

# **Dr. Rachel Z. Feldman**

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## **Professional Profile**

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**Assistant Professor of Religion at Dartmouth College (Fall 2023-present)**

**Assistant Professor of Religious Studies/Judaic Studies at Franklin and Marshall College**  
(Fall 2018-Spring 2023)

**Academic Focus:** Anthropology of Religion, Judaism, Israel/Palestine Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Post-Colonial Studies

**Languages:** English, Hebrew, Arabic (Palestinian Dialect), French

## **Education**

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**University of California, Davis**

PhD in Cultural Anthropology, 2012-2018

**New School for Social Research**

MA in Cultural Anthropology, 2010-2012

**Franklin and Marshall College**

Bachelor of the Arts (Judaic Studies Major), 2005-2009

## **Fellowships, Awards, Grants**

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- AJS Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award, 2023
- Luce-AAR Advancing Public Scholarship Grant, 2022
- National Science Foundation Research Fellowship, 2014-2017
- Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Research Grant, 2016-2017
- Academic Consortium of the Jewish Community Federation Grant, 2017
- UC Davis Provost Fellowship, 2012-2013
- Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, for Hebrew Studies at Middlebury College, Summer 2011
- Milton Sidney and Thelma Weinman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Judaic Studies, 2009
- Franklin and Marshall Judaic Studies Summer Research Travel Grant, 2008
- Franklin and Marshall Presidential Scholar, 2005-2009

## **Publications**

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### **Academic Books:**

1. Feldman, Rachel. *Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age: Jews, Noahides, and the Third Temple Imaginary* (Rutgers University Press, 2024).
2. Feldman, Rachel, and Ian McGonigle, eds. *Settler-Indigeneity in the West Bank* (McGill University Press, 2023).

### **Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:**

1. Feldman, Rachel. "Health and Healing in Contemporary Breslov Hasidism" (**in preparation; planning to submit to *Association for Jewish Studies Review*, 35 pages**).
2. Feldman, Rachel, and Ayala Fader. "Illiberal Jewish-Christian Encounters and Nostalgic Political Imaginations in Amish Country Tourism" (**under review with *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 31 pages**).
3. Feldman, Rachel. "I call it 'Rabbi YouTube: 'Rabbinic Authority in the Digital Age and Global South.'" *Association for Jewish Studies Review*. Vol 46.1 (2023): 1-24.
4. Feldman, Rachel. "Pious Mobilities: Jewish Pilgrimage to Uman During the Pandemic." *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal for Jewish Studies*. Vol 40.1 (2022): 107-132.
5. Feldman, Rachel. "Jewish Theocracy at the Biblical Barbeque: The Role of Third Temple Activism and Sacrificial Reenactments in Shaping Self and State." *Journal of Contemporary Jewry*. Vol. 40 (2020): 431-452.
6. Feldman, Rachel. "The Children of Noah: Has Messianic Zionism Created a New Judaic Faith?" *Nova Religio*. Vol. 22.1 (2018): 115-128.
7. Feldman, Rachel. "Temple Mount Pilgrimage in the Name of Human Rights: The Use of Piety Practice and Liberal Discourse to Carry out Proxy-State Conquest." *Journal of Settler Colonial Studies*. Vol. 8.4 (2018): 431-452.
8. Feldman, Rachel. "Putting Messianic Femininity into Zionist Political Action: The Case of Women for the Temple." *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. Vol. 13.3 (2017): 395-415.

### **Chapters in Edited Volumes (Peer-reviewed):**

1. Feldman, Rachel, and Ian McGonigle. "Introduction." In *Settler-Indigeneity in the West Bank*. Edited by Rachel Feldman and Ian McGonigle, 3-44. (McGill University Press, 2023).
2. Feldman, Rachel. "'Women from the Tribe of Judah:’ Gendering Settler-Indigeneity in an International West Bank Seminary." In *Settler-Indigeneity in the West Bank*. Edited by Rachel Feldman and Ian McGonigle, 45-67 (McGill University Press, 2023).
3. Feldman, Rachel. "Middle Eastern Jewish Women and Religion," *Routledge Handbook on Women in the Middle East*. Edited by Suad Joseph and Zeina Zaatari, 291-303 (Routledge, 2022).

