

SHAINA TRAPEDO

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

University of California, Irvine, Ph.D., English, September 2013

University of California, Irvine, M.A., English, December 2007

Barnard College, Columbia University, B.A., English and Economics, *summa cum laude*, May 2004

EMPLOYMENT

2023 - Present	Assistant Professor, Stern College, Yeshiva University
2022 - 2023	Lecturer, Stern College, Yeshiva University
2020 - Present	Resident Scholar and Recruitment Officer, YU's Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought
2019 - 2022	Adjunct Faculty, Stern College, Yeshiva University
2017 - 2018	Adjunct Faculty, Touro College
2015 - 2022	Full-time Faculty, Manhattan High School for Girls
2014 - 2015	Full-time Faculty, Seneca @ York, Toronto
2013 - 2014	Part-time Faculty, Seneca @ York, Toronto
2013 - 2015	Adjunct Faculty, Trident University International
2007 - 2013	Teaching Associate, University of California, Irvine
2008 - 2011	Adjunct Faculty, Irvine Valley College

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Renaissance and Early Modern literature and culture; Religious Studies and Biblical Hermeneutics; Jewish Studies, Theater History and Theory

TEACHING

Yeshiva University, NY, NY

Essentials of Writing (eight sections)

Composition and Rhetoric (nine sections)

Freshman Honors Writing (four sections)

Classic Texts / Contemporary Revisions (Honors)

The Jew in the Western Literary Imagination (Honors, four sections)

The Values of Verse: Sacred and Secular Poetry (Honors, two sections)

Epics and Ethics of the Middle Ages (Honors)

Shakespeare and the Bible (Honors, two sections)

The Hebrew Bible on the World Stage (Jewish Studies, Honors, Straus)

The Wisdom of Solomon: Love, Learning, Leadership (Jewish Studies, Honors, Straus)

Tehillim and the Human Condition (Jewish Studies, Honors, Straus)Words, Words, Words: *Hamlet*, Hashkafa and the Hebrew Bible (YU Global; Shalem)

Honors Thesis Mentor

2021: Sarit Perl (Second Reader)

2022: Abigail Pinchot (Mentor)

2023: Elisheva Hirsch (Mentor), Ilana Ahdout (Second Reader)

2024: Rachel Benoff (Mentor); Jennifer Peled (Second Reader)

2025: Nava Sturm (Mentor)

2026: Rebecca Guzman (Mentor), Talia Feldman (Mentor)

Touro College, NY, NY
 Medieval Literature
 Renaissance Literature

Manhattan High School for Girls, NY, NY
 AP English Literature and Composition
 12th Grade Rhetoric and Composition
 12th Grade Public Speaking
 The Art of Persuasion (senior seminar)
 9th and 10th Grade English and Language Arts

Seneca @ York, Toronto, ON
 Developmental Writing
 College English
 Business and Technical Writing
 Introduction to World Drama
 Shakespeare and Film

Trident University International, Cypress, CA
 ENG 101: English Composition I
 ENG 102: English Composition II

University of California, Irvine, CA
 Critical Reading and Rhetoric
 Tragic and Comic Visions
 Poetic Imaginations
 Summer Bridge Program: Writing Workshop
 Shakespeare: From Comedy to Romance (Teaching Assistant for Professor Julia Lupton)
 World Religions (Teaching Assistant for Professor Jack Miles)
 Humanities Core Course (Teaching Associate)

Irvine Valley College, CA
 Writing 1: College Writing

CURRENT PROJECT

My manuscript in progress, *From Scripture to Script: The Hebrew Bible on the Early English Stage*, examines how England's cultural obsession with wisdom-seeking and biblical study as a mode of moral instruction plays out in the drama of the period, when edification and entertainment were expected of both stage and pulpit. Recognizing that the patrons of London's public theaters also occupied parish pews, I show how playwrights adopt and adapt scriptural narratives, tropes, and paradigms from received Hebraic texts, and how English audiences attended to those allusions. I contend that the widespread investment in legitimized reading strategies and desire for authorized elucidation finds creative and complex expression in early modern dramas beholden to protagonists and passages from the Hebrew Bible. Due to the concise and compact nature of scripture, when writers craft plays based on the biblical narratives, they make interpretive decisions about how to develop the plot, protagonists, and dialogue in relation to their source material. By drawing the works of Renaissance playwrights like Peele, Shakespeare, and Fletcher into dialogue with religious discourse of the period, I explore drama as a mode of exegesis and exegesis as a dramatic activity, and argue that such works offer a deeper understanding of Western literature's indebtedness toward Judaic scripture and its exegetical traditions.

