

## David M. Freidenreich

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### EMPLOYMENT

- 2008– Pulver Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Colby College  
2007–2008 Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, Franklin & Marshall College  
2006–2007 Teaching Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies,  
Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania

### EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D. in Religion, with distinction, Columbia University  
*Fields:* Jewish law, Christian law, Islamic law, the comparative study of religion  
2006 Rabbinic Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary  
2006 M.A. in Jewish Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary  
*Specializations:* midrash, liturgy and ritual, Jewish philosophy  
2002 M.Phil. in Religion, with distinction, Columbia University  
2000 M.A. in Religion, Columbia University  
1999 B.A., *summa cum laude*, with high honors in Politics and high honors in  
Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

### DISSERTATION/MANUSCRIPT-IN-PROCESS

#### **Foreign Food: A Comparatively-Enriched Analysis of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law**

Defense committee: Michael Cook, David Weiss Halivni, Robert Somerville, Burton Visotzky, Nequín Yavari

A study of the ways in which Jewish, Christian, and Islamic authorities define and fortify the boundaries of their communities through laws regulating the involvement of religious outsiders in food preparation and shared meals. These restrictions reflect the desire of communal elites to keep both people and foodstuffs in their proper places. This study, the first to analyze change over time across the legal literatures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, illuminates the important topic of interreligious intolerance while demonstrating a valuable model for the comparative study of religion. It has been nominated for the Jeannette and Salo Baron Prize in Jewish Studies, awarded quadrennially to the best Columbia dissertation in the field.

#### **Thou Shalt Not Eat with Them: Foreigners and Their Food in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law**

Working title of a dissertation-based manuscript under contract with the University of California Press. Publication of this work is supported by a grant from Columbia University's Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies.

PUBLICATIONS IN PRINT

- 2009 “Christians in Early and Classical Sunni Law,” in *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History*, vol. 1 (Leiden: Brill), 83–98
- 2009 “Muslims in Christian Law, ca. 650–1000,” *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History*, vol. 1 (Leiden: Brill), 99–114
- 2008 “Muslim–Jewish Dialogue,” *Encyclopedia of the Islamic World* (Oxford University Press)
- 2008 “Sharing Meals with non-Christians in Canon Law Commentaries, ca. 1160–1260: A Case Study in Legal Development,” *Medieval Encounters* 14: 41–77
- 2008/2009 “Kiddushin—A Service for Yom Hashoah,” *Conservative Judaism* 61.1/2: 120–52
- 2004 “Comparisons Compared: A Methodological Survey of Comparisons of Religion from ‘A Magic Dwells’ to *A Magic Still Dwells*,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 16: 80–101
- 2003 “The Use of Islamic Sources in Saadiyah Gaon’s *Tafsīr* of the Torah,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 93: 353–95

PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

“Five Questions about Non-Muslim Meat: Toward a New Appreciation of Ibn al-Qayyim’s Contribution to Islamic Law,” in *Re-evaluating Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawziyya’s Literary Stature*, a special issue of *Oriente Moderno*

“Food and Table Fellowship,” *Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Oxford)

“Fusion Cooking in an Islamic Milieu: Jewish and Christian Jurists on Food Associated with Foreigners,” in *Border Crossings: Interreligious Interaction and the Exchange of Ideas in the Islamic Middle Ages*

Accepted for publication but not yet complete

co-editor, *Border Crossings: Interreligious Interaction and the Exchange of Ideas in the Islamic Middle Ages* [working title of a collection of essays to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press]

“Christians in Early and Classical Shi’i Law,” *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History* (Leiden: Brill)

“Departures from Classical Approaches to Christians in Sunni and Shi’i Law,” *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History* (Leiden: Brill)

“Muslims in Eastern Christian Law, ca. 1000–1500,” *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History* (Leiden: Brill)

“Muslims in Latin Christian Law, ca. 1000–1500,” *Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History* (Leiden: Brill)

“The Vine and Its Trellis: Probing the Nature of Toseftan Dependency and Its Implications for the Study of Early Rabbinic Literature,” *Journal for Jewish Studies*

