

GABRIEL LEVY CURRICULUM VITAE

Professor of Religious Studies
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Trondheim, Norway
www.gabriellevy.com
@gabriellevy1

RESEARCH AREAS

History of religions, Jewish studies, method and theory, philosophy of religious language, cognitive approaches to humanities

EDUCATION

2014-2015	PEDUP (Pedagogisk utviklingsprogram/Teacher Training), NTNU
1999-2007	University of California, Santa Barbara, CA USA MA and PhD in Religious Studies Dissertation: <i>Changing Channels: Biblical Prophecy, Writing, and Cognition</i> Directors: W. Randall Garr, Giles Gunn, Barbara Holdrege, Roger Elvin Hatch
Friedland, 1995-1999	Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH USA BA in Religion and Anthropology Double Major, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa Honors Thesis: <i>Yesh/Ayin: Habad-Lubavitch Mysticism</i> (Director: Ehud Benor)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023-	• Elected as Fellow of the International Society for Science and Religion (ISSR, Cambridge)
2018-	• Elected to The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters, Det Kongelige Norske Videnskabers Selskab (DKNVS).
2013	• Nominated for “the year’s best teacher” award “The Golden Carrot” in Humanities at NTNU, 2012-2013.
2013	• Fellowship to attend thinktank on the “Evolution of the Indoor Biome,” at the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, Durham (Duke University).
2011	• Fellowship to attend the Mellon Summer Workshop in Cognitive Science/Neuroscience and the Humanities, hosted by the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University
2006-2007	• Graduate Student Travel Grant Award
2000-2004	• Jacob K. Javits Fellow, US Department of Education, \$150,000
2000	• Research team studying impact of tsunami in Papua New Guinea, NSF • John M. MacDonald Research Grant for Anthropological Research in Papua New Guinea
1999	• Field Museum of Chicago New Guinea Anthropological Research Program Fellowship • Magna Cum Laude, Dartmouth College • Honors in Religion, Dartmouth College • Phi Beta Kappa, Dartmouth College
1998	• Goodman Anthropology Grant, Dartmouth College • Jewish Studies Grant recipient for honors thesis fieldwork with a Hasidic group in Miami

EMPLOYMENT

Norwegian University of Science and Technology	<p>Promotion to Full Professor (Religious Studies) (Sept. 2014-) Associate Professor (2012-)</p> <p>Courses taught:</p> <p>Method and Theory and Philosophy of Science in the Study of Religion (Masters Level) Cognitive Science and Religion, Explaining Religion Ancient Near Eastern Religions Judaism Introduction to Religion</p>
Aarhus University	<p>Research Fellow, Religion, Cognition and Culture Group (2011-2012) Adjunct Lecturer, Study of Religion (2007-2011)</p> <p>Courses taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and Food Practices • Religion in the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict • Prophecy (Graduate Level) • Cognitive Approaches to Revelation in Western Religion (Graduate) • Religion and Film
Dartmouth College	Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Arts and Sciences (2010-2013)
University of Copenhagen	Visiting Scholar, Faculty of Theology (2004-2005)
University of California	<p>Teaching Associate and Pedagogy Training (1999-2007), Law & Society and Religious Studies</p> <p>Courses taught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law and Culture • Law and Society • Religion in Ancient Western Civilization • Anthropology of Law • Introduction to Caribbean Studies • Introduction to Biblical Studies (Reader) • Voices of the Stranger (Reader) • Religion in Black America • Religious Approaches to Death

MAIN INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2017-2023	Chairperson of the Board, Norwegian PhD Research School ATTR
2020	Hiring Committee, Associate Professor in Christianity, NTNU
2014	Hiring Committee, Associate Professor in South-Asian Religion, NTNU
2013-2016	Program Leader, Department of Religious Studies, NTNU
2013	Vice-Chair, Department of Religious Studies, NTNU

PUBLICATIONS

PhD Dissertation

2007	<i>Changing Channels: Biblical Prophecy, Writing, and Cognition.</i> University of California, Santa Barbara. ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2007. 3294747
------	---

Books

2022 *Beyond Heaven and Earth: A Cognitive Theory of Religion*. Cambridge: MIT Press. **(Finalist for the American Academy of Religion book of the year in the category Excellence in the Study of Religion, Constructive-Reflective Studies)**

2014/2012 *Judaic Technologies of the Word: A Cognitive Analysis of Jewish Cultural Formation*. New York: Routledge.

