

Professor Adam S. Ferziger, Ph.D.

S.R. Hirsch Chair for Research of the Torah with Derekh Erez Movement

Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry

Bar-Ilan University

ksferz@gmail.com

Curriculum Vitae

Academic Education

- 2001 Ph. D. [*Summa Cum Laude*], Modern Jewish History, Bar-Ilan University
Dissertation Advisor: Professor Gershon C. Bacon
- 1990 M.A., Modern Jewish History, Bernard Revel Graduate School, Yeshiva
University Thesis Advisor: Professor Jacob Katz z"l
- 1990 B.A. [*Cum Laude*] - Political Science/Jewish History, Yeshiva College, Yeshiva
University

Advanced Religious Education

- 1990 Rabbinical Ordination, Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Yeshiva
University
- 1987-90 Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, Yeshiva University (New York
and Gruss Insitute, Jerusalem)
- 1984-6 Yeshiva Program, Yeshiva University
- 1983-4 Yeshivat Har-Etzion (Gush), Alon Shevut
- 1982-3 Beit Medrash le-Torah (BMT), Jerusalem

Academic Appointments

- 2017 Arnold/Yaschik Distinguished Visiting Professor, College of Charleston
- 2015-present S.R. Hirsch Chair for Research of the Torah with *Derekh Erez* Movement,
Faculty of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University
- 2015-present Senior Associate, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of
Oxford

- 2013-present Professor Haver, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Bar-Ilan University
- 2008-13 Senior Lecturer with tenure - Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry, Bar-Ilan University
- 2003-08 Lecturer and *Gwendolyn & Joseph Straus Teaching Fellow in Jewish Studies*, Graduate Program in Contemporary Jewry, Bar-Ilan University
- 2001-2011 Senior Fellow, Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research
- 1993-2003 Instructor, Foreign Students Program and Dept. of Jewish History, Bar-Ilan University

Academic Administration

- 2014-present Co-Convener, Oxford Summer Institute for Modern and Contemporary Judaism, University of Oxford
- 2013 Co-Convener, Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Oxford
- 2008-2013 Vice Chairman, Graduate Program in Contemporary Judaism, Bar-Ilan University
- 1991-1998 Director, Bar-Ilan University Mechina for New Immigrants

Educational/Religious Leadership Positions

- 1997-2005 Senior Historian, Seminars for Jewish University Students in Eastern Europe
- 1992-2005 Israel Defense Forces, Lecturer, Educational Corps (Reserve Duty)
- 1993-2004 Rabbi, Beit Binyamin Synagogue, Kfar-Sava

Personal

Born November 10, 1964 in Brooklyn, New York. Grew up in Riverdale, New York. Graduate of the S.A.R. Academy and the Ramaz Upper School. Married to Dr. Naomi (Weiss) Ferziger. Children: Ben-Zion (28), Yoel (26), Aviad (24), Dovie (23), Avital (20), and Adi (16). Living in Israel since September 1987, first in Jerusalem and since 1989 in Kfar-Sava.

Prizes, Fellowships, Grants, and Honors:

2015	National Jewish Book Award – American Jewish Studies
2014	Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture - Research Grant
2013	Visiting Research Fellow, Wolfson College, University of Oxford
2012	Shkopf Prize for Research on the History of the Modern Rabbinate
2012	Pogatsch Prize for Research on Jewish Law and Modernity
2012	Mandelbaum Scholar, University of Sydney
2012	Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Center for Study of Women in Judaism – Research Grant
2011	Outstanding Lecturer Award, Bar-Ilan University
2010-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Contemporary Judaism</i>
2010	Lookstein Center for Jewish Education in the Diaspora – Research Grant
2006	Finalist, American Association of Religion, First Book in History of Religion
2006	Finalist, Salo Baron Prize for Best First Book in Jewish History
2003	Gwendolyn & Joseph Straus Teaching Fellow in Jewish Studies
2002	Jacob Katz Memorial Post-Doctoral Grant, Leo Baeck Institute
2002	Ihel Foundation Research Grant
2001	Rappaport Center for the Study of Assimilation Research Grant
2001	Braun Chair in the History of Prussian Jewry Research Grant
2000	“Shupf” Prize for Outstanding Doctoral Students
1999	Mendel and Hannah Horowitz Fellowship
1998	S.R. Hirsch Chair Fellowship
1998	Program in Conflict Resolution Fellowship
1996	Klein Chair in the History of the Modern Rabbinate Fellowship
1996	Leo Baeck Institute Doctoral Fellowship
1995	Braun Chair in the History of Prussian Jewry Fellowship
1994	Ihel Foundation Research Grant

