

JOSH LAMBERT

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EMPLOYMENT

Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA

Sophia Moses Robison Associate Professor of Jewish Studies and English, and Director of the Jewish Studies Program. July 2020-present.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Amherst, MA

Visiting Assistant Professor of English. January 2012-June 2020.

Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA

Academic Director. January 2012-June 2020.

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

Visiting Scholar and Lecturer in American Studies. Fall 2018.

New York University, New York, NY

Dorot Visiting Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. September 2009-December 2011.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, September 2004 to August 2009.

Ph.D. in English Language & Literature. Additional coursework at Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture, 2005, 2008.

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA, September 1997 to June 2001.

A.B. in English, *magna cum laude*. Phi Beta Kappa.

BOOKS

Unclean Lips: Obscenity, Jews, and American Culture (New York University Press, 2014).

Co-Winner, Jordan Schnitzer Book Award of the Association for Jewish Studies, Jewish Literature & Linguistics, 2014; winner, Canadian Jewish Book Award, Jewish Thought and Culture, 2014; reviews in *Publisher's Weekly*; *Choice*; *Lilith*; *Jewish Book World*; *Religion Dispatches*; *The Jewish Week*; *The Jerusalem Post*; *The Jewish Daily Forward*; *Forverts* (Yiddish); *Jewrotica*; *Chronicle of Higher Education*; *Marginalia Review of Books*; *American Jewish History*; *American Literary History*; *Journal of Contemporary Religion*; *Journal of American History*; *American Jewish Archives Journal*; *Journal of American Studies*; *The Historian*; *American Literature*; *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. Features and excerpts in *Tablet*; *Vox Tablet*; *The Jewish Channel*; *Lilith*; *Haaretz*; *New Books in Jewish Studies*; *Radio Sweden* (Swedish).

American Jewish Fiction: A JPS Guide (Jewish Publication Society, 2009).

Reviews in *Shofar*; *Canadian Jewish News*; *Sacramento Book Review*; *Jewish Book World*; *JBooks.com*; *Jewish Herald-Voice*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

The Literary Mafia: Jews, Publishing, and Postwar American Literature (book in progress)

A Golem in the Museum: Jews and American Culture, 1995-2015 (book in progress)

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Editor, "Four Approaches to Teaching 'Goodbye, Columbus,'" in *Teaching Jewish American Literature* (MLA, forthcoming).

"Rebooting Jewish Television," in edited collection about *Transparent* (forthcoming).

"Publishing Jews at Knopf," *Book History* 21 (2018): 343-369.

"Fictions of Anti-Semitism and the Beginnings of Holocaust Literature," in Christopher Vials, ed., *American Literature in Transition, 1940-1950* (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

"The Jewish Mother as Metonym for Community in Postwar America," in Jane Kanarek, Marjorie Lehman, and Simon J. Bronner, eds., *Motherhood in the Jewish Cultural Imagination*, Jewish Culture Studies, vol. 5 (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2017).

Editor and Introduction, Special Issue: New Literary Histories, *American Jewish History* 101:1 (January 2017).

"The Sound of 'New Jews': David Rakoff and Jonathan Goldstein," special issue on Canadian Jewish Literature of *Studies in American Jewish Literature* 35:2 (2016): 233-54.

"Since 2000," in Hana Wirth-Nesher, ed., *The Cambridge History of Jewish American Literature* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016), 622-41.

"American Jewish Literature," in Naomi Seidman, ed., *Oxford Bibliographies in Jewish Studies* (New York: Oxford University Press, August 31, 2015, online).

"Unclean Lips: Dirty Words and Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*," *modernism/modernity* 21:3 (September 2014): 741-56.

"Opatoshu's Eroticism, American Obscenity," in Gennady Estraiikh, Mikhail Krutikov and Sabine Koller, eds., *Joseph Opatoshu: A Yiddish Writer between Europe and America* (Legenda, 2013), 172-83.

