

# Michal Raucher

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Jewish Studies  
Rutgers University  
12 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

cell: 203-232-5602  
email: [michal.raucher@rutgers.edu](mailto:michal.raucher@rutgers.edu)

### Academic Appointments

2018- Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies Department, Rutgers University  
2014-2018 Assistant Professor, Judaic Studies Department, University of Cincinnati  
Affiliate Faculty, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
2016-2017 Director of Graduate Studies, Judaic Studies Department, University of Cincinnati  
2014-2017 Fellow, The Jewish Theological Seminary  
2013-2014 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Jewish Thought, The Jewish Theological Seminary  
2011-2014 Director, MA in Jewish Ethics, The Jewish Theological Seminary  
2011-2013 Adjunct Instructor, Jewish Thought, The Jewish Theological Seminary  
2011 Visiting Scholar of Bioethics, The Hastings Center  
2011 Visiting Scholar of Bioethics, Yale University Interdisciplinary Center for  
Bioethics

### Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois  
2013 PhD, Religious Studies (Secondary field, Anthropology)  
2013 Graduate Certificate, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
2009 MA, Religious Studies

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
2006 MA, Bioethics

Columbia University, New York, New York  
2005 BA, Religion

The Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, New York  
2005 BA, Hebrew Bible

### Publications

#### *Refereed Book*

*Birth of Jewish Ethics: Reproduction and Ethics among Haredi Women in Jerusalem*, under contract with Indiana University Press. (Expected 2020).

#### *Refereed Journal Articles*

Raucher, Michal. "Whose Womb and Whose Ethics? Surrogacy in Jewish Ethics," *Journal of Jewish Ethics*, 3.1 (2017). 68-91.

Raucher, Michal. "Ethnography and Jewish Ethics: Lessons from a Case Study in Reproductive Ethics," *Journal of Religious Ethics*, 44.4 (2016). 636-658.

Raucher, Michal. "The Cultural and Legal Reproduction of Poverty: Abortion Legislation in Israel." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 30:1 (2014). 147-156.

Raucher, Michal. "What they Mean by 'Good Science': The Medical Community's Response to Boutique Fetal Ultrasounds." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 34:5 (2009). 528-544.

Ramarajan, Arulmozhi, Renzong Qiu, Michal Raucher, Ruth Chadwick, Anna Nossier, Shahida

Zaidi. "Sexual Rights and Gender Roles in a Religious Context. Reproductive and Sexual Health Rights: 15 Years after the International Conference on Population and Development." *FIGO World Report on Women's Health. International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics* 106:2 (2009). 151-155

#### *Refereed Book Chapters*

Raucher, Michal. "Be Fruitful and Multiply...Except...Contraception in Judaism: Balancing Competing Values." *Religious Perspectives on Reproductive Ethics*, edited by Dena Davis. New York: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2018.

Raucher, Michal. "Anonymous Intimacy: Orthodox Jewish Women as Legal Advisors on the Internet." In *Digital Judaism*, edited by Heidi Campbell, 74-90. New York: Routledge, 2015.

#### *Commentary and Roundtable Contributions*

Raucher, Michal. "Immersing in Climate Change." *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. 33.2 (2017). 162-167.

Henning, Alyssa, Michal Raucher, and Laurie Zoloth. "A Jewish Response to the Vatican?" *American Journal of Bioethics* 9:11 (2009). 37-39.

Zoloth, Laurie, Leilah Backus, Teresa Woodruff, Alyssa Henning and Michal Raucher. "Like/As Metaphor and Meaning in Bioethics Narrative," *American Journal of Bioethics* 8:6 (2008). W3-W5

#### *Book Reviews*

Raucher, Michal. Review of *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Class of Civilizations. The New Jewish Canon* (forthcoming)

Raucher, Michal. Review of *Pregnancy in Practice: Expectation and Experience in the Contemporary US*. Association for Feminist Anthropology. 2015.

