

Susan Martha Kahn

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Current Positions

Associate Director, Center for Middle Eastern Studies,
Harvard University (2003-present)

Director, AM Program in Regional Studies – Middle East,
Harvard University, (2003-present)

Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations,
Harvard University, (2003-present)

Co-Director of Graduate Studies, Center for Middle Eastern Studies,
Harvard University, (2008-present)

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. Social Anthropology, 1997.

Harvard University, A.M. Middle Eastern Studies, 1992.

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, (Two years post-graduate study of Jewish traditional texts, 1987 - 1989).

University of California at Berkeley, B.A. with Honors in English Literature, 1987.

Teaching Appointments

Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
(2003-present)

Harvard Medical School

Section Leader, Department of Social Medicine
(2007)

Harvard Extension School

Writing Tutor, (2003-2005, 2011)

Teaching and Advising Honors

- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University: Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Fall 2014
- Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award, Harvard University: Spring 2014 (nominated)
- Freshman Advisor, Harvard University, (2007-2011)
- Teaching Fellow, Harvard University, Fall 1992-Spring 1994: **10** Distinguished Teaching Awards
- Levenson Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 1993 (nominated)

Harvard Courses:

Modern Middle East 200 – Graduate Proseminar in Middle Eastern Studies
Modern Middle East 100 – Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies
Modern Middle East 125 – Culture and Society in Contemporary Israel
Jewish Studies 103 – Jewish Cultures of the Middle East
Middle East Studies 299b – Masters Thesis in Middle Eastern Studies
DSM 250 – Introduction to Social Medicine (teaching assistant, Harvard Medical School)

Brandeis University

Lecturer, Department of Anthropology
Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
(1997-2003)

Brandeis Courses:

Anthropology 118B – Peoples and Societies of the Middle East
Anthropology 135A – Paradoxes of Peoplehood in Contemporary Israel
Anthropology 242A – Readings in Israeli Culture and Society
Anthropology 145A – Anthropology of the Body

Publications

Reproducing Jews: A Cultural Account of Assisted Conception in Israel. (Duke University Press 2000).

- Eileen Basker Memorial Book Prize, awarded by the Society for Medical Anthropology for the outstanding book on gender and health, 2001
- National Jewish Book Award, Women's Studies, 2000

-Book Chapters

A Dog Without a People for A People Without a Dog: The Invention of Israel's National Dog in A Jew's Best Friend: the Image of the Dog Throughout Jewish History, Rakefet Zalashik and Philip Ackerman Lieberman, eds. Sussex Academic Press. (2013)

The Mirth of the Clinic: Fieldnotes from an Israeli Fertility Center in Reproductive Technologies in Israel, Dapha and Yoram Carmeli, eds. Berghahn Books. 2011

Are Genes Jewish: Conceptual Ambiguities in the New Genetic Age in The Boundaries of Jewish Identity, Susan Glenn and Naomi Sokoloff, eds. University of Washington Press. 2010

Compatible Contradictions: Religion and the Naturalization of Assisted Reproduction, by Cristina Traina, Eugenia Georges, Marcia Inhorn, Susan Kahn and Maura Ryan, in Altering Nature Volume 2: Religion, Biotechnology and Public Policy, B. Andrew Lustig, Baruch Brody and Gerald P. McKenny, eds. (Springer 2008).

Rabbis and Reproduction: The Social Uses of New Reproductive Technologies in Israel in Infertility Around the Globe: New Thinking on Childlessness, Gender, and Reproductive Technologies. Eds. Marcia Inhorn and Frank Van Balen. (University of California Press 2002).

- Council for the Anthropology of Reproduction Prize for Outstanding Book, 2003.

Refereed Journal Articles

Who are the Jews: New Formulations of an Age-Old Question, Human Biology (vol. 85, no. 6) April 2014.

Making Technology Familiar: Orthodox Jews and Infertility Support, Advice and Inspiration, Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry, (30:4) December 2006.

The Multiple Meanings of Jewish Genes, Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry, (29:2) June 2005.

Reviews

Embodied Progress: A Cultural Account of Assisted Conception by Sarah Franklin, American Ethnologist, Summer 1998.

Other Publications

“Jews, Dogs and Secularization” – Association for Jewish Studies Review (Spring 2011)

Editor, *The State of Israel's Report to the United Nations on the Status of Women in Israel*. 250 page government document, published by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1997.

Professional Service

Editorial Board, *Journal of Middle Eastern Women's Studies* (2010-2014)

Editorial Board, *Middle East Monographs*, Harvard University (2003-2012)

Selected Academic Honors and Grants

- Distinguished Visiting Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Economic and Social Research Council, Genomics Policy and Research Forum, May 2007
- Keynote, University of Washington, “Boundaries of Jewish Identity,” May 2007
- Wolinsky Lecture on Jewish Life and Education, York University, March 2007
- Recipient, Gordon Gray Grant for Writing Pedagogy, Harvard Writing Project, November 2006
- David Belin Annual Memorial Lecture in American Jewish Affairs, University of Michigan, March 2005
- Consultant, Ford Foundation Project on Religion and Bioethics, 2003-2006
- The Musher Prize, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture's biennial prize for the Outstanding Dissertation on Jewish Life 1998
- Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellowship 1997 (declined)
- Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 1996-1997
- Lady Davis Graduate Fellowship 1996-1997 (declined)
- Social Science Research Council 1995-1996
- Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture 1995-1996
- Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University 1994
- Mellon Foundation, Predissertation Fellowship 1994
- Andrew T. Molloy Fellowship, Harvard University 1993-1994
- Foreign Language Area Specialist 1992
- Mellon Foundation Language Study (Arabic) 1991

Invited Papers and Invited Participation

Invited Speaker: Stanford Interdisciplinary Seminar on Genetics, Stanford University. November 2012.

