

Rabbi David Aaron, *Professor of Bible – Cincinnati*

- Ph.D., 1991, Brandeis University, History of Biblical Interpretation
- Ordination, 1983, HUC-JIR
- Author, *Biblical Ambiguities: Metaphor, Semantics, and a Theory of Gradiant Meaning* (2001) and editor of *Establish Yourself a Teacher, Choose Yourself a Study Partner: Essays in Memory of Marvin Fox* (1998)



“In teaching Bible and post-biblical interpretive literature from the time of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Middle Ages to rabbinical and graduate students at HUC-JIR, I am able to make a contribution in a place where it is meaningful.

A seminary is one of the few contexts in which one is able to look at each original source at a high level.”

Dr. Rachel Adler, *Associate Professor of Jewish Religious Thought and Feminist Studies — Los Angeles*

- Ph.D., 1997, University of Southern California
- One of the first theologians to integrate feminist perspectives and concerns into the interpretation of Jewish texts and the renewal of Jewish law and ethics
- Author, *Engendering Judaism: An Inclusive Theology and Ethics* (1998), winner of National Jewish Book Award of Jewish Thought, 2000



“Teaching at HUC-JIR is an investment in the future of the Reform Movement. My students internalize what they learn as a way of shaping themselves. I bring a heightened consciousness of the role of gender as a variable in everything we study, from Judaism and gender, feminist hermeneutics applied to traditional Jewish narrative and legal texts, modern Jewish thought, social ethics, and Hebrew Bible.”

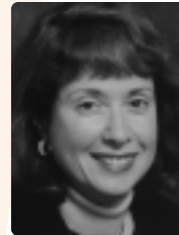
Dr. Carole B. Balin, *Assistant Professor of Jewish History – New York*

- Ph.D., 1998, Columbia University, History
 - Ordination, 1991, HUC-JIR
 - Author, *To Reveal Our Hearts: Jewish Women Writers in Tsarist Russia* (2000)
- “My job combines my two forms of training, as a rabbi and historian. In many ways I serve as rabbi as well as teacher to my students.”



Dr. Nili Fox, *Assistant Professor of Bible – Cincinnati*

- Ph.D., 1997, University of Pennsylvania, Biblical Studies
- Director, The Archaeology Center, HUC-JIR/Cincinnati
- Author, *In the Service of the King: Officialdom in Ancient Israel and Judah* (2000)



“In history courses, I use archaeological evidence as well as non-biblical texts to aid in our tentative reconstructions of Israelite

history and, in bible courses, I examine the content of

biblical texts by utilizing socio-historical, literary, linguistic, and comparative approaches.”

Dr. Sharon Gillerman, *Assistant Professor of Jewish History – Los Angeles*

- Ph.D., 1996, University of California at Los Angeles, Modern Jewish and European History
 - Dissertation, “Between Public and Private: Family, Community and Jewish Identity in Weimar Berlin”
 - Forthcoming book on “A Muscular Macher: The Career of a Jewish Strongman in Post-World War I Europe and America”
- “In teaching modern Jewish history at HUC-JIR, I focus on problems of identity in the modern world. I truly enjoy giving students an additional, historical framework for thinking about issues that Jews have not only faced in the past, but are confronting today.”



Dr. Lisa D. Grant, *Assistant Professor of Jewish Education – New York*

- Ph.D., 2000, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Jewish Education



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

HUC-JIR is privileged to welcome these newest members of the faculty, distinguished for their scholarship, dedication to teaching, and commitment to building a learning community.

Dr. Jonathan Cohen, *Assistant Professor of Talmud and Halachic Literature; Director of the HUC-UC Center for the Study of Ethics and Contemporary Moral Problems – Cincinnati*



- Ph.D., 1999, University of Liverpool, Uses and Functions of Restitution in Jewish Law and English Law
 - LL.B., University of Kent at Canterbury, Law School
 - Supervises the only M.A. and Ph.D. programs in the U.S. that focus on Jewish law and ethics
- “The development of joint courses on aspects of Jewish and Anglo-American restitution offered to HUC-JIR and University of Cincinnati College of Law students benefits HUC-JIR students and generates new possibilities for both teaching and scholarly work in the areas of Jewish law and ethics.”