Organization of International Academic Conferences

Oxford Summer Institute for Modern and Contemporary Judaism, Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, June-July 2014; June-July, 2015; June-July 2016; July 2017

Conference Committee, “Always Hungarian: The Jews of Hungary through the Vicissitudes of the Modern Era,” Bar-Ilan University, June 2016.

Conference Committee, “Isaac Breuer: Vision, Activities, Legacy,” Bar-Ilan University, June 2016.

Conference Committee, “The Israel Chief Rabbinate: Between Religious and Political Leadership,” Bar-Ilan University, June 2014.

Co-Convener, Oxford Seminar on Orthodox Judaism in the 20th Century, Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, January-June 2013

Conference Co-Chairman, "Orthodox Judaism in the Twentieth Century," Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, January 2013.

Conference Committee, "Gender and Jewish Identity," Bar-Ilan University, June 2010.

Conference Co-Chairman, "Schism, Sectarianism, and Denominationalism: Hungarian Jewry in a Comparative Perspective," Central European University, Budapest, October 2009.

Conference Co-Chairman, "200 Years Since the Birth of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch," Bar-Ilan University, June 2008.

Conference Chairman, "The Role of Rabbis in Confronting Assimilation: Historical and Contemporary Models," Bar-Ilan University, June 2003.

Conference Coordinator, "Brooklyn and Beyond," Bar-Ilan University and The Hebrew University, Ramat-Gan and Jerusalem, November 1998.

Popular Writings

["A Sobering Visit to the Factory that Built the Auschwitz Inferno," The Jewish Week \(Jan. 4, 2017\),](#)

"The Orthodox Coalition: Diverse, Divided, but not Destroyed," *Canadian Jewish News* (Nov. 17, 2016), <http://www.cjnews.com/perspectives/opinions/orthodox-coalition-not-destroyed>

["Bureaucratic Judaism vs. Rabbi Haskel Lookstein," The Times of Israel \(July 6, 2016\),](#)

"Why Modern Orthodoxy is in Crisis," *Mosaic* (Aug. 17, 2014), <https://mosaicmagazine.com/response/2014/08/why-modern-orthodoxy-is-in-crisis/>

"At Israel Prize, Tradition meets Science," *The Times of Israel* (May 5, 2014), <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/at-israeli-prize-tradition-meets-science/>

"Jacob Birnbaum's Solidarity Revolution: In Memoriam," *The Times of Israel* (April 11, 2014), <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/jacob-birnbaum-and-american-orthodox-jewry-in-memoriam/>

"The 'Start-Up' Candidate of Religious Zionism," *The Times of Israel* (Dec. 26, 2012), <http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/the-start-up-candidate-of-religious-zionism/>

"KJ, Jerusalem, and Yavneh," *The Jerusalem Post* (Aug. 8, 2011),
<http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Op-Ed-Contributors/KJ-Jerusalem-and-Yavneh>

"Blood Libels and Human Kindness in Poland," *The Jerusalem Post* (May 15, 2000).

Lectures at Scientific Conferences and Invited Lectures

"Ashes, Outcasts, and Martyrs: Cremation and Judaism Before and After the Holocaust,"
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee (Feb. 2017).

"Chabad and Company: Jewish Outreach on Campus and Beyond," Emory University, Atlanta,
Georgia (Feb. 2017).

"Politics and Religion in Israel," College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina (Jan 2017).

"Reverence and Integration: Boy Scouts, Jewish Camping and American Orthodoxy,"
Association of Jewish Studies Conference, San Diego, (December 2016).

"Cremation and Judaism Before and After the Holocaust," York University, Toronto, Ontario
(Nov. 2016).