PUBLICATIONS

The Soul's Refuge: Meditations on the Psalms, ed. Shaina Trapedo (Koren, forthcoming 2026)

“Psalms” in *The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Religion*, ed. Will Stockton (Routledge, forthcoming 2025)

“Psalms and the American Founding” in *Jewish Roots of American Liberty: The Impact of Hebraic Ideas on the American Story*, eds. Wilfred M. McClay and Stuart Halpern (Encounter Books, 2025)

“Odes to Joy in Sonnets and Psalms,” in *An Ode to Joy: Judaism and Happiness in the Thought of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and Beyond*, eds. Erica Brown and Shira Weiss (Palgrave, 2023)

“The Sin of Singularity and the Divine Origins of Human Rights Advocacy,” in *University of Pittsburgh Law Review*, Vol. 83 (2022)

“The Esther Aesthetic and Jewish Beauty Queens in Early Twentieth-Century America,” in *Esther in America: The Scroll’s Interpretation in and Impact of the United States*, ed. Stuart Halpern (Koren, 2020)

“Shylock in the Lion’s Den: Enacting Exegesis in The Merchant of Venice” in *The Bible on the Shakespearean Stage: Cultures of Interpretation in Reformation England*, eds. Thomas Fulton and Kristen Poole (Cambridge UP, 2018).

“Disney Corporation,” co-authored with Lynda Haas in *The Routledge Companion to Media and Fairy-Tale Cultures*, eds. Pauline Greenhill, Jill Terry Rudy, and Naomi Hamer (Routledge, 2018).

Review of “Israel Served the Lord”: The Book of Joshua as Paradoxical Portrait of Faithful Israel” by Rachel M. Billings in *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* (Volume 45, 2014).

"Delaval, Elizabeth" in *The Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature*, eds. Alan Stewart, Rebecca Lemon, and Garrett Sullivan (Blackwell, 2012).

"Middleton, Elizabeth" in *The Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature*, eds. Alan Stewart, Rebecca Lemon, and Garrett Sullivan (Blackwell, 2012).

For a General Audience (selections)

[“From the Bottom of the Barrel to the Top of the Mountain,”](#) *Jewish Journal* (May 21, 2025).

[“Pondering the Power of Psalms with Dr. Shaina Trapedo,”](#) *YU Ideas Podcast*, Guest (May 11, 2023).

“What We Ought to Say at the Seder,” *YU Torah To-Go*, Pesach/Yom Haatzmaut (April 2023).

[Twice Blest: Exploring Shakespeare and the Hebrew Bible](#), Podcast Host, Eight Episodes (August 2021 – February 2022).

“Debt, Gratitude, and Jewish Values from Shakespeare's Stage to the Oval Office,” *YU Torah To-Go*, Chanukah (November 2021).

Take One: Talmud to Go, Podcast Guest ([Megillah 7 and 8](#), [Nedarim 28](#), [Yevamot 85](#), [Gitten 80 and 81](#), [Bava Batra 108 and 109](#)).

[“Wherefore Art Thou, Moses?”](#) *The Lehrhaus* (April 13, 2020).

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

“Why Wittenberg? *Hamlet* and Higher Education” and “*Hamlet* and the Hebrew Bible,” Marom Teachers Summit, Tikvah, Princeton, NJ, July 27 – 29, 2025.

“Shakespeare’s Globe Tour” and “The Hebrew Bible on the World Stage” lecture, London School of Jewish Studies, June 23, 2025.

“Stratford-Upon-Avon Day Tour,” London School of Jewish Studies, June 22, 2025.

“Shakespeare’s Jerusalem,” London School of Jewish Studies, June 19, 2025.

“Setting the Stage for Sinai,” Covenant and Continuity Series: Parshat Bamidbar, London School of Jewish Studies, May 28, 2025.

“As Iron Sharpens Iron: Shakespeare, Jonson, and the Talmud,” Nachleben and Freundschaft / Afterlives and Friendship Symposium, UC Irvine, May 23, 2025.

Richard H. Weisberg’s *Law, Literature, and History: A Fateful Rendezvous with the Shoah* Book Launch, Panelist, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, April 29, 2025.

“The Bard and the Hebrew Bible,” Women’s Initiative for Jewish Studies (WIJS), Young Israel of New Rochelle, March 6, 2024.

