

Aaron Segal

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Employment

- 2022- Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
John and Golda Cohen Chair in Jewish Philosophy
- 2021- Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Guggenheim Michael and Bella Lectureship in the Teaching of Jewish Morals and Ethics
- 2016-2021 Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2013-2016 Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Yeshiva College, Yeshiva University

Education

- 2008-2013 Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2008-2011 M.A. in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- 2005-2008 Advanced Talmudic Studies, Yeshivat Har Etzion, Kollel Gavoaah
Rabbinical Ordination from Chief Rabbinate of Israel
- 2002-2005 B.A. in Mathematics and Philosophy, *summa cum laude*, Yeshiva University

Interests

- Research: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Religion, Jewish Philosophy
- Teaching: Epistemology, Logic

Grants, Honors & Awards

- 2024-2028 Research Grant (\$110,000), ISF, "The Personal-Philosophical Problem of Evil"
- 2022- Member of the Israel Young Academy
- 2022 Honorable Mention for 2021 Alvin Plantinga Prize (\$5,000), American Philosophical Association
- 2021-2024 Research Grant (\$100,000), ISF, "Systematic Metaphysics: Promises and Challenges"
- 2020-2021 Faculty Collaboration Grant (7500 CAD), Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies, "Systematic Metaphysics: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives" (with Nicholas Stang)
- 2018-2020 Project Director (\$234,575), JTF, "Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation" (with Sam Lebens)
- 2017-2020 Alon Fellowship for Outstanding Young Researchers, The Council for Higher Education of Israel
- 2016-2019 Research Grant (\$73,600), ISF, "Modality, Laws, and Dispositions: Humeanism in Contemporary Metaphysics"
- 2014 Research Grant (\$34,500), Immortality Project at UC-Riverside, Title: "Why Live Forever?"
- 2012 Finalist for 2012 Oxford Younger Scholars Prize in Metaphysics, Ammonius Foundation

Publications

BOOKS AUTHORED

1. *Do We Have a Soul?*, Eric Olson and Aaron Segal (New York: Routledge, 2023)

BOOKS EDITED

2. *Systematic Metaphysics: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, eds. Aaron Segal and Nicholas Stang (Oxford: Oxford University Press), forthcoming
3. *The Philosophy of Worship: Divine and Human Aspects*, eds. Aaron Segal and Samuel Lebens (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024)
4. *Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed: A Critical Guide*, eds. Daniel Frank and Aaron Segal (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021)
5. *Jewish Philosophy in an Analytic Age*, eds. Samuel Lebens, Dani Rabinowitz, and Aaron Segal (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)
6. *Jewish Philosophy Past and Present: Contemporary Responses to Classical Sources*, eds. Daniel Frank and Aaron Segal (New York: Routledge, 2017)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

7. "Monism and Monotheism," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming
8. "Materialism and Mental Manyism," *Ergo: An Open Access Journal of Philosophy*, 12 (2025)
9. "Systematicity and Skepticism," *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 61: 1 (2024), 1-18
10. "Do We Look Material? Human Ontology and Perceptual Evidence," *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 53: 2 (2023), 172-186
11. "Crescas, Hard Determinism, and the Need for a Torah," *Faith & Philosophy*, 40: 1 (2023), 70-89
12. "Humeanism: Metaphysical and Epistemological," *Synthese*, 199 (2021), 905-925
13. "A *Halakhic* Limitation on Philosophical Inquiry: Is it Possible?" (Hebrew) *Iyyun: The Jerusalem Philosophical Quarterly*, 69 (2021), 119-129
14. "Dependence, Transcendence, and Creaturely Freedom: On the Incompatibility of Three Theistic Doctrines," *Mind*, 130: 520 (2021), 1099-1127
 - Honorable Mention for 2021 APA Alvin Plantinga Prize
15. "Essence and Explanation: A Logical Mismatch" (with Noga Gratvol), *Inquiry*, 64:10 (2021), 1038-1050
16. "Lost at Sea: A New Route to Metaphysical Skepticism," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 101:2 (2020), 256-75
17. "Radical Pluralism," *Noûs*, 54:1 (2020), 24-53
18. "Pythagoreanism: A Number of Theories," *Philosophers' Imprint*, 19:26 (2019), 1-19
19. "Why Live Forever? What Metaphysics Can Contribute," *Erkenntnis* 83(2) (2017), 185-204

