

Cass Fisher

Associate Professor
Department of Religious Studies
University of South Florida
4202 East Fowler Avenue, CPR 107
Tampa, FL 33620
(813) 810-4148
cass@usf.edu

Education

The Divinity School, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

Ph.D. Philosophy of Religions, 2005

Dissertation: Claiming God: Theological Predication and its Limits in the *Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*
and *The Star of Redemption*

Co-Advisors: Michael Fishbane and Paul Mendes-Flohr Reader: David Tracy

A.M.R.S. Religious Studies, 1995

Pitzer College, Claremont, California

B.A. Philosophy, Literature, and Religion, 1992

Areas of Specialization

Modern Jewish Thought, Jewish Exegetical Theology and Religious Language, Philosophy of Religion,
Religious Epistemology, Philosophical Hermeneutics

Awards, Honors and Grants

Creative Scholarship Grant, University of South Florida, 2013 (\$7500)

Baumgardner-Gelbart Foundation Grant to fund a semi-annual lecture in Jewish Studies, written with
Drew Farmer and Jennifer Moore, 2013-2015 (\$20,000), 2011-2013 (\$20,000)

Humanities Institute Summer Grant, University of South Florida, 2012 (\$5000)

International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2012 (\$1400)

Early Career Faculty in Jewish Studies Workshop, American Academy for Jewish Research, 2011

Creative Scholarship Grant, University of South Florida, 2010 (\$7,500)

Humanities Institute Summer Grant, University of South Florida, 2009 (\$5,000)

New Researcher Grant, University of South Florida, 2009 (\$4,500, declined)

Lucien Littauer Foundation Grant to fund Littauer Judaica Reference Library, written with Drew Farmer
and Jennifer Moore, 2009 (\$5,000)

International Travel Grant, University of South Florida, 2009 (\$1,600)

Wabash Center Fellowship, 2007-2008 (\$10,000)

Research and Development Grant, University of South Florida, 2006 (\$1,000)

Charlotte Newcombe Fellowship, 2004-2005 (\$15,000)

Luce Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-2003 (\$12,000)

Publications

Book: *Contemplative Nation: A Philosophical Account of Jewish Theological Language* (Stanford:
Stanford University Press, 2012).

Reviews: *Journal of Religion* 93:3 (2013); *Modern Theology* 30:1 (2014).

Article: "The Posthumous Conversion of Ludwig Wittgenstein and the Future of Jewish (anti-)
Theology," *AJS Review*, forthcoming.

Article: "Absolute Factuality, Common Sense, and Theological Reference in the Thought of Franz
Rosenzweig," *Harvard Theological Review*, forthcoming.

Publications, continued

Book Chapter: "Theologies and Meanings: Embracing the Plurality of Jewish Intellectual Life," in *Search for Meaning*, ed. Martin Cohen (Mesorah Matrix Project), forthcoming.

Book Chapter: "Jewish Philosophy: Living Language at its Limits," in *Jewish Philosophy for the Twenty-First Century*, eds. Aaron Hughes and Hava Tirosh-Samuels (Leiden: Brill, 2014).

Book Chapter: "Speaking Metaphysically of a Metaphysical God: Rosenzweig, Schelling, and the Metaphysical Divide," in *German-Jewish Thought Between Religion and Politics: Festschrift in Honor of Paul Mendes-Flohr on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*, eds. Martina Urban and Christian Wiese (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2012), 151-66.

Article: "Divine Perfections at the Center of the *Star*: Reassessing Rosenzweig's Theological Language," *Modern Judaism* 31:2 (2011): 188-212.

Book Chapter: "Reading for Divine Perfection: Theological Reflection and Religious Practice in the Exodus Commentary of *Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*," in *Retelling the Bible, Literary, Historical, and Social Contexts*. eds. Lucie Dolezalova and Tamas Visi (Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2011), 139-157.

Article: "Beyond the Homiletical: Rabbinic Theology as Discursive and Reflective Practice," *Journal of Religion* 90:2 (2010): 199-236.

