

Jeffrey Spencer Shoulson
Professor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature
University of Connecticut, Storrs

Date of first appointment: 2012

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Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life
University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	1995	Yale University, English Literature
M.Phil.	1990	University of Cambridge, Renaissance Studies
A.B.	1988	(<i>summa cum laude</i> and Phi Beta Kappa) Princeton University, English Literature
1983-84		Year of intensive Jewish study at Yeshivat Har Etzion, Alon Shevut, Israel

DISSERTATION

“Interpretation in the Making: The Reading and Creation of Genesis in the Rabbis and in Milton”

CURRENT POSITIONS

Doris and Simon Konover Chair of Judaic Studies
Director, Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life
Professor of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages
Sections: Hebrew and Judaic Studies
Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies
Professor of English
Faculty Member, Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College (2006-present)

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Associate Professor of English and Judaic Studies, University of Miami
Instructor, Yale University
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English, University of Miami (2001-2002 and 2011-present)
Director, George Feldenkreis Program in Judaic Studies, University of Miami, (2001-05)
Associate Master, Hecht Residential College, University of Miami (2001-05)

TEACHING AREAS

Milton
Jewish Literature
Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose

Shakespeare
Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose
Bible as Literature

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Fictions of Conversion: Jews, Christians, and Cultures of Change in Early Modern England (Forthcoming, University of Pennsylvania Press)

Milton and the Rabbis: Hebraism, Hellenism, and Christianity (Columbia University Press, 2001)

Winner, American Academy of Jewish Research Salo W. Baron Book Prize, 2002.

CURRENT PROJECT:

The Early Modern English Bible: A Cultural History and Teaching Resource

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS:

“Typology and Circumcision: Gendering Biblical Converts.” Contribution solicited for *Gender and Conversion in the Early Modern World*. Simon Ditchfield and Helen Smith, eds. Forthcoming, Cambridge University Press.

“Alchemies of Conversion.” *Consensus and Controversy: The Board of Jewish Deputies at 250. ISJ Studies in Judaica*, David Katz, ed. Forthcoming, Brill Press.

“Zaphenath, Kugelmass, and Milton; or, What’s a Nice Jewish Boy Doing in a Place Like This?” Forthcoming, *Jewish Quarterly Review*.

“Man and Thinker: Milton, Saurat, and the Old New Milton Criticism,” *The New Milton Criticism*, Peter Herman and Elizabeth Sauer, eds., Cambridge University Press., 2012

“Milton and Enthusiasm: Radical Religion and the Poetics of *Paradise Regained*,” *Milton Studies*, vol. 47, Albert C. Labriola, ed., University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.

“‘Passion Spent’: Teaching *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes* as Twin Texts,” in *Approaches to Teaching Milton’s Prose and Shorter Poetry*, Peter C. Herman, ed. MLA Press, 2007.

Introduction. With Allison P. Coudert. In *Hebraica Veritas? Christian Hebraists, Jews, and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe*. Allison P. Coudert and Jeffrey S. Shoulson, eds., University of Pennsylvania Press. 2004.

“The Embrace of the Fig Tree: Sexuality and Creativity in Midrash and in Milton,” *ELH: English Literary History* 67 (2000): 873-903.

“‘Propriete in this Hebrew poesy’: George Wither, Judaism, and the Formation of English National Identity.” *JEGP: Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 98 (1999): 353-372. Reprinted in *Literature and Criticism from 1400-1800* 96 (2004) 357-367.

“The King and I: The Stance of Theodicy in Midrash and *Paradise Lost*.” *Milton Studies* 36 (1998): 59-85.

“Daniel’s Peshet: A Proto-Midrashic Reading of Genesis 40-1.” *Essays in Literature* 20 (1993): 111-128.

EDITED COLLECTIONS

Hebraica Veritas? Christian Hebraists, Jews, and the Study of Judaism in Early Modern Europe. With Allison Coudert. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

REVIEWS

Review of *Milton and Maternal Mortality*, by Louis Schwartz. *Milton Quarterly* 45 (March 2011): 52-54.