### **Encyclopedia Entries:**

From 2022-2023, I authored four encyclopedia articles for *De Gruyter: Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception*. My contributions include entries for Aime Palliere, Noahides in Modern Judaism, Noahides as a Religious Movement, and The Third Temple Movement.

The encyclopedia can be accessed online: <https://www-degruyter-com.dartmouth.idm.oclc.org/serial/ebr-b/html?lang=en>

### **Book Reviews:**

1. Feldman, Rachel. Book Review for *The State of Desire: Religion and Reproductive Politics in the Promised Land* by Lea Taragin-Zeller. *Israel Studies Review*. NYU Press, 2023. **(Accepted and Forthcoming)**
2. Feldman, Rachel. Book Review for *Unsettled: American Jews and the Movement for Justice in Palestine* by Oren Kroll-Zeldin. *The Journal of Religion*. New York University Press, 2024.
3. Feldman, Rachel. "Hasidism, Race, and Social Change." Article contribution for the book forum discussion of *A Fortress in Brooklyn: Race, Real Estate, and the Making of Hasidic Williamsburg* by Nathaniel Deutsch and Michael Casper. *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 41 no. 1, 2023, p. 233-237.
4. Feldman, Rachel. Book review for *Becoming Jewish, Believing in Jesus* by Manoela Carpenedo. *Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations (SCJR)* 17, no. 1 (2022): 1-3.
5. Feldman, Rachel. Book Review of *When the State Winks: The Performance of Jewish Conversion in Israel* by Michal Kravel-Tovi. *American Ethnologist*, 47(3), 319–320.

## **Public Facing Editorials:**

Feldman, Rachel. "What are we praying for?: Reimagining the Third Temple in Jewish Thought and Politics." *Ayin Press*. December 15, 2023.

<https://ayinpress.org/what-are-we-praying-for-reimagining-the-third-temple-in-jewish-thought-and-politics/>

Feldman, Rachel. "Jerusalem Day and the End of Judaism." *Yashar Magazine*. May 15, 2023.

<https://www.yashar-magazine.co.il/post/%D7%99%D7%95%D7%9D-%D7%99%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%A9%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%9D-%D7%95%D7%A7%D7%A5-%D7%94%D7%99%D7%94%D7%93%D7%95%D7%AA>

## **Invited Lectures, Conference Papers and Roundtables**

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*Roundtable Discussion of my book Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age*. Association for Israel Studies Annual Conference. July 2024.

*The Third Temple Movement: Jewish Theocracy in Israel Today*. Invited Lecture for the Jewish Theopolitics Lecture Series at the University of Potsdam (Germany). May 2024.

*Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age*. Invited guest speaker for the Jewish Studies Program at University of Vermont. March 2024.

*Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age*. Invited Bettman Lecturer for the Jewish Studies Program at Oberlin College. February 2024.

*Soul Therapy: Alternative Medicine in Breslov Hasidut*. Paper Presentation for Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. December 2023.

Invited Speaker for *Settler-Indigeneity in the West Bank* Book Launch at the Azrieli Institute for Israel Studies at Concordia University. November 2023.

*Holy Cow: Religion, Race, and Milk in Lancaster County, PA*. Guest lecture at Fordham University. May 2023.

*Messianic Zionism in the Digital Age*. Invited public lecture at Saint Joseph's University. April 2023.

*The Children of Noah (Bnei Noah): From Jewish Legal Theory to a Global Religious Movement.* Invited panelist at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. April 2023.

*The Children of Noah (Bnei Noah): From Jewish Legal Theory to a Global Religious Movement.* Invited talk for the Department of Jewish Thought at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. March 2023.

*Holy Cow: Religion, Race, and Milk in Lancaster County, PA.* Invited guest lecture at the Young Center at Elizabethtown College. March 2023.

*Hasidism in the Global South.* Paper Presentation for Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. December 2022.

*From Puebla to Jerusalem (by way of Skype): Judaizing Trends in Mexico Today.* Centro de Estudios Antropológicos, UNAM (Mexico). October 2022.

