

RACHEL B. GROSS

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Princeton University, Religion, 2014.
M.A. Princeton University, Religion, 2011.
M.A. University of Virginia, Religious Studies, 2008.
B.A. University of Virginia, Jewish Studies, 2007.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016–present John and Marcia Goldman Professor of American Jewish Studies, Assistant Professor, Department of Jewish Studies, San Francisco State University.
2014–2016 Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech.

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

- 2015–2017 Young Scholars in American Religion Program, Center for the Study of Religion and Culture, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.
2014 Summer fellowship, Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University.
2013–2014 Dissertation Completion Fellowship in American Religion and Politics, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis.
2012–2013 Berman Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for the Social Scientific Study of the Contemporary American Jewish Community, Association for Jewish Studies.
2008–2013 Fellowship, Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University.
2012 Summer funding grant, Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University.
2009 Summer funding grant, Program in the Study of Women and Gender, Princeton University.
2009 Summer funding grant, Program in Judaic Studies, Princeton University.
2008 First Place, Jewish Studies Essay Prize, University of Virginia.
2007 Levin Family Award for Excellence in Jewish Studies, University of Virginia.

PUBLICATIONS

Works in Progress

Book manuscript: *Feeling Jewish: Buying and Selling American Jewish Nostalgia*. Under review.

“Jewish Contraptions.” In exhibition catalog for *Contraption: Rediscovering California Jewish Artists*, Contemporary Jewish Museum. Forthcoming spring 2018.

“A Slippery Slope: Jews, Schmaltz, and Crisco.” In *Food and Jewish Traditions*, edited by Aaron Gross, Jordan Rosenblum, and Jody Meyers.

Articles and Book Chapters

“People of the Picture Book: PJ Library and American Jewish Religion.” In *Religion and Popular Culture in America*, third edition, edited by Bruce David Forbes and Jeffrey H. Mahan. Oakland, California: University of California Press, 2017.

“Field Trip to the Kosher Kitchen: Religion and Politics in the University Dining Hall.” *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* 25, no. 1 (Spring/Summer 2014): 128–137.

“‘Draydel Salad’: The Serious Business of Jewish Food and Fun in Postwar America.” In *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*, eds. Benjamin E. Zeller, Marie W. Dallam, Reid L. Neilson, and Nora L. Rubel. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

Other Contributions

“Is the Statue of Liberty a Jewish Woman?” *J. The Jewish News of Northern California*, 3 July 2017. <http://www.jweekly.com/2017/07/03/is-the-statue-of-liberty-is-a-jewish-woman/>.

“‘Anne ♥ Peter’ and the Rise of Anne Frank Fan Videos.” *The Jewish Daily Forward*, The Sisterhood blog, 17 November 2015. <http://forward.com/sisterhood/324909/anne-peter/>

“Who Counts as a Jew?” *Religion & Politics*, 8 October 2013. <http://religionandpolitics.org/2013/10/08/who-counts-as-a-jew/>

Literature and Exhibition Reviews

Review of *Foreigners and Their Food: Constructing Otherness in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law* by David M. Freidenreich. *Journal of Indo-Judaic Studies* (forthcoming).

Review of *The Life of the Synagogue*, online exhibition curated by Samuel D. Gruber, Sarah Glover, and Amy Lazarus, <http://lifeofthesynagogue.library.cofc.edu/>. *Southern Jewish History* 18 (2015).

“Creating the December Dilemma.” Review of *Hanukkah in America: A History* by Dianne Ashton. H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews (February 2015).

“Sites of Memory and Life.” Review of *Space and Place in Jewish Studies* by Barbara E. Mann. *Sh'ma* 42, no. 691 (June 2012).

“New Directions in the Study of Prayer: Scientific, Social Scientific, Ethnographic, and Theoretical Perspectives.” Co-authored with Molly Farneth and Allison Youatt Schnable. Princeton: Center for the Study of Religion Working Paper. Princeton University, 2009.

Review of *Feminism and Theology*, eds. Janet Martin Soskice and Diana Lipton. *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 98, no. 4 (Fall 2008).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & CERTIFICATION

Courses Taught

San Francisco State University.

