NORA L. RUBEL

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
Rochester, New York

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Department of Religion & Classics
438 Rush Rhees Library
Rochester, New York 14627-0074

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
PhD in American Religions
Dissertation: "'Muggers in Black Coats'; Gender and the Ultra-Orthodox in the American Jewish Imagination"
August 2005

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
MA in American Religions
Thesis: "Chicken Soup for the Souls of Black Folk: African American Converts to Judaism and the Negotiation of Identity"
May 2001

Boston University
MA in Religion and Culture
Thesis: "Impressive Failures: Black Hebrews in America"
May 1998

Douglass College at Rutgers University
BA in Religion and American Studies
May 1996

Employment

University of Rochester; Rochester, New York

Co-Director, Center for Jewish Studies
| Spring 2025-present

Elizabeth Denio Professor
| Fall 2025-present

Chair, Department of Religion & Classics
| Fall 2018-Spring 2026

Jane and Alan Batkin Professor in Jewish Studies
| Fall 2017-Spring 2025

Director, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies
| Fall 2014-Spring 2018

Professor of Religion & Classics
| Spring 2026-present

Associate Professor of Religion & Classics
| Fall 2012-Fall 2025

Assistant Professor of Religion & Classics
| Fall 2007-Spring 2012

Connecticut College; New London, Connecticut

Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies
| Fall 2005-Spring 2007

BOOKS & CURRENT BOOK PROJECTS

Recipes for the Melting Pot: The Lives of The Settlement Cook Book (New York: Columbia University Press, 2026).

Blessings Beyond the Binary: Transparent and the Queer Jewish Family, edited by Nora Rubel and Brett Krutzsch (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2024).

Religion, Food, and Eating in North America, edited by Marie W. Dallam, Reid Neilson, Nora Rubel and Benjamin E. Zeller (New York: Columbia University Press, 2014).

Doubting the Devout: The Ultra-Orthodox in the Jewish American Imagination (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009).

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"What Does Kosher Mean?" In *Judaism in Five Minutes*, edited by Sarah Imhoff (Equinox Publishing, 2025)

"History in a Jar: The Taste and Trauma of Gefilte Fish." In *Food and Memory:* Dublin Gastronomy Symposium Proceedings (Dublin, Ireland 2024).

"'Happy Yom Kippur': Televising and Translating Atonement." In *Blessings Beyond the Binary: Transparent and the Queer Jewish Family*, edited by Nora Rubel and Brett Krutzsch (New Brunswick, NJ:Rutgers University Press, 2024).

"'You can't make a Yankee of me that way!'; *The Settlement Cook Book* and Culinary Pluralism in Progressive-Era America," In *Food and Power:* Dublin Gastronomy Symposium Proceedings (Dublin, Ireland 2018).

"A Jewish Joy of Cooking? How a 20th Century Cookbook Containing Frog's Legs, Snails, and Ham Became a Beloved Jewish Icon." In *The Value of the Particular: Lessons from Judaism and the Modern Jewish Experience*, edited by Michael Zank and Ingrid Anderson (Boston: Brill University Press, 2015).

"Food." In *Key Terms in Material Religion*, edited by S. Brent Plate (London: Bloomsbury, 2015).

"The Feast at the End of the Fast: The Emergence of a New American Jewish Practice." In *Religion, Food, and Eating in North America*, edited by Benjamin E. Zeller, Marie W. Dallam, Reid Neilson, and Nora Rubel. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.
- Reprinted in Leah Hochman, ed., *Tastes of Faith: Jewish Eating in the United States* (2017).

"Schadenfreude over the Slaughterhouse: Orthodox Judaism in the News." In *Oxford Handbook of Religion and the News*, edited by Diane Winston. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

"'Chased Out of Palestine': Prophet Cherry's Church of the Living God and the Problem of Black Jewish Origins."In *The New Black Gods: Arthur Huff Fauset and the Study of African American Religions*, edited by Edward E. Curtis IV and Danielle Brune Sigler.Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2009.

"First Day Quiz." Teaching Theology and Religion (February 2009).

"'Muggers in Black Coats': The Alleged Hijacking of American Judaism." In *350 Years of American Judaism in Popular Culture*, edited by Leonard Jay Greenspoon and Ronald A. Simkins. Omaha, Nebraska: Creighton University Press, 2007.

"The Nation of Islam in the United States." In I*ntroduction to New and Alternative Religions in the United States*, edited by Eugene V. Gallagher and W. Michael Ashcroft. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006.

"Chicken Soup for the Souls of Black Folk: African American Converts to Judaism and the Negotiation of Identity," *Social Compass: Revue Internationale de Sociologie de la Religion/ International Review of Sociology of Religion*. No. 3 (September 2004).