Works in progress or currently under consideration

- “Exceptionally Well-Educated: The Jews of Waterville, Me., in the Interwar Years”
- “Holiness and Impurity in the Torah and the Quran: Differences within a Common Typology”
- “The Implications of Unbelief: Tracing the Emergence of Distinctively Shi’i Notions Regarding the Food and Impurity of Non-Muslims”

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2008 “Poking Holes in Israel’s Holiness: Explorations in the Juxtaposition of Leviticus and the Qur’an,” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2008 “The Scholar as Community Educator: Lessons I’ve Learned Teaching Islam to Jews... as a Rabbi,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2007 “People of the Oral Book? Attitudes Toward Rabbinic Law in Islamic Legal Literature,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2007 “Foreign Food under Foreign Rule: Developments in Jewish and Christian Law within an Islamic Milieu,” Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2006 “Foreign Food in the Marketplace: Recovering Historical Data Through Comparison,” Annual Meeting, American Historical Association
- 2005 “Reading Scripture Against the Grain in Christian and Islamic Communities: A Comparatively-Enriched Study,” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2005 “Prohibitions of Commensality with Jews in Early Medieval Canon Law,” Annual Meeting, International Congress of Medieval Studies
- 2004 “Jewish and Islamic Restrictions on Foreign Food: A Case Study in the Significance of Similarity,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2003 “On the Literary Dependency of the Tosefta,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2003 “Building Walls at the Borders: The Creation of Restrictions on Foreign Food in Modern Islam and Medieval Christianity,” Summer Academy, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin Working Group on Modernity and Islam
- 2002 “Preliminary Observations on the Source of the Mishnah and Tosefta,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2002 “Neither Fish nor Fowl: The Conception of Islam in Canon Law Sources on Commensality,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion

COMMUNITY EDUCATION: PUBLIC LECTURES I OFFER REGULARLY

- “Encountering Islam: An Introduction for American Jews”
- “Food and Jewish Identity: Is Keeping Kosher About Keeping Separate?”

CURRENT SERVICE TO COLBY COLLEGE AND TO THE DISCIPLINE

- Colby committee service: Biblical studies search; Goldfarb Center (coordinating committee); Jewish Studies Program; Lipman Lecture; Oak Fellowship
- faculty advisor to Colby Hillel
- co-curator, “The Medieval Canon Law Virtual Library” ([www.colby.edu/canonlaw](http://www.colby.edu/canonlaw))
- co-founder and steering committee member: “Religions in Europe and the Mediterranean World, 500–1650,” American Academy of Religion program unit

FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2009– Goldfarb Center Faculty Research Fellow, Colby College
- 2005–2006 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellow, Columbia University
- 2005–2006 Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Doctoral Dissertation Fellow,  
National Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 2005 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellow, Columbia University  
(for the advanced study of classical Arabic at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem)
- 2004–2005 Doctoral Scholarship Grant recipient, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 2003–2004 Paul H. Klingenstein Fellow, Columbia University
- 2003 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellow, Columbia University  
(for manuscript and archival research in Vatican City and Munich)
- 1999–2003 Presidential Fellow, Columbia University
- 1999–2000 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson Foundation
- 1995–1999 Justice Brandeis Scholar, Brandeis University

ACADEMIC PRIZES

Jewish Theological Seminary

- 2006 Israel Davidson Memorial Prize (in medieval Hebrew literature)
- 2006 Isaac H. Wolfson Memorial Prize (for service to the JTS community)
- 2004 Aaron Friedenwald Prize in Jewish Theology
- 2004 Solomon and Rose S. Lasdon Prize (in Judaism and art or scholarship)
- 2003 Alexander Kohut Memorial Prize (in Talmud)
- 2003 William B. Hackenburg Prize in Midrash

Brandeis University

- 1999 Saul and Sarah Fechter Family Prize in Political Science
- 1999 Samuel and Jennie Raucher Prize in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- 1999 Phi Beta Kappa