

ANDREW D. BERNS

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of South Carolina Associate Professor of History	2019-
University of South Carolina Assistant Professor of History	2013-2019
University of California, Los Angeles Viterbi Visiting Professor in Mediterranean Jewish Studies	2011-2012

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania , Ph.D. April 2011 Dissertation: <i>The Natural Philosophy of the Biblical World: Jewish and Christian Physicians in Late Renaissance Italy</i> Advisors: David Ruderman and Ann Moyer Outside Readers: Nancy Siraisi (Emerita, City University of New York) and Joanna Weinberg (Oxford)	2004 - 2011
Cambridge University , M.Phil., Historical Studies Dissertation: <i>History and Humanism in the World of a Renaissance Rabbi: The Life and Thought of Don Isaac Abravanel</i> . Awarded First Class Honors. Supervisor: David Abulafia	2004
Reed College , B.A., History Elected to Phi Beta Kappa	1998 - 2002

PRIZES

2016 Helen and Howard R. Marraro Prize, American Catholic Historical Association/ American Historical Association	2016
2012 Prize for Best Unpublished Dissertation-Length Manuscript on the History of Italy, Society for Italian Historical Studies	2013

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Two Thumbs Up Award, Student Disability Resource Center, University of South Carolina	2018-2019
Faculty Research Grant, Walker Institute, University of South Carolina	2015-2016
Rose and Henry Zifkin Teaching Fellowship, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania	2014-2015
Humanities Grant, Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina	2014-2016
Adjunct Fellowship, Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania	2013-2014
Melville J. Kahn Fellowship, Villa I Tatti: The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy	2012-2013
Doris Quinn Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2010 - 2011
Visiting Fellowship, European Seminar on Advanced Jewish Studies,	April - June 2010

Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University	
Finalist, Research Fellowship, Peterhouse, Cambridge University	January 2010
Critical Writing Teaching Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2009 - 2010
Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Foundation for Jewish Culture	July 2009
Walter Annenberg Summer Research Award, University of Pennsylvania	May 2009
Dissertation Research Fellowship, Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science	May 2009
Salvatori Award for research in Italian History, University of Pennsylvania	April 2009
Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation Grant	March 2009
Renaissance Society of America Travel Grant	February 2009
Brenner Award for research in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania	December 2008
Salvatori Award for research in Italian History, University of Pennsylvania	September 2008
Goldfein Award for research in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania	April 2007
SAS Summer Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania	April 2007
Finalist, Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Pennsylvania	April 2006
Brenner Award for research in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania	Summer 2005
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	Spring 2004
Faculty Commendation for Academic Achievement, Reed College	2001 - 2002

PUBLICATIONS: BOOK

The Bible and Natural Philosophy in Renaissance Italy: Jewish and Christian Physicians in Search of Truth (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

PUBLICATIONS: ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Importance of Agriculture in Medieval Jewish Life: the Case of Crete.” *Jewish History* (2019), *forthcoming*.
- “Can we Speak of a Geographical Axis in Medieval Jewish Culture?” In Jessica Maya Marglin and Matthias Lehmann, eds., *Jews and the Mediterranean* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2019) *forthcoming*.
- “Medieval Spanish Jews and the Dangers of Wealth,” in Paul M. Robertson and Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, eds., *All Religion is Inter-Religion: Essays in Honor of Steven M. Wasserstrom* (London: Bloomsbury, 2019): 159-70.
- “The Status of Chess in Early Modern Judaism: a Case from Eighteenth-century Italy,” in Carlo Ginzburg and Lucio Biasiori, eds., *A Historical Approach to Casuistry: Norms and Exceptions in a Comparative Perspective* (London: Bloomsbury, October 2018): 101-112.
- “Ovadia Sforza's Last Will and Testament,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 68:1 (Spring 2017): 1-33.
- “Ulisse Aldrovandi and the Role of Hebrew in Natural Philosophy in Early Modern Italy,” in Scott Mandelbrote and Joanna Weinberg, eds., *Jewish Books and Their Readers: Aspects of the Intellectual Life of Christians and Jews in Early Modern Europe* (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2016): 191-210.
- “The Place of Paradise in Renaissance Jewish Thought,” *Journal of the History of Ideas* 75:3 (July 2014): 351-71.
- “Fair Measures from our Region: The Study of Jewish Antiquities in Renaissance Italy,” in R. Cohen, N. Dorhmann, E. Reiner, A. Shear, eds., *Jewish Culture in Early Modern Europe: Essays in Honor of David B. Ruderman* (Cincinnati: HUC Press, 2014): 156-168.
- “Judah Moscato, Abraham Portaleone, and Biblical Incense in Late Renaissance Mantua,” in Giuseppe Veltri and Gianfranco Miletto, eds., *Rabbi Judah Moscato and the Jewish Intellectual World of Mantua in the 16th-17th Centuries* (Leiden: EJ Brill, 2012): 105-119.