BOOK REVIEWS AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Carol Edison, Eric A Eliason, and Lynne S McNeill, *This is The Plate: Utah Food Traditions* (University of Utah Press, 2020). Book Review for *Mormon Studies Review* (Volume 10, 2023).

Laura Levitt, *The Objects That Remain* (The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2020). Book Review for *Material Religion* (October 2021).

Melissa R. Klapper, Ballots, Babies, and Banners of Peace: American Jewish Women's Activism, 1890-1940 (New York University Press, 2013). Book Review for *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (January 2015).

"Jewish American Intellectual and Cultural Life" in Rubin, Joan and Scott Casper, ed. *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Smith, Andrew, ed. *Oxford Encyclopedia of Food and Drink in America*, 2nd edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Purim (500 words)

Diner, Hasia, ed. *Women in American History: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2011.
- Mary Antin (500 words), Lizzie Black Kander (500 words), Black Muslims (1000 words)

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

BOOK TALKS: RECIPES FOR THE MELTING POT; THE LIVES OF THE SETTLEMENT COOKBOOK (2026-PRESENT)

- Colgate University, Department of Religion: "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading The Settlement Cook Book." April 2026 (forthcoming).
- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Virtual via Zoom (forthcoming).
- Eldridge Street Museum, New York, NY, "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Virtual via Zoom: December 13, 2026 (forthcoming).
- Jewish Community Library, San Francisco, CA. "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Virtual via Zoom: December 6, 2026 (forthcoming).
- JCC Rochester & Writers and Books: Rochester's Own Author Roundtable, November 15, 2026 (forthcoming).
- Jewish Women's Archive, Book Presentation & Discussion with Judith Rosenbaum. Virtual via Zoom: November 12, 2026 (forthcoming).
- University of Florida, Bud Schorstein Center for Jewish Studies, "*The Settlement Cook Book* and Culinary Pluralism in Progressive-Era America." Gainesville, FL: November 2, 2026.
- Bnai Israel Congregation, /, "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Gainesville, FL: November 1, 2026.
- Milwaukee County Historical Society: "'You can't make a Yankee of me that way!'; *The Settlement Cook Book* and Culinary Pluralism in Progressive-Era America," Milwaukee, WI: October 9, 2026.
- University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee & Boswell Books, Book Presentation & Discussion with Lilly Goren. Milwaukee, WI: October 8, 2026.
- Eastern Michigan University & Zingerman's Roadhouse, Book Presentation & Discussion with Ari Weinzweig, Ann Arbor, MI: October 6, 2026.
- Faculty Book Launch, University of Rochester Humanities Center, "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Rochester, NY: October 2, 2026.
- George Washington University, Department of History: Invited Class Lecture in "The History of Things." Virtual via Zoom: September 28, 2026.
- Oberlin College, Department of Jewish Studies: "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*." Oberlin, OH: September 24, 2026.
- Bonnie Slotnick Cookbooks, Book Presentation. New York, NY: July 14th, 2026.
- University of Richmond, Department of American Studies, "*The Settlement Cook Book* and Culinary Pluralism in Progressive-Era America." Richmond, VA: March 19, 2026.
- Michigan State University, Department of Jewish Studies: "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book."* East Lansing, MI: March 11, 2026.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Presider: "Jewish Narrative, Community, and Politics." Association for Jewish Studies Philadelphia, PA: December 21, 2026 (forthcoming).
- Respondent: "God and the Little Grey Cells: Religion in Agatha Christie's Poirot Stories." Annual Society of Biblical Literature meeting; San Diego: November, 2024.
- Round Table Participant: ""Implicit Judaism." Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Diego: November, 2024.
- "History in a Jar: The Taste and Trauma of Gefilte Fish," Dublin Gastronomy Symposium on "Food and Memory"; Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland: May 28-29, 2024.
- "'Gefilte Fish Can Be the Next Sushi'; Jewish American 21st Century Inventions and Aspirations," EAJS Congress: "Branching Out: Diversity in Jewish Studies"; Frankfurt, Germany; July 16-20, 2023.
- Invited Participant: "Embodied Judaism"; Center for Jewish Studies at Colorado University—Boulder. November 14-15, 2022.