Review of “*I have always loved the Holy Tongue*”: *Isaac Casaubon, the Jews, and a Forgotten Chapter in Renaissance Scholarship*, by Anthony Grafton and Joanna Weinberg. *The Jewish Review of Books* Number 4 (Winter 2011): 28-29.

Review of *Milton Studies 48: Milton and Historicism*, Albert C. Labriola, ed. *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 43 (2010).

Review of *Milton and Christian Hebraism: Rabbinic Exegesis in Paradise Lost*, by Frank Mattern. *Renaissance Quarterly* 63 (2010): 711-713.

Review of *Tradition, Heterodoxy and Religious Culture: Judaism and Christianity in the Early Modern Period*, Chanita Goodblatt and Howard Kreisel, eds. *Reformation* 13 (2008): 221-24.

Review of *Cultural Intermediaries: Jewish Intellectuals in Early Modern Italy*. David B. Ruderman and Giuseppe Veltri, eds. *Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Réforme*, 25, 1 (2005): 117-20.

Review Essay of *John Milton: An Annotated Bibliography, 1968-1988* and *Paradise Lost: An Annotated Bibliography. Analytical & Enumerative Bibliography, Analytical & Enumerative Bibliography* n. s. 11 (2000): 79-90.

Review of *Milton’s Sonnets: An Annotated Bibliography. Analytical & Enumerative Bibliography* n. s. 9, 4 (1995): 261-262.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

March 2012 “Daughters and Ducats: Conversion in *The Merchant of Venice*.” Invited Lecture, Dickinson College.

December 2011 “*Converso*, Convert, and Christian: Marranism in Early Modern England.” Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

May 2011 “Converting the Bible in Early Modern England.” The King James Bible and its Cultural Aftermath. Ohio State University.

March 2011 “Fictions of Conversion: Jews, Christians, and Cultures of Change in Early Modern England.” A Conversation About Conversion in Early Modern England and Spain, the Pre-Modern Interdisciplinary Group, Temple University.

- November 2010 “Alchemies of Conversion: The Science and Drama of Jewish Transmutation.” Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania.
- September 2010 “Converts and Conversion from a Literary and Cultural Perspective.” 2010-11 Opening Colloquium, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania.
- September 2010 “Purity and Admixtion: Jews, Alchemy, and Early Modernity.” The Board of Deputies of British Jews at 250: Consensus and Controversy. The Institute of Jewish Studies at University College London.
- August 2010 “Jewish Alchemy and its Discontents.” The Barnet Seminar in Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College.
- October 2009 “Purity and Admixtion: Jews, Alchemy, and Early Modernity.” Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies Colloquium Series, New York University.
- February 2009 “Milton Alive at 400: *Samson Agonistes* and Religious Violence,” Organizer, Presenter, and Chair, Two-day Interdisciplinary Symposium co-sponsored by University of Miami and Florida International University
- March 2008 “Joseph in Egypt, Jews in the Church of English Culture.” Hillel Rogoff Annual Lecture, Honors Program, Stern College, Yeshiva University, New York.
- February 2008 “‘The Meaning not the Name’: Converting the Bible and Homer in Jacobean England.” Invited speaker, Humanities Center, Loyola College, Baltimore, MD.
- December 2007 “Converting the Text: The Bible and Homer in Jacobean England,” Modern Language Association, Chicago. Session sponsored by Division of Comparative Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Literature.
- September 2007 “‘Thy People Shall be My People’: The Limits of Conversion in Early Modern England.” Invited speaker, Department of English, University of Colorado.
- March 2007 “How Jewish was Alchemy?” Renaissance Society of America, Miami. Panel sponsored by *Cauda Pavonis: Studies in Hermeticism*
- March 2006 “Man and Thinker: Milton, Saurat, and the Old New Milton Criticism,” Renaissance Society of America, San Francisco. Panel on “The New Milton Criticism.”
- January 2005 “‘Thy People Shall be My People’: The Limits of Conversion in Early Modern England.” Invited speaker, Department of English, University of Maryland.
- April 2004 “Alchemies of Conversion: Ideology and Transmutation in Early Modern England,” Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans. Seminar on “Technologies of Conversion.”