“Abraham Portaleone and Alessandro Magno: Jewish and Christian Correspondents on a Monstrous Birth,” *European Journal of Jewish Studies* 5:1 (2011): 53-66.

“Medicine,” in Judith R. Baskin, ed., *The Cambridge Dictionary of Judaism and Jewish Culture* (Cambridge, 2011), 416-417.

PUBLICATIONS: REVIEWS

Review of *The Beginnings of Ladino Literature: Moses Almosnino and His Readers* by Olga Borovaya (Bloomington/Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2017), *Bulletin of Spanish Studies: Hispanic Studies and Researches on Spain, Portugal and Latin America*, 96:3 (2019): 3-4.

Review of *Marking the Jews in Renaissance Italy: Politics, Religion, and the Power of Symbols* by Flora Cassen (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017), *AJS Review* 42:2 (2018): 456-457.

Review of *A Remembrance of His Wonders: Nature and the Supernatural in Medieval Ashkenaz* by David Shyovitz (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) *Isis* 109,1 (2018), 170-71.

Review of *The Secret Faith of Maestre Honoratus: Profayt Duran and Jewish Identity in Late Medieval Iberia*, by Maud Kozodoy (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015) *Isis* 108:1 (March 2017): 180-81.

Review of *The Age of Secrecy: Jews, Christians, and the Economy of Secrets*, by Daniel Jütte (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2015) *Association for Jewish Studies Review* 40:1 (April 2016): 178-80.

Review of *Reorienting the East: Jewish Travelers to the Medieval Muslim World*, by Martin Jacobs, *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 47:3 (2015): 627-629.

Review of *Galileo's Instruments of Credit: Telescopes, Images, Secrecy* by Mario Biagoli, Published on *H-Net* (2010).

Review of *The Jewish Body: Corporeality, Society and Identity in the Renaissance and Early Modern, Period* edited by Maria Diemling and Giuseppe Veltri, *Renaissance Quarterly* 63:1 (Spring 2010): 206-207.

Review of *Reckless Rites: Purim and the Legacy of Jewish Violence* by Elliot Horowitz, *Medieval Encounters* 14:2/3 (2008): 410-412.

PAPERS PRESENTED

“‘Proven by scientia and experience’: Agriculture as an Occult Science in Fifteenth-Century Jewish Thought,” Conference Paper, “Premodern Experience of the Natural World in Translation,” Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, June 2019.

“Ecologies of/and Knowledge in Early Modern Kabbalah,” Conference Paper, 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo Michigan, May 2019.

“‘Corruption of Hebrew’: Renaissance Jewish Scholars and Hebrew Lexicography,” Conference Paper, Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, March 2019.

“‘The Foundation of the World’: The Ecological Ideas of Post-Expulsion Spanish Jews in Italy and the Ottoman Empire,” Seminar, Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, University of California Los Angeles, November 2018.