“Shakespeare and Talmudic Thought,” Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, as part of “Biblical and Classical Crosscurrents in Shakespeare,” chaired by Kim Coles, Baltimore, Maryland, October 26, 2023.

[“Put Not Your Trust in Princes: Psalms and the American Spirit,”](#) at Pepperdine’s Constitution Day Conference, September 13, 2023.

“Shakespeare and Talmudic Thought,” Three-Part Lecture Series, London School of Jewish Studies, June - July, 2023.

“Psalms and the American Founding,” Restoring the American Story: A Conference for High School Educators, Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought, Yeshiva University, March 19, 2023.

“Holding Court: Shakespeare’s Esther and the Tudors,” Riverdale Jewish Center, February 21, 2023.

“Shakespeare and the Bible,” Three-Part Lecture Series, Lincoln Square Synagogue, February 8, 15, and 22, 2023.

“Shakespeare and the Talmud,” London School of Jewish Studies, June 27, 2022.

“Feud, Food, and Fraternity,” Covenant and Continuity Series: Parshat Behaalotecha, London School of Jewish Studies, June 16, 2022.

[“Shakespeare’s Penitential Psalms,”](#) New Swan Shakespeare Center and UC Irvine, May 11, 2022.

“Putting Solomonic Wisdom on Trial in *Richard II*,” Shakespeare Association of America, as part of “Shakespeare and Wisdom Literature,” co-chaired by Sean Keilen, UCSD, and Julia Lupton, UC Irvine, Jacksonville, Florida, April 7, 2022.

“A Spotlight Unto the Nations: The Hebrew Bible on the World Stage,” Kingsway Jewish Center, 10th Annual Yom Iyun, December 26, 2021.

[“The Divine Origins of Human Rights Advocacy,”](#) The University of Pittsburgh School of Law’s conference on “Sovereignty, Humanity, and Law” co-sponsored by the Center for International Legal Education and The Law and Humanities Institute, April 9, 2021.

“Esther Ever After: A Life and Legacy in Full Color,” Sara Lamm Dratch Memorial Lecture, Jewish Center of Teaneck, February 14, 2021.

“Miriam, Aharon, Moshe and the Bonds of Birth Order,” FFH Events, New York, April 2019.

“Rhetoric and the Art of Honoring Your Parents,” FFH Events, New York, April 2019.

“Arden Everywhere: Romance, Reform, and Refugees in *As You Like It*,” Global Shakespeare Symposium, University of California, Irvine, January 19, 2018.

“David as Subject and Sovereign in George Peele’s *The Love of David and Fair Bethsabe*,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, as part of the panel “Early Modern Christian Readings of the Hebrew Bible” with chair Noam Flinker, University of Haifa, Chicago, March 31, 2017.

“Gossip Hurl: Language as the Substance of Renown in Shakespeare’s *Henry VIII*,” Shakespearean Theatre Conference: Language in Text and Performance, University of Waterloo-Stratford, June 18, 2015.

“Teaching with Technology: Best Practices,” Developmental Writing Instructor’s Symposium, McGraw Hill, Hamilton, Toronto, March 2014.

“Shylock in the Lion’s Den: Performative Exegesis in *Merchant of Venice*,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, as part of the panel “Reading Shakespeare and the Bible II: The Merchant of Venice” with chair James Simpson, organizer Thomas Fulton, and panelists Hannibal Hamlin and James Kearney, San Diego, April 5, 2013.

“From Scripture to Script: Toward an Introduction,” Graduate Student Dissertation Colloquium, University of California, Irvine, April 2013.

“Performative Exegesis in *Merchant of Venice*,” Inaugural Religion & Literature Conference, University of California, Irvine, May 11, 2012.

“Celebrity, Notoriety and Public Opinion in Shakespeare’s *Henry VIII*,” Group for the Study of Early Cultures Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Irvine, April 2012.

“The Esther Chronicles: Shakespeare’s Biblical Heroines in *Henry VIII*,” Graduate Student Dissertation Colloquium, University of California, Irvine, February 2012.

“Debt and Gratuity in *The Merchant of Venice*,” “Merchant of Venice: An Open Invitation?” conference sponsored by UC Irvine’s Program in Jewish Studies, University of California, Irvine, February 2011.

“Knights and Orphans in Spenser’s Biopolitical Epic,” MLA Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011.

