

## RUTH LANGER

Theology Department  
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- 1987-1991** Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio  
PhD in Jewish Liturgy  
Dissertation Title: *The Impact of Custom, History and Mysticism on the Shaping of Jewish Liturgical Law*  
Master of Philosophy in Hebrew and Cognate Studies, May 1980
- 1986-1987** Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel  
Visiting Graduate Student
- 1981-1986** Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, Ohio  
Rabbinic Ordination, June 1986  
Master of Arts in Hebrew Letters, May 1985  
Major Field of Concentration: Rabbinic Literature  
Rabbinic Thesis: *Hamill through the Spoken Word: Ieshon Hara (Gossip/Slander) and Related Concepts in Rabbinic Literature*
- 1977-1981** Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania  
AB Summa Cum Laude  
Major: History of Religion, concentration in Judaic Studies

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- 1995** Boston College, Theology Department, Comparative Theology Area (Judaism)  
Assistant Professor 1995-2001  
Associate Professor 2001-2012  
Professor 2012
- 2016-2017** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Visiting Professor, Department of Jewish Literature, taught graduate seminar on Jewish Liturgy



- March 11, 2007** Lester Gilson Memorial Community Service Award, South Area Solomon Schechter Day School
- 2001-2002** Visiting Fellowship in Jewish Studies, Yad Hrachiv/Beachah Foundation, Jerusalem  
80% Sabbatical, Boston College
- 1988** Honorary Harry Star Fellowship, Center for Judaic Studies, Harvard University
- 1986** Research Incentive Grant, Boston College
- 1991-1992** Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, National Foundation for Jewish Culture  
Doctoral Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 1987-1990** Jacob Ziskind Memorial Fellowship, Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion
- 1986-1987** Research Fellowship, International Center for the University Teaching of Jewish Civilization, Jerusalem
- 1986** Simon Lazaus Memorial Prize (for academic achievement), Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion
- 1985** Mother Hish Prize (for academic achievement), Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion
- 1983** Bnai Zion Gold Medal for Proficiency in Hebrew, Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion
- 1977** National Merit Scholar; High School Valedictorian, Physics Prize, National Honor Society.

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**Prayer and Jewish Identity, projected monograph on how Jewish liturgy and identity interact, particularly with regard to the non-Jewish world**

**A study of how "memory" functions in Jewish ritual/liturgical life**

**Book-length history of early rabbinic liturgy applying current methods in study of rabbinic texts to the sources available**

**Article on Jewish rituals for pandemic pre Covid for a German volume**

**Article reassessing the contributions of Jacob Mann's theory of persecution as a contributor to liturgical change (with a conference in Cambridge UK in July 2023)**

**Article/talk on the modern construction of Jewish identity and its implications for Christian Jewish relations today, January 2023 meeting of Salzburg Jewish Christian Relations Scholars Group, publication anticipated**

**Article/talk on normativity of Scripture in Judaism (February 2023) for publication in a comparative volume (Bern/Zurich project).**

**Response to Jewish proposals in Kamahen, Jhanna's volume, Jacob's Younger Brother; conference in Rome March 2023, publication anticipated in Studies in Christian Jewish Relations**



<https://www.ancientjewishreview.com/read/2022/5/5/were-early-rabbinic-prayers-scripted?fbclid=IwARIPMkZ3VhOwJQz8FOZiEMOnDAWPhy7QsX4DdJJkmbdsw0> (peer reviewed)

- 6 “Turning to Jerusalem from the Exile: Jewish Liturgy’s Engagement with the Diaspora,” *Oxford Handbook of the Jewish Diaspora*, ed Hsia Diner (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021), 55–72, also available at Oxford Handbooks Online, DOI <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190240930/31313> (peer reviewed)

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- 15 "Re-Examining the Early Evidence for Rabbinic Liturgy: How Fixed Were Its Prayer Texts?" with Richard S. Sarason, in *On Wings of Prayer: Sources of Jewish Worship Essays in Honor of Professor Stefan C. Reif on the Occasion of his Seventy-fifth Birthday*, Nuria Calduch Benages, Michael W. Duggan, and Dalia Marx, eds., *Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies 44* (Berlin: DeGruyter, 2019), 203-231, <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110830282-014>
- 16 "Prophetic Universalism and Particularism in Jewish Liturgy," in *Righting Relations after the Holocaust and Vatican II: Essays in Honor of John T. Pawlikowski, OSM*, ed. Fern G. Puccio Foley and Robert A. Cahney (New York, Mahwah, NJ: ASimulus Book, Paulist Press, 2018), 253-269
- 17 "New Directions in Understanding Jewish Liturgy," in *Early Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship*, ed. Fredrick Greenspahn (New York: New York University Press, 2018), 147-173

