions: An Unconventional Interview with Eve Adams.” *In Geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*, 2021.

“Pearl Hart.” *The Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women* (jwa.org), 2021.

A Rainbow Thread: An Anthology of Queer Jewish Texts from the First Century to 1969 (ed.). Print-O-Craft (PA), 2019. Winner of 2019 Reference Award from the Association of Jewish Libraries, and 2019 Anthology Award from the Lambda Literary Association.

“Spinning a Rainbow Thread: Reflections on Writing Queer Jewish History,” *G'vanim: the Journal of the Academy for the Jewish Religion*, Vol. 10 (2019), 1-13.

“Reunited At Last: T-S K10.4 and Bodl. MS. Heb. c. 13/25.” Featured post on the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit website; available online here: <https://tinyurl.com/ydbkgabq>, July 2018.

“A Forgotten Gay Jewish Pioneer Rises Again.” *Tablet Magazine*, Jan. 2018.

“Learning Torah and What is Connected to It: T-S Ar.18(1).16.” Featured post on the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit website; available online here: <https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/handle/1810/262071>, Oct. 2016.

Professional Work Experience

Lead Instructor, Bodleian Library Summer Workshop on Hebrew Manuscripts (Oxford University), 2022 and 2023.

Lead Instructor, Workshop on Sephardi and Mizrahi Paleography (Jewish Theological Seminary), 2023.

Affiliate Scholar, “Twin Cities Houses of Worship 1849-1924 Research Project” (University of Minnesota), 2022-2023.

Affiliate Scholar, “International Forum on Judaica Provenance” (National Library of Israel and Association of Jewish Libraries), 2022-2023.

Affiliate Scholar, “In Plain Sight: Jewish Material Culture in the Long History of Islam” (Magnes

Collection, UC Berkeley), 2021-2022.
Postdoctoral Researcher, Princeton Geniza Lab (Princeton University), Summer 2021.
Research Affiliate, Manuscript Migration Lab (Duke University), 2020-2021.
Instructor and Program Co-ordinator, “The Medieval Book in the K-12 Classroom” (UMN Center for Medieval Studies), 2017-2020.
Research Fellow, “Turkish Rugs on Tudor Walls” (Minneapolis Institute of Arts), Fall 2018.
Intern, Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life (UC Berkeley), Spring 2017.
Intern, Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Art (Toronto), Summer 2016.
Interfaith Co-ordinator, Reading Abrahamic Scriptures Together, University of Toronto, 2014-15.

Community Education (Courses and Classes)

Events related to *A Rainbow Thread*, 2019-2022 (separate CV available upon request).

“The Book of Books: The Jewish Book as Object through the Centuries.” Shavuot Across Brooklyn, 2023.
“Arabic: The Jewish Language Everyone Should Know.” Engage: Twin Cities Jewish Learning, 2022.
“What is the Tiqqun of Tiqqun Leil Shavu‘ot?” Twin Cities Community Tikkun Shavuot, 2021.
“People of the Book: Exploring the History of Jewish Book Culture.” MyJewishLearning, 2020.
“Putting Aside the Curtain: The Bible in Translation.” Temple of Aaron (St. Paul), 2020.
“Unknown Women of the Bible.” Beth Jacob Congregation (Mendota Heights), 2017.
“Jewish Magic in Theory and Practice.” National Havurah Committee Summer Institute (Rindge, NH), 2016.
“Work and Worship, Service and Sacrifice: the Meanings of Avodah.” City Shul (Toronto), 2015.
“Shaky Ladders: Madness, Heresy, and Torah.” Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (Toronto), 2014.
“Funny, You Don’t Look Jewish: an Exploration of Jewish Cultural Diversity.” Darchei Noam Congregation (Toronto), 2014.
“The Bible Says? Ideology, Controversy, and Biblical Multivocality.” Darchei Noam Congregation (Toronto), 2013.

Conference Papers and Panel Presentations (Selected)

“The Birth of the Scroll: Unwinding Supersessionism from Book History in Late Antiquity.” Society of Biblical Literature Annual Conference, Nov. 2022.
“Jewish Scrolls in Christian Hands: Torah Scrolls in Early Modern Germany.” Berlin State Library, “Oriental Manuscripts in Germany” Conference, Jun. 2022.
““In Christian Libraries and Hands They Are Most Rare”: Modern Christian Collectors of Torah Scrolls.” AJS Annual Conference, Chicago, Dec. 2021.
“These are the Books that I Have’: Jewish Libraries in Early Modern North Africa.” AJS Annual Conference, San Diego, Dec. 2020 (virtual).
“From Algeria to Amsterdam: The Printing History of *Sefer HaTashbetz*.” AJS Annual Conference, San Diego, Dec. 2019.
“Elia Benamozegh and the Making of Judeo-Arabic Books in the Sephardi Mediterranean.” SHARP Annual Meeting, UMass Amherst, Jul. 2019.
“In Search of Special Sensations’: Seeing Jewishness in Three Queer Lives.” Jewish Studies