American Jews and Popular Culture. Department of Jewish Studies. Cross-listed under History and Humanities. Fall 2017.

American Jewish History. Department of Jewish Studies. Cross-listed under History. Fall 2016, Fall 2017.

Introduction to Judaism. Department of Jewish Studies. Spring 2017.

Food Fights: The Politics of American Jewish Consumption, 1654–Present. Department of Jewish Studies. Cross-listed under History. Spring 2017.

Virginia Tech

Material Culture and Humanities in the Public Sphere. Graduate seminar, Department of Religion and Culture. Spring 2016.

American Jews and Popular Culture. University Honors Seminar. Fall 2015.

Food Fights: Jews and Food from the Bible to Bagels. Department of Religion and Culture. Spring 2015.

Introduction to Jewish History, Culture, and Heritage. Department of Religion and Culture. Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016.

The Holocaust. Department of Religion and Culture. Cross-listed under History. Fall 2014, Fall 2015.

Washington University in St. Louis

Food Fights: The Politics of American Jewish Consumption, 1860–2014. Center on Religion and Culture. Cross-listed under Religious Studies, American Culture Studies, and Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. Fall 2014.

Princeton University

Assistant in Instruction to Kathryn Gin, Religion and War in America. Department of Religion. Cross-listed under History. Fall 2011.

American Places: An Introduction to American Studies. Program in American Studies. Developed and taught with William Gleason and Co-Assistants in Instruction. Fall 2010.

Invited Lectures

April 2016 Guest lecturer for Samira Mehta, Religion and American Culture Senior Seminar, Albright College.

Nov. 2015 Guest lecturer for Marc Dollinger, American Jewish History, San Francisco State University.

- July 2015 Guest lecturer for Michael Hogue and Nicole Kirk, Global Religions and Their Material Expressions, Meadville Lombard Theological School.
- March 2015 Guest lecturer for Dr. Zhange Ni, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Virginia Tech.
- April 2013 Guest lecturer for Judith Weisenfeld, Religion in American Society, Princeton University.
- April 2013 Guest lecturer for Liora Halperin, Introduction to Jewish History: Museums and Memory, Princeton University.
- March 2013 Guest lecturer for Caleb Maskell, Faith and Critical Reason, Fordham University.
- Jan. 2013 Guest lecturer for Royal Rhodes, Encountering Religion in Its Global Context: An Introduction, Kenyon College.
- July 2012 Guest lecturer for Jessica Cooperman, Jews and New York City, Jewish Theological Seminary.

Teaching Certification

- 2010–2012 Teaching Transcript, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University.
- Fall 2010 Assistants in Instruction Orientation to Teaching to Improve Undergraduate Instruction, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton University.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Invited lecture: “Lost in the Diaspora: Jewish Genealogy and American Jewish Nostalgia.” Bay Area Academic Consortium for Jewish Studies, San Francisco State University. 3 May 2017.
- Faculty respondent: “Religious Rhetoric in Policy and Practice Decisions” panel. Sites of Religious Practice: An Undergraduate Research Conference. UC Davis. 20 May 2017.
- Faculty respondent: “Controversies and Approaches in Public History and Material Culture” panel. The 19th Annual Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Graduate Conference. Virginia Tech. March 2016.
- Presider: “Culinary Conversion and Consumption in Contemporary Culture” panel. Religion and Food Group, American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. November 2015.
- Conference paper: “Referendum on the Jewish Deli Menu’: A Culinary Revival.” American Academy of Religion, San Diego. November 2014.
- Invited lecture: “Beards in History: Theodor Herzl.” Department of Religion and Culture fall 2015 lecture series, Virginia Tech. 25 September 2015.
- Conference paper: “‘Feel the History at Your Feet’: Historic Synagogues Turned Heritage Sites.” Graduate Student Workshop in American Jewish History, University of Michigan. May 2013.
- Conference paper: “Ghosts in the Gallery: Nostalgia and Authenticity in Historic Synagogues Used as Heritage Sites.” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 2013.
- Organizer: “Direct Objects: Authenticating Jewishness through Material Culture” panel. Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2013.