- Invited Response to Derek Hicks' "Feeding Flesh and Spirit: Religion, Food, and Race in Black America." Symposium: Wake Forest University, North Carolina: November 10, 2022.
- Invited Panelist: "Jewish Veganism and Vegetarianism in 'What's Cooking? Jewish Culinary Culture'"; Exhibit Program, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews: Warsaw, Poland; Virtual, November 6, 2022.
- Presider: "Food." American Jewish Historical Society Biennial conference: "Building Bridges in the Americas"; New Orleans, Louisiana: May, 2022.
- Respondent: "The Passover Seder and Imagined Connections." Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Antonio, Texas: November, 2021.
- Moderator: "Seders Innovations in 20th and 21st Century America." Annual Association for Jewish Studies meeting; Virtual: December, 2020.
- Presider: "Jewish Objects, Jewish Affects: Crafting, Relics, Tea Cups, Toys, and Delis." Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; Virtual: December, 2020.
- Presider: "100 years after Prohibition: Temperance and Alcohol in Popular Culture." Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; Virtual: December, 2020.
- ""Of Domestics and Domesticity: The Way to a Man's Heart as Guide to Love and Marriage." American Jewish Historical Society Biennial conference: "Future Tense"; Virtual: June 2020.
- Presider: Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America Seminar. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Diego: California: November, 2019.
- "'Gefilte Fish Can Be the Next Sushi'; Jewish American 21st Century Inventions and Aspirations," Progressive Connexions Interdisciplinary Conference: "Food, Heritage and Community"; Prague, Czech Republic: March 9-10, 2019.
- Presider: "Diverse Approaches to the Study of Religion and Dress," Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America Seminar. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; Denver, Colorado: November, 2018.
- "'Gefilte Fish Can Be the Next Sushi'; Jewish American 21st Century Inventions and Aspirations," American Jewish Historical Society Biennial conference: "Fractured Paradigms: Rethinking the Study of American Jews"; National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia, PA: June 17-19, 2018.
- "'You can't make a Yankee of me that way!'; The Settlement Cook Book and Culinary Pluralism in Progressive-Era America," Dublin Gastronomy Symposium on "Food and Power"; Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin, Ireland: May 29-30, 2018.
- "The Way to a Man's Heart: A Guide to Love and Marriage," Food Policies, Politics, and Cultures Section, Annual International Conference on Food Studies; Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy: October 26-27, 2017.
- "'Happy Yom Kippur': Televising Atonement" Annual Association for Jewish Studies meeting; San Diego, California: December 2016.
- The State of Biography in the 21st Century" Roundtable. Annual Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP); Tartu, Estonia: September 3, 2016.
- "Golem Theory?: Critical Jewish Studies in/and ASA" Roundtable. Annual American Studies Association meeting; Toronto, Canada: October 2015.
- "A 'Jewish' Joy of Cooking? How a Twentieth Century Cookbook Containing Frog's Legs, Snails, and Ham Became a Beloved Jewish Icon," North American Religions Section, Study of Judaism Section, Religion and Food Group, and Space, Place, and Religion Group. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Diego, California: November, 2014.

- Presider: “Wine and Religion: A Pairing of the Spirits.” Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Diego, California: November, 2014.
- Presider: “The Ethics of Food: How Religion Influences Daily Substance,” Women and Religion Section and Religion and Food Group. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; Baltimore, Maryland: November, 2013.
- “Teaching Food and Religion” Roundtable, Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; Baltimore, Maryland: November, 2012.
- "Historical Cookbooks: A Matter of Taste." The Roger Smith Cookbook Conference; New York, NY: February 11, 2012.
- "The Feast at the End of the Fast: Yom Kippur’s Break Fast Rituals and American Judaism." Annual Association for Jewish Studies meeting; Washington D.C.: December, 2011.
- “The Feast at the End of the Fast: The Emergence of a New American Jewish Practice,” Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar. Annual American Academy of Religion meeting; San Francisco, California; November, 2011.
- “The Feast at the End of the Fast: Yom Kippur’s Break Fast Rituals and American Jewish Practice.” Annual American Historical Association meeting; Boston, Massachusetts; January, 2011.
- Respondent: “Jewish Identity and Race in the United States,” Study of Judaism Section. Annual Academy of Religion meeting; Atlanta, Georgia; November, 2010.
- Presider: “Religion, Food, and Eating in North America,” Religion, Food, and Eating Seminar. Annual Academy of Religion meeting; Atlanta, Georgia; November, 2010.
- “‘For The Reputation of Our Own Nationality’: The Settlement Cook Book and the Reforming of Jewish Domestic Culture.” Annual American Historical Association meeting; New York, New York; January 2009.
- “Rebbes’ Daughters: The New Chosen.” Annual Northeast Modern Language Association meeting; Buffalo, New York; April, 2008.
- “‘It takes history to bake such a cake’: Culinary Pluralism and the Transformation of Jewish American Identity.” Annual Academy of Religion meeting; San Diego, California; November, 2007.
- “‘Chased Out of Palestine’: Prophet Cherry’s Church of the Living God and the Problem of Black Jewish Origins.”Revisiting Black Gods of the Metropolis: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century symposium at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis; April 2007.
- “‘Muggers in Black Coats’; Gender and the Ultra-Orthodox in the Jewish American Imagination.” Annual Academy of Religion meeting; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; November, 2005.
- "'Like a Virus’: American Jewish Literary Concerns over the Rightward Shift of American Judaism.” Identity, Representation and Narrative in the Studies of Religion Conference at Columbia University, March 2005.
- “‘Muggers in Black Coats’; The Alleged Hijacking of American Judaism.” Annual Klutznick-Harris Symposium 350 Years of American Judaism in Popular Culture at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; October 2004.
- “‘Based on a True Story’; Popular Imaginings of Gender and the Ultra-Orthodox among American Jews.”Annual Association for Jewish Studies meeting: Boston, Massachusetts; December, 2003.
- “Chicken Soup for the Souls of Black Folk: African American Converts to Judaism and the Negotiation of Identity.” Annual Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meeting: Salt Lake City, Utah; November, 2002.
- “The Other House of Israel: Black Hebrews in America.” Annual Academy of Religion meeting; Orlando, Florida; November, 1998.