18

**des Idertuns im 18. Jahrhundert**



**Kemper, Liz Elper Goldberg (New York Central Conference of American Rabbis, 2014),  
129-133**

**37. "Constructing Memory in Jewish Liturgy," in *Toward the Future: Essays on Catholic  
Jewish Relations in Memory of Rabbi Leon Kericki***





**Christentum ed Albert Gerhards, Andrea Doeker and Peter Eberbauer (Paderborn  
Ferdinand Schöningh, 2008), 127-136**

**71.**

**83 “Honor Your Father and Mother: Caregiving as an Halakhic Responsibility,” in Aging and the Aged in Jewish Law: Essays and Responsa (Pittsburgh: Friedhof Institute for Progressive Halakha, 1998): 21-41. Reprinted in That You May Live Long: Caring for Our Aging Parents, Caring for Ourselves, ed. Richard E. Adles and Hara E. Pison (New**



- 11. Stefan Reif, Problems with Prayers: Studies in the Textual History of Early Rabbinic Liturgy, Vol. 37 Studia Judaica, Forschungen zur Wissenschaft des Judentums (Berlin, New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2006), 339pp + xv; in Journal of Jewish Studies 602 (2009): 339-340**
- 12. Yaakov Y. Tepler, Bikat HaMrim: Jews and Christians in Conflict in the Ancient World, trans. Susan Weingarten (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2007), in Studies in Christian Jewish Relations 4 (2009), <http://escholarship.ucdavis.edu/sjcr/vol4/iss1/11/>.**
- 13. Forms of Prayer; I Daily, Sabbath and Occasional Prayers, Eighth Edition (London: The Movement for Reform Judaism, 2008), European Judaism 41, no. 2 (2008): 167-172**
- 14. Uneasy Allies?: Evangelical and Jewish Relations, ed. by Alan Mittelman, Byron Johnson, and Nancy Isseman (Lexington Books, 2007), in Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, May 2008, and a fuller review in Studies in Christian Jewish Relations 3 (2008), <http://escholarship.ucdavis.edu/sjcr/vol3/iss1/12>**
- 15. Jæ3 L**







**Robert Kischner; Baraita de Meleket Ha-Mishkan. A Critical Edition with Introduction and Translation**

**Brief Reviews in Religious Studies Review**

**Miriam's Well: Rituals for Jewish Women Around the Year; 132 (April, 1987).**

**The Book of Modern Jewish Etiquette 142 (April, 1988).**

**Studies in Jewish Prayer 182 (April, 1992).**

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1. "Presenting the Passion without blaming 'The Jews': Judas and Betrayal," with Esper Svartzik; publication of the Christian Scholars Group in Jewish-Christian Relations, International Conference of Christians and Jews, Passion Video Series (<https://www.icj.org/resources/passion-video-series.html>), March 14, 2022
  2. "Yoma No. 6 Scroll Play,"



Metropolitan Chicago, ["Dealing with Difficult Prayers: Jewish Liturgy in an Age of Jewish-Christian Dialogue"](#) (on YouTube, powerpoint missing).

**April 15  
2015** Shapio Lecture, Bernard Center for Theology and Ministry, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, with Fr. Liam Liacey, "Worshipping in a Religiously Pluralist Age: Catholic and Jewish Reflections"

**September  
14, 2014** Wallenberg Tribute Lecture, Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding, Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pennsylvania, with Sr. Mary C. Boys S.M., "Overhearing Our Own Prayers: Jewish and Christian Worship in an Age of Religious Pluralism"

**March 25  
2014** Rabbi Michael A. Singer Memorial Lecture, Discol Professorship in Jewish

**January 7,  
2019**



**May 11, 2010**      **“Investigations into the Early History of the Medieval Siddiq Ha Din” at an international conference on Death, Burial and Mourning Liturgy in the Ashkenazi Communities from the Early Medieval Period until the Early Modern Period at Tel Aviv University, co-sponsored by the Johannes Gutenberg University at Mainz**

**April 13, 2010**      **“Jewish Liturgy,” Nanjing University, China, Jewish Studies Program, lecture for the program’s students and faculty**

**April 12 and 18, 2010**      **“Jewish-Christian Relations,” Nanjing University, China, Jewish Studies Program public lecture, Shanghai University, History Department seminar:**