<http://afa.americananthro.org/book-review/pregnancy-in-practice-expectation-and-experience-in-the-contemporary-us/>

Raucher, Michal. *Ethnographic Encounters in Israel: Poetics and Ethics of Fieldwork* H-Judaic. 2015. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28655/reviews/63884/raucher-markowitz-ethnographic-encounters-israel-poetics-and-ethics>

#### *Refereed Web-based Publications*

Raucher, Michal. "Feminist Ethnography Inside and Outside the Field" Feminist Studies in Religion Blog, May 8, 2018. <http://www.fsrinc.org/feminist-ethnography-parenting/>

Raucher, Michal. "Sexual Assault, Feminism, and the Jews" Feminist Studies in Religion Blog, October 19, 2017. <http://www.fsrinc.org/sexual-assault-feminism-the-jews/>

Raucher, Michal. "'Facts on the Ground': An Ironic Approach to Orthodox Female Rabbis?" Feminist Studies in Religion Blog, November 11, 2015. <http://www.fsrinc.org/facts-ground-ironic-approach-orthodox-female-rabbis/>

#### *Other Publications*

"Responsibility, Rosh Hashanah, and the Refugee Crisis," The Jewish Theological Seminary. September 2015.

#### *Blog Posts*

"Let's Talk about Sex" JTS Torah Commentary, June 7, 2017. <http://www.jtsa.edu/lets-talk-about-sex>

"Facing Our Past and Looking toward the Future" JTS Torah Commentary, May 27, 2016. <http://www.jtsa.edu/past-and-future>

"Rachel Leans In," JTS Torah Commentary, November 5, 2015.

<http://www.jtsa.edu/rachel-leans-in>

“Dissent is Not a Dirty Word,” JTS Torah Commentary, June 19, 2015.

<http://www.jtsa.edu/dissent-is-not-a-dirty-word>

“The Clothes Make the (Wo)Man,” JTS Torah Commentary, June 13, 2014.

<http://www.jtsa.edu/the-clothes-make-the-woman>

## **Work in Progress**

### *Book Chapter Manuscripts*

Raucher, Michal and Michelle McGowan. “Teaching Reproductive Rights and Religion on Campus.” Invited for *Teaching Sexuality and the Abrahamic Traditions: Perspective Transformation and Embodied Learning*. Edited by Darryl W. Stephens and Kate Ott.

Raucher, Michal. “‘Rebbetzman:’ Negotiating Gender in Orthodox Rabbinic Families with a Female Rabbi.” Invited for *Religion and Families*. Edited by Samira Mehta and Susan Bales Ridgely.

## **Research in Progress**

Raucher, Michal. “Tapping on the Stained Glass Ceiling: The Ordination of Orthodox Jewish Women in America and Israel.” Interviews and observations started in June 2016.

## **Conference Papers and Presentations**

- 2015 “*Hishtadlut* and *Bitachon*: Haredi women Negotiate Bodily Autonomy and Divine Intervention.” Association of Jewish Studies Boston, MA.
- 2015 “What to Expect When You Are Haredi and Expecting: An Analysis of Pregnancy Advice Books for Haredi Women.” American Academy of Religion. Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 “What to Expect When You Are Haredi and Expecting: An Analysis of Pregnancy Advice Books for Haredi Women.” American Society of Bioethics and Humanities. Houston, TX.
- 2015 “Reproductive Ethics among Haredi Women in Jerusalem: Towards an Ethnographically Informed Jewish Ethics.” Society of Jewish Ethics, Chicago, IL.
- 2014 “Purchasing Babies: Pro-Life Politics in Israel.” American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.
- 2012 “Abortion Legislation in Israel for Families ‘Blessed with Children.’” Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “The Cultural and Legal Reproduction of Poverty: Abortion Legislation in Israel.” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Bioethics in Israel: Religion and Medicine, Rabbis and Doctors.” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Bioethics in Israel: Religion and Medicine, Rabbis and Doctors.” American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, DC.
- 2011 “Ethical Review Boards and the Study of Religion.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2011 “Doctors, Rabbis and Women! Oh My! Reproductive Health Care Among the Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Community in Jerusalem.” American Anthropological Association, Montreal, Canada.
- 2011 “Orthodox Jewish Women: Ruling the Internet One Question at a Time.” American Academy of Religion, San Francisco, CA.
- 2010 “Jewish Nazis: Abortion Ethics in Israel and the Rhetoric of the Holocaust.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 “Negotiating Autonomy and Divine Intervention: The Embodied Experiences of Pregnant Haredi Women in Jerusalem.” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009 “New Directions in Jewish Bioethics.” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, DC.

- 2008 “Report on a Process: Research Ethics Consultation in Oncofertility Research.” American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Cleveland, OH.
- 2008 “Health Information and Ultrasound Examinations.” Medical Librarians Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- 2007 “What They Mean When They Say It’s Good Science,” with Laurie Zoloth, Catharine Belling and Marissa Gostanian. American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Washington, D.C.
- 2007 “Other Women’s Bodies: Eggs, Ethics, and the Global Marketplace,” with L. Zoloth, S. Holland, M. Gostanian. American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA.