INVITED LECTURES

- “History in a Jar: The Taste and Trauma of Gefilte Fish,” Queens Public Library, Virtual via Zoom: May 5th, 2026 (forthcoming).
- “Too Jewish? Imagining the Ultra Orthodox and America,” University of Kentucky, Virtual via Zoom: February 19, 2023.
- “A ‘Jewish’ Joy of Cooking? How a Twentieth Century Cookbook Containing Frog’s Legs, Snails, and Ham Became a Beloved Jewish Icon,” Cornell University: May 6, 2019.
- “Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading The Settlement Cook Book,” Wilson College, Pennsylvania: April 15, 2019.
- “The Jewish Kitchen: History and Politics,” Jewish Food in the Global South Symposium; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, March 4-5, 2017.
- “A ‘Jewish’ Joy of Cooking? How a Twentieth Century Cookbook Containing Frog’s Legs, Snails, and Ham Became a Beloved Jewish Icon,” Wesleyan University: February 7, 2017.
- “Religion, Food and Eating in America,” Colgate University: November 4, 2015.
- “Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading *The Settlement Cook Book*” Greenfield Summer Institute; Center for Jewish Studies at University of Wisconsin, Madison: July 6, 2015
- “Jewish Cookbooks in America,” Lehigh University: November 6, 2014.
- What is Your Food Worth?” Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University: February 10, 2014.
- "Food Matters: Reading The Settlement Cook Book." University of Buffalo in Buffalo, New York; February 6, 2012.
- “Gefilte Fish in the Gilded Age” at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York: March 29, 2011.
- “Reading The Settlement Cook Book: Matzoh Balls, Lobster Bisque, and the Transformation of the Jewish American Kitchen” at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas: March 8, 2011.
- “Doubting the Devout: The Ultra-Orthodox in the Jewish American Imagination” at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte; April 19, 2010.
- “Too Jewish? Imagining the Ultra Orthodox and America” in Charlotte, NC as part of the Divining America: Religion in American History series (in collaboration with the National Humanities Center); April 18, 2010.
- “The Settlement Cook Book and the Transformation of Jewish American Identity” at the Curriculum for Jewish Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill: March 31, 2009.
- “Gefilte Fish in the Gilded Age: The Settlement Cook Book and the Transformation of Jewish American Identity” at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania: February 16, 2009.
- “Gefilte Fish in the Gilded Age: Jewish Women’s Activism and The Settlement Cook Book” at New College in Sarasota, Florida: January 20, 2009.

Awards, Grants, and Workshops

- Select participant in Central New York Humanities Corridor Writing Retreat, Blue Mountain Lake (October 13-15, 2023).
- Select participant at Rockvale Writers Colony, College Grove, Tennessee (June, 2023).
- Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Subvention Grant for *Blessings Beyond the Binary: Transparent and the Queer Jewish Family* (April, 2023).
- Association for Jewish Studies Summer Writing Group:
  - "From Milwaukee Icon to Midcentury American Classic," 2022.
  - "Jews, Shoes, and Yom Kippur: The Fashion of Affliction," 2021.
- American Academy of Religion's Individual Research Grant for Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading The Settlement Cook Book, 2012-2013.
- Schlesinger Library Research Support Grant for "Reading The Settlement Cook Book; Recipes for the Melting Pot", 2011. Sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.
- Select participant in Workshop for Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, May 22-25, 2011. Sponsored by The American Academy for Jewish Research, The Jewish Studies Program and the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Wabash Center Workshop Summer Research Grant, 2008. Funded by the Lilly Endowment.
- Wabash Center for Teaching Theology and Religion Fellowship: Participant in Pre Tenure Workshop 2007-2008.
- American Academy of Religion's Collaborative Research Grant for Revisiting Black Gods of the Metropolis: African American Religions in the Twentieth Century (editors: Edward E. Curtis IV and Danielle Brune Sigler), 2006-2007.
- Connecticut College's R. F. Johnson Research Award for research and conference attendance:
  - 2006-2007.
  - 2005-2006.
- Wabash Center for Teaching Theology and Religion Fellowship awarded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2003-2004.

