

# CURRICULUM VITAE

**REUVEN FIRESTONE**

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## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 1988 New York University                      Near East. Langs. & Lits.  
New York, NY    Islam, Arabic Lit.
- Rabbinic Ordination 1982                              Bible, Rabbis  
Hebrew Union College  
Jewish Inst. of Religion, New York, NY
- M.A.            1980 Hebrew Union College              Hebrew Lit., History  
Jewish Inst. of Religion, NY
- B.A.            1974 Antioch College                              Sociology/Anthropology  
Yellow Springs, OH                                      (Middle East area studies)
- 1972-73 Hebrew University in Jerusalem

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor, Medieval Jewish and Islamic Studies, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, CA (1997-present).

Associate Professor, Medieval Jewish and Islamic Studies, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles, Ca (1993-1997).

Assistant Professor, Hebrew Language and Literature, director of Hebrew and Arabic programs, Boston University, Boston, MA. (1987-92).

Academic Director: Boston University Study Abroad at the University of Haifa, Israel (1988-1992)

Visiting Scholar, Lotan Summer Series in Jewish Studies. Kibbutz Lotan, Israel (1988, 1996, 1998, 1999).

Lecturer, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Drew University, Madison, NJ. (1986-87).

Lecturer, Biblical Hebrew, Babylonian Aramaic, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, NY. (1985-87).

Director, College Education Department, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New York, NY (1982-1986).

### ADMINISTRATIVE

Director, Jerome Louchheim School of Undergraduate Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California (1997-2005).

Director, Edgar J. Magnin School of Graduate Studies, Hebrew Union College (1997-2005).

### FELLOWSHIPS

2006: CASA III Fellowship at the American University in Cairo, funded by the Fulbright Binational Committee in Egypt and the U.S. Department of Education.

2001-02: Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (declined for health reasons)

2000-01: National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellowship

1992-93: Yad Hanadiv/Barecha Research Fellowship at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem

### PUBLICATIONS

#### BOOKS

7. *The Revival of Holy War in Judaism*. Forthcoming.

6. *Who is the real 'Chosen People'? The Meaning of Chosenness in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths, forthcoming in 2009.

5. *An Introduction to Islam for Jews*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2008.

4. *Jews, Christians, Muslims in Dialogue: A Practical Handbook*, with Leonard Swidler and Khalid Duran. New London, CT: Twenty-Third Publications, 2007.

3. *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims*. NY: Ktav, 2001. Translated into Turkish, 2004: *Yahudiliği Anlamak İbrahim'in / Avraam'ın Çocukları*. Translated into Arabic 2007: *Dhuriyat Ibrahim: muqaddima `an al-yahudiyya lil-muslimin*).

2. *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1999 (Indonesian translation in process).

1. *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evolution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Exegesis*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1990.

### EDITED WORKS

1. *Symposium on Judaism and Islam*. CCAR Journal, Fall 2000.

### SCHOLARLY ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

72. "Chosenness and the Exclusivity of Truth," Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies (forthcoming).

71. "Self-conscious Revelation," Dialogue on God and Revelation, at the Intercultural Forum for Studies in Faith and Culture of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, forthcoming.

70. "Patriarchy, Primogeniture and Polemic in the Exegetical Traditions of Judaism and Islam," in David Stern and Natalie Dohrmann, eds., *Jewish Biblical Interpretation in Comparative Context*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, forthcoming.

69. "Islamic Exegesis on the so-called 'Curse of Ham,'" in Tzvi Langerman, ed. *Adaptations and Innovations: Studies on the Interaction between Jewish and Islamic Thought and Literature from the early Middle Ages to the late Twentieth Century, dedicated to Professor Joel L. Kraemer* (Leuven, Belgium: Peeters, forthcoming).

