

Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg
רח' כ"ט בנובמבר 19, ירושלים 9210521, Israel

CURRENT

**Senior Lecturer in Law Faculty
and Jewish Philosophy & Talmud, Tel Aviv University**

January 2025-

PRIOR

Assistant Professor in History, New York University

Skirball Department of Hebrew And Judaic Studies

Affiliate Faculty, History Department

June 2022-December 2024

Spring 2023- December 2024

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES, AND AWARDS (selected)

Law & Humanities Interdisciplinary Workshop for Junior Scholars Paper Competition	2022
Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellowship, Van Leer Institute 2022-2026, (offer)	2022
Junior Fellow, Harvard University Society of Fellows	2018-2022
Starr Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies	2021-2022
Berkowitz Fellow in Jewish Law, New York University Law School	2021-2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D., History, University of Pennsylvania

May 2018

Advisor: Professor David Ruderman (Committee: Professors Roger Chartier, Elchanan Reiner)

Dissertation: *The Organization of Halakhic Knowledge in Early Modern Europe*

Coursework finished June 2013 (GPA: 4.00); passed comprehensive exam with distinction

B.A., Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

December 2008

Minor: Humanities (general)

LANGUAGES

Fluent: English, Hebrew, French, German, Dutch, and Yiddish; *Basic:* Spanish

DOCTORAL PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS (selected)

AJS Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2017-2018
Gruss Library Visiting Scholar, New York University Law School	2015-2016
Leo Baeck Institute (DAAD) Graduate Fellowship	2015-2016
Doctor Sophie Bookhalter Graduate Fellowship, Center for Jewish History	2014-2015
Fellowship in Jewish Law and Interdisciplinary Studies, Cardozo Law School	2012-2014

PUBLICATIONS

- "Implications for the Rabbinic Idea of Law for the History of Halakhah: Dialectics, Apologetics, Fractalization?" *Villanova Law Review* 64, no. 5 (2020): 733-741.
- "Plague, Practice and Prescriptive Text," *Journal for Religion, Law and State* 8, no. 2-3 (2020): 152-178, with Moishe Dovid Chechik.
- "Is it Permitted to Flee the City?" *Tablet Magazine*, 20 April 2020 [online]:
(<https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/history/articles/coronavirus-16th-century-rabbis>).

- "What is *Yerushalmi Shekalim* doing in the Babylonian Talmud?," *Lehrhaus* 23 March, 2020 [online]: (<https://thelehrhaus.com/tag/shekalim/>).
- "Rabbinic Scholarly Practices in Early Modern Ashkenaz: Disordered Books and Dynamic Archives," *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 45, no. 1 (April, 2020): 48-75.
- "Anxieties of Transmission: Rabbinic Responsa and Early Modern 'Print Culture,'" in *Journal of the History of Ideas* 82, no. 3 (July, 2021), 377-404.
- "Iconoclasm in Italy Circa 1500," in *Critical Inquiry* 48, no. 1 (Autumn, 2021), 94-125, with Joseph Koerner.
- "Mysticism, Rationalism, and Criticism: Rabbi Jacob Emden as an Early Modern Critic and Printer," *Harvard Theological Review*, 115, no.1 (Winter 2022), 110-135.
- "Print and the Codification of Jewish Law," in Jeffrey Shoulson and Adam Shear, eds., *Routledge Resources Online – the Renaissance World* [published online, October 2022]: (<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367347093-RERW48-1>).
- "Plague of Firstborn Calves in Bavaria: Law, Halakha, and Custom," [Hebrew], in *Chidushim* 25.1, (2023), 119-148.
- "Set Tables and Vast Oceans (Review of Edward Fram, *The Codification of Jewish Law on the Cusp of Modernity*)." in *Gal-Ed* vol.28 (2023): 8-17.
- "Questions of Law: The Significance of Rabbinic Responsa for Jewish Law," in Zev Eleff, Chaim Saiman, and Roberta Kwall, eds., *Oxford Handbook of Jewish Law* (Oxford University Press) [published online, March 2024]: (<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197508305.013.7>) forthcoming in print, 2025].
- "Halakha and History: Devotionist Textual Scholarship and Historical Consciousness in Early Modern Responsa," in Elisha Ancselovits, Sergey Dolgopolski, Ethan Katz, eds., *When Jews Argue: Between the University and the Beit Midrash* (London & NY: Routledge, 2024).
- "Of Roots and Signs: Printing Ashkenazic Responsa in 16th-century Venice," in Katrin Kogman-Appel and Ilona Steinman, eds., *Premodern Jewish Books, Their Makers and Readers in an Era of Media Change*, *Bibliologia* 67 (Brepols, 2024), 193–223.
- "Responsa and the Rabbinic Republic of Letters," in Yonatan Brafman and Suzanne Stone, eds., *New Directions in Jewish Law* (De Gruyter, 2024).
- "Radical Practicality: On Halakhic Codification and History," *Suzanne Stone Festschrift in Diné Israel* 38 (2024), *189-*214.
- "Halakhic Books, Printed"; "Print and the Emden-Eibeschutz Polemic"; "Knowledge, Organization of," in Marie-José Wijntjes and Emile Schrijver, eds., *Encyclopedia of Jewish Book Cultures* (Brill) [forthcoming].