## **Invited Talks and Presentations**

### ***University Talks***

- 2018 “Surrogacy in Israel and in Jewish Ethics,” Ursinus College, April 26.
- 2017 “Surrogacy and Jewish Ethics,” Swarthmore College, March 2.
- 2016 “Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. December 1.
- 2016 “Women in the Bible and Women in Israel.” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. September 26.
- 2016 “Reproductive Ethics in Israel.” University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH. September 22.
- 2014 “Defying Rabbinic Authority: Reproductive Ethics According to Haredi Women.” Judaism, Science and Medicine Group, Arizona State University, AZ, October 26.
- 2014 “Pro-Life or Pro-Choice: Reproductive Ethics in Light of the Passover Story.” Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY, April 2.
- 2014 “Hishtadlut and Bitachon: Ultra-Orthodox Women Negotiate Autonomy and Divine Intervention in their Reproductive Ethics.” University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, March 10.
- 2014 “Abortion in Israel: Where Ethics, Religion and Economics Meet.” California State University, Northridge, CA, February 18

### ***Community Talks***

- 2018 “Whose Womb and Whose Ethics? Surrogacy in Jewish Ethics.” Temple Beth Sholom, Cherry Hill, NJ. April 29.
- 2018 “Ethics in a Global Community: Responsibility and Difference.” Temple Beth Sholom, Cherry Hill, NJ. April 27.
- 2017 “Ugliness and Beauty: From Aesthetics to Ethics.” Global Day of Jewish Learning, Cincinnati, OH. November 12.
- 2017 “Ethics in a Global Community: Responsibility and Difference.” Limmud Michigan, Detroit, MI. March 19.
- 2017 “Whose Womb and Whose Ethics? Surrogacy in Jewish Ethics” Limmud Michigan, Detroit, MI. March 19.
- 2017 “Ethics in a Global Community: Responsibility and Difference.” Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Detroit, Michigan. March 18.
- 2017 “What if a Woman Wrote the Ten Commandments?” Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Detroit, Michigan. March 17.
- 2017 “The Greening of Judaism,” Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Detroit, Michigan, March 16.
- 2016 “Extraordinary Dignity and Unlimited Responsibility: Modern Jewish Thoughts on the Good Life.” Isaac M. Wise Temple, Cincinnati, OH. January 24.
- 2015 “The Good Life: Extraordinary Dignity and Unlimited Responsibility.” Park Synagogue, Cleveland, OH. November 6.
- 2015 “Surrogacy and Feminist Jewish Ethics.” Park Synagogue, Cleveland, OH. November 7.
- 2014 “Jewish Environmental Ethics: Neither Jewish Nor Ethics. Discuss” List College Retreat, Falls Village, CT, March 28-29.
- 2014 “Cinderella or Sheryl Sandberg? The Many Faces of Vashti and Esther.” Temple Beth Sholom, Hamden, CT, March 9.

- 2014 “Universal Health Care and Feminist Jewish Ethics.” Park Avenue Synagogue, New York, NY, February 2.
- 2013 “Abortion Policies and Reproductive Ethics in Israel,” Sutton Place Adult Education Group, New York, NY, December 18.
- 2013 “Jewish Views of the Religious Other.” King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Vienna, Austria. November 18.
- 2013 “The Greening of Judaism? Turning over a New Leaf.” Temple Beth Sholom, Hamden, CT, January 26.

## **Fellowships, Honors, and Awards**

### *National*

- 2015-2016 Association for Jewish Studies, Paula Hyman Mentoring Program
- 2015 American Society for Bioethics and Humanities, Early Career Mentoring Program
- 2015 Association for Jewish Studies, Cashmere Prize, honorable mention
- 2006-2007 American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, Women’s Bioethics Project

### *University*

- 2017-2018 Charles Phelps Taft Research Center Fellowship, University of Cincinnati (UC)
- 2016-2017 University Research Council Arts Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Research and Scholarship Stipend, UC, \$10,000
- 2014-2015 E-Learning Backpack Project Participant, UC
- 2012-2013 Crown Family Center Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2008-2010 Brady Scholars Fellowship, Northwestern University
- 2006-2009 Pettijohn Fellowship in the Graduate School, Northwestern University

### *Department*

- 2017 Exceptional Service, Head’s Faculty Annual Incentive Awards, \$250
- 2017 Exceptional Research, Head’s Faculty Annual Incentive Awards, \$250

## **Awarded Grants**

### *National*

- 2016-2017 American Academy of Religion, Individual Research Grant, “Tapping on the Stained Glass Ceiling,” \$5,000
- 2016-2017 Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Research Grant, “Tapping on the Stained Glass Ceiling,” \$4,000
- 2015-2016 Israel Institute, Research Grant, “Orthodox Female Clergy in Israel and America,” \$8,195
- 2010-2011 Wenner Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, “Haredi Reproductive Ethics,” \$12,995
- 2010-2011 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Doctoral Scholarship, “Haredi Reproductive Ethics,” \$4,000
- 2009-2010 Fulbright Fellowship, Institute of International Education, “Haredi Reproductive Ethics.”

