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University of California, Los Angeles  
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## RA‘ANAN SHAUL BOUSTAN

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2007– Assistant Professor, Departments of History and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures,  
University of California at Los Angeles  
2006–7 Visiting Assistant Professor, History and NELC, University of California at Los Angeles  
2004–6 Assistant Professor, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, University of Minnesota

### EDUCATION

- 2004 Ph.D., Religion, Princeton University  
2000 M.A., Religion, Princeton University  
1995 Vrij Doctoraal Letteren (M.A. equivalent) in Classics and Religion, University of Amsterdam  
(earned while Fulbright Fellow in the Netherlands, 1994–5)  
1994 A.B., Classics, Brown University, *Magna Cum Laude*

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Religion in the ancient Mediterranean world; Jewish history, society, and culture in Graeco-Roman antiquity; Jewish–Christians relations in Late Antiquity; Early Jewish mysticism and magic; Midrash and early Hebrew narrative literature; Hellenism and Judaism; theory and method in the study of religion

### LANGUAGES (in order of proficiency)

*Modern:* Hebrew, Dutch, German, French

*Ancient:* Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew, Aramaic, Classical and Koine Greek, Latin, Syriac, Coptic

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

*From Martyr to Mystic: Rabbinic Martyrology and the Making of Merkavah Mysticism*, Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 112 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2005).

**Reviews:** *Archives de sciences sociales des religions* 140 (2007): 166–67 (J.-D. Dubois); *Frankfurter Judaistische Beiträge* 33 (2006): 166–70 (A. Kuyt); *Henoch* 29 (2007): 402–5 (M. D. Swartz); *Journal of Semitic Studies* 53 (2008): 183–84 (J. R. Davila); *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 39 (2008): 93–94 (J. W. van Henten); *Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie Religieuses* 86 (2006): 405–6 (Ch. Grappe); *Theologische Literaturzeitung* 132 (2007): 289–91 (F. Avemarie); *Vigiliae Christianae* 60 (2006): 242–43 (J. van Oort); *Zion* 73 (2008): 211–16 (I. Rosen-Zvi).

#### Edited Volumes

*Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of History and Anthropology: Tradition, Authority, Diaspora*, edited and introduction with Oren Kosansky and Marina Rustow (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, under review).

*Violence, Scripture, and Textual Practice in Early Judaism and Christianity*, edited and introduction with Alex Jassen and Calvin Roetzel, special theme-issue of *Biblical Interpretation* 17.1–2 (2009): 1–264.

*Blood and the Boundaries of Jewish and Christian Identities in Late Antiquity*, edited and introduction with Annette Yoshiko Reed, special theme-section of *Henoch* 30.2 (2008): 229–364.

*Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, edited and introduction with Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

**Reviews:** *Aestimatio* 2 (2005): 73–83 (C. R. Philips); *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2005.12.18) (P. A. Torijano); *Church History* 75 (2006): 172–74 (G. Frank); *Classical Bulletin* 82 (2006): 161–62 (J. J. O'Donnell); *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 37 (2006): 421–22 (E. Tigchelaar); *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* 29 (2005): 182–83 (J. M. Lieu); *Phoenix* 40 (2006): 181–83 (K. Stratton); *Review of Biblical Literature* 10 (2005) (E. Noffke); *University of Toronto Quarterly* 75 (2006): 230–32 (R. Beck).