68. "Challenges in Jewish-Muslim Dialogue: The American Context," with Brie Loskota, in Ansari, Humayun and Cesarani, David, eds. *Muslim-Jewish dialogue in a 21st Century world*. Royal Holloway University of London, Egham, 2007, 135-158. ISBN 9781905846122. <http://eprints.rhul.ac.uk/624/>.  
[http://eprints.rhul.ac.uk/624/1/Jewish Muslim dialogue CMS 2007.pdf](http://eprints.rhul.ac.uk/624/1/Jewish_Muslim_dialogue_CMS_2007.pdf).

67. "Contextualizing Antisemitism in Islam: Chosenness, Choosing, and the Affects of the Birthing of New Religion," *International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies* 4:3 (2007), ([www.interscience.wiley.com](http://www.interscience.wiley.com)).

66. "Women, Gender and Jewish/Muslim Sources/Discourses and Internations: 7<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries," *Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures* (Leiden: Brill, 2007), Vol. 5, 216-222.

65. "Tales of the Prophets," in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Vol. 2, 644-646.

64. "Jihad in Medieval Islam," in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Vol. 1, 418-420.
63. "Jerusalem," in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Vol. 1, 413-115.
62. "Hajj," in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Vol. 1, 309-310.
61. "Alcohol," in *Medieval Islamic Civilization: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Routledge, 2006. Vol. 1, 26-27.
60. "Holy War in Modern Judaism? 'Mitzvah War' and the Problem of the 'Three Vows,'" in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74(4) December, 2006, 954-982.
59. "Jihad" Andrew Rippin, ed., *Blackwell Companion to the Qur'an*. London: Blackwell, 2006, 308-320.
58. "Tubba," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* Leiden: Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006. Vol. 5, 389-390.
57. "Thamud," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* Leiden: Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2006. Vol. 5, 252-254.
56. "Who Broke Their Vow First? The 'Three Vows' in Contemporary Thinking about Jewish Holy War," in R. Joseph Hoffman (ed.), *The Just War and Jihad: Violence in Judaism, Christianity and Islam*. NY: Prometheus, 2006, 77-97.
55. "Jerusalem in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam," in Lindsay Jones (ed. in chief), *Encyclopedia of Religion* (15 Vols.), Second Edition. NY: Macmillan, 2005, 4838-4941.
54. "The Problem of Chosenness in Judaism, Christianity and Islam," The 2005 Sterling M. McMurrin Lecture on Religion and Culture, University of Utah (Salt Lake City: University of Utah, 2005).
53. "Judaism," in *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History* (5 vols.), Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing, 2005. Vol. 3, 1058-1065.
52. "Abraham," in *Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History* (5 vols.), Great Barrington, MA: Berkshire Publishing, 2005. Vol. 1, 2-4.
51. "A Problem with Monotheism: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in Dialogue and Dissent," in Bradford Hinze (ed.), *Heirs of Abraham: The Future of Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Relations*. NY: Orbis, 2005, 20-54.

50. "Jewish-Muslim Relations, " in Nicholas de Lange and Miri Freud-Kandel, eds., *Modern Judaism: An Oxford Guide*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005.
49. "Shekhinah" ("Sakina") *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2004, Vol. 4, 589-591.
48. "Safa and Marwa," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2003, Vol. 4, 518-520.
47. "Sacrifice" *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an* Leiden: Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2003, Vol. 4, 516-518.
46. "Pharaoh," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2003, Vol. 4, 66-68.
45. "Samaw'al b. Yahya al-Maghribi," *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* (New Edition), Supplement Volume, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2004, Vol. 12, 702-3.
44. "Judaism on Violence and Reconciliation: An Examination of Key Sources," in James Heft, ed., *Beyond Violence: Religious Sources of Social Transformation*. NY: Fordham University Press, 2004, 74-87.
43. "Martyrdom in Islam," in Rona Fields, ed., *Martyrdom: The Psychology, Theology, and Politics of Self-Sacrifice*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2004, 136-145.
42. "Martyrdom," in Palmer-Fernandez, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and War* (1st ed.). New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2004, 289-294.
41. "Judaism: Medieval Period," in Palmer-Fernandez, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and War* (1st ed.). New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2004, 244-247.
40. "Palestine/Israel," in Palmer-Fernandez, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and War* (1st ed.). New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2004, 342-347.
39. "Jihad," in Palmer-Fernandez, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and War* (1st ed.). New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2004, 234-238.
38. "Holy War Idea in the Biblical Tradition," in Palmer-Fernandez, G. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Religion and War* (1st ed.). New York: Berkshire/Routledge, 2004, 180-85.
37. "The Qur'an and the Bible: Some Modern Studies of Their Relationship," in John C. Reeves, ed., *Bible and Qur'an: Essays in Scriptural Intertextuality*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003, 1-22.
36. "Midian," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, Vol. 3 (2003), 389-391.

