

J.J. Kimche

Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy
University of Austin, Texas
Email: jkimche@uaustin.org

EMPLOYMENT

University of Austin, Texas (UATX)

Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Austin, TX
2025-Present

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D. Candidate

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

Ph.D. in Jewish History and Culture. Expected Graduation: Spring 2025.

Cambridge, MA
2019-2025

Dissertation Title:

Victorian England's Greatest Hebraist: The Texts and Contexts of Christian David Ginsburg

Committee:

- Jay M. Harris (Harvard University), primary advisor
- David Stern (Harvard University), secondary advisory
- Idan Dershowitz (Potsdam University)
- George Y. Kohler (Bar-Ilan University)

Research Interests:

- Jewish intellectual history, medieval and modern
- Modern European philosophy and literature
- Religion in the Enlightenment and Post-Enlightenment eras
- Commentary and criticism of the Hebrew Bible, Christian and Jewish
- Jewish mysticism
- Modern Jewish historiography

Shalem College

Undergraduate Degree, Bachelor of Arts

Double Major: Western Philosophy and Jewish Thought

Jerusalem, Israel
2015-2019

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Books

- *Dialogue on Kabbalah by Samuel David Luzzatto* – Translation, Annotation, and Introduction by J.J. Kimche (Palgrave Macmillan, December 2024)
- *Festschrift in honour of Menachem Kellner*, Co-Editor (Shalem Press, Jerusalem, expected publication: Summer 2026)
- *Christian David Ginsburg: The Life and Works of Victorian Britain's Greatest Hebraist*, Under Contract, De Gruyter / BRILL. Expected Submission: Summer 2026.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- "The Bylaws of Frankfurt's Neo-Orthodox Synagogue: A Developmental History." *The Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 66 (2021): 161-179.
- "A Husband of Valour: Who Can Find?: The Husband's Role in Proverbs 31", *Jewish Bible Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 3 (2021): 143-158
- "Kohelet—Hebrew or Hellenist? A Survey of the Debate." *Expository Times*, 133, no. 4 (2022): 141-153.
- "Russell's Historiographical Excursion: Between a History of Philosophy and A Philosophy of History." *Russell: The Journal of Bertrand Russell Studies* 41, no. 2 (2021): 154-177.
- "Excellence in Exile: Jewish Exceptionalism in Anti-Zionist Thought." *Modern Judaism* 42, no. 2 (2022): 183-201.
- "Conflicted Disciples: Graetz Through the Eyes of Dubnow, Baron, and Scholem." *Jewish History* 36, no. 1 (2022): 139-169.
- "“Bristles With Complications”: George Steiner’s Conflicted Judaism”, *Revue des études Juives*, Vol. 183, Issue 3-4 (2024): 451-476
- "From the Pages of Tradition: Shadal's Poem on Mortality", *TRADITION*, Vol. 57, No. 1 (Winter 2025): 80-92
- "The Maverick and the Mystics: C.D. Ginsburg's Foray into Kabbalah", *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (Forthcoming, January 2025)
- "Analysis of Luzzatto's Kabbalistic Dialogue", co-authored with Mordy M. Miller in: *Festschrift in Honour of Menachem Kellner*, Shalem Press (Forthcoming, 2026).

Book Reviews

- "A Naive Heretic", *First Things*, September 2021
- "The Rage of Meir Kahane", *First Things*, April 2022
- "Spinoza in Full", *First Things*, April 2024.
- "Maimonides for our Time", *First Things*, December 2024
- "Palaces and Floor Plans", *First Things*, October 2025

Non-Refereed Books

- *Letters on Kabbalah*, Edited and Introduced (Daat Press, London, 2023)
- *C.D. Ginsburg's Dictionary of Acronyms* – Edited and Introduced (The Institute for Jewish Research and Publications, Cambridge, MA. Expected publication: Spring/Summer 2026)

Non-Refereed Articles

- "Evolution of a Revolution", *Kol Hamevasser* (The Jewish Thought Magazine of Yeshiva University), March 2015
- "The Gush Tanakh Method: An Overview and Two Critiques" in: *A Light to One and All: A Festschrift in Honour of Rabbi Alan Kimche* (London, 2019)
- "The Judaism of George Steiner", *First Things*, December 2020
- "Hope and Suffering", A 42-part series on the book of Job, *929.org*, May-July 2021.
- "What Threatens American Jews?", *Wall Street Journal*, January 2022
- "BDS at Harvard", *City Journal*, July 2022 (reproduced in the *New York Post*)
- "Paul Johnson: England's Great Philosemite", *First Things*, March 2023
- "Harvard Shrugs at Jew-Hatred", *Wall Street Journal*, October 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Harvard University Cambridge, MA
Lecturer, J-Term Course 2020
Teaching Fellow, Faculty of Arts and Sciences 2021-2022
Primary Lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Sciences 2022-2023

Brandeis University Waltham, MA
Lecturer, 'Global Religions' track, Genesis Pre-College Program Summer, 2020 and 2021
Lecturer, Jewish History, 'Better to Learn' Pre-College Program 2021-2022

MIT Hillel Cambridge, MA
Teacher, Jewish philosophy, history, and Hebrew Bible 2019-2023

Shalom Hartman Institute Jerusalem, Israel
Lecturer, Greek Philosophy and Jewish thought, *Hevruta* gap-year program 2018-2019

Courses Taught

- "Philosophy and Religion in Plato's Dialogues", Hartman Institute, 2018-2019
- "Four Jewish Heretics who Shaped Modernity: Exploring the Legacy of Spinoza, Marx, Freud, and Derrida", Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, J-Term, January 2020
- "Central Debates in Jewish Philosophy", MIT Hillel, 2019-2021
- "Lives and Thought of the Major Biblical Commentators", MIT Hillel, 2021-2022
- "Texts and Contexts in the Hebrew Bible", MIT Hillel, 2019-2022
- "Global Religions", Genesis Program, Brandeis University, Summer 2020, 2021
- "Philosophy and Law: Readings in Maimonides' Mishneh Torah", Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Fall 2022.
- "The Laws of a Jewish State: Maimonides' Political-Theological Treatise" Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Spring 2023.
- "Overview of Jewish History", Better to Learn Initiative, Brandeis University, 2022-23.
- "Jews who Forged Modernity", Gratz College, Spring 2023.