"Identity Recruitment and the 'American Writer': Steven Millhauser, Edwin Mullhouse, and Biographical Criticism," *Contemporary Literature* 54:1 (Spring 2013): 23-48.

Co-editor and introduction, "The Future of Jewish American Literary Studies," special issue of *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States* 37:2 (Summer 2012).

"Isaac Goldberg and the Idea of Obscene Yiddish," in Lara Rabinovitch, Hannah Pressman, and Shiri Goren, eds., *Choosing Yiddish: Studies in Yiddish Literature, Culture, and History* (Wayne State University Press, 2012): 145-62.

"'Wait for the Next Pictures': Intertextuality and Cliffhanger Continuity in Cinema and Comic Strips, 1910-1914." *Cinema Journal* 48:2 (Winter 2009): 3-25.

"'Wanna Watch the Grown-Ups Doin' Dirty Things?': Jewish Sexuality and the Early Graphic Novel," in Ranen Omer-Sherman and Samantha Baskind, eds., *The Jewish Graphic Novel: Critical Approaches* (Rutgers University Press, 2008), 43-63.

INVITED LECTURES (selected)

- "Of Making Many Books There Is No End: Jews and American Publishing," Melinda Rosenblatt Lecture, Yiddish Book Center, Amherst, MA, April 23, 2020.
- "Anti-Semitism, Pornography, and American Jews," Rice University, Houston, February 6, 2020.
- "Schwarz-Bart's *The Last of the Just*, Atheneum Books, and the History of Holocaust Literature in the U.S.," La Sorbonne Nouvelle (University of Paris III), April 9, 2019.
- "Rebooting Jewish Television: *Transparent*, Streaming Media, and Foundation-Backed Culture," Lapidus Family Fund Lecture in American Jewish Studies, Princeton University, November 27, 2018.
- "Defending the Faith: Philip Roth and American Jewish Self-Censorship," Temple University, October 23, 2018.
- "Remembering Philip Roth," University of Hartford, September 26, 2018.
- "Publishing Yiddish at Knopf," Modern Jewish Literatures Symposium in honor of Anita Norich, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 21, 2018.
- "New Media Jews: *Transparent*, Podcasting, and the Place of Jews in 21st-Century American Culture," University of California at Los Angeles, November 30, 2017.
- "Jews and Obscenity in American Culture," University of Wuppertal, Germany, May 8, 2017.
- "What's Jewish about Obscenity?," Lund University, Sweden, April 24, 2017.
- "Goodbye, Roth: American Jewish Literature in the 21st Century." University of Illinois, Program in Jewish Culture and Society, September 26, 2016.
- "The Roots of Jewish Humor," University of Hartford and University of Connecticut cross-campus collaborative course and community event, September 14, 2016.
- "Are Jews Pornographers?: Obscenity and Jews in America, from the Comstock Laws to Lenny Bruce." University of Minnesota, Jewish Studies, March 2, 2015.
- "Beyond the Booster-Bigot Trap: Jews and the History of American Obscenity." San Francisco State University, Jewish Studies, February 19, 2014.
- "*In the Night Kitchen* and the Censors." New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, Connecticut, January 30, 2014.
- "Jewish Business and American Literature." Titans of Industry event, Center for Jewish History, October 2, 2013.
- "The Holocaust and Obscenity in the U.S." Faculty Forum, Jewish Studies, University of Connecticut, Storrs, April 10, 2013.
- "'Strange Times': The Millennial Boom in American Jewish Literature." Lapidus Family Fund Conference in American Jewish Studies, Princeton University, April 7, 2013.
- "*The Singing Blacksmith*: Challenging the Frontiers of Decency in Yiddish Film." Yiddish Film Lecture, University of Hartford, December 2, 2012.
- "Vulgar Words and *Belles Lettres*: Yiddish Literature and American Obscenity." Jewish Studies Department, McGill University, Montreal, October 25, 2012.
- "Metonymy and Its Discontents: New York as a Jewish City in American Literature and Popular Culture." Scholars Working Group on New York City and the Jews, Center for Jewish History, February 10, 2012.
- "Millhauser, *Mullhouse*: Biographical Criticism and the 'American Writer.'" English Department, Harvard University, January 31, 2012.