- May 10  
2006** "The Christian-Jewish Dialogue: Where Do We Go From Here?" with Philip A. Cunningham, Tuoro Synagogue Foundation's "Journey to Freedom Public Lecture Series" Newport, RI
- April 24  
2006** Panelist: "Fuller Meanings: Christian and Jewish Readings of the Bible," conference co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Weston Jesuit School of Theology, and Boston College Theology Department.
- March 24  
25, 2006** Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Philip Keval 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Kallah, Temple Reyim, West Newton, MA  
Lectures  
"Illuminating Jewish Women's Spirituality: Yiddish Prayers for Candlelighting"  
"Words, Not Sacrifices?: The Evolution of the Prayer Book"  
"Languages of Jewish Prayer."
- March 16  
2006** Panelist on "Issues and Challenges in the Interreligious Encounter." At conference co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Learning with Bardsis, "In Our Time: Interreligious Relations in a Divided World"
- January 30  
2006** "Judaism on One Foot," St. Susanna's Parish, Dedham
- January 6  
2006** "The Bible in Jewish Prayer," Seminar on Problems in the Early History of the Liturgy, North American Academy of Liturgy Conference
- December  
31, 2005** Scholar in Residence, Kemp Mill Synagogue, Silver Spring MD  
Lectures  
Forty Years after Nostra Aetate: Assessing a Revolution in Jewish-Christian Relations  
Praying by the Book: The Roles of Torah in Post-Biblical Prayer
- December  
19, 2005** Response to Bishop Richard Skiba, "Nostra Aetate in Nova Aetate," Association for Jewish Studies Conference
- November  
30, 2005** Comparative Theology lunch, "The Role of Israel in Christian Theologies of Judaism"
- November  
20, 2005** "The Bible in Jewish Prayer," at a conference on "Transitions in Jewish and Christian Liturgy," Aachen, Germany







**November** “Prayer and Jewish Identity: Jews and Non-Jews in the Liturgy”  
**12 and 21,** **Milken Schecter, Jerusalem, in Hebrew**  
**2001** **Milken Pades, Jerusalem, in English**  
**February 7,** **Leo Baeck College, London**  
**2002**

**October**





- February 1999** "Developing Guidelines for Holocaust Education in Catholic Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries" Workshop led jointly with Philip A. Cunningham, National Council of Catholic Bishops and American Jewish Committee joint conference, Baltimore
- January 1999** "The Creation of a Valid, Non-Sacrificial Liturgy," Bardeis University
- December 1998** "Jewish-Christian Relations for the Twenty-First Century," Lifetime Learning Program, Newton Community Education
- November 1998** "The Ethics of Gossip and Slander: A Talmudic Perspective" Boston College Alumni Association's Institute for Learning in Retirement, in course on "Judeo-Christian Ethics"
- June 1998** "Revisiting the Origins of the Liturgy"  
"The Earliest Preserved Torah Liturgy: Sofetim 1449"  
Central Conference of American Rabbis Convention, Anaheim
- March 1998** "The Suffering Servant of Isaiah in Jewish and Christian Interpretations" Presented on Jewish Interpretations Boston College Theology Department's History Colloquium
- March 1998** "Jewish-Christian Relations in New Testament, Medieval and Contemporary Times" (Discussed medieval experience as part of panel). Boston Area Council of Episcopal Divinity School
- March 1998** "Toward A Symbolic Analysis of Synagogue Torah Rituals" Bardeis Seminar on Early Christianity and Judaism
- January 1998** "The Banished Priest's Blessing at the Pdyon Hiben" Bardeis Hillel
- January 1998** "Semiotic Analysis of Synagogue Torah Rituals: A Preliminary Discussion" North American Academy of Liturgy, Ritual Language Action Seminar
- December 1997** "The Shema of the Torah Service: Its History and Meaning" Association for Jewish Studies Conference

- September 1997** "A Jewish-Christian Dialogue: Turning to the Presence of God" responded to paper by Fr. Ray Hehid, SJ in first session and presented paper, "Guaranteeing the Presence of God: The Concept of 'The Merit of the Ancestors' in Judaism," in second session. Boston College, sponsored by the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry.
- August 1997** "Re-enacting Sinai: The Development of Torah Liturgies in the Middle Ages" [Hebrew] Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- May 1997** "The Jewish Experience of the Christian 100-1940" and "Jewish Responses to the Holocaust," talks at the Institute for Christian-Jewish Relations (Baltimore) "Faith for the Future" institute for Catholic and Jewish clergy and educators
- April 1997** "Approaching Divine Holiness: Issues in the Liturgical Use of the Kedushah" Rabbinical Assembly Convention
- February-March 1997** Respondent, "No Cause to Boast... Christian Representations of Judaism Before and After the Holocaust," Andover-Newton Theological School, Henry Two Shred History: Perceptions of the Other: Faculty Reconference, February 10 and public conference, March 13
- January 1997** "Communications Theory and Worship: James W. Carey's Communications Culture and its Reception" Ritual Language Action Seminar; North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting
- October 1996** "Jerusalem: The Heart of the Jewish World," Menorah College, Center for the Study of Jewish-Christian Relations - Temple Emanuel of Andover Lecture Series
- June 1996** "Honor Your Father and Mother: Caregiving as an Halakhic Responsibility," Fischel Institute, Rodef Shalom Congregation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- March 1996** "Jewish Liturgical Poetry," Brandeis University
- March 1996** "Jewish Liturgy: Its Structure and History," Andover-Newton Theological School
- February 1996** "The Language and Experience of Tfillah (Prayer)." Two workshops at a conference on "Exploring Issues of Gender and Jewish Day School Education" Jewishcad"afi







