

## **Randy L. Friedman**

Associate Professor, Departments of Judaic Studies and Comparative Literature  
Chair, Department of Judaic Studies  
Director, Center for Israel Studies  
Binghamton University (SUNY)

friedman@binghamton.edu  
<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~friedman>  
Direct: 607-222-5461

Box 6000  
Binghamton, NY 13902  
Office: 607-777-3070

## **Positions**

*Binghamton University (SUNY)*

Director, Center for Israel Studies	2015 – Present
Associate Professor of Judaic Studies and Comparative Literature	2013 – Present
Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and Philosophy	2007 – 2013
Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and Philosophy	2005 – 2007

## **Education**

2005 Ph.D. Brown University, Department of Religious Studies  
2001 M.A. Brown University, Department of Religious Studies  
1993 – 1996 The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of Philosophy  
1993 B.A. Yale University, Philosophy, distinction in the major

## **Areas of Research Specialization and Teaching Interests**

Modern Jewish Thought  
American Philosophical and Religious Thought  
Continental Philosophy of Religion

## **Publications**

*Articles in Refereed Journals*

“Alterity and Asymmetry in Levinas’s Ethical Phenomenology,” *Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 13, 1 (2014).

“Levinas’s Empiricism and James’s Phenomenology,” Special issue on “Levinas and Philosophy,” *Journal of Scriptural Reasoning* 11, 2 (2012).

“Religious Self-Reliance,” *The Pluralist* 7, 1 (2012): 27-53.

“Dewey’s Naturalistic Metaphysics: Expostulations and Replies,” *Education and Culture* 27, 2 (2011): 48-73.

“Traditions of Pragmatism and the Myth of the Emersonian Democrat,” *Transactions of the Charles*

*S. Peirce Society* 43, 1 (2007): 154 – 184.

“Deweyan Pragmatism,” *William James Studies* 1, 1 (2006).

“The Challenge of Selective Conscientious Objection in Israel,” *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Thought* 109 (2006): 79 – 99.

#### *Invited Review Essays, Book Reviews, and Notes*

Review of *A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas’s Philosophy of Judaism* by Michael Fagenblat (Stanford 2010). H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews. January, 2013.

Review essay on *Listening on All Sides: Toward an Emersonian Ethics of Reading* by Richard Deming (Stanford, 2008), *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society* 45, 1 (2009): 114 – 120.

Review of *Talking with Christians: Musings of a Jewish Theologian* by David Novak (Eerdmans, 2005), *Dialogue and Alliance* 22:2 (2006): 83 – 85.

“The I.D.I. and Pursuing Democracy in “The Jewish State,”” *AJS Perspectives* (Fall 2006): 16 – 17.

Review of *Exclusion And Hierarchy: Orthodoxy, Nonobservance, And The Emergence Of Modern Jewish Identity* by Adam S. Ferziger (Penn, 2005), *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 5:2 (2006): 256 – 257.

Review of *Abraham’s Promise: Judaism and Jewish-Christian Relations* by Michael Wyschogrod (Eerdmans, 2004), *Dialogue and Alliance* 19:1 (2006): 103 – 105.

#### *Under Review*

“The Allegory of Love and the Revelation of Transcendence” (Rosenzweig, Benjamin, and Buber).

#### *Work in Progress*

“Religious Realism”

“The Method of Kaplan’s Pragmatic Theology”

*Gods of Becoming*

#### **Presentations**

“Partnerships between Jewish Studies Programs and Off-Campus Jewish Organizations,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, DC, December, 2017.

Panel Moderator, “Israel in the Modern Middle East,” with Michael Koplow (Israel Policy Forum) and Michael Eisenstadt (Washington Institute for Near East Peace), Center for Israel Studies Symposium, Binghamton, NY, April 2017.

Panel Respondent, “Deploying and Critiquing the Continental Tradition,” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2017.

“Why Make Deep Reasonings Public?” Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the American Academy of Religion, New Brunswick, NJ, March 2017.

“Mordecai Kaplan and Martin Buber’s Miscommunication,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore, MD, December 2014.

“Judaism and Supernaturalism,” Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University (SUNY), Binghamton, NY, March 2014.

“Kaplan and American Philosophy,” Conference on the Life, Work, and Legacy of Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan, Georgetown University, March 2014.

“James’s Realist Criteria,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Session at 2013 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Baltimore, MD, December 2013.

“Reduction and Freedom in Buber’s Philosophy of Religion,” 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Phenomenology Roundtable, Chicago, IL, May 2013.

“Pragmatism as Theology in Mordecai Kaplan,” Annual Conference of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Stockton, NJ, March 2013.

