

University of Pennsylvania
Hebert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies
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MENDEL KRANZ

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow in Contemporary Antisemitism Studies, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania (2025-Present)

Samuel W. and Goldye Marian Spain Postdoctoral Fellow, Program in Jewish Studies, Rice University (2023-2025)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., with Distinction, University of Chicago Divinity School, 2023

M.A., University of Chicago Divinity School, 2016

B.H.L. & Rabbinic Ordination, Chaim Yaakov Shlomo College of Jewish Studies, 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING AREAS

Modern Jewish History and Thought; Philosophy of Religions; Postcolonial Studies; Race and Racialization; Anti-Semitism; Islamophobia; Jews in the Muslim World; Secularism; Diaspora; Continental Philosophy; Critical Theory

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Postcolonial Jewish Question: Colonialism, Anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia in Postwar France [Under review]

Articles and Book Chapters

"The Politics of the Arab-Jew: Colonial Memory, Immigration, and Postcolonial Futures in North African Jewish Writing of the 1980s." In *Jewish Ideas of France*:

Migration, Diaspora, and Empire, edited by Meredith Scott, and Nick Underwood, 251-278. New York: Routledge University Press, 2025.

"Jews and Empire, Colonialism and Postcolonialism," co-written with Annie Greene, Alma Heckman, and Lior Sternfeld, in *Reimagining Jewish Life in the Modern Middle East: History, Society, and Culture*, edited by Lior Sternfeld, Orit Bashkin, Michelle Campos, Orit Ouaknine-Yekutieli, and Menashe Anzi (Stanford University Press) [NEH-grant co-authored volume. In progress]

"Translator's Preface." *Levinas Studies* 14 (2020): 1–6.

"Postcolonial Zionism: Theological–Political Paradigms in Levinas and Memmi," *Hebrew Studies* 60 (2019): 293–321.

Book Reviews

Gerard Daniel Cohen, *Good Jews: Philosemitism in Europe since the Holocaust*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2025, in *Journal of Genocide Studies* [Forthcoming in 2026]

Maurice Samuels, *Alfred Dreyfus: The Man at the Center of the Affair*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2024, in *Antisemitism Studies* [Forthcoming in 2025]

Julie Kalman, *The King of Algiers: How Two Jewish Families Shaped the Mediterranean World during the Napoleonic Wars and Beyond*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2023, in *The Journal of Religion* [Forthcoming in 2025]

Gordon, Adi. *Toward Nationalism's End: An Intellectual Biography of Hans Kohn*. Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2017, in [George L. Mosse Program in History](#)

Translations

Levinas, Emmanuel, and Denis Poizat. "Presentation and Reading of 'We Lack a Culture: Reflections on Hebrew Education.'" *Levinas Studies* 14 (2020): 6–18.

Public Scholarship

"The Problem With Freedom From Religion." *Sightings* (2021): [Sightings](#)

Interview with Cynthia Baker on *Jew*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2017. [New Books Network](#)

Works in Progress

Rethinking Anti-Antisemitism and Philosemitism (edited volume)

"Against Entanglement: Rethinking Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in the Twenty-First Century"

"The Politics of Recognition: Notes on Jewish and Indigenous Studies"

"Léon Poliakov and the Racial Afterlives of Jewish Thought"

"The Minority Condition: Jacques Hassoun and the Subversion of Homogeneity"

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

National and International

- 2021–22 Georges Lurcy Charitable and Educational Trust Fellowship — year-long research trip to France
- 2019 Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Dissertation Proposal Development Program, Northwestern University
- 2015–16 Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS), Intermediate Yiddish

University of Chicago

- 2023–25 Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship, Divinity School [Declined]
- 2022–23 Residential Fellowship, Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture
- 2022–23 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Divinity School
- 2022–23 Junior Fellowship, Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion
- 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award, Divinity School
- 2020–21 Teaching Fellow, Chicago Center for Teaching, University of Chicago
- 2020 Alma Wilson Teaching Fellowship, Prize Lectureship, Divinity School
- 2019–20 Inclusive Pedagogy Fellow, Divinity School
- 2019 Conference Funding: Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies; France Chicago Center; Franke Institute for the Humanities; Graduate Council
- 2019 Summer Research Grant, Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago
- 2019 François Furet Travel Grant, France Chicago Center
- 2019 Conference Development Grant, Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago
- 2016–17 Fuerstenberg Fellowship, University of Chicago
- 2015–16 Fuerstenberg Fellowship, University of Chicago

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures and Presentations

- “Entangled Otherings: Rethinking Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, 1492 to Today”
Boniuk Institute Religious Literacy Series: Global Religion and Public Life, June 10, 2025
- “Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia,” Congregation Brith Shalom, Houston, TX, March 21, 2025
- “Unsettling Europe: Jewish Thought and Postcolonial Critique,” Department of Philosophy, University of Louisville, February 27, 2025

"Postcolonialism and the Politics of Anti-Semitism," *Rethinking Anti-Antisemitism and Philosemitism*, Rice University, Houston, TX, January 10, 2025

"Judaism in Europe," *Boniuk Institute Educator Professional Development Conference: World Religions and Culture*, Rice University, Houston, TX, June 13, 2024