"Ignorance, American Jews, and the Jewish Literary Complex." Of Maps and Models: The Future of Jewish Literary History, Jewish Theological Seminary, November 21, 2010.
"Modesty and Obscenity in Recent Fictional Representations of Orthodox Jews in the United States." Columbia University Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, March 23, 2010.

CONFERENCES (selected)

Organizer, "Diversity and Post-1945 American Publishing (panel)," and presenter, "Gordon Lish, Jewishness, and the New York Literary Establishment," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, UMass Amherst, July 17, 2019.
Discussant, "*Portnoy's Complaint* at 50," MLA, January 2019.
Organizer and moderator, "The Past, Present, and Future of American Jewish Studies," AJS conference, December 2018.
Presenter, "Jewish Jokes at the End of Meaning: Gordon Lish's *Extravaganza*," MLA, January 4, 2018.
Presenter, "Lenny Bruce, Etymologist?," Comedy and the Constitution: The Legacy of Lenny Bruce conference, Brandeis University, October 28, 2016.
Presenter, "Jewish Voices and the Sound of Podcasting," MLA, January 8, 2016.
Organizer, moderator, "Teaching 'Goodbye, Columbus': Pedagogy Roundtable," AJS, December 14, 2015.
Organizer, presenter, "The Pitch of Jewish Voices in America," AJS, December 13, 2015.
Organizer, moderator, "Teaching with Social Media: Pedagogy Roundtable," AJS, December 15, 2014.
Co-organizer, chair, presenter, "Jews in Postwar America, 1945-1965: New Approaches," (three-day seminar), AJS. December 14-16, 2014.
Presenter, "Jewish Literature as Conspiracy," American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New York, March 21, 2014.
Organizer, moderator, "Teaching Comics: Pedagogy Roundtable," AJS, December 17, 2013.
Presenter, "Turning Financial Capital into Cultural Capital: Horace Liveright, Obscenity, and the Situation of the Jewish Publisher in 1920s America," AJS, December 16, 2013.
Discussant, "Jewish American Literature and the Archives," AJS, December 15, 2013.
Organizer, presenter, "Prostitution in Modern Jewish Literature," AJS, December 18, 2012.
Discussant, "Yiddish Is the New Black: Yiddish Studies at the Crossroads of the Early Twenty-First Century," AJS, December 17, 2012.
Co-organizer, moderator, "Is There a Place for Jewishness in American Studies?" American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 15-18, 2012.
Moderator, "The Uses of History in American Jewish Fiction," Biennial Scholars' Conference in American Jewish History, Center for Jewish History, June 12, 2012.
Organizer, presenter, "People of the Paperback: Jews and Mass Market Fiction in the United States," AJS, December 2011.
Curator, presenter, "Post45 Obscenity," Post45 @ The Rock Hall, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, Ohio, April 29-30, 2011.
Presenter, "Dirty Pictures, Graphic Novels: How Jews and Obscenity Transformed Comic Books into Literature," AJS, December 21, 2010.
Organizer, chair, "Teaching with Media: Pedagogy Roundtable," AJS, December 20, 2010.

Presenter, "Sex After Auschwitz," AJS, December 21, 2009.
Co-organizer, discussant, "Does the English Department Have a Jewish Problem?" Special session, MLA, Philadelphia, December 2009.
Presenter, "How the Dirty Jew Became a Cultural Hero," MLA, December 28, 2007.

TEACHING

Visiting Professor of American Studies, Princeton University

American Studies 335: American Jews and Sexual Freedom (F 2018).

Visiting Assistant Professor, English, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

English 300: Jews and American Literature (F 2017).

English 269: American Literature and Culture After 1865 (F 2013, F 2015, F 2016).