Conference Presentations

- "Two Models of Religious Morality in the Post-Holocaust Era", Conference on Judaic Studies, Shalem College, May 2017
- "Bertrand Russell – A Spinozist?", Conference on Philosophy, Shalem College, June 2018
- "Words and Worlds: The Renewed Popularity of Kabbalah in the Twentieth Century", Philosophy 360 Conference, June 2019
- "Excellence in Exile: Three Models of Jewish Diasporism", Shared History Conference, Leo Baeck Institute, Berlin, 2020.
- "The Relevance and Irrelevance of Heinrich Graetz", Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Las Vegas, March 2021
- "Hoffman on the Enfranchisement of Women in post-Monarchic Germany", Conference on Rabbi David Zvi Hoffman, Bar Ilan University, January 2022.
- "A Revolution in Time: The Historicist Moment in Jewish Philosophy", BIAJS Conference, King's College, London, July 2022
- "Shadal's Sceptical Guest: The Rarely Considered Early Scholar of Kabbalah", World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, August 2022
- "Literary Readings of Luzzatto's *Dialogue Concerning Kabbalah*", Association of Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, MA, December 2022

- “C.D. Ginsburg’s Foray into Kabbalah”, Association of Jewish Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA, December 2023
- “Ritual and Mysticism in Ginsburg’s Scholarship”, Perelmutter Conference, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, April 2024
- “Between Scholarship and Evangelism: The Biblical Exegesis of C.D. Ginsburg”, Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2024
- “Judaism, Socialism, and the Holocaust in the Writings of George Steiner”, Socialisms in the Face of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe, International Research Workshop, University of Haifa, 7-8 April 2025.
- “The Missionary and the Mystics: Christian David Ginsburg’s (Re-)Conception of Kabbalah”, Kabbalah and Modernity Conference, Ben-Gurion University, December 2025
- “C.D. Ginsburg as a Christian Maskil”, Association of Jewish Studies Conference, December 2025

Invited Lectures

- Guest lecture, ‘Introduction to Judaism’ course (Prof. Jon D. Levenson), Harvard Divinity School, 2021
- Guest Lecture, “God and Evil in the Book of Job”, Bible Studies Course, Case Western Reserve University, July 2021
- Guest Lecture, ‘Introduction to Talmud’, Harvard Divinity School, 2022
- Keynote Lecture, “Was the Holocaust Unique?”, Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony, Harvard Divinity School, 2023
- Guest Lecture, “The Life and Works of C.D. Ginsburg”, University College London, November 2024

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| Harvard University | Cambridge, MA |
| PhD Candidate | 2019-2025 |
| Literary Editor, <i>Emet: Harvard Student Journal of Jewish Studies</i> | 2021-2022 |
| Co-Symposiarch, Jewish Studies Graduate Workshop | 2022-2023 |
| Editorial Associate, <i>Harvard Theological Review</i> | 2023-2025 |
| Widener Library, Judaica Division, Harvard University | Cambridge, MA |
| Archival Associate | 2019-2021 |
| Academic Researcher and Publicist | Jerusalem, Israel |
| Researcher for Prof. Gil Troy (McGill University, Brookings Institute) | 2017-2018 |
| Shalom Hartman Institute | Jerusalem, Israel |
| Researcher, Translator | 2015-2018 |
| Junior Research Fellow, David Hartman Center For Intellectual Excellence | 2016-2018 |

OTHER

Languages

- Hebrew (Biblical, Rabbinic, Medieval, Modern) – Fluent

- Judeo-Aramaic (Talmudic, Zoharic) – Excellent
- Yiddish (reading and speaking) – Proficient
- German (reading) – Proficient
- French (reading) – Adequate

Awards, Scholarships, and Honours

- Scholarship and stipend for undergraduate degree, Shalem College, 2015-2019
- Selected as ambassador for inter-cultural delegation to the USA, Shalem College, summer 2018
- Harvard University, Louis and Alice Schimberg Graduate Student Fellowship Fund, winter 2020
- Harvard University, Isadore Twersky Fellowship, 2020-2022
- Harvard University, Sosland Family Fellowship, 2020-2021
- Harvard University, Sidney L. Solomon Endowed Fellowship, 2020-2021
- Harvard University, Edward H. Kavinoky fund, summer research, 2020
- Fellow, Tikvah's Krauthammer Fellowship, 2021-2022
- Harvard University, Sosland Family Fellowship, 2022-2023
- Harvard University, Certificate of Student Recognition for Teaching, Fall 2022
- Harvard University, Barney and Anne B. Malloy Memorial Fund, summer research, 2023
- Harvard University, Griffin GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2023-2024

Professional Associations

- Member of the Association of Jewish Studies, 2021-Present

Academic Media

- Host, *Podcast of Jewish Ideas* (Average 2000-3000 listeners per episode), 2023-present. Close to 100 episodes recorded thus far.
- *A Jew From Nowhere* – Bi-monthly newsletter on Judaism, through *First Things* (slated to begin: March 2026).