

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Religious Studies
Department of Near Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures
The Ohio State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, New York University, June 1986.
With distinction from Department.

Dissertation: "Liturgical Elements in Early Jewish Mysticism: A Literary Analysis of *Ma'aseh Merkavah*." Dissertation Adviser: Lawrence H. Schiffman.

M.A. Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, New York University, 1983.

B.A. Religion, Boston University, 1975.

A.A., Keystone Junior College, 1973.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor Emeritus of Hebrew and Religious Studies, The Ohio State University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2025-present.

Professor of Hebrew and Religious Studies, The Ohio State University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, 2001-2025.

Associate Professor of Hebrew and Religious Studies, The Ohio State University, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and the Division of Comparative Studies. 1994-2001.

Associate Editor for *Judaica*, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, edited by Lindsay Jones (Macmillan), 2002-2005.

Visiting Professor, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Summer 2005.

Moses Aaron Dropsie Term Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-2004.

Fulbright-Hays Fellow, Jerusalem, Israel, 2000-2001.

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Visiting Scholar, Orion Center for the Study of Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 1997-1998.

Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Virginia. 1988-1994.
Rothschild/Yad-Hanadiv Fellow, Jerusalem. 1990-1991.

Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Virginia. 1987-1988. One-year appointment.

Assistant Professor of Religion, Emory University. 1986-1987. One-year appointment.

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate: Introduction to Jewish Studies; The Jewish Mystical Tradition
Comparative Sacred Texts; Literature and Religion; Messages from
Beyond: Divination, Prophecy, and the Occult in Religion and Culture; Art
and Judaism; Magic in the Ancient World; The Wisdom of the Rabbis;
Biblical and Post-Biblical Literature in Translation; American Judaism;
Readings in Mishnaic Literature; Sacrifice and the Study of Religion.

Graduate: Introduction to Rabbinic Literature; The Talmud; Midrash; Jewish
Liturgy and Prayer; Post-Biblical Jewish Aramaic; Methodologies in the
Study of Ancient Religion; Judaism in the Greco-Roman World; The
Wisdom of Ben Sira; Sacrifice and its Discourse in the Ancient
Mediterranean (with Professor Sarah Iles Johnston); Comparative
Mysticism: Judaism and Islam (with Professor Dick Davis); The Idea of
Religion: Past and Future; Ancient Jewish Magic and Mysticism (at The
Jewish Theological Seminary of America).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND HONORS

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2024-2025. Project title: "Ritual Expertise and Social Structure in Roman Palestine."

Elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research, June 2023.

Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellowship, University of Michigan, Autumn 2017. Annual theme for 2017-2018: "Jews and the Material in Antiquity."

Faculty Professional Leave, 2016-2017 academic year.

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American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship for 2013-2014. Project title: "Ritual Theory and Religious Professionalism in Judaism in Late Antiquity."

Ohio State University College of Arts and Sciences, Grants for Research and Creative Activities in the Arts and Humanities, 2008, for Workshop on Comparative Hymnography in Late Antiquity.

American Academy of Religion Research Grant for research in India, 2003.

College of Humanities Small Research Grant for research in India, 2003, Ohio State University.

Moses Aaron Dropsie Term Fellowship, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003-2004.

Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for research in Israel, 2000-2001.

Harry Starr Fellowship, Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies, 2001 (declined).

Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, The Ohio State University. Fellow for 1999-2000; Special Research Assignment for Spring 2000.

Office of International Studies Travel Grant, The Ohio State University, 1999.

Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies Research Grant, Bar-Ilan University, 1997-98.

College of Humanities Seed Grant, The Ohio State University, 1996-97.

Melton Center for Jewish Studies Research Grants, The Ohio State University, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002, and 2005.

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Research Grants, The Ohio State University, 1996, 1997.

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, School of Historical Studies. Membership for Spring 1995 (declined).

Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University. Senior Fellowship for 1994-95 (declined).

Rothschild Foundation/Yad Hanadiv Fellowship for study in Israel, 1990-1991.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

Research Leave with Partial Pay, University of Virginia, 1990-1991.

University of Virginia Summer Research Grants, 1989, 1990 and 1992.

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for participation in the Summer Institutes on the Study of Religion, Harvard University and University of California at Berkeley, 1988 and 1989.

Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University, 1985-1986; New York University Research and Teaching Assistantships, 1981-1985.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift Honoring Professor Lawrence H. Schiffman. Edited by Stuart S. Miller, Michael D. Swartz, Steven Fine, Naomi Grunhaus, and Alex P. Jassen. Leiden and Boston: E. J. Brill, 2020.

The Mechanics of Providence: The Workings of Ancient Jewish Magic and Mysticism. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 2018.

The Signifying Creator: Nontextual Systems of Meaning in Ancient Judaism. New York and London: New York University Press, 2012.