20. "A Puzzle about Points," *Philosophical Perspectives* 30 (2016), 349-365
21. "Half-Hearted Humeanism," *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* 9 (2015), 262-305
 - Finalist for 2012 Oxford Younger Scholars Prize in Metaphysics
22. "Causal Essentialism and Mereological Monism," *Philosophical Studies* 169:2 (2014), 227-255
23. "Sceptical Theism and Divine Truths," *Religious Studies* 47 (2011), 85-95
24. "Response to Churchland" (with Alvin Plantinga), *Philo* 13 (2010), 201-07

BOOK CHAPTERS

25. "The Systematicity of Metaphysics: An Analytic Vindication," in *Systematic Metaphysics: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*, eds. Aaron Segal and Nicholas Stang (Oxford: Oxford University Press), forthcoming
26. "‘Those Who Taste It Merit Life’: On the Superfluity of an Everlasting Afterlife," in *Norton Introduction to Philosophy of Religion*, eds. Lara Buchak and Dean Zimmerman (New York: W.W. Norton and Company), forthcoming
27. "Body and Soul," in *Routledge Companion to Jewish Philosophy*, eds. Daniel Rynhold and Tyron Goldschmidt (New York: Routledge, 2025), 45-56
28. "Revelation of the Torah: What For?," in *Global Dialogues in Philosophy of Religion*, eds. Yujin Nagasawa and Mohammed Saleh Zarepour (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024), 51-63
29. "God, Humanity, and Meaning in the Book of Jonah," in *Knowledge Through Narrative: Biblical Narratives and Human Flourishing*, eds. Eleonore Stump and Judith Wolfe (New York: Routledge, 2024)
30. "Something Out of Nothing: What Zeno Could Have Taught Parmenides," in *Non-Being: New Essays on the Metaphysics of Non-Existence*, eds. Sara Bernstein and Tyron Goldschmidt (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 165-186
31. "His Existence is Essentiality: Maimonides as Metaphysician," in *Cambridge Critical Guide to Maimonides’ Guide of the Perplexed*, eds. Daniel Frank and Aaron Segal (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021), 102-121
32. "Metaphysics Out of the Sources of the *Halakha* or a *Halakhic* Metaphysic?," in *Jewish Philosophy in an Analytic Age*, eds. Samuel Lebens, Dani Rabinowitz, and Aaron Segal (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019), 34-59
33. "The A Priori," in *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*, eds. Joseph W. Koterski, S.J. and Graham Oppy (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2019), 301-12
34. "The Necessity of Idealism," (with Tyron Goldschmidt) in *Idealism: New Essays in Metaphysics*, eds. Kenneth Pearce and Tyron Goldschmidt (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), 34-49
35. "The Afterlife in Judaism," (with Tyron Goldschmidt) in *The Palgrave Handbook on the Afterlife*, eds. Benjamin Matheson and Yujin Nagasawa, (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), 107-27
36. "Immortality: Two Models," in *Jewish Philosophy Past and Present: Contemporary Responses to Classical Sources*, eds. Daniel Frank and Aaron Segal (New York: Routledge, 2017), 151-60