**Journal Articles and Book Chapters**

- “Early Jewish Mysticism,” under contract with *The Cambridge Handbook of Western Mysticism and Esotericism*, ed. Glenn Magee (New York: Cambridge University Press).
- “The Dislocation of the Temple Vessels: Mobile Sanctity and Rabbinic Rhetorics of Space,” in *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of History and Anthropology: Tradition, Authority, Diaspora*, ed. Ra'anan S. Boustan, Oren Kosansky, and Marina Rustow (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, under review).
- “Augustine as Revolutionary? Reflections on Continuity and Rupture in Jewish–Christian Relations in Paula Fredriksen’s *Augustine and the Jews*,” *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 99.1 (2009): 74–87.
- “Immolating Emperors: Spectacles of Imperial Suffering and the Making of a Jewish Minority Culture in Late Antiquity,” *Biblical Interpretation* 17.1–2 (2009): 207–38.
- “Blood and Atonement in the Pseudo-Clementines and *The Story of the Ten Martyrs*: The Problem of Selection in the Study of Ancient Judaism and Christianity” (with Annette Yoshiko Reed), *Henoch* 30.2 (2008): 333–64.
- “The Spoils of the Jerusalem Temple at Rome and Constantinople: Jewish Counter-Geography in a Christianizing Empire,” in *Antiquity in Antiquity: Jewish and Christian Pasts in the Greco-Roman World*, ed. Gregg Gardner and Kevin Osterloh, TSAJ 123 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2008), 327–72.
- “The Study of Heikhalot Literature—Between Religious Experience and Textual Artifact,” *Currents in Biblical Research* 6.1 (2007): 130–60.
- “The Emergence of Pseudonymous Attribution in Heikhalot Literature: Empirical Evidence from the Jewish ‘Magical’ Corpora,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 14.1 (2007): 18–38.
- “Competing Attitudes toward Rabbi Ishmael’s Priestly Genealogy in Heikhalot Literature,” in *Paradise Now: Essays on Early Jewish and Christian Mysticism*, ed. April DeConick (Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2006), 127–41.
- “Imperialisms in Jewish History, From Pre- to Post-Modern,” *Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies* (Fall 2005): 8–10.
- “A Hebrew Hymn of Praise for a High-priestly Rabbinic Martyr: A Note on the Relationship between the Synagogue Liturgy and Rabbinic Literary Culture,” *Zutot* 4 (2004): 28–35.
- “Angels in the Architecture: Temple Art and the Poetics of Praise in the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice,” in *Heavenly Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions*, ed. Ra'anan S. Boustan and Annette Yoshiko Reed (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), 195–212.
- (published under the name Abusch)**
- “Circumcision and Castration in Roman Law and Culture under the Early Empire,” in *The Covenant of Circumcision: New Perspectives on an Ancient Jewish Rite*, ed. Elizabeth Wyner Mark (Boston: University Press of New England, 2003), 75–86, notes 220–23.
- “Seven-fold Hymns in the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice and the Hekhalot Literature: Formalism, Hierarchy, and the Limits of Human Participation,” in *The Dead Sea Scrolls as Background to Post-Biblical Judaism and Early Christianity*, ed. James R. Davila, STDJ 46 (Leiden: Brill, 2003), 220–47.
- “Rabbi Ishmael’s Miraculous Conception: Jewish Redemption History in Anti-Christian Polemic,” in *The Ways that Never Parted: Jews and Christians in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages*, ed. Adam H. Becker and Annette Yoshiko Reed, TSAJ 95 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003; repr., Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 307–43.
- “Negotiating Difference: Genital Mutilation in Roman Slave Law and the History of the Bar Kokhba Revolt,” in *The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered*, ed. Peter Schäfer, TSAJ 100 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2003), 71–91.

“Eunuchs and Gender Transformation: Philo’s Exegesis of the Joseph Narrative,” in *Eunuchs in Antiquity and Beyond*, ed. Shaun Tougher (London: Duckworth, 2002), 103–21.

“The Depiction of the Jews as Typhonians and Josephus’ Strategy of Refutation in *Contra Apionem*” (with Jan Willem van Henten), in *Josephus’ Contra Apionem: Studies in its Character and Context*, ed. Louis H. Feldman and John R. Levison, AGJU 34 (Leiden: Brill, 1996), 271–309.

### Book Reviews

David Biale, *Blood and Belief: The Circulation of a Symbol between Jews and Christians* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007), under contract with *AJS Review*

Gideon Bohak, *Ancient Jewish Magic: A History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), under contract with *Review of Biblical Literature*

Jonathan Klawans, *Purity, Sacrifice, and the Temple: Symbolism and Supersessionism in the Study of Ancient Judaism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006), in *AJS Review* 32.1 (2008): 169–72.