Avodah: Ancient Poems for Yom Kippur. With Joseph Yahalom. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2005.

Scholastic Magic: Ritual and Revelation in Early Jewish Mysticism. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

Mystical Prayer in Ancient Judaism: An Analysis of Ma'aseh Merkavah. Texte und Studien zum Antiken Judentum 28. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1992.

Hebrew and Aramaic Incantation Texts from the Cairo Genizah: Selected Texts from Taylor-Schechter Box K1. With Lawrence H. Schiffman. Semitic Texts and Studies 1. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1992.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

Articles and chapters in edited volumes:

“Textual Archipelagos: Towards New Methods for the Study of Jewish Society in Roman Palestine.” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 32 (2025), 230-49.

“Sacrifice as Public Spectacle (*Pompē*) in the Palestinian Talmud.” *Religion in the Roman Empire* 11 (2025), 110-123.

“Sanctification in Consonance with the Angelic Choir (Qedushah).” In D. K. Falk and R. A. Werline (eds.), *Prayer in the Ancient World Online*, (Brill, 2021).
https://doi.org/10.1163/2666-6332_PMWO_SIM_228220

“Hymn Sung by the Throne of Glory (Heikhalot Rabbati 251-257).” In D. K. Falk and R. A. Werline (eds.), *Prayer in the Ancient World Online*, (Brill, 2021).
https://doi.org/10.1163/2666-6332_PMWO_SIM_228190

“Sanctification in Consonance with the Angelic Choir (Qedushah).” In *Prayer in the Ancient World*, eds. Daniel K. Falk and Rodney A. Werline (Leiden and Boston: Brill, forthcoming).

“Hymn Sung by the Throne of Glory (Heikhalot Rabbati 251-257).” In *Prayer in the Ancient World*, eds. Daniel K. Falk and Rodney A. Werline (Leiden and Boston: Brill, forthcoming).

“Priests and Strangers: The Role of the Laity in Yerushalmi Yoma.” In Ra’anan S. Boustán, David Frankfurter, and Annette Yoshiko Reed (eds.), *Above, Below, Before, and After: Studies on Judaism and Christianity in Dialogue with Martha Himmelfarb*, 257-80. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2023.

“Society and the Self in Early Piyyut.” In Gavin McDowell, Ron Naiweld, and Daniel Stökl Ben Ezra (eds.). *Diversity and Rabbinization: Jewish Texts and Societies between 400 and 1,000 CE*, 33-65. Cambridge Semitic Languages and Cultures Series. Cambridge: Open Book Publishers, 2021.
<http://books.openedition.org/obp/19810>

“Divination as Transaction: Rhetorical and Social Dimensions of Ancient Jewish Divination Texts.” In *Unveiling the Hidden – Anticipating the Future: Divinatory Practices among Jews between Qumran and the Modern Period*, edited by Josefina Rodriguez Arribas and Dorian Gieseler Greenbaum, 21-45. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2021.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

“Civil and Uncivil Magic: Individual, Community, and Identity in Ancient and Medieval Jewish Curse Texts.” In *From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift for Lawrence H. Schiffman*, edited by Stuart S. Miller, Michael D. Swartz, Steven Fine, Naomi Grunhaus, and Alex P. Jassen, 487-509. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2020.

“Preface.” With Stuart S. Miller. In *From Scrolls to Traditions: A Festschrift for Lawrence H. Schiffman*, edited by Stuart S. Miller, Michael D. Swartz, Steven Fine, Naomi Grunhaus, and Alex P. Jassen, xi-xvii. Leiden and Boston: E.J. Brill, 2020.

“Yoma from Babylonia to Egypt: Ritual Function, Textual Transmission, and Sacrifice,” *AJS Review* 43 (2019), 339-353.

“Death in Aramaic: The Funeral Poems of *Shirat Bene Ma‘araba* in Context.” In *The Poet and the World: Festschrift for Wout van Bekkum on the Occasion of His Sixty-fifth Birthday*, edited by Joachim Yeshaya, Elisabeth Hollender, and Naoya Katsumata, 253-274. Berlin and Boston, de Gruyter, 2019.

“Rhetorical Indications of the Poet’s Craft in the Ancient Synagogue.” In *Beyond Priesthood: Religious Entrepreneurs and Innovators in the Roman Empire*, edited by Georgia Petridou, Richard Gordon, and Jörg Rüpke, 231-51. Berlin and Boston: De Gruyter, 2017.

“Sacred Texts.” In *Religion: Narrating Religion* (Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks), edited by Sarah Iles Johnston, 3-18. Farmington Hills, MI, Macmillan Reference, 2017.

“Ritual is with People: Sacrifice and Society in Palestinian Yoma Traditions.” In *The Actuality of Sacrifice: Past and Present*, edited by Alberdina Houtman, Marcel Poorthuis, and Joshua J. Schwartz. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2014, 206-28.