"Foreign Ashes in Sovereign Space," University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany (Oct. 2016).

"Rabbis-Doctors and the Emergence of the New Religious Leadership in Israel," Oxford Summer
Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies,
University of Oxford, UK (June 2016).

"Feminism, Heresy, and the Future of American Orthodox Judaism," Cohn-Haddow Center for
Jewish Studies, Wayne State University, Detroit, March 2016.

"Heretics, Holy Martyrs and the Jewish State: Cremation Ash Burial in Israel," *Oxford Summer
Institute on Modern and Contemporary Judaism*, University of Oxford, July 2015.

"Beyond Sectarianism: The Realignment of American Orthodox Judaism," *Association of Jewish
Studies Conference*, Baltimore, December 2014.

"Is Orthodox Judaism a Modern Religious Movement," *British Association of Jewish Studies
Conference*, Dublin, July 2014.

"The Role of Reform in Religious-Zionist Discourse," *Conference: The New Religious-Zionism*,
Bar-Ilan University, March 2014.

"Blurred Boundaries: Religious Identities within Contemporary American Jewish Families," *The
Family: Cultural Dynamics and Dialogues - International Conference of the Center for the Study*

of Relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Open University, Raanana, December 2013.

"Cremation and Jewish Law after the Holocaust," *16th World Congress for Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, July 2013.

"Feminism and Heresy: The Construction of a Jewish Metanarrative," *David Patterson Memorial Lecture*, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, May 2013.

"Collective Self-Confidence, Outreach, and Moderation: Exploring the Realignment of American Jewish Orthodoxy," *International Conference: Between Fervor and Fanaticism*, Yeshiva University, New York, March 2013.

"Debating Hungarian Separatism on American Soil," Conference on Ultra-Orthodoxy, Van Leer Institute, December 2012.

"Intermarriage and the Expanding Jewish Collective: The Non-Jew in the Contemporary Synagogue," University of Sydney, Australia, June 2012.

"Between Lakewood and Lubavitch: American Haredi Jewry in the 21st Century," Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, June 2012.

"Cremation and the 20th Century Jew," University of New South Wales, June 2012.

"Jews and Non-Jews in the American Synagogue," Rice University, Houston, Texas, February 2012.

"Hungarian Separatist Orthodoxy and its Contested American Legacy: The Greenwald-Hirschenson Exchange of 1927-28," Van Leer Institute – Research Seminar on Ultra-Orthodoxy, Jerusalem, November 2011.

"Cremation and Jewish Identity in the Early 20th Century," University of Chicago School of Divinity, February 2011.

"Feminism and Heresy," Northwestern University, February 2011.

"The Hamburg Cremation Controversy," Oxford University – Oriental Institute, May 2010.

"American Orthodoxy and the Soviet Jewry Movement," Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Studies, Boston, December 2010.

"Feminism and Heresy," Princeton University, November 2009.

"Feminism and Heresy," World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, July 2009.

"Debating Orthodox Separatism in the New World: The Hirschenson-Greenwald Exchange," Schism, Separatism, and Denominationalism – International Conference, Central European University, Budapest 2009.

"Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and Zionism," International Conference: Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch and the Development of Modern Orthodoxy, Toronto, Canada, February 2009.

"From Lubavitch to Lakewood: The Chabadization of American Orthodoxy," UCLA, Los Angeles, CA., February 2009.

"From Demonic Deviant to Drowning Brother: Orthodoxy and Reform in the Early 21st Century," Hebrew Union College – Los Angeles, CA., February, 2009.

"Post-Modernism and Teaching the Holocaust: Challenges and Opportunities, International Conference: Perspectives on Teaching About the Holocaust, Novi Sad, Serbia, January 2009.

"Between Archetypical Enemy and Drowning Brother: Reform Judaism in Contemporary Orthodox Discourse," International Conference: Reform Judaism: Sociology, and Theology, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, December 2007.

"Authority and Identity within Hamburg Jewry during the Kaiserreich: The Controversial Issue of Cremation," International Conference: German-Jewish History from Within, *Institut für die Geschichte des deutsche Judentum*, Hamburg, October 2007.