English 376: American Fiction: The Novel after 1945 (F 2014).

English 391B: Jewish American Literature and Culture (F 2012).

English 496: Graduate Independent Study: Jewish American Literature (S 2013).

Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow, New York University, New York City

Directed Graduate Reading Course: American Jewish Culture (Summer 2011).

Directed Graduate Reading Course: Jewish Graphic Novels (Summer 2011).

Judaic Studies 0776: Major Playwrights: Fiddlers on the Roof (F 2011).

Judaic Studies 0779: Jews and Sex (S 2011).

Judaic Studies 0625: American Jews and the Media (F 2010).

Judaic Studies 0133: Topics in Criticism: Holocaust Literature (S 2010).

Judaic Studies 0625: Jewish American Novel (S 2010, S 2011).

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

English 125: College Writing: Censorship & Expression (F 2007, S 2008).

English 432: The Modern American Novel (S 2006), assisting Prof. Joshua Miller.

English 367: Shakespeare's Plays (F 2005), assisting Prof. Ralph Williams.

Service on doctoral committees

Eli Bromberg, American Culture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (2014-2017).

Dissertation: "Sex and Difference in Jewish American Families: Race, Gender and Class in 20th Century Incest Narratives."

Patrick Lawrence, English, University of Connecticut (2014-2015).

Dissertation: "Obscene Gestures: Sexual Transgression and Late Twentieth-Century American Political Culture." Currently: Assistant Professor of English at University of South Carolina, Lancaster.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Co-editor, with Ilan Stavans, *How Yiddish Changed America, and How America Changed Yiddish*, literary anthology published by Restless Books, 2020.

Creator and co-editor, *TeachGreatJewishBooks.org*, site sharing archival and multimedia materials for use in classroom teaching of modern Jewish culture, 2015-2020.

Creator and director, *Great Jewish Books: Professional Development for Teachers*, a month-long yearly seminar, annual conference, and website for educators. 2017-2020.

\$1.18m grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Co-creator and director, *Reboot @ Yiddish Book Center Fellowship*, fellowship for artists and entrepreneurs to explore Yiddish. 2017. \$75k from Righteous Persons Foundation.

Creator, director, and lead teacher, *Great Jewish Books Teacher Workshop*. Year-long enrichment program for Jewish educators and piloting of web platform for sharing curricular materials. 2015-2016. \$196k grant from the Jim Joseph Foundation.

Creator and director, *Tent: Encounters with Jewish Culture*. Week-long residential seminars in modern Jewish culture, partnering with institutions including PJ Library, the Jewish Museum, the Center for Jewish History, and the Skirball Center. 2013-. \$1m+ in supporting grants from foundations and individual donors.

Creator, director, and lead teacher, *Great Jewish Books Summer Program*. Week-long residential program in modern Jewish literature for high school students. 2012-. Over \$500k in support from an individual donor.

Co-director and teacher, *Steiner Summer Yiddish Program*. Seven-week summer program in Yiddish language and culture for undergraduates and graduate students. 2012-2016.

COMMUNITY TALKS (selected)

“How Yiddish Changed America, and How America Changed Yiddish,” with Ilan Stavans, Vilna Shul (virtual), Boston, May 31, 2020.

“Les Cartoons: une invention juive?,” Hilel Apart, Paris, France, March 14, 2019.

The New Jewish Culture Fellowship, Brooklyn Jews, Brooklyn, NY, October 14, 2018.

Shir Tikvah Congregation, Minneapolis, MN, March 2, 2015.

Evelyn Rubinstein JCC, Scholar in Residence, Houston, TX, January 10-13, 2015.

Museum at Eldridge Street, New York, NY, with Tova Mirvis, March 9, 2014.

Beth Tzedec Congregation, Toronto, Canada, February 27, 2014.

JCC of West Hartford, with Joy Ladin and Idit Klein, West Hartford, CT, April 9, 2013.