Edited Books

2013 *Judaism and Emotion: Texts, Performance, Experience*. Editor, with Sarah Ross and Soham al-Saadi. New York: Peter Lang.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

2023 “Teaching J. Z. Smith in Scandinavia,” in Barbara Krawcowicz (ed.), *Thinking with J. Z. Smith: Mapping Methods in the Study of Religion*. Equinox.

2021 “Blasphemy as Transgressive Speech, a natural history” in Anne Stensvold (ed.), *Blasphemies Compared Transgressive Speech in a Globalised World*. Routledge.

2017 “Cognitive Linguistics Meets Religion: Surveying the Field” in Niki Clements (ed.), *MacMillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks on Religion*. MacMillan

with Miriam Kyselo “Dynamic Perspectives on Defamation of Religion among Jewish NGOs” in Anne Stensvold (ed.), *Value politics: Religion and the UN*. Routledge

2016 “Hermeneutics” in Elijah Siegler (ed.), *The Coen Brothers' Religion: Mythology, Morality and the American Landscape*. Baylor University Press.

“The prospects and pitfalls of 'just-so' storytelling in evolutionary accounts of religion” in Luther Martin and Don Wiebe (eds.), *Conversations and Controversies in the Scientific Study of Religion*. Leiden: Brill.

2015 “False advertising: The Attractiveness of Religion as a Moral Brand,” with Panagiotis Mitkidis, in Jason Slone and James van Slyke (eds.), *The Attraction of Religion*. New York: Bloomsbury.

2013 “‘I was El Shaddai, but now I'm Yahweh’: God Names and the Informational Dynamics of Judaic texts,” in Risto Uro and Istvan Czachesz (eds.), *Cognitive Science Approaches in Biblical Studies*. London: Equinox.

“Physiological Emotions in Early Rabbinic Texts,” in Sarah Ross, Gabriel Levy, and Soham al-Saadi (eds.), *Judaism and Emotion: Texts, Performance, Experience*. New York: Peter Lang.

2011 “Technology and Past Minds - the Case of Jewish Niche Construction,” in Luther Martin and Jesper Sorensen (eds.), *Past Minds: Studies in*

Cognitive Historiography. London: Equinox.

“Myth” in Eric Mazur (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and Film*. London: Greenwood Press.

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 2024 with Zickfeld, J.H., Ścigala, K.A., Elbæk, C.T., Mitkidis, P. *et al.*
“Effectiveness of ex ante honesty oaths in reducing dishonesty depends on content.” *Nature Human Behavior*
- 2023 “Thinking about John Thinking about Cognitive Scientists Thinking about Religion. *Religious Studies Review*, 49: 315-318.
- 2018 “Can fictional superhuman agents have mental states?” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 30:3
- 2017 with Panagiotis Mitkidis et al. “The Effects of Extreme Rituals on Moral Behavior: the performers-observers gap hypothesis.” *Journal of Economic Psychology*. vol. 59.
- 2015 with Martin, Adams, Bateman, et. al., “Evolution of the indoor biome.” *Trends in Ecology & Evolution*. vol. 30 (4).
- 2013 “The prospects and pitfalls of 'just-so' storytelling in evolutionary accounts of religion,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 25, 451-459.
- 2012 “False But Significant: The Development of Falsity in Religious Cognition in Light of the Holism of the Mental,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 24: 2, 143-165.
- 2011 “Rabbinic Language from an Integrationist Perspective,” *Language Sciences* 33: 4.
- 2010 “Rabbinic Philosophy of Language: Not in Heaven,” *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 18: 2.
- 2006 “Biblical Prophecy in Recent American Theological Politics,” *Postscripts* 2:1.