Teaching

University of Rochester Department of Religion & Classics, Rochester, NY

Courses:
"American Judaism"
"Entertaining America: Jews and American Popular Culture"
"History of Judaism"
"Imagining the Jew"
"Jewish Women's Writings in America"
"Kitchen Judaism: Jewish Food Beyond the Bagel and the Bible"
"A Kosher Melting Pot?Jews and Multiculturalism in the United States"
"Religion and Food in America"
"Religion and the Race for the White House"
"Religion, Race and Ethnicity in America"
"Senior Seminar: Holidays and Holy Days"
"Sex and Power"

Connecticut College Department of Religious Studies, New London, CT
"Breaking Bread: Religion and American Foodways"
"Ethnicity, Race, and Religion in America"
"Imagining the Jew"
"'I must make myself for a person': A Century of Jewish Women's Writings in America"
"In the Promised Land(s): Contemporary Judaism in the United States and Israel"
"On Judaism, Jews, and Jewishness: An Introduction"
"Reading the Hebrew Bible: An Introduction"
"Religion in the United States"
UNC-CH Department of Religious Studies, Chapel Hill, NC
"Breaking Bread: World Religion and American Foodways"
"Ethnicity, Race and Religion in America"
"Religion in Global Perspective: Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, & the Building of National Identity"

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Haredi Research Group: Affiliate Member, 2023 to present.
American Academy of Religion:

- Steering Committee, Religion, Media, and Culture Unit, 2025 to present.
- Steering Committee, Religion, Attire, and Adornment in North America Seminar, 2017 to 2021.
- Founding Chair, Religion and Food Group, 2013 to 2018.
- Steering Committee, Religion, Food and Eating in North America Seminar, 2007 to 2012.

American Jewish Historical Society:

- Executive Committee, 2018 to 2022.
- Academic Council Member, 2007 to present.

Reviewer: Columbia University Press, Penn State University Press, NYU Press, SUNY Press, Humanities, Journal of Africana Religions, Journal of Jewish Identities, Teaching Theology and Religion
External Reviewer: Colorado College Department of Religion, February 2016.
Dissertation Reader:

- Sherri Gaven, "Culinary Kitchens: A Consecration of Mormon Women." University of New England, Australia 2026.
- Kate Holbrook, "Radical Food: Eating in the Nation of Islam and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints." Boston University 2014.

Honors Thesis Outside Reader/Field Specialist:

- Alexandra T. Sentner, "Religion and the Postmodern in Contemporary North American Fiction." Bates College, 2014.
- Katrina Willis, "Religious Righ(s): Why Christians Vote Conservative." Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 2018.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Rochester
Search Committee Member:

- Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Summer 2025.
- VAP in Islamic Studies, Spring 2024.
- Hebrew Language, Summer and Fall 2024.
- VAP in Jewish Studies, Spring 2022.
- VAP in Islamic Studies, Summer 2021.
- Newman Chair of Catholic Studies, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.
- Director of Frederick Douglass Institute for African and African American Studies, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.
- Hebrew Language, Spring 2018.
- Director of Humanities Center, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.
- Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
- African American Religions, Fall 2010.
- Chinese Religions, Fall 2009.

Chair, Search Committee:

- African American Religions, Fall 2018.
- Chair, Search Committee for Hebrew Language Instruction, Fall 2010.

Steering Committee Member:

- Archaeology, Technology, and Historical Structures , Fall 2018 to present.
- Member of American Studies Steering Committee, Spring 2012 to present.
- Member of Jewish Studies Executive Committee, Fall 2007 to present.
- Member of Tamor Fund Committee, Spring-Fall 2016.
- Member of Humanities Project Executive Committee, Fall 2011 to Spring 2014.
- Served on Enrollment Advisory Committee, Summer 2009.

Elected member:

- Faculty Senate, Fall 2015-Spring 2018.
    - Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Intimate Relations Policy, Spring 2018.
- Department of Religion & Classics representative to Faculty Council, Fall 2009-Spring 2011.