Invited Speaker: “Limmud” Turkey – Annual Conference in Jewish Studies – Istanbul, November 2011.

“Middle Eastern Hunting Hounds: A Colonial History”
The Animal in the Middle East
American Society for Environmental History, April 2011

Invited Participant: “A Conversation on Dogs, Humans and Other Animals” (Thomas Laquer and Mellon Foundation for the Humanities, sponsor) – UC Berkeley Summer 2010

Invited Participant: “Posen Summer Seminar on Judaism and Secularization” – UC Berkeley Summer 2010

“Perpetual Reproduction” - Invited paper at “Gender in Judaism and Islam Conference”. University of Pennsylvania. March 2010

“Jewish Wombs, Israeli Futures” - Invited Paper at "Motherhood and the State: Women, Surrogacy and (Trans) Nationalism in Israel and India" University of California at Davis, November 2009

“Judaism and Israeli Reproductive Practices” - Invited Paper at “Conference on Women in Islam and Judaism in the Mediterranean” Ca’ Foscari, Venice. March 2009

“Beyond Reproducing Jews” Invited Paper at the American Anthropology Association, December, 2007.

“Jews and Genes,” Faculty Anthropology Seminar, Brown University. Fall 2007.

Speaker, Bard College, “New Genetic Technologies,” Fall 2006.

“The Politics of Reproduction in Israel: Genetic Exchanges Between Jews and Muslims” Weather Center for International Affairs at Harvard Middle East Seminar, Spring 2006.

Speaker, Columbia University Faculty Seminar, "Assisted Reproductive Technologies, Religion, Science and the State,” Spring 2006.

Speaker, Center for Religion and Media, New York University, Pew Charitable Trusts “Working Group on Bodies, Beliefs and Bioethics”, Fall 2005.

Speaker, Religion, Politics and Public Life, Faculty Seminar Series. Kennedy School of Government, "Religion and Politics: A Comparative Analysis: Sweden, Israel and Russia." Spring 2005.

Center for Religion and Media, New York University, Participant in working group on Bodies, Beliefs and Bioethics, Fall 2005.

Ford Foundation Project "Altering Nature" – Working group on religious implications of new biomedical technologies, 2002-2005, University of Houston.

"Jews and Genes" Presented at Virginia Technical Institute, Blacksburg, VA. January 2003.

"Reproducing Jews." Presented at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, the Center for Judaic Studies, the Program in Women's Studies, and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, December 2002.

"The Future of Family and Tribe." Presented at the Jewish Public Forum at CLAL. New York, February 2002.

"Population Genetics and Cultural Identity" Presented at the University of Minnesota (supported by a grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute), February 2002.

"New Reproductive Technologies and Consequences for Jewish Kinship." Presented at the University of Virginia, November 2001.

"Gentile Genes, Jewish Babies." Presented at Emory University, Institute of Jewish Studies, February 2001.

"Jews, Genes and Gender." Presented at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, January 2001.

"Challenges Facing Jewish Women in America Today." Presented at "Setting the Agenda: Critical Issues in American Jewish Life," Jewish Theological Seminary, September 2000.

"Rabbis and Reproduction." Presented at the Departmental Seminar, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard University, February 2000.

"Reproducing Jews." Presented at the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, February 1999.

"Jews, Genes and Genesis." The Invited Annual Amado Lecture, The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA., November 1998.

"Gentile Sperm and the Uses of Non-Jewish Bodies for Jewish Reproduction." Presented at the Brandeis University Anthropology Seminar. October 1997.

"Jewish Sperm vs. Gentile Sperm: Rabbinic Discourse on Bodily Substance and Relatedness." Presented at the Social Science Research Council Fellowship Seminar, Tangier Morocco, March 1996.

Theses Supervised

Over 60 masters theses in Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University (2004-present)

Four undergraduate theses at Harvard College (2004-present)

Conferences and Seminars Organized

Israeli Law, Literature and Society – Monthly seminar at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, funded by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education (2007-present)

The Current Health Crisis in Iraq (May 7, 2007) Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, funded by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education (2007)

Science, Technology and Medicine in the Modern Middle East, (May 6-7, 2006) co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University and the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies at the University of Michigan. Harvard University.

Animals in the Middle East, co-sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University and the Council for Middle Eastern at Yale University, pending Title VI funding, 2010- 2012.

Languages

Hebrew, conversational including lecturing, reading.

Russian, basic reading.

French, basic reading.

Arabic, some conversational, Palestinian dialect

References Available on Request