

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**June, 2016**  
Santa Clara University  
Department of Religious Studies  
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**Akiba J. Lerner**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Religious Studies and Theology  
Santa Clara University

**EDUCATION:**  
**Institutions of Higher Education**

Stanford University  
Ph. D., Department of Religious Studies, degree conferred September 2007  
Field: Jewish Studies. Specialization: Modern Jewish Thought  
MA in Religious Studies, degree conferred June 1999

Hebrew University, Jerusalem  
Interuniversity Fellowship Program in Jewish Studies, 1999 - 2000  
Hebrew Language Program, Summer 1992

University of California, Berkeley  
BA History, degree conferred May 1994  
Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in the Major

**Titles of Thesis and Dissertations**

*Rorty, Buber, and the Revival of Social Hope*  
Ph.D. Dissertation, Stanford University, September 2007  
Dissertation Director: Arnold Eisen

*Resistance to Roman Imperialism in First Century Judea*  
Senior Honors Thesis, University of California, Berkeley, June 1994  
Thesis Director: Eric Gruen

## **SCHOLARSHIP:**

### **Publications**

Book: *Redemptive Hope: From the Age of Enlightenment to the Age of Obama*, Fordham University Press, September, 2015 [part of a series entitled *Commonalities*]

Book Chapter: “Otherness And The Future Of Democratic Solidarity: Buber, Kaplan, Levinas And Rorty’s Social Hope” in *Thinking Jewish Culture In America*, editor Ken Koltun-Fromm (Lexington Books, 2014)

Journal Article: “The Dialectical Self: Between Liberal Autonomy and Religious Identity”

[Solicited article for *The Journal of Textual Reasoning*, March 2012]

<http://etext.virginia.edu/journals/tr/volume7/number1/index.html>

Journal Article: “The Ethics of Individualism,” *Stanford Humanities Review* 8,1 (2000)

[Note: All Scholarship listed is peer reviewed unless otherwise indicated]

### **Works In Progress**

Future Book Project: *Godless Jews: Atheism and the Possibility of Judaism Without God*.

[This monograph will explore the efforts of Jewish intellectuals to generate an alternative mode of religiosity that attempts to break from standard binary distinctions between religion and secularism. My goal is to investigate how the writings of Jewish thinkers and theologians such as Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, Martin Buber, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Emmanuel Levinas, Leo Strauss, and Eric Fromm, can help us to re-think the very terms of debate over religious and secular discourses in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.]

Book Chapter: “Rorty, My Atheist Rabbi: Between Irony and Social Hope”

[This chapter will appear within an edited volume entitled *Rorty and the Prophetic: Jewish Engagements with a Secular Philosopher*. The editors are

Jacob Goodson and Brad Elliott Stone. This book is under contract with Lexington Books, publication date Fall, 2016.]  
Book Chapter: “Teaching Hope and Prophetic Politics Comparatively: Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King,” Publication date is Fall, 2016.

[This book chapter will appear in an edited volume entitled *Teaching Comparison: Pedagogical Perspectives as Comparative Theory in Religious Studies*. This book is to be part of *Teaching Religious Studies* Series, contracted with AAR/OUP Press. Book Editor: Jennifer R. Rapp, Deep Springs College.]

Book Chapter: “Theologies of Hope,” solicited for a book entitled *Faces of Hope*, edited by Rochelle Green and Allison Merrick, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

[This chapter will provide an overview of theological approaches to hope. In this chapter I propose that the history of theological discussions on hope evolved from authoritarian conceptions of the Divine towards new modern discourses on hope that correlate God with the force of freedom.]

### **Non-Scholarly Publications:**

“Interview with Beastie Boy Adam Yauch,” *Tikkun Magazine* (November/December, 1996)

“Feeling Betrayed by the Tribe: Reflections on the Assassination of Rabin,” *Tikkun Magazine* (January/February, 1996)

“Political Inheritance of the Twenty-Something Generation,” *Tikkun Magazine* (March/April, 1994)

### **TEACHING:**

#### **Teaching Experience and Courses**

Santa Clara University, Religious Studies Department, Assistant Professor, Fall 2009 – Spring 2015

Courses offered from Fall 2009 - Spring 2015

- *Ways of Understanding Religion* RSOC.9
- *Judaism and Film* RSOC.67
- *Hope and Prophetic Politics* TESP.88
- *Jewish Philosophy: Between Athens and Jerusalem* RSOC.174
- *Research Practicum* RSOC.180

## **Presentations, Academic Papers, and Talks**

*The Eros of Inter-subjective Encounter and Inter-Religious Dialogue* (May 13, 2013)

[Paper presented at Stanford University as part of a panel entitled “Vatican II (1962-5) and Other Religions: a Milestone?” The other panel respondents were Catherine Cornille (Professor of Comparative Theology and chair of the Department of Theology at Boston College), Scotty McLennan (Dean of Religious Life, Stanford), Paul Crowley (Professor of Religious Studies, Santa Clara University), and Maboob Khan, (Bay Area Sufi Community).]

*Democratic Citizenship, Religious Identity, and Martin Buber’s Political Theology* (March, 2012)

[Paper presented at the AAR/WR Association for American Religion, Western Region, as part of a panel entitled *Engaged Buberism*]

*“Otherness” and Social Hope: Rorty, Buber and Levinas on Democracy and Redemption* (December, 2011)

[Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington D.C., as part of a panel entitled: *Levinas and Social Justice*.]

*Re-Thinking Buber and Otherness for Contemporary Jewish Culture* (May 2, 2011)

[Paper delivered at a symposium on Modern Jewish Thought held at Haverford College.]

*Otherness And The Future Of Democratic Solidarity: Buber, Levinas And Rorty’s Social Hope* (March, 2011)

[Paper presented at the annual conference of the Association for American Religion, Western Region, as part of a panel I organized entitled *Alterity and Redemption In Modern Jewish Thought*.]

*The Political Philosophy of Prophetic Politics: Heschel, Strauss, and Religious Identity in Liberal Society* (December, 2009)

[Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies as part of a panel I organized entitled *Vision, Covenant, Self: The Varieties of Heschel's Religious Experience.*]

*Jewish Studies at Santa Cruz: On the Cutting Edge of Tradition* (April, 2009)

[Panel held at the University of California, Santa Cruz, discussing the role of Jewish Studies at a public university.]

*Prophetic Politics and the Phenomenology of Hope: Martin Buber, Leo Strauss, and the Theologico-Political Problem* (December, 2008)

[Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington D.C., as part of a panel I organized entitled: *Political Theology in Recent Jewish Thought.*]

## **SERVICE:**

### **Service to University and Department**

Arab Islamic Middle Eastern Studies Minor (AIMES), Fall 2009 - Present

Campus Advisor for Jewish Student Union, starting Fall 2014- Present

Majors/Minors Committee, Fall 2011- Present

Teaching Committee, 2010 - 2011

Adviser to undeclared undergraduates and majors, Winter 2010 - Present

Departmental Representative to University Faculty Senate, Winter 2014

“Taube Jewish Higher Education Network” proposal, 2012 - 2013

### **Service to Profession**

Jewish Studies Bay Area Academic Consortium Steering Committee Member, 2014 - Current

Served as anonymous peer reviewer of a book manuscript for Rowman and Littlefield Publishing, 2012

Professional Memberships:

- American Academy of Religion
- Association for Jewish Studies
- The Society of Jewish Ethics

Relevant Non-Academic Professional Experience

- *Tikkun Magazine*, Contributing Editor, 2012 - Current
- *Tikkun Magazine*, Academic Editor, 2008 – 2011

Contact Information for recommenders available upon request.