

## KEN KOLTUN-FROMM

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### *Education*

Ph.D., Religious Studies, Stanford University, 1997  
M.A., Stanford University, 1994  
M.T.S., Harvard Divinity School, 1991  
B.A., Religion, Haverford College, 1988

### *Current*

#### *Position*

Robert and Constance MacCrate Chair in Social Responsibility  
Professor of Religion, Haverford College

### *Employment*

Associate Professor of Religion, Haverford College, 2004-2010  
Assistant Professor of Religion, Haverford College, 1997-2004  
Visiting Instructor, Tulane University, 1996-7  
Adjunct Instructor, Stanford University, 1996  
Adjunct Instructor, Tulane University, 1995  
Lecturer, Santa Clara University, 1993

### *Awards*

Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2017-18  
NEH Summer Stipend Grant, 2016  
IEEL Curricular Development Grant, 2016-17  
Haverford Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities Symposium Grant, 2016  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2016-17  
Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2015-16  
Haverford Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities SRA Grant, 2015  
Seed Grant, Tri-College, 2014-15  
Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2014-15  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2014-15  
New Media in Jewish Studies Collaborative, 2012-14  
Brainstorming Grant, Tri-College, 2013-14  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2013-14  
Haverford Hurford Humanities, Artist-in-Residency Grant, 2013  
Haverford Hurford Humanities SRA Grant, 2013  
Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2012-13  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2012-13  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Grant, 2012-13  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2011-12  
Faculty Support Grant, Haverford College, 2011-12  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Symposium Grant, 2011  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2010-11

Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2010-11  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2009-10  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Curricular Institute Grant, 2009  
Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2009  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2008-09  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Symposium Grant, 2008-09  
Faculty Support Grant, Haverford College, 2008  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Working Group, 2008  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2007-08  
Mellon New Directions Fellowship, 2006-07  
Haverford Teaching with Technology Grant, 2005-06  
Haverford Hurford Humanities Symposium Grant, 2006  
Haverford Hurford Course Enhancement Grant, 2005  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2004  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2002  
Koret Foundation Book Award for *Moses Hess and Modern Jewish Identity*, 2001  
Skirball Visiting Fellowship, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, 2000  
Memorial Foundation For Jewish Culture Grant, 2000-2001  
DAAD Scholarship, Language Study in Germany, 2000  
Koret Jewish Studies Publications Program Grant, 2000  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 2000  
Faculty Research Grant, Haverford College, 1999  
Newhouse Foundation Grant, Stanford University, 1997  
Memorial Foundation Grant for doctoral research, 1997  
Department Fellowship, Stanford University, 1996-7  
Newhouse Foundation Summer Grant, Israel, 1996  
Dorot Foundation Summer Grant, Israel, 1996  
Fulbright Scholarship for doctoral research, Israel, 1994-95  
Interuniversity Fellowship for doctoral research, Israel, 1994-95  
Koret Foundation Summer Grant, Israel, 1992  
Department Fellowship, Stanford University, 1991-94  
Phi Beta Kappa, Haverford College, 1988  
Highest honors in Religion, Haverford College, 1988

### *Books*

Ed. with Leonard Kaplan, *Imagining the Jewish God* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2016)

*Imagining Jewish Authenticity: Vision and Text in American Jewish Thought* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2015)

ed., *Thinking Jewish Culture in America*  
(Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014)

*Material Culture and Jewish Thought in America*  
(Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2010)

*Abraham Geiger's Liberal Judaism: Personal Meaning and Religious Authority* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006)

*Moses Hess and Modern Jewish Identity* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001). Winner of the Koret Foundation Book Award in Jewish Thought and Philosophy, 2001

### *Publications*

“Imagining the Jewish God in Comics,” in *Imagining the Jewish God*, ed. By Leonard Kaplan and Ken Koltun-Fromm (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2016), 369-403

“Visual Authenticity in Moses Hess’s *Rome and Jerusalem*,” in *Moses Hess: Between Socialism and Zionism*, ed. Christian Wiese and Sharon Gordon (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, forthcoming)

“Discovering Isaiah Berlin in Moses Hess’s *Rome and Jerusalem*,” in *Isaiah Berlin and the Enlightenment*, ed. by Laurence Brockliss and Ritchie Robertson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), 176-86