"Reassessing the Campus Anti-Semitism Narrative: Where We Go from Here," Jewish Community Center, Houston, TX, September 25, 2024

"Decolonization and the Question of Jewish Politics," Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of North Texas, February 29, 2024

Conferences

"Policing the Anti-Semitism Crisis," *Entangled Otherings*, Cambridge, UK, 2025

[Panel Organizer and Presenter] "Francophone Jewish Thought and the Colonial Question," *Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)*, 2024

"The Jew and the Muslim Question in Contemporary France," *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, Religion, Holocaust, and Genocide Unit, San Antonio, TX, 2023

"Albert Memmi: The Promises and Perils of Postcolonial Judaism," *Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)*, Modern Jewish Thought and Theology Unit, Boston, MA, 2022

"The Politics of the Arab-Jew in 1980s France," *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, The Study of Judaism Unit, Denver, CO, 2022

"Decolonization and the Jew: Between Colonialism and Anti-Semitism" at *Sources of Decolonization: Interdisciplinary Approaches Toward the Ends of Empires*, Department of Modern History, University of Marburg, 2022

Responder, book event: Hajjat, Abdellali. *The Wretched of France: The 1983 March for Equality and Against Racism*, 2022

"A Turning Point: Jewish and Colonial Difference in Post-1967 France" at *Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)*, Modern Jewish History in Europe, Asia, Israel, and Other Communities Unit, Chicago, IL, 2021

"Jacques Hassoun and the Writing of Jewish-Muslim History" at *Jews in the Muslim World: Histories, Memories, and Narratives*, Online, 2021

"Jewish Politics? Between Hannah Arendt and Albert Memmi" at *Jewish Difference Under Empire: Identity and Alterity Across France, the Maghreb, and Israel-Palestine*, Chicago, IL, 2019

"The Literary Diaspora of Edmond Jabès" at *Dreams of Home: Home and Homeland in the Jewish Imagination*, University of Indiana, Graduate Student Conference, Bloomington, IN, 2017

Panel respondent: "Witnesses to Exile: Blackness and Jewishness Between France and America" *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, 2017

Workshops

- “Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Islamophobia,” Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion Junior Fellows Workshop, University of Chicago, 2023
- “The Politics of the Arab-Jew: Colonial Memory, Immigration, and Postcolonial Futures in North African Jewish Writing of the 1980s,” Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2023
- “Jewish-Muslim Entanglements in the letters of Abdelkébir Khatibi and Jacques Hassoun,” Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2020
- “On the Borders of Europe: Zionism and (Post) Colonialism in Memmi and Levinas,” Philosophy of Religions Workshop, University of Chicago, 2019
- “‘These Ghosts Never Vanish:’ Franz Rosenzweig and the Question of Secularism,” Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

- 2026 Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and Racism in Contemporary Times
- 2025 Jews, Race, and Religion

Rice University

- 2025 Race, and Religion
- 2025 Jewish History, 1500-1948
- 2024 Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia
- 2023 Politics and Religion: The Jewish Question

University of Chicago

- 2021 Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Historically and Today
- 2020 Course Design and College Teaching (TA, Graduate course)
- 2019 Reading Cultures I: Collection, Humanities Core (TA)
- 2019 Jewish Civilizations: History, Thought, and Literature: Medieval to Modern (TA)
- 2018 Philosophical Perspectives II, Humanities Core (TA)

Pedagogical Training and Certification, University of Chicago

- 2022 College Teaching Certificate, Chicago Center for Teaching
- 2021 Certification in the Craft of Teaching in the Academic Study of Religion, Divinity School
- 2020 Whiteness in the Classroom, Race and Pedagogy Workshop
- 2019 Course Design and College Teaching, Chicago Center for Teaching

2017 Principles of Teaching Writing, Writing Program

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Conference Organization

Co-Organizer: *Rethinking Anti-Antisemitism and Philosemitism*, Rice University, Houston, TX, 2025

Co-Organizer: *Jewish Difference Under Empire: Identity and Alterity Across France, the Maghreb, and Israel-Palestine*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2019

Jewish Studies

Article reviewer: *Shofar*, *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, *AJS Review*

Co-Coordinator, Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, 2018–20

Student Advisory Board Member, Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies 2017–20

Additional Professional Experience

Graduate Assistant in Pedagogical Programming Development, Chicago Center for Teaching, 2021

Research Assistant, Professor Na'ama Rokem, 2018

Writing Tutor, University of Chicago, The College, 2018

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS AND ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

2024 American Academy of Jewish Research Early Career Workshop, Williams College, MA

2023 Summer Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, York University

2017 Middlebury College Language School, Advanced French

2015 Leo Baeck Summer University in Jewish Studies, Berlin, Germany

2013–14 University of Virginia, Religious Studies Department, Student-at-large

2008–11 Talmudical Seminary Oholei Torah

LANGUAGE COMPETENCY

French: Advanced reading, writing, and speaking

Hebrew: Advanced reading and speaking

Yiddish: Proficient reading and speaking

German: Basic reading

Aramaic: Basic reading

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

American Historical Association (AHA)