“James and Levinas,” Annual Conference of the North American Levinas Society, College Station, TX, May 2011.

“Aesthetics, Education, and Ethical Ideals in Dewey and Kaplan,” Annual Conference of the Associate for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA, December 2010.

“Reading Rosenzweig Reading *Torah*,” Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University, November 2010.

“Analogical Reading and the Song of Songs in Rosenzweig,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, October 2010.

“The Problem of the Problem of Evil,” Enigmatic Experiences: Jewish Thinkers and the Holocaust, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Binghamton University, October 2010.

Commentator on Claire Katz, “Levinas and the ‘Crisis of Humanism,’” SPEL Colloquium, Binghamton University, Vestal, NY, April 2010.

“The Allegory of Love and the Revelation of Ethical Alterity,” SPEL Colloquium, Binghamton University, Vestal, NY, February 2010.

“Phenomenological Eschatology and Ethical Messianism,” Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2008.

“Messianic Faith: On Martin Kavka’s *Jewish Messianism and the History of Philosophy*,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, Ontario, December 2007.

“Buber’s Phenomenological Spirit,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2007.

“Prophetic Judaism and Eschatological Philosophy,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 2006.

“Alterity and Asymmetry in Levinas’s Ethical Phenomenology,” Department of Philosophy, Binghamton University, Vestal, NY, February 2006.

“Metaphysical but not Supernatural: Reconstructed Gods in Dewey and Kaplan,” Department of Religious Studies, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, February 2006.

“Presence, Reciprocity, and Asymmetry: Revisiting Levinas’ Critique of Buber,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 2005.

“Kaplan and Dewey on the Reconstruction of Religion,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, December 2004.

“Levinas as Phenomenologist: Alterity and Alter-Ego in the ‘Fifth Meditation,’” Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Memphis, TN, October 2004.

“The Ethics of Selective Refusal in the Israeli Defense Forces,” AAR New England- Maritimes Region, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA, May 2003 (Awarded Graduate Student Award for Best Paper).

“The Transcendental Horizon of the Symbolic Self,” Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, Loyola University of Chicago, October 2002.

### **Committees**

#### Graduate

##### *Ph.D. Director*

“Unfinished Democracy: Dewey and Racism in America,” Fernando Zapata, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2011 – Present.

“Levinas, Chauvinism, Disinterest,” Jack Marsh SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2016.

##### *Ph.D. Committee*

“Ethical Desensitization,” Ann Johnson, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2012 – Present.

“Activating Depth: An Aesthetic Intervention in Technicity,” Christopher Southward, Department of Comparative Literature, Binghamton University, 2014 – Present.

“*O My Friends, There is No Friend: A Non-Ideal, Feminist Theory of Aristotelian Friendship and Eudamonia*,” Regan Rule, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2016.

“Myth and its Return,” Sasha L. Shivers, PIC (Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture), Binghamton University, 2013.

“A Case Study of the Nature of Activity in an Afterschool Arts Program,” Elizabeth W. Hughes, School of Education (Ed.D.), Binghamton University, 2013.

“Apocalypse in Modern and Post-Modern Fiction,” Bryan Dewey, Department of Comparative Literature, Binghamton University, 2012.

“Between Philosophy and Practice: On the Character of Plato’s Laws,” Lewis Trelawny-Cassidy, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2011.

#### *Ph.D. Outside Reader*

“The Fiscal Federalism Takeover and the Determinants of Executive Power,” Giovanni Scaringi, Department of Political Science, Binghamton University, 2016.

“Statutory Diagnostics,” Geoffrey McGovern, Department of Political Science, Binghamton University, 2011.

“Agenda Construction and the Constitutional Foundations of Policy Change in Established Democracies,” Brandon C. Zicha, Department of Political Science, Binghamton University, 2010.

“The Cost of Running for Office: How Electoral Campaign Laws Structure Candidate Entry in U.S. Elections,” Conor Dowling, Department of Political Science, Binghamton University, 2008.

#### *M.A. Thesis Advisor*

“Irony, Repetition, and Individual Responsibility,” Connor Salanger, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2012.

“The Ethics of Remembering,” Daniel Schwartz, SPEL (Graduate Program in Social, Political, Ethical, and Legal Philosophy), Binghamton University, 2009 - 2010.

#### *Undergraduate Advising*

IASH Junior Fellow, “Dennett, Tolstoy, and the Transmission of Ideas,” Joshua Gathany, Department of Philosophy, Binghamton University, Spring 2012.