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**“Judaism and Christianity in Dialogue”**  
**“The Religious Quest: Judaism and Christianity”**  
**“Modes of Jewish Spirituality”**  
**“The Bible Through Jewish Eyes”**  
**“Turning Points in Jewish History”**  
**“Jewish Liturgy: Its History and Theology”**  
**“Introduction to Talmud”**  
**“Jews and Christians Understanding the Other”**  
**“From Dialogue to Dialogue: Studies in the Jewish-Christian Encounter”**  
**“Judaism Practice and Belief”**  
**“Holy Text in Comparative Perspective: Judaism, Hinduism and Christianity”**  
**“Engaging the Rabbinic Mind”**  
**“Passover in Midrash and Talmud”**  
**“Jewish and Christian Interpretations of the Bible”**  
**“New Testament in its Jewish Context”**  
**“Liturgy, Seasons, Festivals Jewish and Christian”**  
**“Heschel’s Heavenly Tzafni”**  
**“The Theology of Abraham Joshua Heschel”**  
**“Israel in Jewish Theologies”**  
**“Suffering in Comparative Perspective”**

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**“To Fill the Gap On the Origins of Rabbinic Liturgy” (M. Asenina; in Hebrew)**

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**Liturgical Hekhalah**

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**“Graciously Accept their Prayers: The Development of Medieval Liturgical Hekhalah” (rabbinic students; in Hebrew)**

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**“Avodat Hilev” (Jewish Liturgy)**

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**Modes of Jewish Spirituality**

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**The Worlds of Medieval Jewry**

**The Passover Haggadah**

**The Synagogue and its Liturgy/Jewish Prayer and the Prayer Book**

**Jewish Women’s Spirituality**

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**1998**

- 1997-2000) Hebrew Bible reading group for faculty and students organized with David Vanderhoof; and 2002-2004, Jeffrey Geoghean, 2008-9 Catherine Muldon, 2008-9, 2015-16 Angela Kim-Holins
- 2014 (fall), 2015-2016, 2021-
- 1986 Non-credit extra hour of Hebrew text reading for upper level courses where appropriate
- 1986-2000) Guest presentations in BC Theology courses on impact of Holocaust for Jews, on Minorities  
2004  
2018 SIM course on Passover Seder
- 1985-98 Jewish Studies courses arranged  
Hebrew language instruction, 1986-98  
Adjunct-taught courses in Jewish thought and mysticism, 1986-98
- Professional Development Discussions for PhD students  
April 3 About dissertation related issues, with Jim Keenan and John Baldwin  
2008  
Spring Tips on Writing and Publishing Academic Papers, with Jim Keenan  
2010
- March 1, "Faith, Scripture, and the Death Penalty: A Jewish and Christian Dialogue" with  
2005 Stephen Ripe
- February Comparative Theology lunch "Jewish Understandings of the Other"  
16 2005
- September Departmental panel responding to Dominus Iesus. Member of panel, providing a  
2000 Jewish voice
- April 1989 Comparative Theology presentation on Sacrifice to the first year PhD  
colloquium
- March History Colloquium "The Suffering Servant of Isaiah in Jewish and Christian  
1998 Interpretations" Helped plan and presented on Jewish interpretations
- November "Jerusalem from the Perspective of Three Faiths" organized and spoke in  
1986 symposium for Religious Quest students



- 2017**      **Stotsky Prize on the Jewish Holocaust - chair**
- 2021**      **Scriptural Reasoning SIM Interfaith activity**
- 2020**      **Panelist,**



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**2020**  
**(2022)**

**Executive Editorial Board, Hebrew Union College Press**

**1995-1996 Book Review Editor, CCAR Journal; ARJom Jewish Quarterly  
1999-2006**

**1991-1996 Editorial Board, CCAR Journal; ARJom Jewish Quarterly  
1999?**