

GABRIEL LEVY **CURRICULUM VITAE**

Professor of Religious Studies
Chair, PhD Research School, ATTR Oslo
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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: *Changing Channels: Biblical Prophecy, Writing, and Cognition*
Directors: W. Randall Garr, Giles Gunn, Barbara Holdrege, Roger Friedland, Elvin Hatch
1995-1999 Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH USA
BA in Religion and Anthropology
Double Major, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
Honors Thesis: *Yesh/Ayin: Habad-Lubavitch Mysticism* (Director: Ehud Benor)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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	Promotion to Full Professor (Religious Studies) (Sept. 2014-) Associate Professor (2012-) Courses taught: 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
Aarhus University	Research Fellow, Religion, Cognition and Culture Group (2011-2012) Adjunct Lecturer, Study of Religion (2007-2011) Courses taught: <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	Teaching Associate and Pedagogy Training (1999-2007), Law & Society and Religious Studies Courses taught: <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

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

2017-	Chairperson of the Board, Norwegian PhD Research School ATTR
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 *Changing Channels: Biblical Prophecy, Writing, and Cognition*. University of California, Santa Barbara. ProQuest, UMI Dissertations Publishing, 2007. 3294747

Books

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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 Participation

- 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.