“Mystics without Minds? Body and Soul in Early Jewish Mysticism.” In *Meditation in Judaism, Christianity and Islam: Cultural Histories*, edited by Halvor Eifring. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014, 33-43.

“Three-Dimensional Philology: Some Implications of the *Synopse zur Hekhalot-Literatur*.” In Ra‘anan Boustan, Reimund Leicht, Klaus Herrmann, Annette Yoshiko Reed, and Giuseppe Veltri (eds.), *Envisioning Judaism: Studies in Honor of Peter Schäfer on the Occasion of His 70th Birthday*, 1:529-550. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013.

“Hekhalot and Piyyut: From Byzantine to Babylonia and Back.” In *Hekhalot Literature in Context*, edited by Peter Schäfer and Ra‘anan Boustan, 41-64. Tübingen: J.C.B. Mohr, 2013.

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“Chains of Tradition in the Avodah Piyyutim.” In Natalie Dohrmann and Annette Yoshiko Reed (eds.), *Jews, Christians, and the Roman Empire: The Poetics of Power in Late Antiquity*, 189-208. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013.

“The Angelic Liturgy.” In *Outside the Bible: Ancient Jewish Writings Related to Scripture*. Edited by Louis H. Feldman, James L. Kugel, and Lawrence H. Schiffman, pp. 2085-2017. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press and Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2013.

“Liturgy, Poetry, and the Persistence of Sacrifice,” in Daniel R. Schwartz and Zeev Weiss (eds.), *Was 70 C.E. a Watershed in Jewish History?*, 393-412. Leiden: Brill, 2012.

“The Magical Jesus in Ancient Jewish Literature.” In Neta Stahl (ed.), *Jesus among the Jews - Representation and Thought*, 18-35. London: Routledge, 2012.

“Ancient Jewish Mysticism.” In Frederick E. Greenspahn (ed.), *Jewish Mysticism: New Insights and Scholarship*, 33-49. New York: New York University Press, 2012.

“Translation and the Comprehensibility of Early Piyyut.” In Wout van Bekkum and Naoya Katsumata (eds.), *Giving a Diamond: A Festive Volume for Joseph Yahalom on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday*, 39-50. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

“Piyyut and Hekhalot: Recent Research and Its Implications for the History of Ancient Jewish Liturgy and Mysticism.” In Debra Reed Blank (ed.), *The Experience of Jewish Liturgy: Studies Dedicated to Menahem Schmelzer*, 263-81. Leiden: Brill, 2011.

“Judaism and the Idea of Ancient Ritual Theory.” In *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition*, edited by Ra’anana Boustán, Oren Kosansky, and Marina Rustow, 294-317, 405-10. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

“Bubbling Blood and Rolling Bones: Agency and Teleology in Rabbinic Myth.” In *Antike Mythen: Medien, Transformationen und Konstruktionen*, edited by Christine Walde and Ueli Dill, 224-241. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2009.

“The Topography of Blood in Mishnah Yoma.” In *Jewish Blood: Metaphor and Reality in Jewish History, Culture, and Religion*, edited by Mitchell Hart, 70-82. London: Routledge, 2009.

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"Jewish Visionary Tradition in Rabbinic Literature." In *The Cambridge Companion to the Talmud and Rabbinic Literature*. Edited by Charlotte Fonrobert and Martin Jaffee, 198-221. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

"Ritual Procedures in Magical Texts from the Cairo Genizah." *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 13 (2006), 305-318.

"Mystical Texts." In *The Literature of the Sages, Second Part: Midrash, Aggada, Targum, Berakhot, Varia* (Compendium Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum II/3b). Edited by Shmuel Safrai, Joshua Schwartz, and Peter Tomson, 391-418. Assen: Royal Van Gorcum, 2006.

"Jewish Magic in Late Antiquity." In *The Cambridge History of Judaism* Vol. 4, edited by Steven T. Katz, 699-720. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

"The Aesthetics of Blessing and Cursing: Literary and Iconographic Dimensions of Hebrew and Aramaic Blessing and Curse Texts," *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* 5 (2005), 190-213.

"Understanding Ritual in Jewish Magic: Perspectives from the Cairo Genizah and Other Sources." In *Officina Magica: Essays of the Practice of Magic in Antiquity*, edited by Shaul Shaked (IJS Studies in Judaica volume 4), 235-55. Leiden: Brill, 2005.

"Judaism: An Overview." In *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, edited by Lindsay Jones, 7:4968-88. New York: Macmillan, 2005.

"Merkavah Mysticism." In *The Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, edited by Lindsay Jones, 15: 10050-53. New York: Macmillan, 2005.