- “Medieval Spanish Jewry between Islam and Christianity: Agriculture, Land Tenure, Environment,” Conference Paper, "South Carolina Medievalist Association," South Carolina State University, September 2018.
- Panel respondent, "Praxis," at Gruss Colloquium, "Science and Transformation in Jewish Culture," Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 2018.
- "Isaac Abravanel on Wealth, Work, and Poverty," Conference Paper, "Premodern Judaism from Manuscript to Print," Newberry Library, Chicago, November 2017.
- "Medieval Spanish Jews and the Dangers of Wealth," Conference Paper, “‘All Religion Is Inter-Religion’: A Celebration of Steven M. Wasserstrom’s Contributions to the Study of Religion on His 30-Year Anniversary at Reed College,” Portland, OR, October 2017.
- "Isaac Abravanel and Nature," Conference Paper, Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2017.
- "Ovadyah Sforno on Wealth, Work and Charity," Conference Paper, "Lost & Found in Translation: 'Ovadyah Sforno and his World," Hamburg, Germany, January 2017.
- "Was There Such a Thing as 'Jewish Medicine' in Early Modern Europe?" Conference Paper, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 2016.
- "Abraham Portaleone (1542-1612) and Monsters." Conference Paper, Frankfurt, Germany, May 2016.
- "Botanical Knowledge, Agricultural Practice, and Sartorial Propriety in late Medieval Mediterranean Jewish Culture." Conference Paper, University of California, Irvine/ University of Southern California, April 2016.
- "Women who Love to Go Out': Jewish Women as Peddlers in Renaissance Italy." Conference Paper, "Individuals and Legal Institutions Around the Medieval Mediterranean," Duke University, March 2016.
- "Why Should We Care about Jewish Farmers in the Middle Ages?" Seminar, History Center, University of South Carolina, February 2016.
- "Giuseppe Levi's Collection of Medieval Legends." Gruss Colloquium in Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, April 2015.
- "*Pro magna parte laboratores sive cultivatores agrorum et vinearum'*: Jews in the Venetian Stato da Mar." Seminar, Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, March 2015.
- "I signed but I did not say': Oaths against Gambling, Casuistry and Early Modern Judaism." "Norms and Exceptions: a Comparative Approach to Casuistry." Florence, Italy, December 2014.
- "*Wissenschaft des Judenthums* and Jewish Agricultural Life in the Middle Ages." Ruth Melzer Seminar, Katz Center, University of Pennsylvania, November 2014.
- "Washing with Wine: a Responsum of Joseph ben Solomon Colon (c. 1420-1480) at the Intersection of *Halakhah* and Medicine." Early Modern Workshop, Northwestern University/Spertus Institute, Chicago, August 2014.
- “‘This evil act?’ Jews and Hunting in Renaissance Italy.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New York, March 2014.
- "As long as it is not his trade': Early Modern Jews and Hunting." A Case for Cases: the Varieties of Casuistry, Symposium, UCLA, January 2014.