Editor-reviewed Articles

- 2023 Review of *Taking “Religion” Seriously: Essays on the Discursive Study of Religion*, by Teemu Taira, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 90, 4.
- 2020 “You Can Lead a Horse to Water, But You Can’t Make It Drink.” *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 32:3, 259–266.
- 2018 “Let there be light: the word of God in the Jewish tradition: past, present and future.” *AJS Perspectives*, Spring.
- 2017 Book Review of Neil Weinstock Netanel’s *From Maimonides to Microsoft: The Jewish Law of Copyright since the Birth of Print*. Oxford: Oxford

University Press, 2016. *Numen* 64: 2-3, 330-333.

- 2016 Book Review of Naphtali S. Meshel's *The "Grammar" of Sacrifice: A Generativist Study of the Israelite Sacrificial System in the Priestly Writings with a "Grammar" of Σ*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. *Numen* Volume 63:1, 131-135.
- 2014 "“Be careful, or you'll act corruptly and make a carved image for yourselves, in the form of a figure, the likeness male or female” (Deut. 4:16): A commentary on Norenzayan's *Big Gods: How Religion Transformed Cooperation and Conflict*,” *Religion* 44:4.
- “Scholars Are Demons, Not Gods: Meta-Theoretical Reflections Sparked by Bruce Lincoln's *Gods and Demons, Priests and Scholars*,” *Bulletin for the Study of Religion* 42 (2), 7-12.
- 2011 Book Review of *Brothers Estranged: Heresy, Christianity, and Jewish Identity in Late Antiquity* by Adiel Schremer, *Journal of Religion in Europe* 4:2.
- 2010 Review Essay: “Contemporary Theories of Religion, A Critical Companion,” *Numen* 57: 2.
- 2006 “Prophecy, Written Language, and the Language Myth: Benjamin's Linguistic Mysticism as Cure for the ‘Language Myth,’” *Epoché: The University of California Journal for the Study of Religion* 24.
- 2005 “Religious ‘Cognition’: Between Integrated Physiology and Network,” *Epoché: The University of California Journal for the Study of Religion* 23:2.

Conference Presentations

- June 2024 • “Reframing Theory of Mind in Enactive Terms: A Socio-Linguistic Approach to Religious Cognition,” Toward an enactive CESR: Roundtable, IACESR Annual conference, Oxford Brookes University
- May 2023 • Keynote at the Religion and the Mind Conference, Jagiellonian University, “Cognitive gadgets, religion and enaction: Integrating approaches to the study of religious minds”
- May 2022 • “Reframing the natural, supernatural and human,” 39th International Symposium for Eco-Ethica, University of Lille, France.
- September 2020 • “The Concept of Life in Judaism,” Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg
- November 2019 • “God, Data, and Michael Jordan: On the Border between Sport and Play,” with Vincent Biondo. American Academy of Religion, San Diego.
- October 2018 • “Cognitive Science and the Humanities,” Authoritative Texts and their Reception Conference, Trondheim.
- April 2017 • “The Zohar’s new science of Biblical exegesis,” Rhetoric and Linguistics in the Bible and the Qur’an Workshop, Norwegian Institute of Rome, Italy
- March 2017 • Roundtable Panelist, Gendered Academy, ATTR Research School Paris
- May 2016 • Paper, “How not to study science and religion, consider life,” Life Sciences and Religion: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives International Workshop at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center
- December 2015 • Paper, “Defamation of Religion at the UN from a Jewish Perspective,”