Pieter W. van der Horst, *Het vroege jodendom van A tot Z: Een kleine encyclopedie over de eerste duizend jaar (ca. 350 v. Chr.–650 n. Chr.)* (Zoetermeer: Meinema, 2006), in *Journal for the Study of Judaism* 38.3 (2007): 436–38.

Andreas Lehnardt, *Qaddish: Untersuchungen zur Entstehung und Rezeption eines rabbinischen Gebetes*, TSAJ 87 (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2002), in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 97.2 (2007): 65–69.

Daniel Boyarin, *Border Lines: The Partition of Judaeo-Christianity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004), in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 96.3 (2006): 441–46.

Vita Daphna Arbel, *Beholders of Divine Secrets: Mysticism and Myth in the Hekhalot and Merkavah Literature* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2003), in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 125.1 (2005): 123–26.

Erich S. Gruen, *Diaspora: Jews amidst Greeks and Romans* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002), in *Archiv für Religionsgeschichte* 5 (2003): 379–83.

### Entries in Reference Works

“Hekhalot/Merkavah literature” and “Shi‘ur Qomah,” under contract with *Encyclopedia of Ancient History*, ed. Roger Bagnall et al. (Oxford: Blackwell).

“Second Temple,” under contract with *Cambridge Dictionary of Jewish History, Religion, and Culture*, ed. Judith Baskin (New York: Cambridge University Press).

“Ascension—Rabbinic and Medieval Judaism,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*, ed. Hans-Josef Klauck et al. (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, forthcoming).

“Heikhalot literature,” “R. Ishmael,” and “R. Yohanan ben Zakkai,” in *The Dictionary of Early Judaism*, ed. Dan Harlow and John J. Collins (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, forthcoming).

### Internet Publications

“The Relics of Rabbi Ishmael in *The Story of the Ten Martyrs*,” in *Jewish Understandings of the Other: An Annotated Sourcebook*, Boston College Center for Jewish-Christian Learning (mounted in 2006): [http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/sourcebook/relics\\_ishmael.htm](http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/sourcebook/relics_ishmael.htm)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California at Los Angeles, 2006–

Undergraduate courses taught:

*Jewish Civilization: The Encounter with Great World Cultures*  
*Martyrdom and Religious Violence in the Graeco-Roman World*  
*Jewish Mysticism, Magic, and Kabbalah*

*Ancient Jewish History: From Israelite Origins to the Rise of Rabbinic Judaism*

Graduate courses taught:

*Jews, Gentiles, and Christians in the Roman World*  
*Esotericism and Mysticism in Rabbinic and Related Literatures*  
*Prayer and Liturgical Poetry at Qumran*

University of Minnesota, 2004–6

Undergraduate courses taught:

*Jewish Mysticism, Magic, and Kabbalah*  
*Introduction to Jewish History and Civilization*  
*Martyrdom and Religious Violence from Socrates to the Crusades*

Graduate courses taught:

*Advanced Classical Hebrew: Post-biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew*  
*Intermediate Classical Hebrew: Hebrew in the Second Temple Period*  
*Theory and Method in the Study of Religion*

**CURRENT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Field coordinator, Jewish history, Department of History, UCLA, 2008–

Member, Advisory Board, Hellenistic Judaism Section, Society of Biblical Literature, 2008–

Member, University of California Multi-campus Research Group in Late Antiquity, 2008–

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, UCLA, 2008–

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA, 2008–

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Study of Religion Major, UCLA, 2007–

**PAST PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Editorial Board Member, *Perspectives: The Magazine of the Association for Jewish Studies*, 2004–6

Guest-edited and contributed to special issue on “Empire and Jewish Studies” (Fall 2005)

Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Jewish Studies, University of Minnesota, 2004–6

**CONFERENCES, COLLOQUIA & RESEARCH GROUPS ORGANIZED**

Co-author of project proposal for Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2007–8

“Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity: Literary, Social, and Material Histories”

<http://www.cjs.upenn.edu/program/2007-2008/announce.htm>

Co-organizer of conference, University of Minnesota, October 2007

“Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions: Discourse, Ritual, Community”

<http://sanctifiedviolence.umn.edu/>

Co-organizer of workshop and colloquium, Princeton University, 2000–1

“In Heaven as it is on Earth: Imagined Realms and Earthly Realities in Late Antique Religions”

<http://www.princeton.edu/~religion/heaven/>

Chair, Program in the Ancient World Graduate Student Colloquium, Princeton University, 2000–1

Co-chair, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins, University of Pennsylvania, 1999–2000

“Ethnicity, Regionalism, and Religious Developments in Late Antique Egypt”

**PEER REVIEWING**

*The Jewish Quarterly Review*

*Jewish Studies Quarterly*

*Journal of the American Academy of Religion*

*Maarav*

*Zion*

**INVITED LECTURES**

“The Blood of Zechariah Between Jews and Christians: Sacrifice as Murder from Late Antiquity to René Girard”

- Graduate Theological Union, Center for Jewish Studies, February 2008

“The Uses of Roman Law for Social and Cultural History: The Case of the Alleged Ban on Circumcision”

- University of Southern California, Department of Classics, November 2008

“Blood and Atonement at the Boundaries of Religious Identity: Problems in the History of Early Jewish/Christian Relations” (with Annette Yoshiko Reed)

- University of California, Riverside, Department of Religion, April 2007

“The Foundation of Rome in Jewish Apocalyptic and Rabbinic Literature”

- University of Minnesota, Institute for Advanced Studies, Lecture series on Sanctified Violence, February 2007

“Jewish Counter-Geography in a Christianizing Empire: Martyrs, Relics and Pilgrimage in Late Antiquity”

- Princeton University, Department of Religion, February 2005

**CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED (SELECT)**

“Heikhalot Literature as a Byzantine Literature”

- Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., December 2008

“Spectacles of Imperial Suffering and the Making of a Jewish Minority Culture in Late Antiquity”

- Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Boston, November 2008

“The Blood of Zechariah in the Jerusalem Temple: Between Narrative Resolution and Social Conflict”

- “What the Gods Demand: Blood Sacrifice in the Ancient Mediterranean,” Boston University, November 2008

“The Hippodrome of Solomon: The Politics of Past and Present in Byzantine-Jewish Literary Culture”

- Byzantine Studies Association of North America Conference, Rutgers University, October 2008

“Out of Place: Procopius on the Temple Vessels at Constantinople and Jerusalem”

- “Jewish and Other Imperial Cultures in Late Antiquity,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 2008

“Review of Paula Fredriksen, *Augustine and the Jews*” (Review panel)

- Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Diego, November 2007

“The Contested Reception of *The Story of the Ten Martyrs* in Medieval Midrash”

- “Geschichte und Gegenwart von Märtyrern in verschiedenen (Religions-)Kulturen,” Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin, October 2007

“Immolating Emperors: Jewish Revenge Fantasies in Late Antiquity”

- “Sanctified Violence in Ancient Mediterranean Religions,” University of Minnesota, October 2007

“The Foundation of Rome in Jewish Apocalyptic and Rabbinic Literature”

- Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, San Diego, December 2006

“Tradition as Continuity or Rupture? Authorizing Devices in Early Jewish Magic”

- “Innovation and Continuity in the Magical Tradition,” Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 2006

“The Fate of the Temple Implements: Jewish Counter-Geography in a Christianizing Empire”

- “Apocalypse as History in the Near East and Beyond,” University of California, Irvine, October 2008
- “Antiquity in Antiquity,” Princeton University, January 2006
- Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 2005

“The Emergence of Pseudonymous Attribution in Heikhalot Literature in Light of Jewish Magical Texts”

- Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, December 2004

“The Heavenly Cult of the Martyrs and the Persistence of Priestly Traditions in Late Antique Judaism”

- Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2004
- “Challenging Boundaries: History and Anthropology in Jewish Studies,” Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 2004

- “Review of Rachel Elijor, *The Three Temples: On the Emergence of Jewish Mysticism*” (Review panel)  
 ➤ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, San Antonio, November 2004
- “Social Asymmetry in Ritual: The Use of the Child Medium in Late Antique Divinatory Rites”  
 ➤ “Constructions of Childhood in the Ancient World,” Dartmouth College, November 2003
- “Vicarious Atonement in *The Story of the Ten Martyrs* and *Heikhalot Rabbati*”  
 ➤ Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Los Angeles, December 2002
- “The Martyrdom of Emperor Lupinus: Genre Inversion and Identity Inversion in *Hekhalot Rabbati*”  
 ➤ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Toronto, November 2002
- “The Physics of Procreation: Miraculous Conception in Late Antique Hagiography”  
 ➤ “The Ways that Never Parted,” Princeton University, January 2002
- “Circumcision and Castration in Roman Law during the First Two Centuries of the Empire”  
 ➤ “The Bar Kokhba War Reconsidered,” Princeton University, November 2001  
 ➤ International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, May 2001
- “Seven-fold Praise in the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice* and *Heikhalot* Literature”  
 ➤ “The Dead Sea Scrolls and Post-biblical Judaism and Christianity,” St. Andrews, Scotland, June 2001
- “The Figure of Rabbi Ishmael in the *Hekhalot* Literature and in Jewish Martyrology”  
 ➤ Society of Biblical Literature Annual Meeting, Denver, November 2001
- “Angelic Paternity and Otherworldly Beauty as Etiologies for Heavenly Ascent”  
 ➤ European Society of Biblical Literature Summer Meeting, Rome, July 2001
- “Angels in the Architecture: Temple Art and the Poetics of Praise in the *Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice*”  
 ➤ “In Heaven as it is on Earth,” Princeton University, January 2001
- “Eunuchs and Gender Transformation: Philo’s Exegesis of the Joseph Narrative”  
 ➤ “Eunuchs in Antiquity and Beyond,” University of Wales, July 1998

### **PUBLIC TALKS & LECTURES**

- “Destruction and Memory: The Jerusalem Temple in the Late Antique Jewish Imagination”  
 ➤ Talmud Torah of St. Paul, St. Paul, MN, November 2005
- “Do Jews Believe in Angels?”  
 ➤ Temple Beth-El, Minneapolis, MN, April 2005  
 ➤ Congregation Or Ami, Lafayette Hill, PA, February 2004
- “Individual versus Collective Sin and Atonement: The Martyrology in the Yom Kippur *Avodah* Service”  
 ➤ Temple Beth El, Minneapolis, MN, September 2004

### **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS**

- Research Grant, Sol Leshin Program for Ben Gurion University–UCLA Academic Cooperation, 2008–9
- Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA, 2008–9
- Research Fellowship, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2007–8
- McKnight Summer Research Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 2005
- Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 2005
- McKnight International Travel Award, University of Minnesota, 2005
- Office of International Programs Faculty Grant, University of Minnesota, 2005
- Research Fellowship, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2003–4
- National Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2002–3
- Dorot Travel Award, Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, 2002
- Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2001–2
- Center for the Study of Religion Dissertation Grant, Princeton University, 2001–2
- Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University, 1998, 2000, and 2001

Association of Princeton Graduate Alumni Summer Stipend, 1998 and 1999

Dorot Leadership Program in Israel, Dorot Foundation, 1996–7

Fulbright Fellowship, The Netherlands, 1994–1995

James Aldridge-Pierce Prize for Best Senior Thesis, Classics Department, Brown University, 1994

*Magna Cum Laude* (highest Latin honors awarded), Brown University, 1994

Phi Beta Kappa (Junior year), Brown University, 1993

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Academy of Religion (AAR)

American Historical Association (AHA)

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)

Byzantine Studies Association of North America (BASNA)

North American Patristics Society (NAPS)

Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR)

Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)

The World Union of Jewish Studies (WUJS)