BOOK PROJECTS

- *Law and Disorder: Rabbinic Responsa and The Dynamics of Early Modern Knowledge*
- *Remaking Rabbinic Culture in Early Modern Europe: Technology, Law, Progress, and Loss* (under contract, Johns Hopkins University Press, *Information Culture* series, ed. Ann Blair, Anthony Grafton, & Earle Havens)

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

- "Letters, Archives, Precedent? Early Modern Rabbinic Responsa and their Afterlives." invited lecture for the Early Modern Seminar at Oxford University [digital], 11/13/24.
- "Unprintable: Legal texts Encounter Print in Early Modern Europe" for ASLH Early Career (Virtual) Legal History Workshop 2024-2025, 9/26/24.

- "From Correspondence to Precedent in Early Modern Responsa" for panel at the Renaissance Society of America annual conference, Chicago, 3/21-23/24.
- "On Technological Change and Legal Thought," for Tel Aviv University Law Faculty, 12/11/23 [Hebrew].
- "Halakhists, Humanists, and the Early Modern Crisis of Legal Knowledge," for Bar Ilan University [Hebrew, digital] 11/28/23.
- "Property, Presumption, and Community," for panel at American Society for Legal History annual conference, Philadelphia, 10/26-28/23.
- "The importance of Print for the Transmission of Jewish Knowledge and Culture," for Tel Aviv University/Vienna University/Cardozo/Hebrew University Law School Joint Moot Court Project, [directed by Aryeh Edrei, digital] 7/31/23.
- "Codifications before Codification" [Hebrew] for Bar Ilan University Law School *Workshop for Halakhic Scholars*, [directed by Yair Lorberbaum, digital] 6/12/23.
- "Plague of the Firstborns," Event for Law and History volume of *Chidushim* Journal, Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem, 5/31/23
- "Law and Disorder: Early Modern Rabbinic Responsa and the Limits of Organization," Workshop on Law and History at the Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv organized by Ofra Bloch, Assaf Likhovsky, David Schorr, 5/28/23
- "Scholars and Rabbis," for panel at New Directions in North American Scholarship on Early Modern Jewish History, NYU, 5/15-17/23
- "Radical Practicality, History, and Meta-Halakha," Halakha and Meta-Halakha panel with Moshe Halbertal, Harvard Conference on the Legacy of Isadore Twersky, 1/19/23
- "Organization and Legal Codification," for Graduate Seminar on Legal and Political Thought (organized by Suzanne Stone and Leora Batnizky), Cardozo Law School, 12/21/22
- "*Zakhor* at 40: A Conversation on the Importance of Yerushalmi's Masterpiece," with Carlo Ginsburg, Martha Rustow, Sylvie-Ann Goldberg, UCLA Leve Center [digital panel], 12/8/22
- "Law and Disorder: Early Modern Rabbinic Responsa and the Limits of Organization," Society for the Advancement of Law&Talmud, Columbia Law School, 11/16/22
- "On History, Halakha, and an Enduring Essay," Conference on Understanding Halakha, History, and Spirituality, Yeshiva University Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies, 9/11/22
- "Halakhic Decisors, Humanist Scholars, and Legal Codification" [in Hebrew] at 18th Congress of the World Union for Jewish Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 8/11/23
- "Humanists, Halakhists, and Legal Codification," Law and Humanities Junior Scholar Paper Competition Winner Workshop, University of Southern California Gould Law School, 5/24-25/22
- "Rabbinic Responsa and Legal Communication," Max Planck Institute-Tel Aviv University Legal History Workshop [digital presentation], 11/23/21
- "Rabbi Jacob Emden as an Early Modern Mystic, Critic, and Printer," Tel Aviv International Forum for Jewish Thought, Tel Aviv University [digital lecture], 6/1/21
- "Response to *Mapah* Project by Elli Fischer and Moshe Schorr," Innovations in Digital Jewish Heritage Studies: The 1st International Haifa Conference, E-Lijah Lab and the University of Haifa [digital panel], 5/31/21
- "Archives, Books, and Scholarly Practices: Rabbis and Humanists Making Books in Early Modern Europe," JewTACT (ERC group) and History Department Departmental Lecture at Ben Gurion University of the Negev [digital lecture], 12/21/20