- "The Jews of Renaissance Italy." British Institute of Florence, Florence, Italy, May 2013.
- Response to Fabrizio Lelli, ed., *Gli ebrei nel Salento: secoli IX-XVI* (Galatina, 2013). Università del Salento, Lecce, March 2013.
- "Hebrew Letters as Witness to Rural Medicine in Renaissance Italy," Fellows' Seminar, Villa I Tatti: The Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies, Florence, Italy, November 2012.
- "'Impossible to Deny: Terrestrial Paradise and Jewish Thought of the Italian Renaissance.'" Seminar, UCLA Center for Jewish Studies, April 2012.
- "Intellectual Contacts between Jewish and Christian Physicians in Early Modern Europe." Early Modern Workshop, Brown University, February 2012.
- "Evidence of Acculturation in the Letters of Renaissance Italian Jews." Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 2011.
- "Evidence of Provenance, Marginalia and Ownership in Extant Copies of the Basel Edition (1578-80) of the Babylonian Talmud in the Northeastern United States." Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford University, July 2011.
- "Jacob Zahalon and the Permissibility of Practicing Medicine in Seventeenth-Century Rome." Conference paper; Co-organizer of Panel "Medicine and the Church in Counter-Reformation Rome." Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Montreal, March 2011.
- "Ulisse Aldrovandi and the Science of Scripture." Conference paper, History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, November 2010.
- "Jewish Christian Relations in Renaissance Italy: the Court Physician Abraham Portaleone (1542-1612) and his Correspondents." Seminar paper, Reed College, October 2010.
- "Theologians, Naturalists and Hebraism in Sixteenth-Century Italy." Conference paper, Reading Hebrew and Jewish Texts in Early Modern Europe, All Souls College, Oxford University, June 2010.
- "The Role of Hebrew in Medical and Natural Scientific Research in Early Modern Italy." Seminar paper, European Seminar on Advanced Jewish Studies, Oxford University, June 2010.
- "Between Natural Philosophy and Religious Studies: Biblical Bread in late Renaissance Italy." Seminar paper, Hebrew, Jewish, and Early Christian Studies Seminar, Divinity Faculty, Cambridge University, May 2010.
- "Abraham Portaleone (1542-1612) and his Correspondents: an Episode in the History of Jewish-Christian Relations in Renaissance Italy." Seminar paper, University of Delaware, March 2010.
- "*Perché sia chiamata santa?*" Ulisse Aldrovandi and the Hebrew Language." Seminar paper, Center for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, November 2009.
- "Biblical Medicine in Renaissance Italy." Lecture, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, October 2009.
- "Natural Science and Jewish Culture in Late Renaissance Mantua." Conference paper, Judah Moscato and Jewish Culture in Mantua in the Sixteenth Century. Mantua, Italy, July 2009.
- "The Greek Bible in Italian Jewish Culture of the Late Renaissance." Seminar paper, The Greek Bible: Later Transmission, Revision and Reception, Divinity Faculty, Cambridge University, May 2009.

“David de’ Pomi and the Meaning of Biblical Natural History in Renaissance Italy.” Conference Paper, Renaissance Society of America Conference, Los Angeles, March 2009.

“Holy Embryology in Late Renaissance Italy.” Seminar paper, Center for Italian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, February 2009.

“Jewish Botanical Interests in Late Renaissance Italy.” Conference paper, Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, St. Louis, October 2008.

“The Crypto-Judaism of Amatus Lusitanus.” Conference paper, Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies Conference, Phoenix, August 2008.

“The Forest Within: Natural Imagery and Classical Allusion in Sixteenth-Century Spanish ‘*Silvae*.’” Graduate Student Conference led by Peter Stallybrass and Roger Chartier, University of Pennsylvania, March 2006.

PANELS ORGANIZED

“The Culture of Hunting in Renaissance Italy.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting March 2014

“Medicine and the Church in Counter-Reformation Rome.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting (co-organizer) March 2011

PUBLICATIONS IN POPULAR PERIODICALS

"Back to Nature," *Tablet*, August 14, 2018

"Hunting for Deer—and Meaning," *Tablet*, November 2, 2016

"The Scent of the Field," *Tikkun* 31:2 (2016): 23-24

TEACHING

Courses Taught, University of South Carolina

Kabbalah: Science, Religion and Nature in Western History (undergraduate, team-taught with Matthew Melvin-Koushki, Islamic Studies)	Spring 2020
Dissertation Prospectus Seminar (graduate)	Spring 2020
Ancient and Medieval Jewish History (undergraduate)	Fall 2019
God and Nature (undergraduate)	Fall 2019
The European Renaissance (undergraduate)	Spring 2019
Judaism and Ecology (undergraduate)	Spring 2019
Western Civilization from Ancient Times to the mid Seventeenth Century (undergraduate)	Fall 2018
Ancient and Medieval Jewish History (undergraduate)	Fall 2018
The European Renaissance (undergraduate)	Fall 2017
Modern Jewish History (undergraduate)	Fall 2017
The Archival Instinct (undergraduate, team-taught with Evan Meaney, Media Arts)	Spring 2017
The European Renaissance (undergraduate)	Spring 2017
Ancient and Medieval Jewish History (undergraduate)	Fall 2016
God and Nature (undergraduate, senior seminar)	Fall 2016
Environmental History (graduate)	Spring 2016
Western Civilization from Ancient Times to the mid Seventeenth Century (undergraduate)	Spring 2016
Ancient and Medieval Jewish History (undergraduate)	Fall 2015
The European Renaissance (undergraduate)	Fall 2015
Dissertation Prospectus Seminar (graduate)	Spring 2014
Early Modern & Modern Jewish History (undergraduate)	Spring 2014