Faculty Associate:

- Frederick Douglass Institute Associate, Fall 2014 – present.
- Susan B. Anthony Institute Associate, Fall 2007 – present.

Lecture Coordinator:

- Primary Organizer, “Conversations on Israel, Palestine, and Gaza,” September 2024-April 2025.
- Jewish Studies annual lectures, Fall 2007-present.
- Two Icons Lecture, Fall 2014-2018.
- Rainbow Lecture, Spring 2015-2018.
- Primary Organizer, Distinguished Visiting Humanist: Wendy Doniger, March 2017.
- Primary Organizer, “Transparent: A Multi-Disciplinary Symposium” November 30- December 2, 2016.

Meliora Alumni Weekend Speaker:

- "Religion and the Race for the White House" Interfaith Chapel, October 8, 2016.
- "Faith & Politics: Is America a Land of God?" Interfaith Chapel, October 22, 2011.

SBAI Undergraduate Research Conference Keynote Speaker: "Religion, Food and Eating in North America; Why Food Matters," November 14, 2014.

American Studies Lecture: “Food Matters: Reading The Settlement Cook Book's Recipes for the Melting Pot,” October 10, 2013.

Dinner Dialogues:

- “Consuming Faith,” Protestant Chapel Community, April 23, 2014.
- “Religion and the Electoral Season,” Protestant Chapel Community, April 18, 2012.
- “Food Practices and Religious Identity,” Protestant Chapel Community, March 3, 2010.

Participant in Faculty Diversity Listening Tour, Spring 2009.

Tea Talk: “Do-It-Yourself Religion,” March 27, 2008.

Conducted interviews for Renaissance Scholarships, March 2008.

Board member, Hillel of Rochester Area Colleges (HORAC) (Fall 2007- Spring 2008).

Panelist, Diversity Teach-In, November 2, 2007.

Connecticut College

Coordinator:

- Annual Saul Reinfeld Memorial Lecture Series in Judaic Studies (Spring 2006 and Spring 2007).
- Coordinator, Annual Miriam Melrod Lecture Series in Jewish Identity (Fall 2006).

Member, Teaching Seminar for Incoming Faculty Organizing Committee (Fall 2006-Spring 2007).

Participant, Johnson Seminar for Incoming Faculty (Academic Year 2005-2006).

Participant, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (Fall 2005-Spring 2007).

Invited campus lectures:

- “Food and Religion” Anthropology 104; Introduction to Anthropology (April 2006).
- “Nation of Islam” Religious Studies 346; Cults and Conversion in Modern America (October 2006).

Invited campus lectures:

- “Food and Religion” Anthropology 104; Introduction to Anthropology (April 2006).
- “Nation of Islam” Religious Studies 346; Cults and Conversion in Modern America (October 2006).

ADVISING, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Honors Thesis Advising:

Emerson Finkel, “Wrestling with Care, Nudging Toward Justice: An Ethnography of a Faith-Based Organization.” Second Reader, 2019.
Rachel Beckman, “The Amish and the Ultra-Orthodox in America.” First Reader, 2014.
Cassidy Welter, “The Effects of Urban Limitations on Food Rituals; A Study of Diaspora Populations of Orthodox Jews and Siva Devotee Hindus in New York City” Second Reader, 2014.
Daniel Gorman, “TOWARD THE EVENING STAR: Hagiography, Polemics, and the Rochester Origins of the Latter-day Saints.” Second Reader, 2014.
William Chavez, “Exorcism in America.” Second Reader, 2013.
Birx Allen, “Musical Connections: The Use of Music to Connect African American and Modern Spiritualism.” Second Reader, 2013.
Ashley Nelson “I am a Mormon: An analysis of Mormonism and Popular Culture.” Second Reader, 2012.
Ben Levine, “Why Halal? Halal Food and Muslim Identity in the U.S.” First Reader, 2010.
Sam Lehman, “Interfaith Marriage and Jewish Identity: Revisiting Popular Assumptions in the Data and Responses.” First Reader, 2008.

Graduate Student Supervision:

Chair, Dissertation Defense:

- Taryn Ely, Visual & Cultural Studies, 2024
- Almudena Escobar Lopez, Art and Art History Department, 2023.
- Victoria Gao, Art and Art History Department, 2021.
- Eitan Freedenberg, Art and Art History Department, 2020.
- Kyle Robinson, History Department, 2018.
- Katherine Hadden, History Department, 2017.
- Erin Leary, Visual & Cultural Studies, 2015.

Dissertation Committee Member:

- Serenity Southerland, History Department, 2014-2017.
- Bryan Clutz, Warner School of Education, 2013-2016.
- Carly Chasin, English Department, 2015.

