

**Bryan K. Roby**  
University of Michigan  
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## **Education**

PhD, Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Manchester, UK 2013

M.A., Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Manchester, UK 2008

B.A., Middle Eastern Studies  
University of Massachusetts – Amherst, 2007

## **Professional Appointments**

Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, 2017-Present  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

## **Fellowships**

Mellon Fellow – Public Engagement and the Humanities, 2019-2020  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

Visiting Fellow, 2016-2017  
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies  
Topic: "Israeli Histories, Societies and Cultures: Comparative Approaches"

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2013-2014  
New York University, Taub Center for Israel Studies  
Topic: Oriental Jewish Political Thought after 1967

## **Publications**

“An Aliyah to Iraq: Transgressive Migrations between Israel and the Arab World,” *AJS Perspectives: The Migration Issue*, (Fall 2017)

“Israel in Black and White,” *Frankel Institute Annual*, (Fall 2017)

*The Mizrahi Era of Rebellion: Israel's Forgotten Civil Rights Struggle 1948–1966* (Syracuse University Press, 2015)

“Review: *From India to Israel: Identity, Immigration, and the Struggle for Religious Equality* by Joseph Hodes” *Middle Eastern Studies* (2015)

“Review: Militarism in Israeli Society, G. Sheffer and O. Barak eds.” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* 39:2 (2012), 285 – 287

### In Progress

*Israel through a Colored Lens: Racial Constructs in the Israeli Jewish Imagination*

*Defective Material: A History of Yeridah in the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

“Race Travels: Ida Jiggetts’ Insight into Mizrahi Israeli Issues”

“The Greatest Upheaval: Israel and the Diaspora at Odds”

### **Public History Articles [in progress]**

“Wimps and Defective Material: Yeridah as Protest”

“A Dangerous Aliyah?”

‘Black isn’t a color, it’s a Status’

### **Languages**

English – Native; Hebrew – Fluent; French – Near-fluent reading knowledge; Arabic – Proficient working knowledge; Judeo-Arabic – Basic reading knowledge; German – Basic reading knowledge

### **Digital Humanities Projects**

Jewish Literature in the Global South

Mapping Jewish Diasporas

### **Courses**

Blacks and Jews in the Arab World (300-level)

Protests and Conflict in Israel (400-level)

Jewish Life in Colonial North Africa (300-level)

Social and Political History of Israel (100-level seminar)

Jews in the Middle East (200-level)

Policing and Civil Rights in Israel and America (200-level)

Cartographies of Race (Graduate Seminar/400-level DAAS)

## **Service**

Preliminary Committee Member – Race and Migration – Pragya Kaul, 2018-Present  
Dissertation Committee Member, Morgan Carlton, 2019-Present  
Dissertation Committee Member, Chelsie May, University of Chicago 2018-Present  
Membership Committee Member, Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) 2018-Present  
Federal Grant Reviewer, National Resource Center (NRC) and Foreign Languages and Area Studies (FLAS), 2018  
Organizer/Founder – MESA Queer Studies Interest Group – 2017-Present  
Grant Reviewer, Israel Science Foundation, 2017  
Undergraduate Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) – Jewish Life in Modern North Africa 2017-Present

## **Grants**

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching – Faculty Development Grant Fund 2018  
Humanities Collaboratory “5x5 Incubator Grant”, 2018  
Mini-MCubed Remapping Peoples of the Book: Theorizing Abrahamic Vernaculars, 2018  
Course Connections, 2017  
Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), 2017-2018  
Course Development Initiative, 2017

## **Podcasts**

“Israel’s Forgotten Civil Rights Struggle”, *New Books in Jewish Studies Podcast*, 8 November 2016  
“Blackness and the Double-Consciousness of Arab Jews”, *Frankely Judaic Podcast*, October 2016

## **Invited Talks/Workshops**

Comparative Approaches to Black and Jewish Studies in Britain and the U.S., *University of Birmingham*, July 1-2 2020  
African-American Perspectives on Mizrahi Israelis, *Maurice Amado Seminar in Sephardic Studies, UCLA – Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies*, April 21 2020  
Israel through a Colored Lens: Black Perspectives on Israeli History, *Franklin & Marshall College*, March 3 2020  
Modern Jewish History Colloquium, *Yale University*, January 29, 2020

Annual Kwartler Lecture, *Princeton University*, October 17, 2019

Israel through a Colored Lens: African-American Perspectives on Mizrahi Israelis, *University of Wisconsin – Madison, Weinstein-Minkoff Lecture in Israel Studies*, March 6, 2019

Mizrahi Jews in Israel, Summer Institute for Israel Studies, *Brandeis University*, June 16, 2019

Mapping the World: Using Digital Humanities Tools in the Black History Classroom, *African-American Intellectual History Society*, March 23, 2019

"An Aliyah to Morocco? Israeli Repatriation to the Arab World", *University of Maryland*, 20 November 2017