*'Born again, again: Jewish Digital Missionaries and the Global Noahide Movement.* Invited talk for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Ben Gurion University of the Negev. March 2022.

*The Children of Noah: Christian Zionism and Messianic Judaism in the Philippines.* Invited Panelist for the “Virtual Workshop on Christian Zionism in the Global South” sponsored by the State University of Campinas in Brazil. October 2021.

*The Messianic Underpinnings of the Liberal-Settler State: Thinking Israel/Palestine and the US Together.* Invited Paper Presentation for the virtual “Messianic Leadership Conference” at Oslo University. June 2021.

*Hasidism and Jewish Messianism in the Global South.* Invited Talk for the Jewish Studies Program at Dartmouth College. December 2020.

*Renew, Re-voice, Re-imagine: Ethnographies of Religion and Technology.* Paper Presentation for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November 2020.

*Roundtable Participant: Jews/Judaism: Undisciplined Locations.* Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. December 2019.

*Author Meets Critics Panel: Jasbir Puar's The Right to Maim.* Paper Presentation for American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. November 2019.

*Christian Philo-Semitism and Christian Zionism in the Global South and Europe.* Paper Presentation for the International Society for the Sociology of Religion Annual Conference. July 2019.

*Rabbinic Authority in the Global South.* Paper Presentation at “The Changing Face of Religious Authority: Knowledge, Legitimacy and Power Conference” at The University of Cambridge. Invited Paper Presentation. June 2019.

*The Globalization of the Third Temple Movement and the Emergence of “Bnei Noah” (Children of Noah) Communities.* Paper Presentation at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. December 2018.

*Gender and Third Temple Activism in Contemporary Israel.* Paper Presentation and Panel Organizer for “Textured Bodies: Scripture, Practice, and Power in the Contemporary Middle East.” American Anthropological Association Conference. Minneapolis. November 2016.

*The Third Temple Movement: From Margins to Mainstream.* Invited Guest Lecturer for Jewish communities in Basel and Zurich, Switzerland. September 2016.

*Women’s Pilgrimage to the Temple Mount: Feminism and New Messianic Architectures in Jerusalem.* Paper Presentation at the “Spirits of the City” Conference, Anthropology Department, UCSB. May 2015.

*Third Temple Women and the Feminine Messianique.* Invited guest lecturer at SOAS, Israel Studies Group. University of London. March 2015.

*Guardians of the Jewish Home and the House of God: Third Temple Women and Messianic Feminism.* Invited lecturer for the Jewish Studies colloquium. UC Davis. November 2014.

*Towards Understanding Current Events in the Middle East: Notes from ethnographic research and activism.* Invited Panelist. UC Davis. October 2014.

*Jewish “Traitors” and The Remaking of American Jewish Identity Through Palestine Activism.* Paper Presentation for American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting November 2013.

*Building the “Third Temple” In Jerusalem: An Investigation into the Construction of Messianic Time.* UC Davis Anthropology Graduate Conference. 2012.

*Speculative Design and Israel/Palestine.* Paper Presentation for American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. November 2011.

## Podcasts and Digital Humanities Projects

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*The Children of Noah: Birth of a Religion* (In Production)

Pre-production funded by The Guardian (UK)

Rachel Feldman and Lia Tarachansky (co-directors)

(This is a documentary film that we have been working on together since 2019 and are currently working on transforming it into a digital humanities project that will be available online).

*Raw Milk: Amish and Hasidic Chalav Yisrael Collaborations in Lancaster County.*

This is a podcast that I created based on my fieldwork in Lancaster County for *Religion, the Secular, and Machines In Between*, a podcast series curated by Dr. John Modern. Fall 2022.

Available online:

<https://www.machinesinbetween.com/episodes/push-button-people>

*The Jewish Diaspora Podcast “What is Zionism, Anyway?”* Invited Panelist. Published online Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 2020. <https://diasporapodcast.simplecast.com/episodes/what-is-zionism-anyway-dLwImyPZ>

## Media Quotes/ Public Coverage of my Scholarship

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“How ‘decolonization’ became the latest flashpoint in the discourse over Israel”

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, December 3, 2023.