Book Review: Elliot Wolfson, *A Dream Interpreted Within a Dream: Oneiropoiesis and the Prism of Imagination*, in *Critical Research on Religion* 2:2 (2014): 205-09.

Book Review: Wayne Cristaudo, *Religion, Redemption, and Revolution: The New Speech Thinking of Franz Rosenzweig and Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy*, in *Journal of Religion* 93:3 (2013): 405-07.

Book Review: Benjamin Pollock, *Franz Rosenzweig and the Systematic Task of Philosophy*, Humanities-Net (H-Judaic), October, 2009.

Book Review: David Patterson, *Emil L. Fackenheim: A Jewish Philosopher's Response to the Holocaust*, in *Shofar* 27:4 (2009): 183-85.

Book Review: Eugene Borowitz and Peter Ochs eds. *Reviewing the Covenant: Eugene B. Borowitz and the Postmodern Renewal of Jewish Theology*, in *The Journal of Religion* 81:2 (2001): 327-29.

Presentations

"Is the *Star* Real? Common Sense and Realism in Rosenzweig's Later Writings," *Internationale Rosenzweig Gesellschaft*, Frankfurt am Main, October 2014.

"The Posthumous Conversion of Ludwig Wittgenstein: Jewish Theology and the Allure of the 'Language Game,'" *World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, August, 2013

Presentations, continued

“The Cosmic Eye and its Pupil: Divine Perfection, Divine Providence, and the Problem of Universalism and Particularism in Rabbinic Theology,” *World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, August, 2013.

“Absolute Factuality, Common Sense, and the Problem of Reference in the Thought of Franz Rosenzweig,” *Internationale Rosenzweig Gesellschaft*, Toronto, September, 2012.

“Discourse, Practice and Belief Formation: Rethinking Jewish Theology and its Epistemological Foundations,” *Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies*, Los Angeles, December, 2009.

“Reassessing Rosenzweig’s Theological Language: Divine Perfections at the Center of the *Star*,” *World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, Israel, August, 2009.

“Reading for Divine Perfection: Theological Reflection and Religious Practice in the Exodus Commentary of *Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*,” *Retelling the Bible*, Center for Theoretical Study, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, September, 2008.

“Reading Divine Perfection in the *Mekhilta de-Rabbi Ishmael*: Theological Prejudice and Reflective Practice in Rabbinic Thought,” *Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion*, Chicago, November, 2008.

Teaching Interests

Modern Jewish Thought, Rabbinic Theology, Philosophy of Religion, Jewish Mysticism, Topics in Medieval and Modern Philosophy: Epistemology, Hermeneutics, Philosophical Theology

Teaching Experience

Rabbinic Theology (USF, 2014); *Philosophical and Religious Conceptions of Trust* (USF, 2014); *Modern Jewish Thought* (USF, 2013, 2008); *Realism and Reference* (Graduate Seminar in Philosophy, USF, 2012); *Rabbinic Judaism* (USF, 2011); *Hermeneutics and Religious Epistemology* (Graduate Seminar in Philosophy, USF, 2010); *Jewish Mysticism* (USF, 2010, 2011); *Early Jewish Literature* (USF, 2007, 2009-2012, 2014); *Jewish Theology* (USF, 2009); *Classics of Judaism* (USF, 2007); *Introduction to Judaism* (USF, 2006-2012); *Biblical Hebrew* (USF, 2006); *Introduction to Major Religious Texts* (USF, 2009-2013); *Introduction to Religious Studies* (USF, 2007, 2008); *Mystical Theology and Magic in 16th Century Kabbalah* (Northwestern University, 2003)

Languages

Hebrew, Aramaic, German, French

References

Michael Fishbane, University of Chicago, (773) 702-8234, Email: mfishban@midway.uchicago.edu
Paul Mendes-Flohr, University of Chicago, (773) 702-5084, Email: paulmendesflohr@gmail.com
Yehuda Gellman, Ben Gurion University, Email: gellman@bgu.ac.il
Steven Kepnes, Colgate University, Email: skepnes@colgate.edu
Wei Zhang, University of South Florida, Email: wzhang5@usf.edu