- December 2002 “‘Thy People Shall Be My People’: The Limits of Conversion in Early Modernity,” Modern Language Association, New York. Session on “The Bible and Ethnicity” sponsored by the Division of Seventeenth Century English Literature.
- October 2002 “Milton and Enthusiasm: Radical Religion and the Poetics of *Paradise Regained*,” Invited Presenter, Newberry Library Milton Seminar, Chicago
- December 2001 “Milton and the Philosemites,” Modern Language Association, New Orleans. Special Session, “Milton and the Jews”
- October 2001 “‘Where no shadow stays thy coming’: Typology and Iconoclasm,” Conference on John Milton, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Invited Plenary Speaker
- March 2001 “Alchemies of Conversion: Ideology and Transmutation in Early Modern England,” Renaissance Society of America, Chicago. Session on “Jews, Converts, and Conversion”
- December 1999 Respondent, “Milton and Another,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, John Milton: General Session
- November 1999 “‘Taking Sanctuary Amongst the Jews’: Milton and the Body of Jewish Precedent,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- December 1998 “‘So shall the World go on’: Martyrdom and History in Midrash and *Paradise Lost*,” Modern Language Association, San Francisco. Special Session, “Mourning the Past: Elegy, Trauma, and Historiography”
- December, 1996 “The Embrace of the Fig Tree: Sexuality and Creativity in Midrash and in Milton,” Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C. Program on “Sex: Sacred and Profane,” arranged by Division on Seventeenth-Century English Literature
- October, 1995 “‘To thee committed’: The Stance of Theodicy in *Paradise Lost*,” 1995 Conference on John Milton, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- July, 1995 “Adam at a Crossroads: The Accommodative Mode of *Paradise Lost*, VIII,” Fifth International Milton Symposium, Bangor, Wales
- December, 1993 Chair, Special Session: “Jews, Judaism, and the Formation of English National Identity,” Modern Language Association, Toronto, Ontario
Paper delivered at session: “‘Proprietie in this Hebrew poesy’: George Wither’s Protestant Poetics and the Hebrew Psalms”

PUBLIC LECTURES

- “Ruth and Conversion.” Temple Beth Sholom, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
- “Zaphenath, Kugelmass, and Milton.” Ramaz School, New York City.
- “Shakespeare, Shylock, and the Jews.” Great Neck Synagogue, Great Neck, New York.
- “Milton and the Rabbis,” Leonard and Sue Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, University of Miami.

“Explosions of Christian Interest in Jewish Learning: Whose Books Are They Anyway?”
Ira F. Ehrlich Memorial Lecture, Miami, Florida.

“On the Tree of Knowledge,” Central Agency for Jewish Education Annual Tu B’Shevat
Lecture, Fairchild Tropical Gardens, Miami, Florida.

“From Joseph to Joseph: A Brief History of Jews in Political Life,” Scholar in
Residence, Congregation Beth Shira, Pinecrest, Florida.

Three-Part Lecture on Conversion, Scholar in Residence, Oxford Circle Jewish
Community Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Milton and Rabbinic Literature,” Scholar in Residence, Germantown Jewish Center,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“The Rivlin Family Tree,” Jewish Genealogical Society of South Florida

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University, General Education Requirements Assessment Committee, U of Miami (2007-
08)

Graduate School, Council, U of Miami (2008-09)

Graduate School, Fellowship Selection Committee, U of Miami (2007)

College of Arts and Sciences, Council, U of Miami (2011-2012)

College of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Humanities, Convener, Working Group in
Early Modern Studies, U of Miami (2009-2012)

College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Mentoring Planning Committee, U of Miami
(2007)

College of Arts and Sciences, Coordinator and Instructor, Peer-led Teaching Initiative in
the Humanities, Project SUCCEED, U of Miami (2001-2002)

College of Arts and Sciences, Freshman Orientation Program, Academic Expectations
Presentation, U of Miami (2001, 2002)

College of Arts and Sciences By-Laws Revision Committee, U of Miami (2004)

College of Arts and Sciences Small Grants Selection Committee, U of Miami (2004)

College of Arts and Sciences Middle East Studies Program Exploratory Committee, U of
Miami (2003)

College of Arts and Sciences and School of Education Project SUCCEED Curriculum
Committee, U of Miami (1999-2002)

