

## Jeffrey Spencer Shoulson

Curriculum Vitae

[updated: November 4, 2012]

Center for Judaic Studies and Contemporary Jewish Life  
Thomas Dodd Research Center  
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University of Connecticut  
Storrs, CT 06269  
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### CURRENT POSITION:

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

### OTHER TEACHING POSITIONS:

Faculty Member, Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College (2006-present)

### PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

Associate Professor of English and Judaic Studies, University of Miami  
Instructor, Yale University

### PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS:

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)

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

May, 1995	Ph. D., Yale University, English Literature Dissertation: "Interpretation in the Making: The Reading and Creation of Genesis in the Rabbis and in Milton" Director: Geoffrey H. Hartman
January, 1990	M. Phil., University of Cambridge, Renaissance Studies Thesis: "The Hebraic Influence on Early Seventeenth-Century Protestant Poetics: The Case of George Wither and the Hebrew Psalms" Director: Lisa Jardine
June, 1988	A. B., <i>summa cum laude</i> and Phi Beta Kappa, Princeton University, English Literature

1983-4                      Year of intensive Jewish study at Yeshivat Har Etzion, Alon Shevut, Israel

**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.

"'Proprietie 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.

**AWARDS:**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2012         | Faculty Learning Community Fellow, University of Miami  |
| 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

**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"

#### **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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

**PUBLIC LECTURES:**

“Ruth and Conversion.” Temple Beth Shalom, 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

**TEACHING AREAS:**

Milton  
Jewish Literature  
Seventeenth-Century Poetry and Prose  
Shakespeare  
Sixteenth-Century Poetry and Prose  
Bible as Literature

**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



**LANGUAGES:**

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

**GRADUATE ADVISING AND EXAMINING:**

- Ph. D. Dissertation Director, Tom Lolis, "The Cartography of Interiority: Magic, Mapmaking and the Search for Eden in the Renaissance," 2003-2007
- Ph. D. Committee, Nader Elhefnawy, "The Promise and the Peril: Science Fiction's Depiction of Technology," 2003-06
- Ph. D. Committee, Claudia Springer, "Hearts Knit Together: Models of Friendship in the Novels of Charles Williams," 2002-04
- Ph. D. Committee, "Lyric Warriors, Lyric Women: Gendering Petrarchism in Early Modern England"; Melanie E. Pitts, 2001-03
- Ph. D. Committee, "Elizabethan Formal Verse Satire and the Ideology of Dramatic Form, 1599-1608"; Steven Sowell, 1999-present
- Ph. D. Committee; "Sublime Petrification: The Medusa as a Male Romantic Motif"; Marlisa Santos; 1996-8
- Ph. D. Committee; "Refiguring Ourselves through *Hamlet* and *Ulysses*"; Andrew Shipe; 1996-8

**OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

Instructor, Florence Melton Adult Mini-School for Continuing Jewish Education

Instructor, Adult Education, Temple Judea, Miami, Fla.

Instructor, Adult Education, Temple Israel, Miami, Fla.

Instructor, Adult Education, Temple Beth David, Miami, Fla.

**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

**REFERENCES (AVAILABLE ON REQUEST):**

Ian Baucom, Professor of English and Director of the Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University ([ibaucom@duke.edu](mailto:ibaucom@duke.edu))

Jonathan Freedman, Professor of English, University of Michigan ([zoid@umich.edu](mailto:zoid@umich.edu))

Thomas Goodmann, Associate Professor of English, University of Miami ([tgoodmann@miami.edu](mailto:tgoodmann@miami.edu))

Ranen Omer-Sherman, Professor of English and Judaic Studies, University of Miami ([rosherman@mail.as.miami.edu](mailto:rosherman@mail.as.miami.edu))

Jason Rosenblatt, Professor of English, Georgetown University ([rosenblj@georgetown.edu](mailto:rosenblj@georgetown.edu))

John Paul Russo, Professor and Acting Chair, Department of English, University of Miami  
([jprusso@miami.edu](mailto:jprusso@miami.edu))  
Elizabeth Sauer, Professor of English, Brock University ([emsauer@brocku.ca](mailto:emsauer@brocku.ca))  
Joseph A. Wittreich, Distinguished Professor of English, City University of New York  
([jwittreich@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:jwittreich@gc.cuny.edu))