"Tracing the Roots of the Black-Israel Alliance: African-American Views on the Sephardic Civil Rights Struggle in Israel", *JCC – West Bloomfield, MI*, 15 February 2017

"The Sting of Prejudice: Reorienting Black Thought and the Diaspora in Israel and America", *SUNY – Binghamton*, February 10, 2017

"Transnational Alliances between African-Americans and Arab Jews", Perspectives on Im/Migration, Exclusion and Discrimination, *University of Michigan*, February 3, 2017

Blackness and the Double-Consciousness of Arab Jews: A Comparative History of the Mizrahi and African-American Experience, *University of Michigan*, 18 January 2017

Exploring the Comparative History of the Mizrahi and African-American Experience, *Michigan State University*, 10 October 2016

[Guest Lecturer]: "Beyond Sandler and Seinfeld: An Introduction to American Jewish Culture", *Michigan State University*, Fall 2016

*Moledet or Watan?* Mizrahi Belonging and Resistance in Israel and the Arab World, *University of Chicago*, 12 November 2015

"We Too Shall Overcome": Mizrahi Perspectives on Civil Rights Issues in Israel in the Early Years of the State, *Columbia University*, 15 October 2015

"Social and Political Movements in Israel", *Brandeis University*, Spring 2015

"Conflicted Identities: 'Other' Israelis", *Jewish Theological Seminary*, Fall 2015

The Burden of Blackness: Comparing the Mizrahi Israeli and African-American Experience in the Civil Rights Era, *Oxford University*, 11 November 2014

Mizrahi Political Thought and the Ethnic Struggle in Israel 1948 – 1966, *University of Leiden*, Netherlands 17 March 2014

## Conferences

Jews, Race, and U.S.-Middle East Encounters, *American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS)*, June 21-3 2020

Complicating Racialized Meanings of ‘Sephardi’ and its Imperial Legacies, *Latin American Jewish Studies Association (LAJSA)*, June 28-30 2020

Politics of the Domestic in the Yishuv and Israel, *Association for Jewish Studies Conference 2019*, (Chair/Organizer)

Seductive Modernity? Intimacy and Culture in the 19th Century, Respondent, *Association for Jewish Studies Conference 2019*

Crossing the Green Line, Chair, *AJS Conference 2019* (Chair/Organizer)

The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures, *AJS Conference*, 17 December 2018

Men and Masculinities: Negotiating Gender, Sexuality, and Society, *MESA Conference*, 17 November 2018, San Antonio, Texas (Chair/Organizer)

Israeli Culture and the Question of Race, *Modern Language Association Convention*, Philadelphia, PA, 5–8 January 2017 (Panel Chair)

Satire, Popular Culture, and Visual Media, *Association for Jewish Studies Conference*, 18-20 December 2016 (Panel Chair)

Protests, Imagining and Intersectionality: The Transnational Positionality of Middle East-North African (MENA) Jews, 1940-1960, *Association for Jewish Studies Conference*, 18-20 December 2016, (Organizer/Presenter)

Expressions of Belonging and Identity in Mizrahi Social Justice Protests 1948 – 1958, *MESA Annual Conference*, 18 November 2016 (Organizer/Presenter)

Arabs, Jews and "Arab-Jews": Israel's Entangled Identities, *University of Michigan Weiseneck Symposium*, Ann Arbor, 20 October 2016

Facing the “Most Powerful Symbol of Neglect”: Examining Mizrahi Youth Subculture of the 1960s and 1970s, *Taub Center Workshop, New York University – Africa House*, 11 April 2014

Transnational Influences on Middle Eastern Jewish Thought in Israel during the 1970s, *New York University Emerging Scholars in Israel Studies Academic Symposium*, 6 April 2014.

Writing on the Margins: Leftist Mizrahi Political Thought in the 1950s and 1960s, *MESA Conference*, New Orleans, 13 October 2013

The Mizrahi Era of Rebellion: Israel's Forgotten Civil Rights Movement, Taub Talks, *New York University Bronfman Center*, 8 October 2013

Passive Victims or Zealous Pioneers? Debating Oriental (Mizrahi) Jews in Israel, *Middle Eastern Studies Seminar, University of Manchester*, 28 November 2012

Beyond Wadi Salib: Understanding Early Mizrahi Resistance Against the Israeli “Melting Pot” Ideology 1948 – 1966, *AIS Annual Conference, Haifa* 26 June 2012

The Impact of Policing Oriental Jewish Protests in the First Decade, Extra-Parliamentary Politics, *Social Movements and Protest*, Ben-Gurion University, 5 June 2011

Identity Politics and Educational Alternatives for Middle Eastern Jewry and Palestinian citizens of Israel, *Manchester MES Seminar*, December 2009

### **Professional Affiliations**

African-American Intellectual History Society

American Historical Association

Association for Jewish Studies

Association for Israel Studies

Middle Eastern Studies Association