"Kohah u-Teqifah shel ha-Shirah ha-'Ivrit be-Shilhe ha-'Et ha-Atiqah," (The Power of Song in Hebrew Poetry in Late Antiquity) [Hebrew]. In *Continuity and Renewal: Jews and Judaism in Byzantine-Christian Palestine*, edited by Lee I. Levine, 542-62. Jerusalem: Ben Zvi Institute, 2004.

"Divination and Its Discontents: Finding and Questioning Meaning in Ancient and Medieval Judaism." In *Prayer, Magic, and the Stars in the Ancient and Late Antique World*, edited by Scott Noegel and Brandon Wheeler, 155-66. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003.

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"The Semiotics of the Priestly Vestments in Jewish Tradition." *Numen Supplements 93: Sacrifice in Religious Experience*, edited by Albert I. Baumgarten, 57-80. Leiden: Brill, 2002.

"Sacrificial Themes in Jewish Magic." *Magic and Ritual in the Ancient World*, edited by Marvin Meyer and Paul Mirecki, 303-15. Leiden: Brill, 2002.

"The Book of the Great Name." In *Judaism in Practice*, edited by Lawrence Fine, 341-47. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.

"The Dead Sea Scrolls and Later Jewish Magic and Mysticism." *Dead Sea Discoveries 8* (2001), 1-12.

"*Pulhan ha-Miqdash be-Sifrut ha-Magiah ha-Yehudit*" (Cultic Motifs in the Literature of Jewish Magic) [Hebrew]. *Pe'amim, the Quarterly of the Ben Zvi Institute 85* (2000), 62-75.

"A Magic All Its Own." *AJS Perspectives: The Newsletter of the Association for Jewish Studies*, no. 3 (2000), 11.

"The Seal of the Merkavah." In *Religions of Late Antiquity in Practice*, edited by Richard Valentasis, 322-29. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

"Sage, Priest, and Poet: Typologies of Leadership in the Ancient Synagogue." In *Jews, Christians and Polytheists in the Ancient Synagogue: Cultural Interaction during the Greco-Roman Period*, edited by Steven Fine, 101-17. London: Routledge, 1999.

"Scholasticism as a Comparative Category and the Study of Judaism." In *Scholasticism: Cross-Cultural and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by José I. Cabezón, 91-114. Albany: SUNY Press, 1998.

"Ritual about Myth about Ritual: Toward an Understanding of the *Avodah* in the Rabbinic Period." *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy 6* (1997), 135-55.

"Magical Piety in Ancient and Medieval Judaism." In *Ancient Magic and Ritual Power*, edited by Marvin W. Meyer and Paul Mirecki, 167-83. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1995.

"'Like the Ministering Angels': Ritual and Purity in Early Jewish Mysticism." *AJS Review 19* (1994), 135-67.

"Book and Tradition in Hekhalot and Magical Literatures." *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy 3* (1994), 189-229.

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"The Strange in the Midst of the Familiar: A Thematic Seminar on Sacrifice." In *Tracing Common Themes: Thematic Courses in the Study of Religion*, edited by John Carman, 101-12. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1991.

"Scribal Magic and Its Rhetoric: Formal Patterns in Hebrew and Aramaic Incantation Texts from the Cairo Genizah." *Harvard Theological Review* 83 (1990), 163-80.

"*Hekalôt Rabbati* §§297-306: A Ritual for the Cultivation of the Prince of the Torah." In *Asceticism in Greco-Roman Antiquity: A Sourcebook*, edited by Vincent L. Wimbush, 227-34. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1990.

"Patterns of Mystical Prayer in Ancient Judaism: Progression of Themes in *Ma'aseh Merkavah*." In *New Perspectives on Ancient Judaism* 6, edited by Paul V. M. Flesher, 173-186. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1990.

"*'Alay le-shabbeah*: A Liturgical Prayer in *Ma'aseh Merkavah*." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 77 (1986-87), 179-190.

"Models for New Prayer." *Response* 41-42 (1982), 33-41.

"Joseph in Egypt: A Man at Home in the Diaspora." *Long Island Jewish World*, December 16-22, 1988, p. 5.

Translations of medieval Hebrew pilgrim texts, in F. E. Peters, *Jerusalem: The Holy City in the Eyes of Chroniclers, Visitors, Pilgrims, and Prophets from the Days of Abraham to the Beginnings of Modern Times*, 483, 485-87. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985.

"*Ma'aseh Merkavah: A Mystical Prayer*." In *Texts and Traditions: A Source Reader for the Study of Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism*, edited by Lawrence H. Schiffman, pp. 744-46. Hoboken: Ktav, 1998. Reprint of *Mystical Prayer in Ancient Judaism* pp. 222-24.

Published Lecture:

"Place and Person in Ancient Judaism: Describing the Yom Kippur Sacrifice." The International Rennert Center Guest Lecture Series 9 (19 pages). Ramat Gan: Bar Ilan University, 2000.