Outside examiner, Comprehensive Exam:

- Gregory Wiker, History Department, 2015.
- Adam Stauffer, History Department, 2012.

Comprehensive Exam Committee Member: Bryan Clutz, Warner School of Education, 2011-2013.

Independent Studies Supervised:

"Apocalypticism in American Comics"; “FemSex”; “Jews and Comic Books”; “Kosher Foodways in America” ; “Mormonism in America”; “NeoPaganism in America”; “Religion, Race and Ethnicity in America” (graduate reading course); “Religious Foodways in the US”; “Satan in America”; “Кто мы есть? (Who are we?): An Exploration of Intergenerational Soviet-Jewish Identity ; “Women in Contemporary Global Islam”

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

WRITING

- Op-Ed: "Support the Rights of All to Grieve and Protest." With Mical Raz, *The Democrat and Chronicle*, December 3, 2023: 8B.
- Invited Op-Ed: "As the Pandemic Rages, Many Ultra-Orthodox Jews Leaders Adhere to Tradition at All Costs," The Globe and Mail, October 23, 2020.
- Invited Blog post: "Five Essential Jewish Cookbooks," The Forward, February 25, 2013
- Invited Blog Posts cosponsored by the Jewish Book Council and MyJewishLearning.com
  - Not Kosher." March 22, 2010
  - "Jewsteria Lane." March 25, 2010
  - "Based on a 'True' Story." March 26, 2010
- "Jewish Enough: A Response to Sarah Imhoff's 'The Man in Black: Matisyahu, Identity, and Authenticity," Invited Response for the Religion and Culture Web Forum, Martin Marty Center for the Advanced Study of Religion: University of Chicago Divinity School; February 2010
- When Is Kosher Not Kosher?" Sightings. Martin Marty Center: University of Chicago Divinity School; October 9, 2008.

COMMUNITY LECTURES AND SERVICE

- "Recipes for the Melting Pot: Reading The Settlement Cook Book." Invited speaker at Temple Sinai in Rochester, New York; February 28, 2026.
- "Beyond Just the Bagel & the Bible: Jewish Food in America." Instructor in 4-part course at the Jewish Community Center in Rochester, New York: May 8-29.
- "Pie: An American Love Story." Invited speaker at Temple Sinai in Rochester, New York; March 16, 2025.
- "Cooking the Books." Invited speaker at Temple Emmanuel in Rochester, New York; May 19, 2024.
- "Kitchen Judaism—It's Unexpected!" Invited speaker for Unexpected Judaism series at Pittsford Community Center in Pittsford, New York; February 7, 2024.
- "The Latke: The Perfect Food for Our Troubled Times." Invited panelist at Temple Sinai's Inaugural Latke vs. Hamentaschen Debate in Rochester, New York; February 21st, 2021 (Virtual).
- "Jews, Race, and Whiteness: A Complicated Story in Contested Times." Invited speaker for Moorestown Jewish Association in Moorestown, NJ; November 8, 2020 (Virtual).
- "A Bissel of Shtisel: Ultra-Orthodox Jews on TV." Invited speaker at Temple Sinai in Rochester, New York; October 21, 2020 (Virtual).
- "A History of Jewish Cookbooks." Invited lecture at Jewish Community Center in Rochester, New York; November 6, 2019.
- "#MeToo: The Bible's Treatment of Women." Invited panelist for Interfaith Bible Study Series, Rochester, New York; February 6, 2019.
- Steering Committee Member: Farash Institute Fellowship for the Advancement of Jewish Humanities and Cultures Selection Committee, Fall 2015-2021.
- "A Sephardic Taste." Invited speaker at Temple Sinai in Rochester, New York; December 2, 2015.
- "Booze and Books." Invited public lecture for Rochester Cocktail Revival in Rochester, New York; May 4, 2015.
- Moderator: "Wondrous Oblivion: a Discussion." Jewish Community Center of Rochester, New York; January 18, 2015.
- "On Religion, Food and Eating in North America." Invited lecture at Jewish Book Festival in Rochester, New York; November 9, 2014.
- Moderator: "Religion and Community in the Modern World." George Eastman House in Rochester, New York; May 21, 2014.
- "The Evolution of the Cocktail." Invited public lecture for Rochester Cocktail Revival in Rochester, New York; May 4, 2014.