“Moses Hess,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Dale C. Allison, Jr., et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2015), 986

“Authenticity, Vision, Culture: Michael Wyschogrod’s *The Body of Faith*,” in *Thinking Jewish Culture in America*, ed. Ken Koltun-Fromm (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014), 285–312

“Introduction,” in *Thinking Jewish Culture in America*, ed. Ken Koltun-Fromm (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2014), 1-11

“Abraham Geiger – kulturwissenschaftliche Reflexionen,” in *Jüdische Existenz in der Moderne: Abraham Geiger und die Wissenschaft des Judentums*, ed. Christian Wiese, Walter Homolka, und Thomas Brechenmacher (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2013), 37-57

“Jewish Voices in American Jewish History,” a review essay of *Speaking of Jews* by Lila Corwin Berman and *History Lessons* by Beth S. Wenger, *Jewish Quarterly Review* 102/2 (Spring, 2012), 311-22

“America,” in *The Cambridge History of Jewish Philosophy: The Modern Era*, eds. Martin Kavka, Zachary Braiterman, and David Novak, vol. 2 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 128-153

“Vision and Authenticity in Heschel’s *The Sabbath*,”  
*Modern Judaism* 31/2 (2011), 142-65

“Performing the Material Self: Mordecai Kaplan and the Art of Writing,”  
*AJS Review* 31/1 (2007), 109-31

“The Politics of Religion in the Thought of Samuel Holdheim,” in  
*Re-Defining Judaism in an Age of Emancipation: Comparative  
Perspectives on Samuel Holdheim* (Leiden: Brill, 2007), 63-79

“Abraham Geiger’s Attitude about the Place and Status of Women in  
Judaism,” in *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*  
(Jerusalem: Shalvi Publishing, 2006)

“Imagining Moses: The Burden and Blessing of Reading Freud’s *Moses  
and Monotheism*,” in *Jewish Book Council*, Vol. 55/56 Year 1997-1999,  
ed. Avi Bernstein-Nahar (New York: Jewish Book Council, 2001), 62-87

Review Essay: Lenn Goodman, *Judaism, Human Rights, and Human  
Values* (New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1998); David  
Novak, *Covenantal Rights: A Study in Jewish Political Theory*, (Princeton,  
Princeton University Press, 2000), *Jewish Political Studies Review* 13/1-2  
(2001), 263-78

“Historical Memory in Abraham Geiger’s Account of Modern Jewish  
Identity,” *Jewish Social Studies* 7/1 (2000), 109-26

“A Narrative Reading of Moses Hess’s Return to Judaism,” *Modern  
Judaism* 19 (1999), 41-65

“Public Religion in Samson Raphael Hirsch and Samuel Hirsch’s  
Interpretation of Religious Symbolism,” *Journal of Jewish Thought and  
Philosophy*, 9 (1999), 69-105

### *Book Reviews*

*Materializing Religion: Expression, Performance and Ritual*, edited by  
Elisa-Beth Arweck and William Keenan (Aldershot and Burlington, Vt.:  
Ashgate Publishing, 2006), *Sociology of Religion* 69/3 (Fall, 2008),  
363-64

David Ellenson, *After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to  
Modernity* (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 2004), *AJS Review*  
30/1 (2007)

Elliot Dorff, *The Unfolding Tradition: Jewish Law After Sinai* (New York: Aviv Press, 2005), *Sh'ma* (January, 2006)

Jonathan Hess, *Germans, Jews and the Claims of Modernity* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2002), *Zeitschrift für Neuere Theologieggeschichte/Journal for the History of Modern Theology* 11/2 (2004), 306-308

*Shaping Losses: Cultural Memory and the Holocaust*, edited by Julia Epstein and Lori Hope Lefkowitz (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2001), *Biography* 26/1 (2003), 151-53

Michael Meyer, *Judaism within Modernity: Essays on Jewish History and Religion* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001), *Religious Studies Review*

Louis Newman, *Past Imperatives: Studies in the History and Theory of Jewish Ethics* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), *Religious Studies Review*

Steven Nadler, *Spinoza: A Life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), *Religious Studies Review*, 26/4 (2000), 390

Lenn Goodman, *Judaism, Human Rights, and Human Values* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), *Religious Studies Review*, 26/1 (2000), 99