Reviews:

Review of Dan Levene, *A Corpus of Magic Bowls: Incantation Texts in Jewish Aramaic from Late Antiquity*. *AJS Review* 31 (2007), 377-79.

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Review of Joseph Yahalom, *Sources of the Sacred Song: Crossroads in Jewish Liturgical Poetry*. *Review of Biblical Literature* 03/2021.

<https://www.sblcentral.org/home/bookDetails/13390>

Review of Ra'anana Boustán, *From Martyr to Mystic: The Story of the Ten Martyrs, Hekhalot Rabbati, and the Making of Merkavah Mysticism*. *Henoch* 29 (2007). 402-4.

Review of Kalman Bland, *The Artless Jew: Medieval and Modern Affirmations and Denials of the Visual*. *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*.

Review of P. Schäfer and S. Shaked, *Magische Texte aus der Kairoer Geniza*. *Journal of Semitic Studies* 45 (2000), 192-94.

Review of S. Fine, *This Holy Place: On the Sanctity of the Synagogue during the Greco-Roman Period*. *Religious Studies Review* 26 (2000): 100-101.

Review of S. C. Reif, *Hebrew Manuscripts at the Cambridge University Library*. *Religious Studies Review* 20 (1994), 345.

Review of A. Kuyt, *The "Descent" to the Chariot: Towards a Description of the Terminology, Place, Function and Nature of the Yeridah in Hekhalot Literature*. *Religious Studies Review* 22 (1996), 354.

Review of K. Herrmann, *Massekhet Hekhalot: Traktat von den himmlischen Palästen*. *Religious Studies Review* 22 (1996), 258.

Review of S. C. Reif, *Judaism and Hebrew Prayer: New Perspectives on Jewish Liturgical History*. *Religious Studies Review* 20 (1994), 345.

Review of P. Schäfer, *The Hidden and Manifest God: Some Major Themes in Early Jewish Mysticism*. *Religious Studies Review* 20 (1994), 69.

Review of D. Sperber, *A Commentary on Derekh Eres Zuta*. *Hebrew Studies* 33 (1992), 163-65.

Review of N. Janowitz, *The Poetics of Ascent: Theories of Language in a Rabbinic Ascent Text*. *AJS Review* 16 (1991), 218-21.

Review of M. S. Cohen, *The Shi'ur Qomah: Texts and Recensions*. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 110 (1990), 582-84.

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In preparation:

Blessings for the Artisans: Ritual Expertise and Social Structure in Jewish Palestine.

Sacrifice in the Synagogue: The Ritual for the Day of Atonement in Jewish Liturgy and Imagination.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA:

“That's a Lot More Than Entertainment: Laura Lieber's Staging the Sacred.” *Ancient Jew Review*, August 6, 2024.

<https://www.ancientjewreview.com/read/2024/8/6/thats-a-lot-more-than-entertainment-laura-liebers-staging-the-sacred>

“Do Jews Believe in Magic?” *Adventures in Jewish Studies Podcast*, Season 4 Episode 7, February 8, 2023. Erin Phillips, host.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/do-jews-believe-in-magic/id1445592926?i=1000598724178>

“Yoma No.3: Poetic Jurisprudence.” For *Interleaved: A Talmudic Podcast*, Season 6, Episode 3. May 16, 2021. Adina Karp, Executive Producer.

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/925780/episodes/8529078>

“Unexpected Influences: Elijah Wald’s *Escaping the Delta*.” *Ancient Jew Review*, June 14, 2017.

<https://www.ancientjewreview.com/read/2017/5/1/unexpected-influences-michael-swartz-and-michael-satlow>

EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

Advisory Board, *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization Vol. III: 600-1200*, edited by Arnold E. Franklin, Yale University Press (in preparation). Selection and evaluation of sources on early medieval Jewish magic and mysticism for volume 3 of a 10-volume series.

Editorial Board, Jewish Culture and Contexts series, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004-2016.

Associate Editor, *AJS Perspectives: The Newsletter of the Association for Jewish Studies*. 2000-2003.

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Associate Editor for *Judaica*, *Encyclopedia of Religion*, second edition, edited by Lindsay Jones. New York, Macmillan, 2005. Evaluation of over 400 articles for revision or rewriting; selection of new topics and authors; and editing of new and revised entries.

Evaluation of books for Princeton University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Penn State Press, The State University of New York Press, and University of Washington Press, and other university presses; evaluation of articles for *Association for Jewish Studies Review*, *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*, *Helios*, *Historical Reflections*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Jewish Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy*, *Kabbalah: Journal for the Study of Jewish Mystical Texts*, *Poetics Today*, and other publications.