- “The Settlement Cook Book.” Invited lecture at Jewish Community Center in Rochester, New York; May 1, 2014.
- Jewish Education Services Committee Member, Jewish Federation of Rochester, New York; 2011-2013.
- "The Way to a Man's Heart; The Settlement Cook Book." Invited public lecture for "UR Always Learning at the Highlands" in Rochester, New York; October 26, 2011.
- "Too Jewish? Imagining the Ultra-Orthodox and America."Invited public lecture for "UR Always Learning at the Highlands" in Rochester, New York; May 4, 2011.
- "Doubting the Devout: Exploring current anxiety over the ultra-Orthodox in American-Jewish Life." Invited public lecture at Temple B'rith Kodesh in Rochester, New York; January 30, 2011.
- "Reading the Recipe: What Our Cookbooks Can Tell Us About Jewish Practice." Invited workshop facilitator for Global Day of Jewish Learning at Jewish Community Center in Rochester, New York; November 7, 2010.
- “Reading The Settlement Cook Book: Matzoh Balls, Lobster Bisque, and the Transformation of the Jewish American Kitchen.” Invited public lecture at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, NC; April 2010.
- “Esther: A Jew in the Persian Court.” Invited panelist for Commission on Jewish Christian Relations Series (“Women Comment on Women of the Bible”), Rochester, New York; March 11, 2009.
- “The Settlement Cook Book and From Manna to Mousse: Matzoh Balls, Lobster Bisque, and the Transformation of the Jewish American Kitchen.” Jewish Federation Series (“Dinner with the Author”), Waterford, Connecticut; October 2006.
- Faculty advisor for 2007 International Jewish Film Festival sponsored by Southeastern Connecticut Jewish Federation.
- Consultant and writer of wall text for 2007 art exhibit entitled, “At Home and Abroad: The Transcendental Landscapes of Christopher Pearse Cranch.” Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, CT.
- “Too Jewish?: Popular Representations of Ultra-Orthodox Jews.” Jewish Federation Series (“Dinner with the Author”), Waterford, Connecticut; November 2005.
- “‘The Immigrant’: A Symposium.” Invited panelist at Westport Country Playhouse, Westport Connecticut; October, 2005.
- Facilitator and resource consultant for Anti-Defamation League sponsored Robert Weaver Youth Interfaith Youth Program for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim high school students in the greater Boston area (August 1998-June 1999).

MEDIA

Media Features

- Radio Roundtable: “Jewish Perspectives on Gaza and Antisemitism,” WXXI Connections, May 7, 2024.
- Interview: “Dr. Nora Rubel on the Pandemic’s Impact on Jewish Communities and Hanukkah,” NewsPoint360, December 17, 2020.
- Interview: “Religious but Not Spiritual: An Interview with Nora Rubel,” Women in Higher Education, 29:1-2, June 25, 2020.
- The Classical Ideas Podcast: “Religion, Food, and Eating with Dr. Nora Rubel and Dr. Ben Zeller.” May 12, 2019.
- Radio Roundtable: “Discussing the Psychology and Impact of Hate and Intolerance,” WXXI Connections, December 20, 2018.
- Radio Roundtable: “Local Experts Analyze Mosque Controversy,” WXXI Connections, August 23 2010.
- Interview: Laura Leslie, “Jewish American Identity and Food” The State of Things, March 26, 2009.

Media Mentions

- Jenny Comita, "The Bakers Reimagining Traditional Jewish Pastries," The New York Times Magazine, March 14, 2023.
- Joe Bauer, "The Gentile Origins of Gefilte Fish," Serious Eats, August 18, 2022.
- Joe Bauer, "What is Jewish Food?," Whetstone Magazine, April 22, 2022.
- Interview: Joe Bauer, "A Return to Vegetarian Jewish Cuisine," BBC.com World's Table, February 22, 2022.
- Ed Silverstein, "Florida's Seminole Hard Rock Casino to See Two Kosher Hotels Open for Jewish Visitors," Casino.org, December 8, 2021.
- Deena Prichep, "The Sting That Cuts Through The Numbness: Horseradish on Pandemic Passover Tables," National Public Radio's Weekend Edition Saturday, March 27, 2021.
- Peter Beinart, "Unpacking the Immense Popularity of Shtisel,"The Atlantic, June 20, 2019.
- Ellen Wexler, "Talk of the Table: The Foods of Passover Past,"Moment Magazine, March–April 2019.
- Deena Prichep, "How Yom Kippur Fasts Became All About the Feasts," National Public Radio: The Salt, September 29, 2017.
- Mark Oppenheimer, "Traditional Meal Ending Holy Days Becomes an Event," The New York Times, September 30, 2011.
- Fred Wasser, "The Matzo Ball Matriarch of American Jewish Food," National Public Radio: Weekend Edition Sunday, April 12 2009.

Professional Memberships

American Academy of Religion
American Studies Association
Association for Jewish Studies
American Jewish Historical Association
Association for the Study of Food and Society

Languages

Reading competence in Hebrew, French and Italian