Rachel Adler, *Engendering Judaism: An Inclusive Theology and Ethics* (Philadelphia and Jerusalem: The Jewish Publication Society, 1998), *Religious Studies Review*, 25/2 (1999), 203

### *Papers Presented*

“Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Account of Law, Political Authority, and the Psychological Self,”  
International Congress on Law and Mental Health  
Faculty of Law, Charles University  
Prague, Czech Republic, July 12, 2017

“Collaborative Technology,” (with Miriam Pallant)  
Bryn Mawr College, May 17, 2017

“What does Jewish Look Like in Jewish Cooking”  
Temple Sinai, March 30, 2016

“Personal Experience and Authenticity”

University of Pennsylvania, March 22, 2016

“Imagining the Jewish God in Comics”  
Columbia University, March 2, 2016

“Imagining the Jewish God in Comics”  
*Frames: Jewish Culture and the Comic Book*  
Princeton University, April 9-10, 2015

“Imagining the Jewish God in Comics”  
Lafayette College, March 26, 2015

Class Seminar in “Visual Culture and Religious Identity”  
Lafayette College, March 26, 2015

"Making across the Curriculum: Visual Studies within Interdisciplinary  
Artist Residences," (presented together with Laura McGrane)  
Visual Studies in the Liberal Arts (AALAC Conference)  
Smith College, May 2-3, 2014

"Discovering Isaiah Berlin in Moses Hess's *Rome and Jerusalem*,"  
Conference on Isaiah Berlin's Enlightenment, Wolfson College, Oxford  
March 20-22, 2014

"Imagining Jewish Identity: Vision and Text in American Jewish  
Thought," University College London, March 19, 2014

“Seeing Authenticity in Jewish Cuisine: *Kosher by Design* and Visual  
Culture,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA. December 17,  
2013

“What does Jewish look like in Jewish Cookbooks,”  
Beth Am Israel, Penn Valley, April 17, 2013

“Authenticity and Image in the *New American Haggadah*,”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, December 17, 2012

“Seeing Modern Jewish Identity: Visual Discourse, Image, and the  
Anxiety of Authenticity in American Jewish Thought,”  
Columbia University, December 3, 2012

“Visual Authenticity in Moses Hess’s *Rome and Jerusalem*,”  
Moses Hess Between Socialism and Zionism Conference  
Jerusalem, Israel, March 18-20, 2012

“Comment Press: A Wordpress Plugin for Teaching and Research,”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C., December 19, 2011

Seminar on *Material Culture and Jewish Thought in America*  
Dickinson College, May 11, 2011

“Seeing Authenticity: ‘Black Jews’ and Whiteness,” Association for  
Jewish Studies, Boston, MA, December 19, 2010

“Religious Borders: Samuel Hirsch and Abraham Geiger on Jewish  
Education,” Samuel Hirsch: Religionsphilosoph, Emanzipationsverfechter  
und radikaler Reformler Conference, Luxemburg, October 17-19, 2010

“Abraham Geiger and Cultural Studies,” Abraham Geiger: Reformler,  
Historiker, Herausforderer des Christentums (1810-1874) Conference  
Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, May 16-17, 2010

“Seeing Time, Seeing Jewish: Vision in Heschel’s *The Sabbath*,”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles, CA, December 21, 2009

“What does Jewish look like? Representation and Image in American  
Jewish Culture,” Fairfield University, November 19, 2009

“Visual Judaism: A Methodological Investigation,” Association for Jewish  
Studies, Washington, D. C., December 22, 2008

“Seeing Jewish and Jewish Seeing: Toward a Visual Judaism,” The  
University of Rochester, October 29, 2008

“Visualizing Heritage: The Pictorial Covers of *Lilith* Magazine,”  
Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto, Canada, December 16, 2007

“The Material Art of Writing: The Diaries of Mordecai Kaplan,”  
American Studies Association, Oakland, CA, October 12, 2006

“Mordecai Kaplan’s Civilization as Aesthetic Performance,” Association  
for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C, December 20, 2005

“The Art of Writing: The Diaries of Mordecai Kaplan,” American  
Academy of Religion, Philadelphia, November 22, 2005