JCC San Francisco, with Cynthia Ozick, San Francisco, CA, February 26, 2012.

Museum of Jewish Heritage, with Andre Aciman, New York, NY, December 8, 2011.

Jewish Historical Society of New York, New York, NY, February 13, 2011.

JCC Jewish Book Festival, with Dara Horn, New Haven, CT, May 4, 2010.

92Y Tribeca, with Gary Shteyngart and Amy Sohn, New York, NY, April 9, 2010.

Merage JCC, with Austin Ratner, Orange County, CA, November 10, 2009.

Jewish Federation of Lee County, Fort Myers, FL, November 5, 2009.

Westhampton Synagogue, with Sana Krasikov, Westhampton, NY, July 9, 2009.

REVIEWS & ARTS JOURNALISM (selected)

“Who Speaks in the Jewish Novel?,” *Jewish Currents*, May 25, 2020.

“A Divorce Story, from ‘Both Sides,’” *Jewish Currents*, June 19, 2019.

Review of David Weinstein, *The Eddie Cantor Story*, *Journal of American History* 106:1 (June 2019): 206.

“The Gordon Lish Lineage of Jewish American Writing,” *Literary Hub*, September 25, 2018.

Review of Rachel Kranson, *Ambivalent Embrace: Jewish Upward Mobility in Postwar America*, *Journal of Jewish Identities* 11:2 (July 2018): 298-300.

“What Philip Roth Has to Tell Us about Anti-Semitism,” Commentary, *NEPR*, June 13, 2018.

"Philip Roth vs. the Rabbis," *Jewish Currents*, May 23, 2018.
 "A Sacrificial Altar in Manhattan," *New York Times Book Review*, January 10, 2018.
 Review of Jennifer Glaser, *Borrowed Voices: Writing & Racial Ventriloquism in the Jewish American Imagination*, *AJS Review* 41:2 (November 2017): 499-501.
 "A Fresh Look at Cartoon Jews and Anti-Semitism," *Haaretz*, August 1, 2017.
 "How Comics Help Us Combat Holocaust Fatigue," *the Forward*, February 9, 2017.
 Interview with Jonathan Safran Foer, *Paper Brigade*, 2017.
 "Why Do We Love to Curse So Much?" *New York Times Book Review*, September 26, 2016.
 "From Soup Nazi to Today Sponge: On 'Seinfeld,'" *Haaretz*, August 10, 2016.
 "The History of Prestige: Blanche Knopf and Literary Culture," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, May 30, 2016. Translated into Italian for "Sotto il vulcano," Edizioni Sur.
 Review of Paula Rabinowitz, *American Pulp: How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street*, *The Journal of American History* 102:3 (2015): 922-23.
 "Broadway's First Lesbian Kiss Was Originally in Yiddish," *Tablet*, October 19, 2015.
 "The Problem of Too Many Books, or, Publishing History," *Michigan Quarterly Review* 53:3 (Summer 2014): 447-54.
 "James Deen vs. the Nebbishes," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, October 21, 2012.
 "On the Bookshelf," weekly new books column, *Tablet*, June 15, 2009, to August 15, 2011.
 "Backing into Forward: A Memoir, by Jules Feiffer," *Los Angeles Times*, March 14, 2010.
 "My Son, the Pornographer: Nat Lehrman and *Playboy*," *Tablet*, February 24, 2010.
 "Ruth Wisse: Generous Mentor, Worthy Adversary," *The Forward*, February 12, 2009.
 "From Russia with Lox: Shteyngart and Vapnyar," *The Globe and Mail*, May 20, 2006.
 "Zadie Smith's *On Beauty*," *National Post*, September 24, 2005.
 "'Canker in the Soul' Ate Away at Roth's Writing," *San Francisco Chronicle*, August 14, 2005.