BOOK REVIEWS & REVIEW ESSAYS

37. “Doubting God, Doubting Ourselves,” *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought*, 53:3 (2021), 240-249
38. Review of *Perfect Goodness and the God of the Jews: A Contemporary Jewish Theology*, Jerome Yehuda Gellman, *International Journal for the Philosophy of Religion*, 90:2 (2021), 149-154
39. Review of *David Shatz: Torah, Philosophy, and Culture*, Hava Tirosh-Samuelsan and Aaron W. Hughes (eds.), *International Philosophical Quarterly*, 58:3 (2018), 347-50
40. Review of *What God Cannot Do*, Israel Netanel Rubin, *Iyyun: The Jerusalem Philosophical Quarterly*, 66 (2017), 288-291
41. Review of *Reason, Metaphysics, and Mind: New Essays on the Philosophy of Alvin Plantinga*, Kelly James Clark and Michael Rea (eds.), *Faith & Philosophy*, 32:1 (2015), 97-106
42. “‘The Source of Faith’ Examined,” *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought*, 47:4 (2015), 192-210
43. Review of Joshua Golding’s *The Conversation: A Novel*, *Religious Studies*, 50:1 (2014), 133-138
44. “A Religiously Sensitive Jewish Philosophical Theology,” *Torah u-Madda Journal* 16 (2013), 186-202

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

45. “Jewish Philosophy of Religion: Epistemology and Theology” (with David Shatz), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, invited (in progress)
46. “Jewish Philosophy of Religion: Ethics, Society and Ritual” (with David Shatz), *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, invited (in progress)
47. “Monotheism”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, invited (in progress)

Selected Talks & Presentations

- 2025 “When the Argument from Evil is Personal”
- Challenges to Religious Worldviews: East-West Dialogue (Inaugural Conference of the Asian Society for Philosophy of Religion), Hong Kong Baptist University
 - Tel Aviv University Department Colloquium
- 2024 “Analytic Theology at Fifteen: Growth, Change, and Trajectories of Inclusion” (panelist)
- American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting
- 2022 “Do You See Me? Human Ontology and Perceptual Evidence”
- Personal Identity Workshop, Rutgers University
- “Am I a Vague Object?”
- A Conference in Honor of Peter van Inwagen’s 80th Birthday, Rutgers University
- “Maimonides on the Perils, Promises, and Propriety of Metaphysical Inquiry”
- World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- “Those Who Taste It Merit Life: On the Superfluity of an Everlasting Afterlife”

- Global Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Birmingham, UK
- “Bottom-Up Monism”
 - Workshop on Metaphysical Explanation, Tel-Aviv University
- “God, Man, and Meaning in the Book of Jonah”
 - Workshop on Philosophy, Theology, and Biblical Narrative
- “Crescas and Hard Determinism”
 - APA Central Division Meeting
- 2021 “Monism and Monotheism”
 - Princeton-Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Joint Colloquium
- Workshop on Systematicity
 - University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy (with Nicholas Stang)
 - University of Notre Dame, Metaphysics Colloquium Series
- “Maimonides on the Perils, Promises, and Propriety of Metaphysical Inquiry”
 - The Christian West and Islamic East Lecture Series
- “An Analytic Vindication of Idealism”
 - University of Toronto, LEMM Group
- 2020 “An Analytic Vindication of Idealism”
 - Systematic Metaphysics: Prospects and Problems, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2019 “Dependence, Transcendence, and Freedom: On the Incompatibility of Three Theistic Doctrines”
 - Providence and Randomness Concluding Workshop, Casablanca
- 2018 “Humeanism and neo-Humeanism: Metaphysics and Epistemology”
 - 2nd Bucharest-Budapest Workshop in Philosophy: Humeanisms
- “Pythagoreanism: A Number of Theories”
 - Society for Metaphysics of Science 4th Annual Conference, University of Milan
 - Ben-Gurion University Philosophy Department Colloquium
 - Haifa University Philosophy Department Colloquium
- “Lost at Sea: A Novel Case for Metaphysical Skepticism”
 - Israeli Philosophical Association Annual Conference, University of Haifa
 - Annual Joint Meeting of NCPS/SCPS, Winthrop University
 - Prize Winner in Untenured Faculty Category
- 2017 “Radical Pluralism”
 - Tel Hai College Philosophy Department Colloquium
- 2016 “The Modality of Mental Metaphysics” (with Tyron Goldschmidt)
 - 2nd International Conference on Philosophy of Mind, University of Minho
- “Humeanism: Metaphysical and Epistemological”
 - Hebrew University/UNC-Chapel Hill Joint Philosophy Workshop