- Graduate Conference, Indiana University Bloomington, Feb. 2019.
- “Jewish Books in the Early Modern Mediterranean.” Panel co-organized (and paper presented: “A Maghrebi Book in the Nineteenth-Century Mediterranean”), AJS Annual Conference, Boston, Dec. 2018.
- “Genizah Margins: Re-evaluating the Meaning of a Medieval Jewish Textual Art.” SLU Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, St. Louis, June 2018.
- “The Ways of the World: Printing a Hebrew Renaissance Geography Book in Oxford.” Newberry Center Graduate Student Conference, Chicago, Jan. 2018.
- “Objects in Translation: Studies in Jewish Material Culture.” Panel co-organized (and paper presented: “Collecting Judaica in Early Modern Europe”), AJS Annual Conference, Washington, DC, Dec. 2017.
- “Contested Colonialisms: Algerian Jewish Books between French, Hebrew, and Judeo-Arabic.” National University of Ireland-Galway, “Translation Meets Book History 1700-1900” Conference, May 2017.

Invited Lectures and Academic Presentations (Selected)

- “Judaica in the Museum.” Aga Khan Museum, 2022 (virtual).
- “Medieval Jewish Books in Early Modern North Africa.” Early Modern Workshop / Center for Jewish History (New York), 2022 (virtual).
- “Book Culture in the Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean.” New York University, 2021 (virtual).
- “‘On the Altar of the Press’: Jewish Print Culture in 19th-Century North Africa.” National Library of Israel, 2020 (virtual).
- “Rabbis with Inky Fingers: Making 18th-Century Hebrew Books.” Minnesota Center for Book Arts, 2020 (virtual).
- “Jewish Life in the Premodern Islamic World.” Western Washington University, 2020 (virtual).
- “Contacts between Jews, Muslims, and Christians in the Premodern Mediterranean.” St. Olaf College, 2019.
- “North African Jews and Global Connections, 300-1450 CE.” UMN, 2019.
- “Medieval Jewish Art.” UMN, 2018.
- “Historiographies of Jewish Gender.” Mt Holyoke College, 2018.
- “Intersections of the Queer Jewish Past and Future.” Smith College, 2018.
- “Judaism as a World Religion.” Southwest Minnesota State University, 2017.
- “Illuminating the Word: Scripture as Visual Object.” St. Olaf College, 2017.
- “The History of Scribes and Scribal Art in Judaism.” Gustavus Adolphus College, 2017.

Professional Memberships and Service to the Profession

- Member: Middle East Studies Association (MESA); Association for Jewish Studies (AJS); American Historical Academy (AHA); American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS); Society for the History of Authorship, Readership, and Publishing (SHARP).
- Manuscript reviewer: *Jewish Social Studies*, *American Jewish History*, *AJS Review*, *La corónica*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Jewish Identities*, *Religions*

Professional Training

- Rare Book School, UVA, “Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description,” Summer 2023.

Rare Book School, UPenn, “Textual Mobilities: Works, Books & Reading Across Early Modern Europe,” Summer 2022.
Rare Book School, UVa, “Provenance: Tracing Owners & Collections,” Summer 2021 (online).
Writing Across the Curriculum Certification Seminar, University of St. Thomas, January 2021.
Israel Institute for Advanced Studies Winter Seminar, “Textual Practices across Manuscript and Early Print, ca 1400-1700,” January 2019.
University of Antwerp Summer School in Books and Culture, “Religious Manuscripts, Hand Press Books and Prints (15th-19th Centuries): Ephemera,” July 2018.
Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, University of Pennsylvania, May 2017.
Bodleian Library Summer Workshop on Hebrew Manuscripts, Oxford University, July 2016.

Languages Spoken

English: native speaker; **French:** professional proficiency; **Hebrew:** professional proficiency; **Arabic:** intermediate proficiency (MSA, Judeo-Arabic, and North African dialects); **Latin:** intermediate proficiency (reading); **Classical Greek:** intermediate proficiency (reading); **German:** limited proficiency; **Yiddish:** limited proficiency; **Spanish:** limited proficiency.

References

Dr. Daniel Schroeter, Amos S. Deinard Memorial Chair in Jewish History, University of Minnesota: schro800@umn.edu, 612-624-2800.

Dr. Jennifer Awes-Freeman, Professor of Theology and the Arts, United Theological Seminary: jaws-freeman@unitedseminary.edu, 651-633-4311.

Jillian Sparks, Distinctive Collections Engagement Librarian, St. Olaf College: sparks2@stolaf.edu, 507-786-2189.