

Curriculum Vitae and Publication List  
Mordechai Z. Cohen  
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April 2024

Current Position      Professor of Bible and Associate Dean  
Director of the Chinese-Jewish Conversation  
Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva University  
500 West 185<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10033

Areas of specialization

- x Jewish Bible interpretation in its Christian and Muslim cultural contexts
- x

2010–2011      Coordinator of a ~~14~~<sup>14</sup> member international research group at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem. Project title: “Encountering Scripture in Overlapping Cultures: Early Jewish, Christian and Muslim Strategies of Reading and Their Contemporary Implications” leading to the publication of *Interpreting Scriptures in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Overlapping Inquiries* (Cambridge University Press, 2016; see details below)

2008–2011      Division editor (responsible for medieval Judaism) for *The Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*

FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING PROFESSOR POSITIONS

2016–2019      Visiting Professor for annual summer course Center for Judaic and Inter

EDITED VOLUMES

Semitic, Biblical and Jewish Studies in Honor of Richard C. Steiner with Aaron Koller and Adina Moshavi. 434pp. Jerusalem: Bialik Institute, 2020.

8. "Nahmanides' Four Senses of Scriptural Signification: Jewish and Christian Contexts," in



4. "Ibn Ezra, Moses." *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*, ed. Hermann Spieckermann et al (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2016), 12: 772-796.
5. "From epistemic skepticism to spiritual exercises: Maimonides' concept of intellectual perfection." *Review of Josef Stern, The Matter and Form of Maimonides' Guide* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013).







"Between Muslim Jurisprudence and Biblical Interpretation: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Maimonides Hermeneutics," paper delivered to the faculties of Bible, Talmud and Philosophy at Tel-Aviv University, January 2009.

"Resolving A Conundrum: Pinning Down Maimonides' Elusive Construal of the Maxim that 'Scripture Does Not Leave the Hands of its Pesher,'" paper delivered at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference in Washington, DC, December 2008.

"God Dwelling in the Sanctuary? Interpretive Strategies of Maimonides, Nahmanides and Sefer ha-Hinnukh," Conference on the Temple in Jerusalem, sponsored by The Yeshiva University Center for Israel Studies, New York City, May 2008.

"Maimonides' Theory of Legal Hermeneutics in Light of Muslim Jurisprudence," Yeshiva University Faculty Colloquium, New York City, April 10, 2008

"Maimonides and Samuel ben Hofni On the Terms *Peshuto Shel Miqra* and *hir an-Na*," Conference on Rationalism and the Sacred Text, 12th centuries, Madrid, December 2006.

"Reproduction of the Text: Traditional Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Literary Theory of Ludwig Strauss," Conference in Honor of Nehama Leibowitz, Jerusalem, January 2006.

"Nahmanides' Literary Hermeneutic in Light of his Commentary on Gen 1:1," World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2005

"A Possible Spanish Source for Rashi's Concept of Peshuto Shel Miqra," Conference in Honor of Rashi, Jerusalem, July 2005.

"Cultural Perspectives on Biblical Exegesis: The Case of Moses Ibn Ezra and Maimonides," Jewish Theological Seminary, Medieval Studies Group, March 28, 2005.

"Why Did Maimonides Interpret Job as Fiction?" Thirteenth Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, August 2001.

"Imaginary Ascription as a Poetic Device in Moses Ibn Ezra's Poetry and Poetics," European Association for Jewish Studies Colloquium on Hebrew Poetry; Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Yarnton, July 2000.

"Decoding Moses Ibn Ezra's Definition of Metaphor (Mashal)," AJS conference; Boston, December 1997.

"Radak vs. Ibn Ezra and Maimonides: A New Approach to Mashal in Scripture," Twelfth Conference of the World Congress of Jewish Studies; Jerusalem, July 1997.

"Two Categories of Metaphor in Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis," AJS; Boston, December 1996.

"Two Categories of Metaphor in Radak's Figurative Exegesis," European Association for Jewish Studies Colloquium on Biblical Exegesis; Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Yarnton, July 1996.

"Radak on Fiction in a Prophetic Vision," AJS; Boston, December 1995.

"Radak's Linguistic Terminology," Advanced Studies Institute, Hebrew University; Jerusalem January 1995.

"Radak's Conception of Allegory: His Association of Mashal and Middah," AJS; Boston, December 1994.

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Research / Publication Grant Consultant: Israel Academy of Science; Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; Koret Jewish Studies Publications Program

Publication Referee for Jewish Quarterly Review, Jewish Studies Internet Journal, Tarbiz, The Torah U-Madda Journal

## TEACHING

### Graduate:

- Rashi's Peshat Revolution
- Faith and Doubt in the Book of Job
- Philosophical vs. Kabbalistic biblical interpretation
- Readings in Biblical Narrative: Book of Samuel
- Readings in Biblical Poetry: Psalms
- Readings in Biblical Poetry: Song of Songs
- French Tradition of Biblical Exegesis
- Spanish Tradition of Biblical Exegesis
- Maimonides' Biblical Exegesis
- Nahmanides' Exegesis and Thought
- Literary Approaches to Biblical Metaphor

### Undergraduate:

- Exodus
- Jeremiah
- Amos and Hosea
- Seven Minor Prophets
- Psalms
- Job
- Five Megillot

## SERVICE TO YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Faculty advisor for the Chinese student union. Fall 2018-present

Chair, Executive Committee of the Jewish Studies Division. Spring 2019-present

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