<https://www.jta.org/2023/12/03/ideas/how-decolonization-became-the-latest-flashpoint-in-the-discourse-over-israel>

“The New Jews of Show Low, Arizona: How a pastor parted with Jesus and led his congregation to Judaism.”

Jewish Telegraphic Agency, September 27, 2023.

<https://www.jta.org/2023/09/27/united-states/the-new-jews-of-show-low-arizona-how-a-pastor-parted-with-jesus-and-led-his-congregation-to-judaism>

“Upcoming lecture to explore how Amish, Orthodox Jews connect over values, dairy and more”

Lancaster Online, Feb 26 2023

[https://lancasteronline.com/features/faith\\_values/upcoming-lecture-to-explore-how-amish-orthodox-jews-connect-over-values-dairy-and-more/article\\_23543a94-b3bc-11ed-8f51-0be76826daa6.html?utm\\_source=LNP&utm\\_medium=Facebook&utm\\_campaign=O&utm\\_content=Article&tpcc=facebook\\_main&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3UWHiZhZORu4P8V85dbYpLuaW58cua8s1gS25Wp6siM-Jv-3Onnq0u4-k\\_aem\\_ATzWcl40Rx21zzzRb\\_JuyE4K1lhEukQwlnrdNfeG\\_CpicfzC2eCL0VcafimRGYkQs9WAdM4tjXCzevTDykOxk7UBp](https://lancasteronline.com/features/faith_values/upcoming-lecture-to-explore-how-amish-orthodox-jews-connect-over-values-dairy-and-more/article_23543a94-b3bc-11ed-8f51-0be76826daa6.html?utm_source=LNP&utm_medium=Facebook&utm_campaign=O&utm_content=Article&tpcc=facebook_main&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR3UWHiZhZORu4P8V85dbYpLuaW58cua8s1gS25Wp6siM-Jv-3Onnq0u4-k_aem_ATzWcl40Rx21zzzRb_JuyE4K1lhEukQwlnrdNfeG_CpicfzC2eCL0VcafimRGYkQs9WAdM4tjXCzevTDykOxk7UBp)

“The Messianic Zionist Religion Whose Believers Worship Judaism (But can’t practice it)”  
Haaretz, September 12, 2018.

<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/2018-09-12/ty-article-opinion/.premium/the-messianic-zionist-religionthat-wants-to-recruit-7-billion-members/0000017f-e1b5-d38f-a57f-e7f797080000>

## **Teaching Experience**

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**Dartmouth College**, 2023-present.

Introduction to Judaism, Race and Religion, Ethnography and Religion, Gender and Judaism.

**Franklin and Marshall College**, 2018-2023.

Gender and Religion, Introduction to Religious Studies, Introduction to Judaism, Israel/Palestine: Beyond the Binary, Race and Religion

**UC Davis**, 2016- 2018.

Gender, Sexualities, and Feminist Theory, Anthropology of the Middle East

## **Independent Work Supervised at Dartmouth**

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Pending: Summer Research Advisor for prospective religion major Heyi Zhang who has applied for the Thomas D Sayles Research Grant.

Pending: Religion major Ruby Benjamin applied for funding to work with me on research during summer 2024.

## **Professional Service**

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Manuscript Review:

American Ethnologist, Women’s Studies International Forum, Nashim: A Journal of Women’s Studies and Gender Issues, Critical Research on Religion, Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies, Graduate Women in Science National Fellowship Program, The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Israel Studies Review, The Journal of Religion, Studies in Jewish-Christian Relations

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Work:

- External committee member for Kira Rib (University of South Florida, Department of Anthropology)

## **Institutional Service at Dartmouth College**

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*Forthcoming*

## **Institutional Service at Franklin and Marshall College**

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- 2018-2023: Judaic Studies Committee, Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Committee, The Middle East and Islamic Studies Faculty Caucus
- 2018-2021: Strategic Planning Committee, Committee for the Quality of Campus Life, Day of Dialogue Committee

## **Professional Memberships**

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American Academy of Religion, Association for Jewish Studies, Seminar on Jewish Orthodoxies, Association for Israel Studies