Western Civilization from Ancient Times to the mid Seventeenth Century (undergraduate)	Fall 2013
The European Renaissance (undergraduate)	Fall 2013

Courses Taught, UCLA

The Past in Medieval Jewish Thought (graduate/undergraduate)	Winter 2012
Jews of the Italian Renaissance (undergraduate)	Fall 2011

Courses Taught, University of Pennsylvania

God and Nature (undergraduate)	Spring 2015
History of Museums (undergraduate)	2009 - 2010
Print, Technology and Learning in the Early Modern World (undergraduate)	Summer 2008

Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania

European History 1500 - Present (Emily Fisher Gray)	Spring 2007
European History 1500 - Present (Ronald Granieri)	Spring 2006
Modern Middle Eastern History (Eve Troutt Powell)	Fall 2006
Modern Jewish Cultural and Intellectual History (David Ruderman)	Fall 2005

SERVICE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Member, History Department Chair Search Committee	2019
Member, Committee to Revise Tenure and Promotion Guidelines	2019
Member, Graduate Committee	2019-
Member, Executive Committee	2018-
Member, Undergraduate Committee	2018-2019
History Department Representative, Faculty Senate	2017-
Member, Graduate Committee	2017-2018
Invited Panelist, "Grant Basics Workshop," Office of the Vice President for Research	September 2016
Member, Graduate Committee	2016-2017
Interviewed on WUSC 90.5FM by D.J. No B.S.	November 2015
Member, Undergraduate Committee	2015-2106
Member, Graduate Committee	2013-2014
Reviewer, SPARC Graduate Fellowship	2013-

OTHER SERVICE

Funding Proposal Reviewer, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)	2017-2019
Book Manuscript Reviewer, Cambridge University Press	2016-
Book Manuscript Review, Oxford University Press	2016
Judge, I Tatti Prize for Best Essay by a Junior Scholar	2013
Article Reviewer: <i>Jewish History</i> ; <i>Spontaneous Generations</i> ; <i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> ; <i>Journal of Early Modern History</i> ; <i>Religions</i> ; <i>Sixteenth-Century Studies</i> ; <i>Manuscript Studies</i> ; <i>Early Science and Medicine</i>	2012-
Assistant Editor, <i>Journal of the History of Ideas</i>	2010 - 2011
Planning Committee Member, Pennsylvania Medical Humanities Consortium Conference	2009 - 2012
Executive Committee Member, Section on Medicine and the Arts, College of Physicians of Philadelphia	2009 - 2012
Reader and Judge: James V. Saporito Memorial Prize for best undergraduate essay in intellectual and cultural history, University of Pennsylvania	2007 - 2008
Adult Education Lecturer at Synagogues in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania	2005 – 2011
Have presented over twenty lectures on a variety of topics and periods in Jewish history	
Co-organizer, Post-Classical Latin Reading Group, University of Pennsylvania	2004 - 2010
Research Assistant to Ann Blair, Harvard University	2004

LANGUAGES

Thorough knowledge of Hebrew, Spanish, Italian and Latin; speaking proficiency in French; reading knowledge of German; basic knowledge of ancient and modern Greek; beginner's knowledge of classical Arabic.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association (AHA)
Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
History of Science Society (HSS)
Renaissance Society of America (RSA)