- "Early Modern Jewish Legal Sources on Epidemics," The Legal History of Epidemics Colloquium at the David Berg Foundation Institute for Legal History, Buchmann Faculty of Law, Tel Aviv University [digital lecture], 5/25/20
- "Halakhists, Humanists and Legal Codification: Systematizing Jewish Religious Legal Knowledge in the Early Modern Period," with comments by Charles Donahue, Mahindra Humanities Center Book History Seminar, Harvard, 11/12/19
- "Jewish Law from Manuscript to Print: Ordering Text and Understanding Law," Conference: The Jewish Book 1400-1600 from Production to Reception, Münster University, 6/24-27/19
- "*Pinkasim*, Lists and Archives: Writing and Authority in Sixteenth-Century Ashkenazi Responsa" [in Hebrew], Open *Pinkas*: An Event Marking the Launch of "The *Pinkasim* Collection: The International Repository of Communal Ledgers," National Library of Israel, 6/20/19
- "The *Shulḥan Arukh* in Early Modern Ashkenaz: Organization, Technology, and a Revolution in Jewish Legal Thinking," moderated by Noah Feldman, Julis-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law at Harvard Law School, 4/3/19
- "Print, Knowledge Organization, and Halakha: Codification and Disorder," Starr Seminar, Jewish Studies Program of Harvard University, 3/28/19
- "Implications of *The Rabbinic Idea of Law* for Jewish Law and Rabbinics," The Rabbinic Idea of Law: Interactions and Implications Symposium, Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, 2/14-2/15/19
- "History and Halakhah before *Wissenschaft*: Rabbinic Historicism in a Seventeenth-Century *Teshuva*," response by Sergey Dolgopolski, Devotion and Relativity, Text and Context: New Frontiers of Jewish Literacy, Center for Jewish History, New York, 10/7-10/8/18
- "Intellectual Networks in 16th-Century Ashkenaz: Responsa and the Rabbinic Republic of Letters," panel on The Material Contexts (and Consequences) of Books, response by Marjorie Lehman, 17th World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, 8/9/17

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching/ Course Creation (teaching evaluations attached separately)

Creating new courses, syllabi, lesson plans, assignments, teaching, and grading courses at New York University (NYU)

HBRJD UA111, "Modern Jewish Migrations,"	NYU Spring 2023
HBRJD UA176 "Judaism from the Middle Ages to the Modern Period,"	NYU Fall 2022

Teaching/Curriculum Development

Developing lesson plans and material for, and teaching two courses on, Jewish Law at summer program for undergraduates, Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, New York Summer 2015
 June Session: Laws of *Sotah* in Responsa? Erasing the Divine Name, Adultery, and Testimony.
 July Session: Jewish Law, Topics in Responsa Literature (Femme Fatale and Firstlings).

Teaching Assistant/Grader (teaching evaluations attached separately)

Prof. Thomas Childers, "The Third Reich," University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)	Fall 2013
Prof. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, "History of the Modern Middle East," UPenn	Fall 2011
Prof. Eiiricho Azuma, "Introduction to Asian American History," UPenn	Spring 2014
Prof. Beth Wenger, "Jews in the Modern World," UPenn	Spring 2012

SERVICE, JURIES, COMMITTEES

Main applicant, <i>Global Conference: Religious Law and Power</i> , NYU Tel Aviv	Spring 2025
Manuscript review of journal article, <i>Jewish History</i>	Fall 2023
Manuscript review of journal article, <i>Journal of Religion</i>	Summer 2023
Manuscript reader of Book, <i>The Babylonian Talmud and the Creation of the Bet Midrash World</i> [Hebrew], Yakov Z. Mayer, Ishai Rosen-Tzvi	2023
Co-Organizer, <i>Baron Conference: New Directions in Jewish Studies</i> , NYU	Summer 2023
Job Search Committee, Holocaust Faculty Position, NYU Hebrew and Judaic	Spring 2023
Dissertation Committee, reader, Jill Joshowitz,	
“From Ancestors to Exemplars: The Emergence of Jewish Biblical Iconography in the Late Antique Eastern Mediterranean”	2/8/2023
Evaluation of multiple research proposals for <i>Israel Science Foundation</i> .	2020, 2023
Manuscript review of journal article, <i>AJS Review</i> .	2021
Manuscript review of journal article, <i>Te’udah</i> , special issue:	2020
<i>Maimonides: New Perspectives</i> , eds. Adam Afterman, Menachem Lorberbaum, Omer Michaelis	