Paper workshop: “Referendum on the Jewish Deli Menu’: A Culinary Revival.” Religion in the Americas Workshop, Department of Religion, Princeton University. December 2013.

Paper workshop: “Referendum on the Jewish Deli Menu’: A Culinary Revival.” Religion and Politics Colloquium, John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis. October 2013.

Conference paper: “The Arts and Crafts of Nostalgia: Teaching Sentimentality at the Eldridge Street Synagogue.” The Arts of Jewish Memory Symposium, the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago. February 2013.

Invited presentation: “What Is American Judaism?” Teaching-focused graduate student colloquium, Department of Religion, Princeton University. February 2013.

Conference paper: “Lost in the Diaspora: Authority and Authenticity in American Guidebooks to Jewish Genealogy.” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago. December 2012.

Organizer: “How-To Jews: The Instruction Manuals of American Judaism” panel. Co-organized with Samira Mehta. Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 2012.

Paper workshop: “Lost in the Diaspora’: Authority and Authenticity in the Practices of Jewish Genealogy.” Religion in the Americas Workshop, Department of Religion, Princeton University. September 2012.

Conference paper: “What Their Souls Need’: The Spirituality and Morality of American Medievalism at the Cloisters Museum and Gardens.” Gothic America, Ninth Annual American Art History Graduate Student Symposium, Yale University, New Haven. May 2012.

Paper workshop: “Heartwarming Histories: Nostalgia as the American Jewish Mitzvah.” American Religion Workshop, Department of Religion, Princeton University. February 2012.

Conference paper: “Morality in Stone: The Moral Imperative of the Cloisters Museum.” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco. November 2011.

Conference paper: “Draydel Salad’: The Serious Business of Jewish Food and Fun in Postwar America.” Enduring Trifles: Writing the History of Childhood with Ephemera, Cotsen Children’s Library, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. February 2011.

Paper workshop: “Morality in Stone: The Moral Imperative of John D. Rockefeller’s Cloisters Museum.” American Religion Workshop, Department of Religion, Princeton University. November 2010.

Conference paper: “Draydel Salad’: The Serious Business of Jewish Food and Fun in Postwar America.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta. October 2010.

Paper workshop: “Spaces of Memory: Historic Synagogues as Museums and the Jewish Community.” American Religion Workshop, Department of Religion, Princeton University. October 2009.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Invited lecture: “Judaism and Representational Art.” Gallery Chat, *The 613 by Archie Rand* exhibit, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco. 6 October 2017.

Invited lecture: “Mitzvot and Midrash.” Docent and educator training, *The 613 by Archie Rand* exhibit, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco. 19–20 June 2017.

Inaugural lecture: “Feeling Jewish: Buying and Selling American Jewish Nostalgia.” Inaugural Lecture, John and Marcia Goldman Chair in American Jewish Studies at SF State. Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco. 15 June 2017.

Invited lecture: “Do-It-Yourself Judaism: The 1970s Jewish Catalogs.” Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Mission Minyan, San Francisco. 30 May 2017.

Invited lecture: “DIY: Receiving and Reinventing Judaism in the 1970s.” Shavuot Banquet, the Kitchen, San Francisco. 30 May 2017.

Invited lecture: “American Jewish Nostalgia.” SF Hillel board meeting, San Francisco. 3 April 2017.

Invited lecture: “The Good Old Days: Buying and Selling American Jewish Nostalgia.” Three-part SPARK! Program course, Madeline Haas Russell Adult Jewish Studies Program, Congregation Emanu-El, San Francisco. 14, 21, and 28 March 2017.

Invited lecture: “Following Instructions: How American Jews Learned to Cook and Consume.” Congregation Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, Virginia. 15 May 2016.

Invited lecture: “Looking for Judaism in New Places: Contemporary American Jewish Practice.” Docent continuing education class, National Museum of American Jewish History. Philadelphia. 1 February 2016.

Panel participant: “Healthcare Access as a Moral Imperative: An Interfaith Discussion in New River Valley.” Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy; Virginia Consumer Voices for Healthcare; Virginia Organizing, and the New River Valley Chapter; and the Montgomery County, Floyd County and Radford City Chapter of the NAACP. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Blacksburg, Virginia. 26 October 2015.