Over a hundred more reviews and essays, full-text, at www.epikores.com.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND RESIDENCIES

Everett Helm Visiting Fellowship, Lilly Library at Indiana University, 2018.
 First prize, Commentary (Division B), Public Radio News Directors Awards, 2017.
 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award of the Association for Jewish Studies, Jewish Literature & Linguistics, for *Unclean Lips* (co-winner). 2014.
 Canadian Jewish Book Award, Jewish Thought and Culture, for *Unclean Lips*. 2014.
 Mark Uveleer Dissertation Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture. 2009.
 Dr. Sophie Bookhalter Fellow in Jewish Culture, Center for Jewish History. 2008-2009.
 Rackham Humanities Research candidacy fellowship, University of Michigan. 2008-2009.
 Writer's Seminar on the Jewish People, Columbia University. 2008-2009.
 Summer Fellowship (Honorable mention), Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University. 2008.
 Marshall Weinberg Prize for Excellence in Judaic Studies, University of Michigan. 2008.
 Van Akin and Julia Burd Fund for Research in English Award, University of Michigan. 2007.
 Essay Award, Domitor: International Association for the Study of Early Cinema. 2007.
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Student Writing Award (2nd place). 2007.
 Hopwood Award, Novel category, University of Michigan. 2005.

Artist's residency, MacDowell Colony. March 2004.
Edward Eager Prize, Harvard University. 2001, 2000, 1999.
John Harvard Scholarship, Harvard University. 2000, 1999, 1998.
David Rice Ecker Prize, Harvard University. 1998.
Detur Prize, Harvard University. 1998.

FICTION AND COOKBOOK

"The Lewisburg Minyan." *StoryQuarterly* (November 2009).
"Berenstein's Plague." *Moment* (August, 2005).
"The Brief Summer of Amir and Ariella—an Allegory." Eric Simonoff, ed., *Sleepaway: Writers on Summer Camp* (Riverhead, 2005).
The (reluctant, nervous, lazy, broke, busy, confused) College Student's Cookbook (Blue Mountain, 2001).
"The Bible Scholar." *B&A New Fiction* 22 (Spring 1996).

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial Advisor, Fig Tree Books. 2014-2015.
Contributing Editor, *Tablet*. 2009-.
Editorial Consultant, *The Sami Rohr Library of Recorded Yiddish Books*. 2008.
Research Assistant for Jonathan Freedman's *Klezmer America* (2008), Julian Levinson's *Exiles on Main Street* (2008), Anita Norich's *Discovering Exile* (2007), and Deborah Dash Moore's *Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization: Vol. 10, 1973-2005* (2012).
Editor, Literature Board, *Harvard Lampoon*. 1999-2001.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Executive Committee, American Jewish Historical Society, 2013-2016, 2018-2021. Veiner prize, nominations, Feingold prize, and editor search committees.
Board of Directors, AJS, 2017-2020. New initiatives committee.
Editorial board, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 2017-.
Judge, Edward Lewis Wallant Prize, 2016-.
Mentor, AJS Mentor Space, 2015-.
Chair, Division of Modern Jewish Literature and Culture, AJS, 2015-2018.
Editorial board, *American Jewish History*, 2015-. Digital committee.
Member, "Jewish Studies for What?," cohort of "the next generation of Jewish studies chairs and directors," inaugurated at University of Washington, October 26-27, 2014.
Strategic Planning Committee, Association for Jewish Studies, 2012-2013.
Editorial board, *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, 2011-.
Judge, Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature, Fiction, 2010-.
Judge, National Jewish Book Award for Fiction, 2009-2014.
Peer review for *GLQ*, *Prooftexts*, *American Literary History*, *Contemporary Jewry*, *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*, *Jewish Social Studies*, University of Toronto Press, *Studies in the Novel*, Stanford University Press, *Jewish Film and New Media*, Rutgers

University Press, Syracuse University Press, *In Geveb*, *American Jewish History*,
Contemporary Literature, Wayne State University Press, *Cinema Journal*, *Image &
Narrative*, *MELUS*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Studies in American Jewish Literature*,
and *Canadian Jewish Studies*.