"The *Torah MiTzion* Movement – Toward a New Paradigm for Religious Zionism," Religious Zionism: Future Directions, Yeshiva University, New York City, March 2007.

"North American Orthodox Judaism in the Late Twentieth Century," Encounters Between Religion and Modernity, Toronto, Canada, November 2006.

"The Soviet Jewry Movement in America: a Denominational Perspective," 2nd Rappaport Center Conference on Russian Speaking Jews throughout the World, Bar-Ilan University, October 2006.

"American Orthodoxy and the Soviet Jewry Movement," Twentieth Century Modern Orthodoxy in Historical Perspective, University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa., June 2006.

"Orthodox Responses to the Holocaust," *Religious Responses to the Holocaust*, Tel Aviv University, January 2006.

"The Chabadization of American Orthodoxy", *Reaching for the Infinite: The Lubavitcher Rebbe, his Writings and Teachings*, New York University, November 2005.

"Brother or Other: Orthodoxy and the Nonobservant Jew", *Orthodoxy and the Modern World*, New York, February 2005.

"Liebman's Orthodoxy: A Reconsideration after Forty Years", *World Congress for Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, July 2005.

"The American Community Kollel: Between Orthodoxy and Assimilation," International Conference on "Yeshivot and Study Halls", Sponsored by the Hebrew University and Merkaz Zalman Shazar, Jerusalem, January 2004.

"Assimilation and the Rabbinate in the United States," Opening Lecture, Second Annual International Conference of the Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research, Ramat-Gan, June 2003.

"An Attempt at Integrating Secular Studies within 19th Century Hungarian Orthodox Education," International Conference on Educational Initiatives Among European Rabbis in the Modern Period," Ramat-Gan, May 2003.

"Assimilation, Orthodoxy and the Rise of the Specialist Rabbinate," *Association of Jewish Studies* Annual Conference, Los Angeles, December 2002.

"The Hamburg Cremation Controversy: Orthodoxy and Jewish Identity in the Early Twentieth Century," Conference of the *European Association for Jewish Studies*, Amsterdam, July 2002.

"Between Religious Extremist and Halakhic Adjudicator: R. Hayyim Sofer (1821-1886)," Conference on "Religious Extremism and Radicalism," *Israel Historical Society Annual*, Jerusalem, June 2002.

"Who is an Orthodox Rabbi? The Evolving Boundaries of the Hungarian Orthodox Rabbinate," International Symposium in Honor of Professor Nathaniel Katzburg, Ramat-Gan, December 2001.

"The Orthodox Rabbinate in Central Europe and the Struggle to Define a Constituency," *Jewish Religious Leadership in the Modern Era*", Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, November 2001.

"The Evolving Boundaries of the Nineteenth Century Hungarian Orthodox Rabbinate," 13th World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 2001.

"Hierarchical Judaism in Formation: Orthodox Attitudes Towards Non-Observant Jews in 19th Century Central Europe," Conference on "New Perspectives on the Study of Orthodoxy," The Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, August 2001.

"Orthodox Attitudes Towards Non-Observant Jews: Methodological, Historical and Sociological Paradigms," Conference on "Rights, Freedom and Tolerance", Ma'ale ha-Hamisha, April 2001.

“Hakham Zevi and the Roots of Orthodox Judaism,” Conference on *Custom and Leadership in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, Ramat-Gan, January 2001.

“Between “Ashkenazi” and Sepharad: An Early Modern German Rabbinic Response to Religious Pluralism in the Spanish-Portuguese Community” Leo Baeck Institute Conference on “Religion and Pluralism, Past and Present,” Jerusalem and Tel-Aviv, March 2000.

“The Hatam Sofer and his Attitude Towards Non-Observant Jews,” Twelfth World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, July 1997.

“The Lookstein Legacy: An American Orthodox Rabbinical Dynasty?” Conference on Rabbinic Succession in Late Medieval and Modern Times, Ramat-Gan, November 1995.

“The Hungarian Orthodox Rabbinate and Zionism: The Case of R. Salamon Zvi Schück,” Eleventh World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, July 1993.