CREATIVE WORK

Suzanne M. Silver and Michael D. Swartz, *Incantations and Lamentations*, mixed media installation. For *Havruta*, group exhibition, Heaven Gallery, Chicago, IL. Liam O'Connor and Shterna Goldbloom, curators. October 29 - December 5, 2021

SELECTED PAPERS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

"Reading Back to the Future: Materials of Ancient Jewish Divination." Presented at the Center for the Study of Lived Religion, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, March, 12 2024.

"That's (A Lot More than) Entertainment: Laura Lieber's *Staging the Sacred*, presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, San Antonio, Texas, November 17, 2023.

"From Bones to Books: Materials and Materiality in Ancient Jewish Divination," presented at *Prophecy, Magic, and Divination in the Ancient Mediterranean and Near East*, University of Texas, Austin, November 16, 2023.

"Jewish Wedding Poetry from Late Antiquity: Epithalamia between Aramaic and Hebrew, presented at the Twelfth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Frankfurt, Germany, July 18, 2023.

Sacrifice as Public Spectacle (*pompê*) in the Palestinian Talmud, presented at "Law: Representation and Practices in the Ancient World," Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Wittenberg, Germany, May 27, 2022.

"Textual Archipelagos: Evidentiary Models for Jewish Society in Late Antiquity." Presented online at "Rabbinization and Diversity: Methods, Models, and

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Manifestations between 400 and 1000 CE,” sponsored by the École Pratique des Hautes Études of the Université Paris and Princeton University, March 14, 2022.

“On the Reception History of Hekhalot Literature and Its Implications for Medieval Europe,” presented online at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, December 13, 2020.

“Ritual as Labor in Judaism in Late Antiquity,” presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, December 16, 2019.

“Weddings and Funerals: Quotidian Poetry in Jewish Palestine,” presented at “Materializing Ancient Judaism,” University of Michigan, April 9, 2018.

“Physicality and Literary Form in Jewish Magical and Divination Texts,” presented at “Inscribing Power in Antiquity,” Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, October 23, 2016.

“¿Quiénes fue Yose ben Yose? Individual and Community in Early Piyyut,” presented at the European Association of Biblical Studies Annual Meeting, Córdoba, Spain, July 14, 2015.

“Ritual Objects between the House of Study and the Synagogue.” Presented at the Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting, Buenos Aires, July 23, 2015

“The Afterlife of Preexistence: Primordial Creation in Jewish Liturgical and Mystical Literatures,” presented at “Philo’s Readers: Affinities, Reception, Transmission, and Influence,” Yale University, March 30, 2014.

“Style, Sacrifice, and Society in the Ancient Synagogue,” presented at the Université d’Aix-Marseille, Aix-en-Provence, France, October 8, 2013

“Becoming Spirits: On the Functions of Angels in Piyyut and Esoteric Literature,” presented at the International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 24, 2012.

“God, Time, and Causality: Creation and Cosmogony in Early Piyyut,” presented at the Sixth Medieval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium, Bochum, Germany, July 19, 2011.

“Segmentation, Style, and Iconography in Early Piyyut,” presented at the Ninth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Ravenna, Italy, July 27, 2010.

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"Past: Progressive? Future, More Perfect? Prospects for the Study of "Jewish Antiquity" at the AJS and Beyond," presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles, December 20, 2009.

"The Magical Jesus in Ancient Jewish Literature," presented at The Jewish Jesus: The Fifth Lavy Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, November 18, 2009.

"The Ancient Synagogue and the Continuity of the Priesthood: Assessing Evidence," presented at the International Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy, July 1, 2009.

"The Idea of Ancient Jewish Mysticism," presented at "Jewish Mysticism: New Insights and Scholarship," The Gemelstob Symposium in Judaic Studies, Florida Atlantic University, February 15, 2009.

"Priests, Priesthood and Payetanim," presented at the Fifth Mediaeval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium, Groningen, Netherlands, July 1, 2008.

"Outside the Text: Systems of Non-Textual Meaning in Rabbinic Civilization." Presented at New York University as the inaugural lectures in the Benita and Sigmund Stahl Lecture Program in Jewish Studies, April 9, 14, and 16, 2008.

"From Prayer to Sacrifice: How Rabbis and Synagogue Poets Imagined the Ancient Temple." The 2007 Moses Margolis Lecture in Jewish Studies. Binghamton University, April 15, 2007.

"The Topography of Blood in Mishnah Yoma," presented at the conference on the Significance of Blood in Jewish History and Culture, University of Florida, February 18, 2007.

"Significant Other: Judaica in the Second Edition of the *Encyclopedia of Religion*," presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, San Diego, December 18, 2006.

"Form and Function in the Early Avodah Piyyutim," presented at the International Medieval Hebrew Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, August 27, 2006.

"Ritual Objects as Sacred Images in the Art of the Ancient Synagogue," presented at the International Conference on Sacred Images in the Ancient Mediterranean, Siena, Italy, June 15, 2006.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

"The Virtual Temple in Jewish Ritual and Liturgy in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy, Cambridge, MA, April 1, 2006.