- IKOS, University of Oslo
- December 2015 • Invited lecture: “Judaic Technologies of the World,” Czech Association for the Study of Religion, Brno Czech Republic
 - October 2015 • Paper: “Jewish NGOs at the UN,” IKOS, University of Oslo
 - August 2015 • Paper “Can Fictional Superhuman Agents Have Mental States,” *and* Chair for the panel, “Questions raised and answered by laboratory studies of religion” *and* Chair for the panel, “Philosophy for the Study of Religion: Problems, Potentials, and Proposals” Conference for the International Association for the History of Religion, Erfurt.
 - June 2015 • “Information in the Sefer Yetzirah” International Workshop - How Jews Know, Jewish Epistemologies, Free University in Berlin
 - March 2014 • “Intimate Measures,” The Self and the Social Conference at the Institute of Philosophy of Language (IFL), New University of Lisbon, Portugal.
 - November 2013 • “Crashing and Burning in Ancient Love Magic: A comparison of Graeco-Roman and Jewish forms of love magic from a cognitive perspective” Society of Biblical Literature Conference. Baltimore, November 2013.
 - “The Hermeneutics of Simplicity in the Coen Brothers’ A Serious Man.” Panel on the Coen Brothers’ films and Religion, at the American Academy of Religion Annual Conference.
 - June 2013 • Participant, “Evolution of the Indoor Biome,” National Evolutionary Synthesis Center, Durham (Duke). June 2013.
 - May 2013 • “Entrainment and the Sabbath Rhythm in Jewish Traditions,” Chaos Scandinavia Symposium, Trondheim, May 2013.
 - May 2013 • “The implications of anomalous monism for intimate selves,” The Altered Self and Altered Self-Experience Conference at the Institute of Philosophy of Language (IFL), New University of Lisbon, Portugal. May 2013.
 - November 2010 • Respondent, “Fellow Primates: A Conversation with de Waal on Cognition, Animals, and Religion,” AAR Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
 - October 2010 • Panel Chair, “Theoretical Reflections and Practical Applicability,” Judaism and Emotion Conference, University of Bern.
 - August 2010 • “Why a Minyan? Situated Cognition in the Talmud,” and “Blood and Wine: Notes on the Role of the Heart and Noise in Ritual Processes,” XXth World Congress of the IAHR, Toronto.
 - April 2010 • “Jewish Ritual Music as a Cognitive Process,” with Sarah Ross, The Annual Conference of the British Forum for Ethnomusicology, Oxford University.
 - February 2009 • “Judaism in the Age of Computational Reproduction,” Cultural Contact: Scholarly Discourses and Their Representations Workshop, University of Rostock, Germany.
 - December 2008 • “Normative Development in Jewish Life-Cycle Rituals,” International Seminar on Magic, University of Aarhus.
 - November 2008 • “Non-reductive Cognitive Science of Religion: A Developmental Systems Theory Approach,” AAR Annual Meeting, Cognitive Science of Religion Consultation, Chicago.
 - April 2008 • “Touch at a distance: media’s force in Judaism” Authorizing Inscriptions: Religion, Aesthetics, & Global Media Conference, University of California, Davis.
 - December 2007 • “Divination and the Scope of Rationality: A Comparison of Divination and Science,” International Seminar on Divination, Mantic and Magic Rituals: The Naturalness of Divination, University of Aarhus.
 - July 2007 • “I was El Shaddai, but now I’m Yahweh’: Biblical Names as Tools for

- Extended Cognition,” International Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Vienna, Austria.
- June 2007 • “Written Symbolization: A Selectionist Model for the Transmission of Biblical Fragments,” Symbolization in Religion, Cognition, and Culture Conference, Aarhus University, Denmark.
- May 2007 • “From Tokens to Types to Alephs and Bets: The Evolution of Written Technology in the Ancient Near East as a Case of Cognitive Ratcheting,” Symposium on Past Minds: Evolution, Cognition, and History, Institute of Cognition and Culture, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland.
- Fall 2006 • “Mentalizing Concepts in the Prophetic Literature,” Prophecy Unit, International Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Edinburgh.
- Spring 2006 • “Prophecy, Literacy, and Literature: The Prophet as Biblical Subject” Western Regional American Academy of Religion Conference, Religion and Literature Section, Claremont.
- November 2005 • “Perspectives from the Post-Analytic Philosophy of Language in the Study of Religion” National Academy of Religion Conference and NAASR, Philadelphia 2005 (panelist and co-organizer).
- November 2005 • “The Rhetoric of Prophecy in Modern Religious Nationalisms” Bush’s Bible Group, “Reading, Theory, and the Bible” Section, National Society of Biblical Literature Conference, Philadelphia.
- Spring 2005 • “A Comparison of Communicative Principles in Sperber and Davidson,” Unveiling the Hidden: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Divination, University of Copenhagen.
- November 2002 • “Tzaddiq as Religious Genius,” American Academy of Religion Conference Annual Meeting, Comparative Hinduisms and Judaisms Group, Denver.