35. "Argue, for God's Sake – Or, A Jewish Argument for Argument," in the *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, special issue: "Interreligious Dialogue Toward Reconciliation in Macedonia and Bosnia, Volume XXXIX, Numbers 1-2 (Winter-Spring, 2002), 47-57 (translated into Macedonian and Albanian, 2004).
34. "Ishmael," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, Vol. 2 (2002), 563-564.
33. "Isaac," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, Vol. 2 (2002), 561-562.
32. "Fighting" *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, Vol 2 (2002), 208-209.
31. "Enemies," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, Vol. 2 (2002), 23-24.
30. "Jewish Culture in the Formative Period of Islam," in David Beale, ed., *Cultures of the Jews: A New History*. NY: Schocken, 2002, 267-302.
29. "Zekhut, Hiqui, Umot Qedoshim" (Hebrew translation of "Merit, Mimesis and Martyrdom," in M. Halamish, H. Kasher, and Y. Silman (eds.), *The Faith of Abraham in the Light of Interpretation throughout the Ages* (Hebrew). Bar Ilan University Press, 2002, 93-112.
28. "Yusuf" (Joseph), the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (New Edition), Vol. XI, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2002, 352-354.
27. "Zabur, " the *Encyclopaedia of Islam* (New Edition), Vol. XI, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2002, 372-373.
26. "Ya`qub" (Jacob), *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* (New Edition), Volume XI, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2002.
25. "Azar," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2001, Vol. 1, 192-193.
24. "Abyssinia," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2001, Vol. 1, 20-21.
23. "Abraham," *The Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an*, Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2001, Vol. 1, 5-11.
22. "Talut" (Saul), *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* (New Edition), Volume X, Leiden: E.J. Brill, 2001.
21. "Territoriality and Sanctity in Judaism and Islam," in *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis*, fall 2000, 6-15.

20. "Comparative Studies in Bible and Qur'an: A Fresh Look at Genesis 22 in Light of Surah 37," in Benjamin Hary, John Hayes and Fred Astren (eds.), *Judaism and Islam: Boundaries, Communication and Interaction: Essays in Honor of William M. Brinner*. Leiden: Brill, 2000, 169-184.
19. "Hitpathut Hamusag "Milhemet Qodesh " Befarshanut haQuran Haqedumah Leor Tavniot Miqra'iot: Mehqar Mashveh" ("The Development of the Concept of "Holy War" in Early Qur'an Interpretation in Relation to Biblical Paradigms: A Comparative Study," *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis*, Fall, 1998, 71-86.
18. "Merit, Mimesis, and Martyrdom: Aspects of Shi'ite Meta-Historical Exegesis on Abraham's Sacrifice in Light of Jewish, Christian, and Sunni Tradition," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 66.1 (1998), 93-116.
17. "Al-Isra' wal-Mi'raj: translation and interpretation," in John Renard, ed., *Windows on the House of Islam*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, 336-45, 353-55.
16. "Recovering History in Early Islam: A Review Article on Michael Lecker's *Muslims, Jews and Pagans: Studies on Early Islamic Medina*, in *Medieval Encounters* 2.3 (1998).
15. "Disparity and Resolution in the Qur'anic Teachings on War: A Reevaluation of a Traditional Problem," *The Journal of Near Eastern Studies* 55 (1997), 1-19.
14. "The Failure of a Jewish Program of Public Satire in the Squares of Medina," in *Judaism* , Fall, 1997, 438-452.
13. "The Role of 'Islamic Nationalism' in the Palestinian National Movement, " *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis*, Winter 1996, 23-33.
12. "Conceptions of Holy War in Biblical and Qur'anic Tradition," *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 24 (1996), 801-824.
11. Arabic language editing and translations in Eli Yasif (ed.), *Shorashim veNofim*, Studies in Folklore from the Hebrew articles of Hayyim Schwartzbaum (Hebrew), Beer Sheva: University of Ben-Gurion Press, 1993.
10. "Prophethood, Marriageable Consanguinity, and Text: The Problem of Abraham and Sarah's Kinship Relationship and the Response of Jewish and Islamic Exegesis," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 83 (1993), 331-347.
9. "Abraham: The First Jew or the First Muslim? Text, Tradition, and 'Truth' in Interreligious Dialogue, " *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis*, Spring, 1992, 17-28. Reprinted in *Shalom/Salaam: A Resource for Jewish-Muslim Dialogue*. New York: Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 1993.