"Ritual Procedures in Magical Texts from the Cairo Genizah." Presented at "Jewish Magic in Context: Hidden Treasures from the Cairo Geniza." Princeton University, Sunday, October 9, 2005

"Ritualizing the Book in Ancient Judaism." Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, November 19, 2005.

"Sacrifice Then and Now: Sacrifice as a Paradigm for Ritual in Judaism in Late Antiquity." Presented at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Tenth Annual Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies, April 27, 2004.

"Jewish Magic in the Ancient Near East," Jean S. Moldovan Memorial Symposium, The Harry Friedman Society of the Jewish Museum, New York, NY, March 21, 2004.

"Jewish Studies, Anthropology, and the History of Ritual Theory," Colloquium on Jewish Studies & Anthropology, The Kutchin Faculty Seminar Series of University of Pennsylvania Jewish Studies Program and the Department of Anthropology, March 25, 2004.

"Judaism and the Idea of Ancient Ritual Theory." Presented at the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Ruth Melzer Seminar in Judaic Studies, February 18, 2004.

"The State of the Field in the History of Judaism in Late Antiquity: Issues in the History of Religions: Response to papers presented by Martin Jaffee and Steven Fine." Presented at the Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Monday, November 03, 2025.

"Secrets and Societies: On Ronald M. Davidson, *Indian Esoteric Buddhism: A Social History of the Tantric Movement*." Presented at the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, November 24, 2003.

"The Case of the Heretical High Priest: Remembering Internal Conflict in Rabbinic and Synagogue Literatures." Presented at the Conference on Persecution and Conflict in Ancient Mediterranean Religions, The Ohio State University, October 31, 2003.

"The Jewish Magical Text as Art and Artifact." Presented at the Midwestern Consortium on Ancient Religions, The Ohio State University, April 26, 2003.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

"Clothing, Power, and Meaning in Medieval Jewish Texts." Presented at the International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 14, 2003.

"Ritual Efficacy and the Function of Sacrifice in Early Rabbinic Judaism: The Case of Yom Kippur." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, December 17, 2002.

"Semiotics, Kinetics, and Mnemonic Strategies in Rabbinic Judaism." American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, November 22, 2002.

"Witnesses to the Lost Ark: Priesthood and Holy Object in the Historiography of Tractate *Yoma*." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, December 18, 2001.

"Idolatry-Makers: On the Discourse of Idolatry in Late Antiquity." 2001 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, November 19, 2001.

"Jewish Custom and Heteropraxy in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages." Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics Conference. Melton Center for Jewish Studies, Columbus, OH, October 22, 2001.

"The Early *Avodah* Piyyutim as a Historical and Cultural Source." Orion Institute for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls, Jeruslaem, Israel June 6, 2001 (in Hebrew).

The Visual Dimension of Jewish Magic in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel, May 22, 2001 (in Hebrew).

"Against the Apocalypse: Towards a Sacrificial Paradigm for Judaism in Late Antiquity." Institute for Advanced Study, Jerusalem, Israel, May 9, 2001.

"Creation for the Cult: Cosmology and Teleology in Early Synagogue Poetry." International Colloquium: From Hellenistic Judaism to Christian Hellenism, Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, March 27, 2001.

"The Aesthetics of Blessing and Cursing: Literary and Iconographic Dimensions of Jewish Blessing and Curse Texts." at "Benedictio/Maledictio: What do Blessings Have to Do with Curses?" American Academy in Rome, March 2, 2001.

"Discourses of Sacrifice: On Rabbinic and Vedic Systems of Verbalization of Sacrifice." For the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 20, 2000. (Read in abstentia).

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

"Mnemonics and Meaning in Rabbinic Culture." Institute for Collaborative Research and Public Humanities, The Ohio State University, May 31, 2000.

"Magic and Meaning in Ancient and Medieval Judaism." University of Arkansas, April 17, 2000.

"From Stories of Divination to Books of Divination." [Hebrew]. Presented at "Secret Knowledge, Hidden Powers: Magic, Demonology, and Occultism in Judaism," Ben Gurion University of the Negev and Tel Aviv University, Beer Sheva, Israel, March 26, 2000.

"Concepts of Sacrifice in Rabbinic Literature and Liturgical Poetry." Institut für Judaistik, Frei Univesität Berlin, June, 1999.

"Understanding Ritual in Jewish Magic: Perspectives from the Cairo Geniza and Related Sources." Presented at Officina Magica, University College of London, June, 1999.

"Ritual and Divination in Ancient Judaism." Presented at the Symposium on Magic in the Ancient Mediterranean, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 1999.

"'Greater than His Brothers:' The Body of the Priest and His Accouterments in Ancient Jewish Interpretation," presented at the 1998 Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, December, 1998.

"Divination and Cosmology in Ancient Judaism," presented at the 1998 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Orlando, Florida, November, 1998.

"Cultic Themes in Jewish Magic," presented at the Second International Conference on Magic in the Ancient World, Orange, California, August, 1998.

"Magic and Religion in Ancient Judaism" (in Hebrew). Tel Aviv University, April, 1998.

"The Status and the Image of the Priest in the Talmudic Period" (in Hebrew). The Dinur Center for Jewish History, Hebrew University, March 1998.

"Person and Place in the Description of the Yom Kippur Sacrifice in the Temple" (in Hebrew). Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, March, 1998.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

"The Semiotics of the Priestly Vestments in Ancient Judaism." Presented at "Sacrifice: A Comparative Inquiry," the Fourth International Taubes Center Colloquium. Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, February 1998.

"Concepts of Sacrifice in Mishnah and Prayer" (in Hebrew). Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheba, Israel, December, 1997.

"Cultic Motifs in the Literature of Jewish Magic" (in Hebrew). Presented at the Twelfth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, July, 1997.

"Towards a Conceptual History of the Avodah Piyyutim in Late Antiquity." Presented at the 1996 Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, December 1996.

"Sage, Priest, and Poet: The Tractate Yoma in the Avodah Liturgy." Presented at the 1996 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November, 1996.

"Mystics without Minds? On Elliot Wolfson's *Through a Speculum that Shines*." Presented at the 1995 Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, December 1995.

"Time, Myth, and History in the Avodah Liturgy." Presented at the 1995 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November, 1995.

"Memory and Magic in Ancient Judaism." Presented at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Open History Seminar, Cincinnati, Ohio, May, 1995.

"Memory, Ritual and Discipleship." Presented for the 1995 Faculty Colloquium Series on Discipleship and the Transmission of Formative Knowledge at the Comparative Religion Program of the University of Washington. Seattle, Washington, March 1995.

"Ritual about Myth about Ritual: Toward an Understanding of the *Avodah* in the Rabbinic Period." Presented at the Skirball Conference on Myth and Ritual in Judaism, New York University, October 1994.

"The Mithras Liturgy and the Study of Early Jewish Mysticism and Magic." Presented at the 1994 Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

“Scholasticism as a Comparative Category and the Study of Judaism.” Presented at the 1993 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion.

“‘Opening the Heart:’ Memory and Its Cultivation in Ancient and Medieval Judaism.” Presented at the 1993 Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies.

“Angels of Wisdom and Divination in Judaism in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages.” Presented at the 1993 International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

“Expressions of Magical Piety in Ancient and Medieval Judaism.” Presented at the Conference on Magic in the Ancient World, University of Kansas, August, 1992.

“Merkavah Mysticism as Mysticism.” Presented at the 1993 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion.

“Asceticism and Ritual in Early Jewish Mysticism.” Presented at the 1991 Annual Conference of the Society of Biblical Literature Group on Asceticism, November, 1991.

“The Religious Studies Curriculum in the Large Public University.” Presented at the National Endowment for the Humanities 1989 Summer Institute on the Study of Religion, Berkeley, California.

“Asceticism in Ancient Judaism: Response to Stephen Fraade.” Presented at the Conference on Ascetic Behavior in Greco-Roman Antiquity, November 21, 1986; under the auspices of the Society of Biblical Literature Consultation on Greco-Roman Asceticism.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies, 2010-2012.

Member, Oversight Committee, Center for the Study of Religion, The Ohio State University, 2007-2025.

Member, Research Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, The Ohio State University, 2008-2013.

Section Coordinator for Judaism in Antiquity, Association for Jewish Studies, 2004-2008.

MICHAEL DOV SWARTZ

Chair, Graduate Studies Committee, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University, 1999-2000, 2001-2003, 2006-2008.

Chair, Faculty Services Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, 2004-2007.

Chair, Program Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, 1998-2000, 2002-2003.

Chair, Modern Hebrew Literature Search Committee, Department of Near Eastern, Judaic and Hellenic Languages and Literatures, The Ohio State University, 1996-97.

Chair, Self-Study Committee for the Melton Center for Jewish Studies, The Ohio State University, 1995-96.

Evaluation for tenure and promotion at several universities and colleges in the United States and Israel. Details on request.

Service on Departmental Advisory Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum, Student Services, Conference and Film Series and other committees; graduate and undergraduate advising, The Ohio State University.

Evaluation of grant applications, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Israel Science Foundation, and other organizations.

Named as a proposed consultant in an application to the National Endowment for the Humanities for the development of a Religious Studies program at Tufts University, 1990.

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

American Academy of Jewish Research; Emeritus Academy of the Ohio State University; American Academy of Religion, Society of Biblical Literature; Association of Jewish Studies; Midwest Association of Jewish Studies; Corresponding Fellow of the Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

References available on request.