## **Travel Grants**

### *National*

- 2009 American Society of Bioethics and Humanities, Early Career Scholar Support
- 2007 Jewish United Fund, Israel travel grant

### *University*

- 2016-2017 Travel for Research Grant, Taft Research Center, UC, “Tapping on the Stained Glass Ceiling,” \$3,190

2015 Domestic Conference Travel Grant, Taft Research Center, UC, \$978.20  
2014 Domestic Conference Travel Grant, Taft Research Center, UC, \$769.50  
2014 Conference Travel Grant, Faculty Development Fund, UC, \$815.00

*Department*

2016 Conference Travel Grant, Department of Judaic Studies, UC, \$1,000  
2017 Conference Travel Grant, Department of Judaic Studies, UC, \$1,000

**Teaching Experience**

*Rutgers University*

Arab-Israeli Conflict, Fall 2018

*University of Cincinnati*

Religion and Bioethics, Spring 2017  
Advanced Hebrew, Spring 2017  
Foundations of Judaism, Fall 2016  
Introduction to Judaism, Fall 2016  
Jewish Bioethics, Fall 2016  
Introduction to Graduate Research, Fall 2016  
Introduction to Religious Studies, Fall 2015  
History of Jewish Civilization II, Spring 2015  
Majors Seminar in Judaic Studies, Spring 2015  
Beginners Hebrew, Spring 2015  
Modern Israel, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2017  
Women in Jewish Civilization, Fall 2014

*The Jewish Theological Seminary*

Feminist Jewish Ethics, Fall 2013, Summer 2016  
Women in Israel: Ethical Challenges, Spring 2014  
Reproductive Ethics in Jewish Culture and Text, Spring 2013  
Introduction to Jewish Ethics, Spring 2012

*Northwestern University (Teaching Assistant)*

Catholic Social Ethics, Spring 2009  
Hebrew Bible, Winter 2009  
Introduction to Judaism, Spring 2008  
Linguistic Anthropology, Winter 2008

**Service**

*To Profession*

2017- Board Member, Feminist Studies in Religion  
2017- Co-Chair, E-Feminist Studies in Religion  
2016- Editorial board member, *Journal of Jewish Ethics*  
2015-2017 Board Member, E-Feminist Studies in Religion  
2015- Secretary/Treasurer, Society of Jewish Ethics  
2013- Chair, Bioethics Group of the Society of Jewish Ethics  
2013-2016 Co-Chair, Feminist Approaches to Bioethics  
2012-2016 Steering Committee, Anthropology of Religion, American Academy of Religion  
2012-2014 Conference Co-Chair, Society of Jewish Ethics

2012-2014 Conference Co-Chair, Bioethics Group of the Society of Jewish Ethics  
 2009-2014 Steering Committee, Women and Religion, American Academy of Religion  
 2009-2011 Planning Committee, Society of Jewish Ethics

*To University*

2015- US Fulbright Student Interview Committee  
 2015- Reviewer, Publication Costs, Taft Research Center  
 2015- Member, Instructional Innovations Advisory Council  
 2015-2017 Mentor, E-Learning Backpack Project  
 2015-2016 Graduate Advisor, MA student in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
 2008-2009 Chair, Graduate Student Conference, Northwestern University

*To Department*

2016-2017 Composed Newsletter, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2016-2017 Graduate Director, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2015-2017 Coordinator, Lichter Lecture Series, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2015- Events coordinator, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2015- Social Media coordinator, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2015-2016 Assistant professor hiring committee, Department of Judaic Studies, UC  
 2006-2008 President, Religion Graduate Student Association, Northwestern University

**Languages**

Academic Hebrew  
 Modern Conversational Hebrew  
 Biblical Hebrew  
 Rabbinic Hebrew

**Professional Memberships and Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion  
 Society of Jewish Ethics  
 Association for Jewish Studies  
 American Anthropological Association  
 Academic Society for Bioethics and Humanities