- 2015 “Why Live Forever? What Metaphysics Can Contribute”
- Hebrew University Philosophy Department Colloquium
 - Fordham University Mind and Metaphysics Workshop
 - UC-Riverside Immortality Project Capstone Conference
- “Measure is Puzzling”
- APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, BC
- 2012 “On What Temporally Extended Experience Can Teach Humeans”
- Experience, Action, and the Metaphysics of Time, Durham University, UK
- “Half-Hearted Humeanism is Inconsistent”
- Israeli Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Haifa University
- 2011 “Metaphysics Out of the Sources of the Halakha or a Halakhic Metaphysic?”
- Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud, and Midrash, Shalem Center
- 2010 “Identity Variance”
- APA Eastern Division Meeting, Boston, MA

Service

JOURNAL REFEREE

Analysis, American Philosophical Quarterly, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dine Israel, Ergo, Faith & Philosophy, Mind, Oxford Studies in Metaphysics, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophia, Philosophical Studies, Shnaton Ha-Misphat Ha-Ivri, Ratio, Religious Studies, Synthese

EDITORIAL SERVICE

- 2021–
present *Journal of Analytic Theology*, editorial board member
Encyclopedia of Scepticism and Jewish Tradition, Associate Editor

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2021 2nd Summer Workshop of “Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation”
2020 Jerusalem Philosophical Encounter, “Systematic Metaphysics: Prospects and Problems”
2019 1st Summer Workshop of “Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation”
2014 2nd Conference of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism, APA Central Division
2012 1st Conference of the Association for the Philosophy of Judaism, APA Eastern Division

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITY

- 2022–
Co-Director of the Advanced Summer School for Graduate Students in Jewish Studies
- Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, together with the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Antwerp
- 2011–2021 Co-Founder and Executive Council Member, Association for the Philosophy of Judaism

Teaching

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

- Analytic Jewish Philosophy, Ancient & Medieval Philosophy, Epistemology of Religion, Human Ontology, Introduction to Philosophy, Introduction to Philosophy of Religion, Logic, Metaphysics, Modality, Mortality & Meaning, Philosophy & Science Fiction, Problem of Evil, Seminar: David Lewis, Seminar: Advanced Topics in Metaphysics, Theism & Atheism (with Dan Baras), Theory of Knowledge, Virtual Reality

GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

- Death & Immortality, Epistemology of Metaphysics, Ineffability (with Preston Werner), Grounding in Metaphysics and Metaethics (with David Enoch), Laws of Nature, Modality, Monism & Pluralism, Mortality & Immortality in Jewish Philosophy, Self & No-Self: East and West (with Evyatar Shulman), Systematic Philosophy: Prospects and Problems

Advising

- M.A. Thesis
 - Israel Cohen, “Normative Uncertainty in Halakha” (completed, 2018)
 - Ben Kinreich, “Regress Arguments” (completed, 2019)
 - Noam Oren, “Non-Cognitivism, Fictionalism, and Modern Jewish Philosophy” (completed 2020, co-directed with Moshe Halbertal)
 - Stav Slovin, “Epistemology of Modality” (completed, 2022)
 - Daniel Binenboym, “From Contingency of Composition to Mereological Conservatism” (completed, 2023)
 - Netanel Ron, “World Building Mini Creators” (completed, 2024)
 - Shmuel Mintz Manor, “Systematicity: A Philosophical Inquiry” (in progress)
- Ph.D. Dissertation
 - Israel Cohen, “The Nature of *Halakha*: Philosophical Investigations” (completed, 2024, co-directed with David Enoch)
 - Noam Oren, “Prayer: A Philosophical Inquiry” (completed, 2025, co-directed with Moshe Halbertal)
 - Netanel Ron, “A Luzzattian World Building Theodicy”
- Postdocs
 - Kay Malte Bischof (Azrieli Fellowship)