“Reading Practices and Religious Authority: Abraham Geiger's Biblical  
Criticism and the Study of Judaism,” American Academy of Religion  
Conference, San Antonio, November 22, 2004

“Writing Nineteenth Century Wrongs: A Response,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, December 23, 2003

“What Traditions Do: Abraham Geiger, George Lindbeck and the Meaning of Liberalism,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Washington, December 16, 2001

“The Bible as Struggle: Abraham Geiger's Reading of Origins, Traditions, and Sacred Texts,” Southampton University, Southampton, England, April 24, 2001

“The Politics of Religion in the Thought of Samuel Holdheim,” Samuel Holdheim (1806-1860): Reformer oder Häretiker? Leben, Werk und Wirken, Nettetal, Germany, April 17-20, 2001

“Gendered Identities and the Public Sphere in Abraham Geiger's Biblical Exegesis,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Chicago, December 21, 1999

“Identity, Religion, and Election in Abraham Geiger's *Judaism and its History*,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, December 20, 1998

“Identity in Modern Jewish Thought,” Beth Hillel/Beth El, October 31, 1998

“The Roots of Modern Jewish Identity,” Main Line Reform Temple, March 22, 1998

“Transcendental Argument, Narrative Identity, and Hess's *Rome and Jerusalem*,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, December 22, 1997

“Moses Hess's ‘Return’ to Judaism: Problems in Jewish National and Religious Identity,” Political Dimensions in Modern Jewish Thought: Conference of the Center for Judaic Studies, Boston University, October 26-27, 1997

“Identity, Tradition, and Lost Innocence in Hess's *Rome and Jerusalem*,” Graduate Student Conference on Modern Jewish Thought, History, and Literature; Harvard Center for Jewish Studies, April 7, 1997

“Emotive Responses and Religious Goods: Moses Hess's critique of Jewish Identity,” Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, December 18, 1995



*Professional  
Assignments*

Editorial Board  
Graven Images  
Lexington Press, 2017

Executive Committee  
Association for Jewish Studies, 2017-2019

Advisory Board, *AJS Perspectives*  
2016-2019

Editorial Advisory Board  
New Jewish Philosophy and Thought  
Indiana University Press, 2015-present

Program Committee  
Association for Jewish Studies, 2014-2017

Media Committee  
Association for Jewish Studies, 2013-2016

Division Chair, *Modern Jewish Thought and Theology*  
Association of Jewish Studies, 2008-2012

Founder and Chair, *Working Group in Modern Jewish Studies*  
Association of Jewish Studies Conference, 2001-04

Reviewer, *Judaism Section*  
American Academy of Religion, 2006–2012

*Committee  
Assignments*

Library Building Committee, 2016-17  
Ad Hoc Search Committee, Religion, 2014-15  
Chair, Religion Department, 2012-14, 2016-18  
Ad Hoc Search Committee, Writing Post-Doctoral Position, 2014  
Task Force in Ethical Engagement, 2013-14  
Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities Steering Committee, 2013-14  
Ad Hoc Search Committee, Writing Post-Doctoral Position, 2013  
Chair, Ad Hoc Search Committee, Writing Program Director, 2010-11  
Faculty Representative to the Board of Managers, 2008-10  
Academic Council, 2008-10, 2014-16  
Chair, Ad Hoc Search Committee, Philosophy, 2007-08

Humanities Center Steering Committee, 2004-05  
Ad Hoc Search Committee, Director of Facilities Management, 2003-04  
Administrative Advisory Committee, 2001-05  
College Planning Committee, 2001-03, 2004-06  
Ad Hoc Search Committee, History, 1998-99

*Courses Taught*

101 - Introduction to the Study of Religion  
120 - Jewish Thought and Identity  
128 - Reading Sacred Texts  
130 - Material Religion in America  
144 - Reading Comics and Religion  
155 – Drawing the Line

246 - Contemporary Jewish Thought  
250 - Jewish Images, Imagining Jews  
280 - Ethics and the Good Life  
281 - Modern Jewish Thought  
284 - American Judaism  
299 - Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion

303 - Seminar in Material Religion  
305 - Religion, Ethics, and Society  
349 - Seminar in Modern Jewish Thought  
398 - Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion  
399 - Senior Seminar and Thesis

648b - Topics in Modern Jewish Thought (Temple U.)