8. "Abraham's Journey to Mecca in Islamic Exegesis: A Form-Critical Study of a Tradition," *Studia Islamica* 76 (1992), 5-24.
7. *Islam in America* (monograph), co-authored with Aryeh Meir (New York: American Jewish Committee, 1992).
6. "Comparative Scripture in Judaism and Islam: The Case of Abraham and His Sons," *CAJE Jewish Education News* 13 (Winter, 1992), 25-28.
5. "On Scripture and Its Exegesis: The Abraham-Ishmael Stories in the Torah and the Qur'an," in Marilyn R. Waldman, ed., *Muslims and Christians, Muslims and Jews*. Columbus, Ohio: The Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio in association with the Catholic Diocese of Columbus and Congregation Tefereth Israel, 1992, 7-17. Reprinted in Norman Hosansky and Mazhar Jalil (eds.), *Muslims and Jews, Building a Hopeful Future*. Columbus, Ohio: The Islamic Foundation of Central Ohio in association with Congregation Tefereth Israel, 2003, 9-19.
4. "Difficulties in Keeping a Beautiful Wife: The Legend of Abraham and Sarah in Jewish and Islamic Tradition," *Journal of Jewish Studies* 42 (1991), 196-214.
3. "Abraham's Association with the Meccan Sanctuary and the Pilgrimage in the Pre-Islamic and Early Islamic Periods," *Le Museon Revue d'Etudes Orientales* 104 (1991), 365-393.
2. "The Problem of Sarah's Identity in Islamic Exegetical Tradition," *Muslim World* 80 (1990), 65-71.
1. "Abraham's Son as the Intended Sacrifice (*al-dhabih* [Qur'an 37:99-113]): Issues in Qur'anic Exegesis," *Journal of Semitic Studies* #89 (1989), 95-131.

## ESSAYS

7. "Hudna: 'Leasing' of Peace Could be Best Move," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, May 9, 2003
6. "Athens and Baghdad," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, April 25, 2003
5. "Rome and Baghdad," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, April 11, 2003.
4. "Our Own House Needs Order," in *Sh'ma*, December 2001, 4-5, reprinted in *Living Words IV: Jewish Ethics Addressing Terrorism*. Sh'ma, 2002.
3. "Islam is the Answer," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, December 14, 2001.



2. "Islam Hijacked," in *The Jewish Journal of Greater Los Angeles*, September 28, 2001. Reprinted in *At Issue: Is Islam a Religion of War or Peace?* Greenhaven Press, 2005.

1. "Confronting Conquest and Persecution," from the conference: Convivencia: Enhancing Identity Through Encounter Between Jews, Christians and Muslims, in *From the Martin Buber House* of the International Council of Christians and Jews #29 (Summer, 2001), 128-131.

#### REVIEWS:

20. Joshua Parens, *An Islamic Philosophy of Virtuous Religions: Introducing Alfarabi* (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2006), for *the International Journal of Middle East Studies* (forthcoming, 2007).