B.A. Honor’s Thesis, “The Other at the Limits of Thought: Priestian Dialetheia in Levinasian Ethics,” Yosi Cirlin, Department of Philosophy, Binghamton University, 2009.

### **Selected Teaching**

HARP 101: God in Jewish Philosophy	JUST 411: Seminar in Philosophy of Religion
JUST 101: Introduction to Judaic Studies	JUST 484: Buber and his Critics
JUST 111: Philosophy of Religion	PHIL 440: American Pragmatism
JUST 211: Early Zionist Thought	PHIL 451: Husserl
JUST 311: Faith and Reason	PHIL 451: Levinas and the Ethics of Phenomenology
JUST 352: American Jewish Thought	JUST 480: Creation, Revelation, Redemption

### **Service**

#### *Profession*

#### Presses and Journals

Editorial Board, SUNY Press, 2017 – present.  
 Referee, *Education and Culture*, 2011 – 2015.  
 Referee, *International Journal of Philosophical Studies*, 2010 – 2015.  
 Referee, *Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society*, 2007 – 2009.  
 Referee, *William James Studies*, 2007 – 2009.

#### Conferences

Respondent, “Why Make Deep Reasonings Public? From Peirce’s Pragmatism to Habermas’s Theory of Communicative Rationality,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Region, March 2017, New Brunswick, NJ.

Respondent, “Deploying and Critiquing the Continental Tradition,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Mid-Atlantic Region, March 2017, New Brunswick, NJ.

Panel Organizer, “Miscommunication, Militancy, and Mysticism: Buber and the Americans,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, November 2014, Baltimore, MD.

Panel Organizer, “Pragmatist Approaches to Philosophy of Religion,” Annual Conference of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Stockton, NJ, March 2013.

Panel Organizer and Chair, “New Perspectives on James and Dewey,” Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA, October 2010.

Panel Organizer, “In-vulnerability: Beyond Philosophical Responsibility,” Annual Conference of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2008.

Panel Organizer, “Athens and Jerusalem in Modern Jewish Thought,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, Canada, December 2007.

Panel Organizer, “Buber in Conversation,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego, CA, December 2006.

*Campus*

Hiring Committee for Vice President of Advancement, Binghamton University, Spring 2018.  
Grant Co-Lead, Center for Israel Studies, Division of Research, Research Foundation, Binghamton University, 2017. Second round funding, \$35,000 for two years in support of the CIS.

Founding Director and Grant Lead, Center for Israel Studies, Division of Research, Research Foundation, Binghamton University, 2015 – Present. \$462,000 seed funding for faculty lines in Israel Studies.

Chair, Hiring Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Israel Studies, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Fall 2016.

Chair, Hiring Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Hebrew and Israeli Literatures, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Fall 2015.

Chair, Hiring Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Modern Israel, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Fall 2014.

Faculty Committee, PPL (Program in Philosophy, Politics, and Law), Binghamton University, 2007 – 2014.

Founding Director, Religious Studies Minor, Binghamton University, 2010 – Spring 2014.

Acting Chair, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Spring 2013.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Fall 2010 – Spring 2013.

Harpur College Council, Binghamton University, Spring 2008 – 2009, 2010 – 2011, 2012.

General Education Aesthetics Assessment Category Team, Binghamton University, 2010 – 2012.

Hiring Committee for Visiting Judaic Studies Position, Department of Judaic Studies, Binghamton University, Spring 2008, Spring 2010, Spring 2011.

Faculty Advisor, Binghamton Philosophy Club, 2008 – 2011.

Distinguished Dissertation Awards Committee, Binghamton University, 2009 – 2010.

Binghamton University Faculty Senate, 2009 – 2010.

General Education Humanities Assessment Category Team, Binghamton University, 2008 – 2009.

**Honors, Fellowships and Grants**

Summer Institute for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, June 2014.

Faculty Sabbatical Leave, Binghamton University, 2013 – 2014.

Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) Stipended Faculty Fellowship, Binghamton University, Spring 2014.

SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2011 – 2012.

Advisory Board, Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood, Spring 2011 – present.

NYS/UUP Individual Development Award, Binghamton University, 2011, 2008, 2006.

Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) Stipended Faculty Fellowship, Binghamton University, Fall 2010.

Dean's Research Semester Award for Junior Faculty, Fall 2009.

Harpur College Dean's Conference Travel Grant, Binghamton University, 2007.

Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies, Sponsored by The American Academy for Jewish Research and the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, May 2007.

### **Professional Associations**

The American Academy of Religion

The American Philosophical Association

Association for Jewish Studies

The Charles S. Peirce Society

Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy