

JORDAN R. KATZ
CURRICULUM VITAE

University of Massachusetts Amherst
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D, Department of History, Columbia University Dissertation: “Jewish Midwives, Medicine and the Boundaries of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe, 1650-1800”	2020
M.Phil, Department of History, Columbia University	2016
M.A., Department of History, Columbia University	2015
B.A., History, Departmental Honors, Columbia College, Columbia University	2011

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Assistant Professor, Department of Judaic and Near Eastern Studies Affiliated Faculty, Department of History University of Massachusetts Amherst	2021-present
Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Postdoctoral Associate in Modern Jewish History Judaic Studies Program, Yale University	2020-2021

PUBLICATIONS:

Book:

Delivering Knowledge: Jewish Midwives and Hidden Healing in Early Modern Europe.
Stanford University Press, 2026.

Journal Articles:

“Noxious Nourishment: Breastmilk and Gendered Physiology in Eighteenth-Century
Jewish Medical Writings” (submitted to *The Bulletin of the History of Medicine*)

“Vital Innovations: Jewish Midwives and the Creation of Birth Records in the
Eighteenth-Century Netherlands,” forthcoming in *Journal of Women’s History*

“Unwanted Children and Invented Families in Early Modern Jewish Communities” (with
Elisheva Carlebach), *Jewish History* vol. 38, nos. 3-4 (2024): 117-52.

“Birthing Cross-Confessional Relationships in French Archives,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 113.1 (Winter 2023): 48-52.

“Jewish Midwives, Wise Women, and the Construction of Medical-Halakhic Expertise in the Eighteenth Century,” *Jewish Social Studies* Vol. 26, No. 2 (Winter 2021): 1-36.

“‘To judge and to be judged’: Jewish Communal Autonomy in Metz and the Struggle for Sovereignty in Eighteenth-Century France,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 104.3 (Summer 2014): 438-470.

Book Chapters in Edited Volumes:

“The Allure of the Stem: The *Pitam* as Protection in Childbirth,” in *Be Fruitful: The Etrog in Jewish Art, Culture, and History*, edited by Warren Klein, Sharon Mintz, and Joshua Teplitsky (Jerusalem: Mineged Press, 2022).

Encyclopedia Entries and Reference Works:

“Midwife | Judaism” and “Midwife | Medical Treatises and Other Scholarly Reception,” *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception (EBR) Online*. Berlin: De Gruyter (2020).

Carlson, Raymond, Jordan Katz, and Baris Gokturk, “Molding Paper with Raised Letters.” In *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640*, edited by Making and Knowing Project, Pamela H. Smith, et. al. New York: Making and Knowing Project, 2020.
https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_005_fa_14.

Carlson, Raymond and Jordan Katz. “Casting in Frames.” In *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640*, edited by Making and Knowing Project, Pamela H. Smith, et. al. New York: Making and Knowing Project, 2020.
https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_010_fa_14.

Carlson, Raymond and Jordan Katz. “Molded Roses in Sixteenth-Century France.” In *Secrets of Craft and Nature in Renaissance France. A Digital Critical Edition and English Translation of BnF Ms. Fr. 640*, edited by Making and Knowing Project, Pamela H. Smith, et. al. New York: Making and Knowing Project, 2020.
https://edition640.makingandknowing.org/#/essays/ann_003_fa_14.

Translated and Published Primary Sources:

“Copy of an Apprentice Contract between a Jewish Physician and Midwife in Amsterdam (1793),” in *Jewish Women in Global Perspective*, ed. Elissa Bemporad, Dina Danon et al (forthcoming with Oxford University Press)

“Childbirth and Healthcare in Early Modern *Memorbücher*,” *Early Modern Workshop: Resources in Jewish History*, available on www.earlymodern.org for *Early Modern Workshop* 2021

“Mapping with Midwives: Sources about Jewish Midwives in Eighteenth-Century Amsterdam,” *Early Modern Workshop: Resources in Jewish History*, available on www.earlymodern.org for *Early Modern Workshop* 2018

Public Writing:

“Naming and Shaming: Illegitimate Births among Early Modern Jews,” *Blog of the National Library of Israel* (forthcoming)

“Jewish Midwives in History,” *Jewish Book Council* (July 27, 2020).
<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/pb-daily/jewish-midwives-in-history>

“Leftovers: History of the World in 1000 Cookbooks” (2015-2019)
A culinary history blog that aimed to collect, contextualize, and reconstruct historical recipes, established through Columbia’s History in Action Project Award for public history, funded by the AHA-Mellon Career Diversity Initiative.

Book Reviews:

Review of Kenneth Collins, Samuel Kottek, Helena Paavilainen, eds., *Ma’ase Tuviya (Venice 1708): Tuviya on Medicine and Science*. Jerusalem: Ludwig Mayer, 2021, in *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, vol. 98, no. 1 (Spring 2024): 164-5.

FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING APPOINTMENTS:

Scholar-in-Residence, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute Brandeis University, Waltham, MA	2024-2025
Fellow, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (declined) University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA	2024-2025
Research Associate, Women’s Studies in Religion Program Visiting Assistant Professor of Women’s Studies in Judaism Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA	2022-2023
Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined due to Covid-19) Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be’er Sheva, Israel	2020-2021
Dissertation Fellowship, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine (Philadelphia, PA)	2018-2019
Lillian Goldman Fellowship, Center for Jewish History (NY)	2016-2017

Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme (Studienstiftung des Deutsches Volkes)	2016-2017
Leo Baeck Institute (UK)	

GRANTS AND AWARDS:

Research & Engagement Subvention Award, UMass Amherst	2025
Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award, Association for Jewish Studies	2025
Cashmere Subvention Award in Jewish, Gender, and Women's Studies Association for Jewish Studies	2024
Online Course Development Fund, UMass Amherst	2023
Research Award, Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University	2023
Paula Hyman Mentoring Program, Association for Jewish Studies	2021-2022
Women's Caucus Prize for Innovative Scholarship in Gender and Jewish Studies, Association for Jewish Studies	2021
Ephraim E. Urbach Postdoctoral Fellowship Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (NY)	2020-2021
Dr. Elka Klein Memorial Travel Grant (American Jewish University, CA)	2019
Dissertation Fellowship, Consortium for History of Science, Technology and Medicine (Philadelphia, PA)	2018-2019
Doctoral Scholarship, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (NY)	2018-2019
Foundation for the History of Women in Medicine Fellowship Center for the History of Medicine (Countway Library of Medicine, Boston, MA)	2017-2018
Manny Hilfman Estate Fund for Jewish Studies Fellowship Columbia University (NY)	2017-2018
Graduate Student Summer Funding Recipient American Academy for Jewish Research (Ann Arbor, MI)	2017
Center for Jewish History Travel Grant, Association for Jewish Studies	2016, 2019
Alliance-CES Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship Council for European Studies (NY)	2016

Dr. Margaret Allemang Scholarship for the History of Nursing Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (Ontario, Canada)	2016
Guthrie Trust Travel Fellowship Scottish Society of the History of Medicine (Edinburgh, UK)	2014-2015
Irene Fromer Fellowship Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies, Columbia University (NY)	2014
Richard Hofstadter Multi-Year Fellowship Columbia University (NY)	2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND ACADEMIC TALKS:

“Jewish Women as Medical Agents: Rethinking the Hierarchy of Early Modern Healthcare, *Healing in Jewish History and Thought*, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA, April 27, 2026

“Medical Expertise, Women’s Bodies, and Jewish Law in Early Modern Europe,” *The Julius-Rabinowitz Program on Jewish and Israeli Law*, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA, March 9, 2026

“Beyond Bloodlines: Adoptive Reproduction and the Forging of Alternative Jewish Families in Early Modern Europe,” *Thinking With, About, and Against Jewish Reproduction*, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MA, May 7-8, 2025

“Baby One More Time: Midwives and Birth Registration in Early Modern Europe,” *Jews and Health: Bodies, Perceptions, Practices*, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, April 28-29, 2025

“Sexual Violence, Blank Spaces, and Jewish Women’s Erasure in the Archives,” *Renaissance Society of America 71st Annual Meeting*, Boston, MA, March 20-22, 2025

“Midwives on the Margins: Jewish Women and Civic Medicine in Early Modern Europe,” Phyllis W. and Rabbi Barry D. Cytron Lecture in Jewish Studies, The Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, March 17, 2025

“Birthing Authority: Early Modern Jewish Midwives and their Records,” Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, March 6, 2025

“Hidden Labors: Early Modern Women Healers between Text and Reality,” Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies (webinar), part of “Healing Women in Jewish History” series, February 6, 2025

“Birthing a Genre: Early Modern Jewish Midwives and their Records,” *Recording Women in the Early Modern Atlantic World*, University of Texas at Austin and Texas State University-San Marcos, September 26-28, 2024

“Midwives and Medical Bureaucracy in Pinkassim and Beyond,” *Jewish Communal Registers and Records: Reading Early Modern and Modern Jewish Texts, Society and Culture*, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem, Israel, May 26-30, 2024

“Roza the Midwife and Jewish Medical Women in Early Modern Europe,” Rennert Forum, Barnard College/Columbia University, New York, NY, April 15, 2024

“Nourishment, Talismans, and other Childbirth Support,” Jewish Reproduction Working Group, Center for Jewish History, Virtual, March 27, 2024

“Illegitimate Births, Socioeconomic Status, and Questions of Agency among Early Modern Jewish Women,” *Association for Jewish Studies 54th Annual Conference*, San Francisco, CA, December 17-19, 2023

“Healthcare Historiography and its Impact on Early Modern Jewish History,” *New Directions in North American Scholarship on Early Modern Jewish History*, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University, New York, NY, May 15-17, 2023

“Rachel Salomons and the World of Jewish Midwives in Early Modern Europe,” Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, MA, March 22, 2023

“Registers of Belonging, Registers of Difference: Early Modern Jewish Midwives and their Records,” *Jewish Studies Colloquium*, Tauber Institute for the Study of European Jewry, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, March 14, 2023

“Registers of Belonging, Registers of Difference: Early Modern Jewish Midwives and their Records,” *Renaissance Society of America 69th Annual Meeting*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 9-11, 2023

“Mapping Midwives in Early Modern Amsterdam,” *Seminar for Women, Gender, and Culture in the Early Modern World*, Mahindra Center for the Humanities, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 27, 2022

“*Sefer ha-noshim*: Searching for Women in Early Modern Sources,” (co-convener of panel: New Directions in the History of Jewish Women and Gender: A Methodological Assessment) *The 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, August 8-12, 2022

“Her Craft is Known to All:” Expertise and Pathways of Knowledge among Early Modern Jewish Midwives,” *Medicine, Illness, and the Body: Jewish Healing and Healers from the Middle Ages to Early Modernity*, Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Judaistik, July 27-28, 2022

“The Book of Women, or: Jewish Medical Women and their Books,” *Association for Jewish Studies 52nd Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL, December 19-21, 2021

“Childbirth and Healthcare in Early Modern *Memorbücher*,” *Eighteenth Annual Early Modern Workshop: Health and Wellbeing in the Jewish Experience*, Fordham University, New York, NY, August 17-18, 2021 (Zoom)

“‘For there are no other midwives among them’: Midwifery and Jewish-Christian Encounters in Early Modern Europe,” *Association for Jewish Studies 51st Annual Conference*, Zoom, December 15-17, 2020 (organizer and panelist)

“Midwives, Medical Note-Taking and the Creation of Jewish Vital Records in the Eighteenth Century,” *Early Modern Workshop: Health and Wellbeing in the Jewish Experience*, Fordham University, New York, NY, October 6, 2020

“Midwives, Testimony, and Sexual Violence in Early Modern Europe,” *Jewish Women’s History and Gender: Sources, Methods, and Approaches*, The New York State Working Group on Jewish Women and Gender in Global Perspective, Virtual, August 20, 2020

“Jewish Midwives in the Early Modern Period: Religion and Practice,” *Judaism, Science and Medicine Group Annual Conference*, Center for Jewish Studies at Arizona State University, Scottsdale, AZ, March 1-2, 2020

“State of Birth or Birth of the State? Jewish Midwives, Communal Records, and Early Modern Medical Bureaucracy,” *Association for Jewish Studies 51st Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA, December 15-17, 2019

“Strange Bedfellows: Men, Women, and Jewish Folk Practices in the Early Modern Birthing Chamber,” *Sites of Passage: Domestic Materials in Jewish Contexts*, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Philadelphia, PA, December 11, 2019

“‘For many physicians err in their understanding’: Jewish midwives, dubious doctors, and medical authority in 18th-century Europe,” *Scientiae: Early Modern Knowledge, 1400-1800*, Queen’s University, Belfast, UK, June 12-15, 2019

“Delivering Knowledge: Translations for Jewish Midwives in Eighteenth-Century Amsterdam,” *History of Science Society Annual Meeting*, Seattle, WA, November 1-4, 2018

“Mapping with Midwives: Sources about Jewish Midwives in Eighteenth-Century Amsterdam,” *Fifteenth Annual Early Modern Workshop: Space and Identity*, Fordham University, New York, NY, August 15-16, 2018

“Networks and Agency in Early Modern Maternity,” *Attending to Early Modern Women: Action and Agency*, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI, June 14-17, 2018

“City Business in Yiddish: Jewish Midwives and the Administrative State in Early Modern Amsterdam,” *Association for Jewish Studies 49th Annual Conference*, Washington, DC, December 17-19, 2017 (organizer and presenter)

“‘This Book is Very Dear to Me’: Some Observations about the Manuscript of an Eighteenth-Century Dutch Jewish Midwife,” *Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme Summer Workshop*, Freudental, Germany, July 30-August 2, 2017

“Doz bukh iz mir lieb zehr’: The Manuscript of an Eighteenth-Century Dutch Jewish Midwife,” *Working Group on Women and Gender in Jewish History*, Center for Jewish History, New York, NY, May 5, 2017

“Jewish ‘Wise Women’ and Midwives in Early Modern Rabbinic Culture,” *Association for Jewish Studies 48th Annual Conference*, San Diego, CA, December 18-20, 2016

“As the Learned Woman Said: Jewish ‘Wise Women’ and Midwives in Early Modern Rabbinic Culture,” *Religion and Medicine Conference*, Birkbeck College, University of London, London, UK, July 15-16, 2016

COURSES OFFERED:

Interfaith Encounters: Jews and Christians in the Early Modern World (undergraduate lecture)

Jews, Medicine, and Healing in the Premodern World (undergraduate seminar)

The Jewish Experience: Part I (undergraduate lecture)

The Jewish Experience: Part II (undergraduate lecture)

Marriage, Sexuality, and Sexual Difference in Jewish History (undergraduate seminar)

Jewish and Christian Childbirth in Early Modern Europe: A Comparative Perspective (graduate seminar)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Instructor, Me’ah Classic Adult Education Program, Hebrew College (Newton, MA), Spring 2025-present

“Women’s Agency: A Jewish Historical Lens on Mary Wollstonecraft,” *Judaism and the Core Curriculum*, Columbia/Barnard Hillel, New York, NY, December 12, 2022

“Wise Women, Midwives, and Medicine in Early Modern Jewish Life,” *Glikl and her Sisters Course* (via Zoom), Yiddish Book Center, March 22, 2022

“Naming and Shaming: Illegitimate Births among Early Modern Jews,” Congregation Rinat Yisrael (via Zoom), Teaneck, NJ, March 5, 2022

“Midwives, Medicine, and Community in Jewish History,” Online Lecture for Forest Hills Jewish Center, Queens, NY, January 14, 2021

“Exploring Midwifery in Jewish History,” Lecture at Ansche Chesed, New York, January 18, 2020

“What do we know about pre-modern Jewish women?” Lecture at Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, New York, February 24, 2018

“Images of Triumph: The Emergence of Judith as a Narrative Tradition,” Lecture at Darkhei Noam, New York, December 19, 2014

“Al adnei paz (On Golden Foundations): Changing Conceptions of Communal Autonomy in Early Modern Europe,” Lecture at Kehilat Rayim Ahuvim, New York, December 8, 2012

SERVICE:

To the Profession:

Division Chair, Medieval and Early Modern Jewries, Association for Jewish Studies	2026-present
Organizer, Early Modern Workshop	2025-present
Book Review Editor, <i>Jewish History</i>	2024-present
Board Member, Women’s Caucus, Association for Jewish Studies	2023-present
Academic Advisory Board Member, Leo Baeck Institute	2023-present
Academic Advisory Council Member, Jewish Women’s Archive	2021-present
Chair, Works-in-Progress Session, Association for Jewish Studies	2020-present
Judge, National Jewish Book Awards, Scholarship Category	2024
Proposal Reviewer: Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine; Israel Science Foundation	
Ad-Hoc Reviewer: <i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> ; <i>Nashim</i>	

To the Department and University:

Chair, Department Curriculum Committee, UMass Amherst	2024-present
Advisory Board Member, Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, UMass Amherst	2021-present
Member, Department Personnel Committee, UMass Amherst	2021-present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Historical Association
Association for Jewish Studies
History of Science Society
Renaissance Society of America
Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender

LANGUAGES AND SKILLS:

Languages: Hebrew (reading, writing, speaking); (reading, speaking, proficient writing); German (reading, proficient speaking); Yiddish (early modern Western – reading); Dutch (reading)

Skills: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) using QGIS and ArcGIS (Trainings: GIS Institute Center for Geographic Analysis, Harvard University, 2023; Mapping for the Urban Humanities Summer Institute, Center for Spatial Research, Columbia University, 2017)