- Assists Jo Kay in the development of M.A. program in Jewish Education at HUC-JIR/ New York
- Previous professional work in marketing, planning, and quality and resource management for 100,000 person health care organization

“My interests embrace adult education, religious development, and the roles ritual and Israel play in American Jewish life. I’m committed to participating in the professional training of our rabbis, cantors, and educators, beyond a purely academic approach to Judaism.”

Dr. Alyssa M. Gray, *Assistant Professor of Codes and Responsa Literature – New York*



- Ph.D., 1999, Jewish Theological Seminary of America
- LL.M., 1994, Hebrew University Faculty of Law
- J.D., 1987, Columbia University School of Law

“I specialize in Talmud and post-Talmudic halakhic literature, and appreciate teaching at HUC-JIR because of the sense of openness and experimentation amongst the faculty and students. Unlike a secular university where everything is academic, here people really care whether what they study lives.”



Dr. David Kaufman, *Assistant Professor of Contemporary American Jewish Studies – Los Angeles*

- Ph.D., 1994, Brandeis University, American Jewish History
- Author, *Shul with a Pool: The “Synagogue-Center” in American Jewish History* (1999)
- Has served as guest curator for The Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, for an exhibition on the synagogue history of that community

“I study American Judaism, so to be here in the heart of the Reform Movement at HUC-JIR is remarkable both professionally and personally.”

Dr. Adriane Leveen, *Assistant Professor of Bible – Los Angeles*



- Ph.D., 2000, University of California at Berkeley, Hebrew Bible
 - M.S.W., 1983, Columbia University
 - Previously a psychotherapist
- “I appreciate the unique blend of serious academic and religious study in HUC-JIR’s liberal, progressive, egalitarian environment. I find the combination of objective study of the ancient texts along with a contemporary commitment to, and engagement with, the text, very appealing.”

Dr. Adam Rubin, *Assistant Professor of Jewish History – Los Angeles*



- Ph.D., 1999, University of California at Los Angeles, Modern Jewish History
 - Specialist in the history of Jewish culture and politics in Eastern Europe and pre-State Palestine
 - Forthcoming book on “The Politics of Tradition: Nationalism, Nostalgia, and the Reinvention of the Jewish Past”
- “There’s a problem in academia of being isolated from life. Teaching in a seminary is a way of bringing together the practical concerns and needs of the Jewish people and my passionate interest in the Jewish past. At HUC-JIR, the students’ interests are intertwined with their personal commitment, and that makes for a wonderfully interesting class atmosphere.”

Dr. Dvora E. Weisberg, *Assistant Professor of Rabbinical Literature – Los Angeles*



- Ph.D., 1994, Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Talmud and Rabbinics
 - Dissertation on “Tradition and Transformation: The Appropriation of Festival Law in *Bavli Betsa*”
 - Director of HUC-JIR’s Beit Midrash in Los Angeles
- “This is a wonderful opportunity to be able

to work with future Jewish professionals. I find the students very excited about learning, very approachable and enthusiastic. Both the Reform Movement and HUC-JIR are interested in trying new things and doing some very interesting programming right now.”

Rabbi Andrea Weiss, *Instructor in Bible*



- Ph.D. candidate, University of Pennsylvania, Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near East
 - Ordination, 1993, HUC-JIR
 - Dissertation on “Metaphor in the Narratives of the Book of Samuel”
- “At HUC-JIR I have the opportunity to teach students for whom Bible is really central to their work and essential to their religious life. It is fulfilling for me to be a mentor to my students in their professional and spiritual development and to serve as a resource for the Reform Movement and Jewish community.”

Dr. Wendy Zierler, *Assistant Professor of Modern Jewish Literature and Feminist Studies – New York*



- Ph.D., 1995, Princeton University
 - Dissertation on “Border Crossings: Jewish Women Writers and the Immigrant Experience in Israel and the USA”
 - Forthcoming book on “And Rachel Stole the Idols: The Emergence of Modern Hebrew Women’s Writing”
- “HUC-JIR is a place where my teaching will have an impact on future leaders of Jewish communities. I am eager to see the study of modern Jewish literature integrated in a real, meaningful sense into the curriculum and into students’ understanding of their written tradition; I believe that the best of modern Jewish literature is deeply connected and responsive to classical sources and is as significant as philosophy and history to a sense of the nature of purpose of Judaism in the modern, or postmodern, world.”