“Fictional and Figurative Orphans in Spenser’s *The Faerie Queene*,” UC Irvine Group for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, November 2008, and the Northern California Renaissance Conference, UC Berkeley, September 2008.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2025 - 2026

Director of the Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein Honors Program at Yeshiva College and the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College; Honors English Faculty advisor; Stern Camp Shabbaton Faculty Participant; Yeshiva College and the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies Search Committee; Honors admissions interviewer; Honors Student Thesis Mentor; Visiting Students Guest Lectures; English Department Social Media Coordinator.

2024 - 2025

Fall Orientation Panelist (“Answering the Call of History”); English Faculty advisor; Honors admissions interviewer; Honors Student Thesis Mentor; Mirsky Award Committee; Straus Scholars Program Recruitment Officer; High School Visits and Honors Day Guest Lectures; Contributor to Assessment Reports for Gen. Ed and English Dept; Shabbos Parshat VaYikra Stern Drama-ton Faculty Guest (April 4-5); English Department Social Media Coordinator; Straus Scholars Program Open House Representation (YC and Stern); GPATS Lunch and Learn Lecturer; YU Faculty Cultural Sensitivity Info Session Panelist; Seforim Sale Book Launch Panelist; English Department Adjunct Mentoring.

2023 - 2024

Stern Fall Orientation Shabbat Faculty Guest; English Faculty advisor; Honors admissions interviewer; DC Rally Faculty Chaperone; Honors Student Thesis Mentor; Straus Scholars Program Recruitment Officer; High School Visits and Honors Day Guest Lectures; Stern Open House English Department representative; Contributor to Assessment Reports for Gen. Ed and English Dept; [The Maccabee Review](#) Faculty Advisor; Middle States Working Group (Standard IV, Support of the Student Experience); Commencement Faculty Attendee; English Department Adjunct Mentoring.

2022 - 2023

Honors admissions interviewer; Stern Camp Shabbaton Faculty Guest; YC / Stern English Department Writing Lecturer Hiring Committee; Honors Student Thesis Mentor; Straus Scholars Program Recruitment Officer; Contributor to Assessment Reports for Gen. Ed and English Dept; Shabbos Parshat Shekalim Stern Drama-ton Faculty Guest; Summer Student Research Assistant Mentor; Middle States Working Group (Standard IV, Support of the Student Experience); Commencement Faculty Attendee; English Department Adjunct Mentoring.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Lillian F. and William L. Silber Professor of the Year, 2024

Dean Karen Bacon Faculty Award, 2023

Educator of Distinction Award, Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, 2017

School of Humanities Graduate Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, Winter 2012 – Spring 2013

Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, Fall 2012

UC Irvine Humanities Collective grant in support of the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference for the Group for the Study of Early Cultures, chair, "Commons: Shared Resources and Collective Activity in Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies," April 2012

International Travel Research Grant for "The Literary Structures of Ancient Jewish Literature" AHRC Workshop at the University of Manchester, July 2011

Summer Language Study grant supported by the International Center for Writing and Translation (ICWT) and the Humanities Office of Graduate Study, Summer 2011

Barnard Alumnae Association Fellowship for Graduate Study for research at The Huntington Library, Summer 2010

UC Irvine Humanities Graduate Student Research and Travel Grant, Fall 2009

Regent's Fellowship from the School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine, 2006-2007

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Vice President, [Law and Humanities Institute](#), May 2022 - present.

Faculty Development Program (consisting of three semester-long courses: Foundations of Teaching and Learning, Teaching Enhanced Learning, and Inclusive Teaching and Scholarly Practice), Seneca College, September 2014 – July 2015.

Co-organizer and facilitator, New Faculty Orientation, Seneca College, August 2014.

English Department Hiring Committee, Seneca College, 2014 - 2015.

Review for Cengage Learning of MindTap Anthology (an online reader for thematic, genre, disciplinary, or modal approaches to composition), February 2015.

Chair, Early Modern Cultures Graduate Student Conference on “Commons: Shared Resources and Collective Activity in Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Studies,” April 20-21, 2012.

English Department Graduate Representative, CLCWEGSA (Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, and English Graduate Student Association), 2010 – 2012.

Textbook review for Bedford/St. Martin’s of Kathryn Evans’ Problems and Possibilities: Reading and Writing Genres in Context, January 2011.

Graduate Representative, UC Irvine Endowed Chair of Rhetoric and Communication Search Committee, 2011

Pedagogical Training Workshop (E28), co-organizer and facilitator, August 2009.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Shakespeare Association of America

The Renaissance Society of America

Modern Language Association

NCTE (National Council of Teachers of English)