Organizer: Shayna Weiss, “What We Talk about When We Talk about Pools: Controversies in America and Israel.” Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture, the Residential College at West Ambler Johnston, and Hillel at Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia. 20 October 2015.

Organizer: Etgar Keret, reading from *The Seven Good Years: A Memoir* and conversation with Dr. Shayna Weiss. Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture, the English Department’s Visiting Writer’s Series, and Hillel at Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia. 19 October 2015.

Organizer: Jeffrey Yoskowitz, “Do-It-Yourself Pickles: Reviving Old World Jewish Food Traditions,” and “Creating a Kosher America: From Heinz Baked Beans to Nabisco Oreos.” Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture, Department of Food Science and Technology, the Jewish Student Union, the Chabad Librescu Jewish Student Center, and Hillel at Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia. 27–28 April 2015.

Invited moderator: “The Holocaust and American Public Memory,” conversation with Fred Zeidman, Chairman Emeritus of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Council. John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis, and the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center at the Jewish Federation of St. Louis. 22 April 2015.

Invited lecture: Keynote speaker, Jewish Student Union Aliyah (Graduation) Ceremony. Multicultural Programs and Services, Virginia Tech. 14 April 2015.

Organizer: “Representing American Jews” film series. Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia. Fall 2015.

Organizer: Film screening of *Little White Lie* and discussion with filmmaker Lacey Schwartz. Malcolm and Diane Rosenberg Program in Judaic Studies in the Department of Religion and Culture; the Dialogue on Race, a program of the Community Group/New Mountain Climbers Fund; Hillel at Virginia Tech; the Black Organizations Council; and the Black Student Alliance at Virginia Tech. Blacksburg, Virginia. 26 February 2015.

Invited lecture: “From Home Cooking to Trendy Fare: The Translation of Ethnic Cooking.” Hickory Feast, Virginia Tech. 16 November 2014.

Interview granted: Interview by Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus. “An Outsider Looks at the Jewish Genealogical Phenomenon.” *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* 30, no. 3 (Fall 2014).

Invited lecture: “Following Instructions: How American Jews Learned to Cook and Consume.” Bais Abraham Congregation, St. Louis. 3 May 2014.

Organizer and moderator: “Food, Religion, and Politics: A Conversation on Contemporary Issues in the U.S.” John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics, Washington University in St. Louis. 8 April 2014.

Invited lecture: “Shabbat Candlestick Salad: The Serious Business of Jewish Food and Fun in the 1950s.” Chabad on Campus, Rohr Center for Jewish Life, Washington University in St. Louis. 10 October 2013.

Invited lecture: “Do-It-Yourself Judaism: Reflecting on the 1970s Jewish Catalogs Today.” Congregation Shaare Zedek, New York. 16 May 2012.

Invited lecture: “The Good Old Days: Nostalgia for American Jewish Children.” The JCC in Manhattan, Learn with Limmud NY. 17 March 2012.

Invited lecture: “The Good Old Days: Nostalgia for American Jewish Children.” Limmud NY, Kerhonkson, New York. 14 January 2012.

ADMINISTRATIVE & ACADEMIC SERVICE

Steering Committee, Religion and Food Group, American Academy of Religion, 2015–2020.

Steering Committee, Religion, Memory, and History Group, American Academy of Religion, 2015–2020.

Wasserman Committee, American Jewish Historical Society, 2017. Selected Wasserman Essay Prize for best article published in *American Jewish History* in 2016.

Judaic Studies program coordinator. Department of Religion and Culture, Virginia Tech, 2014–present.

M.A. thesis committee member for Claire Gogan, “To Play Jewish Again: Whiteness, Counterculture and The Klezmer Revival 1977–1997.” Department of History, Virginia Tech, 2016.

Reviewer of article for *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender Issues*, 2016.

Reviewer of manuscript for Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2015.

LANGUAGES

Modern Hebrew (reading knowledge)
Yiddish (reading knowledge)
German (reading knowledge)
Biblical Hebrew (college-level instruction)
Spanish (college-level instruction)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Academy of Religion
Association for Jewish Studies