19. Glenda Abrahamson and Hilary Kilpatrick (eds.), *Religious Perspectives in Modern Muslim and Jewish Literatures* (London & NY: Routledge, 2006), for *The Maghreb Review* 31, 3-4 (2006), 310-32.

18. David Goldenberg, *The Curse of Ham: Race and Slavery in Early Judaism, Christianity and Islam* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003), for *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* 75:4 (December, 2006), 884-886.

17. Arne Ambros, *A Concise Dictionary of Koranic Arabic* (Wiesbaden, 2004), for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, 2005.

16. Bruce Seligman, *Modest Claims: Dialogues and Essays on Tolerance and Tradition* (University of Notre Dame, 2005), for *Conservative Judaism*, 57:4 (2005), 88-90.

15. Seth Ward, *Avodah and Ibada*, for the *Jewish Quarterly Review* 92:1-2 (July-October, 2001), 197-199.

14. Heribert Busse, *Islam, Judaism, and Christianity: Theological and Historical Affiliations* (Princeton: Marcus Weiner, 1998) for the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (Special Issue: *Nationalisms and the Colonial Legacy*, IJMES, May, 2002).

13. David Frank, ed. *The Jews of Medieval Islam: Community, Society, and Identity* (Leiden: Brill, 1995) for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*, 119.2 (1999).

12. James Turner Johnson, *The Holy War Idea in Western and Islamic Traditions* (University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 1997) for *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 560 (1998), p. 203.

11. Steven M. Wasserstrom, *Between Muslim and Jew: The Problem of Symbiosis under early Islam* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995) for *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 30 (1998), 129-131.

10. Hava Lazarus-Yafeh, *Intertwined Worlds: Medieval Islam and Bible Criticism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1992), for *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (1994).
9. Moshe Gil, *A History of Palestine, 634-1099* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 27 (1993), 255-256.
8. Franz Rosenthal, translator, *The History of al-Tabari Vol. I: General Introduction and From the Creation to the Flood*, and William Brinner, translator, *The History of al-Tabari, Vol. II: Prophets and Patriarchs* (State University of New York Press, 1989), for the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* #113 (1993), 461-462.
7. Gordon D. Newby, *A History of the Jews of Arabia From Ancient Times to Their Eclipse Under Islam* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), for *Journal of Semitic Studies* (1993).
6. Gordon D. Newby, *The Making of the Last Prophet* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1989) and *A History of the Jews of Arabia From Ancient Times to Their Eclipse Under Islam* (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1988), for *Religious Studies Review* (1992).
5. William Brinner, translator, *The History of al-Tabari Vol. III: The Children of Israel* (State University of New York Press, 1991), for *Iranian Studies* 25 (1992).
4. William M. Brinner and Stephen D. Ricks (eds.), *Studies in Islamic and Judaic Traditions* 11 (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1989), for *CCAR Journal: A Reform Jewish Quarterly* Fall, 1991.
3. Ernest Klein, *A Comprehensive Etymological Dictionary of the Hebrew Language for Readers of English* (New York: Macmillan, 1988), for *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin* 23 (1989), 267-268.
2. Michael Oppenheim, *What Does Revelation Mean for the Modern Jew: Rosenzweig, Buber, Fackenheim* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen 1985), for *Religious Studies And Theology* 9:1 (1989), 35-36.
1. Allan Harris Cutler and Helen Elinquist Cutler, *The Jew as Ally of the Muslim: Medieval Roots of Anti-Semitism* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame 1986), for *Religious Studies and Theology* 8:3 (1988), 33-35.

#### WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Abraham and Authenticity: Covenant Symbolism and the Grounding of the Abrahamic Traditions."

"Jihad as Rhetorical Device in Islamic Political Discourse."

"Maimonides' Views on War in the Context of Islam."

"Fight them until there is no more *fitna* and religion becomes God's" (Qur'an 2:193/8:39):  
'Sedition' or 'Idolatry' as grounds for Holy War?"

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

American Academy of Religion  
American Oriental Society  
Association for Jewish Studies  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Middle East Medievalists  
Middle East Studies Association