College of Arts and Sciences Humanities Colloquium Coordinating Committee, U of
Miami (1997-2003)

College of Arts and Science Center for Humanistic Studies Governing Board , U of
Miami (2003)

English Department Speakers Committee, Chair, U of Miami (2008-2012)

English Department Graduate Studies Committee, U of Miami (2007-2010)

English Department Strategic Planning Committee, Chair, U of Miami (2006-2007)

English Department Search Committee, Chair, U of Miami (2003-04)

English Department Search Committee, Ethnic Literatures, U of Miami (2002-03)

English Department Search Committee, Chair, Jewish Literature, U of Miami (2001-02)

English Department Undergraduate Studies Committee, U of Miami (1996-2012)

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2001-02, 2011-2012)

English Department Undergraduate Curriculum Review Committee, U of Miami (1998-9)
English Department Post-Doctoral/Lecturer Committee, U of Miami (1997-2012)
English Department Composition Lectureship Committee, U of Miami (1998-9)
English Department Evaluator, Graduate Student Instructor, U of Miami (1998-2012)
English Department Freshman Advisor, U of Miami (1995-7)
English Department Computer and Information Technology Committee, U of Miami
(1996-2012)
Program in Judaic Studies Steering Committee, U of Miami (2008-2012)
Program in Judaic Studies Faculty Advisory Committee, U of Miami (1995-2010)
Director of Judaic Studies (2001-2005)
Ad hoc Committee on Judaic Studies Fundraising, U of Miami (1996-8)
University Phi Beta Kappa Faculty Committee, U of Miami (1996-9)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Vice President, Community Education, Greenfield Day School, 2007-2010
Member, Miami Hillel Board of Directors, 2005-2007
Member, Strategic Planning Committee, Greater Miami Hillel, 1998
Member, Board of Trustees, Havurah of South Florida, 1998-2004

ACADEMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Posen Foundation Education Project (2011-present)

EDITORIAL AND REVIEW POSITIONS

Member, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellowship Selection Committee
(2010-11)
Committee Chair, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies 17th Annual Gruss
Colloquium in Judaic Studies Organizing Committee
Member, Modern Languages Association First Book Prize Selection Committee(2008-
2010)
Member, Editorial Board, *Milton Quarterly* (2004-present)
Manuscript Reviewer, University of Pennsylvania Press, Notre Dame University Press,
Duquesne University Press, *Milton Quarterly*, *Hebraic Political Studies*, *Jewish
Quarterly Review*, *Mosaic*, *William and Mary Quarterly*
Grant Reviewer, Israel Science Foundation
Promotion and Tenure Evaluator, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Marquette University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association, member, 1992-present
Milton Society of America, member, 1994-present
Executive Committee, 2002-06
Shakespeare Association of America, member, 1995-present
Renaissance Society of America, member, 1996-present
Association for Jewish Studies, member, 1999-present

AWARDS

2012 Faculty Learning Community Fellow, University of Miami

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2010-11	Ruth Meltzer Fellow, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
2004-06	Center for Cultural Judaism Grant for the Development of Undergraduate Curricula in the Study of Secular Judaism
2002-present	Fellow, Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies, University of Miami
2002	Salo W. Baron Prize for Book in Judaic Studies (for <i>Milton and the Rabbis</i>), American Academy of Jewish Research
2002	Max Orovitz Summer Research Fellowship
1999-2000	Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
1999	Postdoctoral Fellow, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA
1999	General Research Grant, University of Miami
1998	Nominee, University of Miami Excellence in Teaching Award
1997	Max Orovitz Summer Research Fellowship
1996	Max Orovitz Summer Research Fellowship
1992	Nominee, Yale College Prize Teaching Fellowship
1991-92	Sterling Fellowship in the Humanities, Yale University
1989-94	Mellon Fellowship, for graduate study in the Humanities, Yale University
1990	Tew Prize, for ranking scholar among first-year students in Literature, Yale University
1988-89	Fulbright Fellowship, for year of study and research in England, University of Cambridge

LANGUAGES

Biblical and Modern Hebrew (fluent); Aramaic (reading knowledge); Italian (reading knowledge); French (reading knowledge); Latin (reading knowledge)