

## SAMUEL LEBENS

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### EDUCATION

2010-2013      Rabbinic Ordination, Jerusalem, from Rabbi Zalman Nehemia Goldberg  
2006-2010      PhD, Birkbeck College, London, Philosophy  
2003-2006      University College London, Philosophy

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

2021-            Associate Professor, University of Haifa, Philosophy Department  
2016-2021      Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Haifa, Philosophy Department  
2014-2014      Postdoctoral Research Associate, Rutgers University, Center for Philosophy of Religion  
2013-2014      Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Notre Dame, Center for Philosophy of Religion

### RESEARCH AREAS

Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Early Analytic Philosophy, Jewish philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Monographs

2017            *Bertrand Russell and The Nature of Propositions: A History and Defense of the Multiple Relation Theory of Judgement*. New York: Routledge.  
2020            *The Principles of Judaism (Oxford Studies in Analytic Theology)*. Oxford: Oxford University.  
2022            *Philosophy of Religion: The Basics*. London and New York: Routledge.  
2022            *A Guide for the Jewish Undecided: A Philosopher Makes the Case for Orthodox Judaism* New York and Jerusalem: Yeshiva University Press and Maggid Books.  
Under contract    *Thinking about Fiction*, with Tatjana von Solodkoff. London and New York: Routledge.

#### Edited Volumes

2019            *Jewish Philosophy in an Analytic Age*, with D. Rabinowitz and A. Segal, Oxford: Oxford University Press

## Journal Articles

- Forthcoming 'Is God a person? Maimonides, Crescas, and beyond,' *Religious Studies*.
- Forthcoming 'The Unlikely Comeback of Pascal's Wager: on the Instability of Secular Post-Modernism', with Daniel Statman, *Philosophia*.
- Forthcoming 'On the Harmony between Epistemology and Pistology,' *Australasian Philosophical Review*.
- Forthcoming 'Amen to Daat: On the Foundations of Jewish Epistemology,' *Religious Studies*.
- 2022 'One God, One Truth, Many Languages: Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' Pluralism Reexamined,' *Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought*, 54/2: 74-100
- 2022 'Defining Religion,' *Oxford Studies in the Philosophy of Religion*, volume 10: 145-168.
- 2021 'Abraham's Empty Altars,' *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 13/4: 65-86
- 2021 'Will I get a job? Contextualism, belief and faith,' *Synthese*, 199 /3-4:5769-5790
- 2021 'On where God isn't: excrement and the philosophy of religion; two Jewish perspectives', *Religious Studies*, 57/4: 717 - 731
- 2021 'Proselytism as Epistemic Violence: A Jewish Argument against Proselytism', *The Monist*, 104/3: 376–392.
- 2021 'Missing, Presumed Not Dead', *Philosophia*, 49:1043–1050.
- 2020 'Hyper-Past Evils: A Reply to Bogdan V. Faul', with T. Goldschmidt, *Open Theology*, 6/1, 374-377.
- 2020 'Divine Contractions', with T. Goldschmidt, *Religious Studies*, 56/4, 509-524.
- 2020 'Revelation Through Concealment: Kabbalistic Responses to God's Hiddenness', *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 12, 2:89-108.
- 2020 'Pascal, Pascalberg, and Friends', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 87, 109–130.
- 2019 'Dormant Dispositions, Agent Value, and the Trinity', with D. Tuggy, *Journal for Analytic Theology*, 7, 142-155.
- 2019 'Nothing Else', *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 11, 2:91-110.
- 2017 'The Promise of a New Past', with T. Goldschmidt, *Philosophers' Imprint* 17, 18, 1-25.
- 2017 'An Advertisement of a New Paper', with T. Goldschmidt, *Journal of Analytic Theology*, 5, 1: 629-36.
- 2017 Russell and Bradley: Revisiting the Creation Narrative of Analytic Philosophy', *Journal for the History of Analytic Philosophy* 5, 7: 1-10.
- 2017 'The Ashes of Isaac', *Journal of Analytic Theology* 5: 500-514.
- 2017 'Is there a Primordial Torah?', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, 82, 2: 216-239.
- 2017 'The Life of Faith as a Work of Art: A Rabbinic Theology of Faith', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 81, 1: 61-81.
- 2015 'Would this Paper Exist if I hadn't written it?' 2015, *Philosophical Studies* 172, 11: 3059-3080.

- 2015 'God and His Imaginary Friends: A Hassidic Metaphysics', 2015, *Religious Studies*, 51, 2: 183-204.
- 2014 'Why so Negative about Negative Theology: The Search for a Plantinga-Proof Apophaticism', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 76, 3: 259-275.
- 2013 'True Succession and Counterfactual Approval', *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 2, 10: 26-31.
- 2013 'Counterfactual Approval and Idiosyncratic Counterfactual Approval', *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 2, 11: 65-69.
- 2013 'The Epistemology of Religiosity', *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 74, 3: 315-332.
- 2009 'The Meaning of Death and Dying in Judaism', *European Journal of Palliative Care* 16, 5.
- 2008 'A Substantive Non-Solution to the Problem of Unity', *The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication* 4.

### Book Chapters

- Forthcoming 'A Russellian Philosophy of Philosophy: On Systematicity and Entitlement,' in A. Segal and N. Stang, *Systematicity in Metaphysics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming 'Russell's *Foundations of Geometry*: Heading out of Kant's Hot-House', with F. MacBride, in K. Klement (Ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Bertrand Russell*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Forthcoming 'Classical Theism and Jewish Conceptions of God,' in R. Koons and J. Fuqua (Eds.), *Classical Theism: New Essays on the Metaphysics of God*. London and New York: Routledge
- Forthcoming 'Jewish Epistemology and Communitarianism,' in J. Greco, T. McNabb & J. Fuqua (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Religious Epistemology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2022 'Is God a person? Maimonidean and Neo-Maimonidean Perspectives,' in S. Kittle and G. Gasser (Eds.), *The Divine Nature: Personal and A-Personal Perspectives*. London and New York: Routledge, 2022.
- 2021 'Ex Nihilo Nihil Fit: An Argument for Anti-Nihilism', with T. Goldschmidt, in S. Bernstein and T. Goldschmidt (Eds.), *Non-Being: New Essays on the Metaphysics of Non-Existence*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 'A Commentary on a Midrash: Metaphors about Metaphor', in S. Lebens, D. Rabinowitz, and A. Segal (Eds.), *Jewish Philosophy in an Analytic Age*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2019 'Are you Experienced?', in G. Oppy, G. Dawes, E. Fales, J. Koterski, M. Al-Allaf, Robert Fastiggi, and D. Shatz (Eds.), *Theism and Atheism: Opposing Arguments in Philosophy*. Macmillan Reference.
- 2017 'Negative Theology as Illuminating/Therapeutic Falsehood', in M. Fagenblat (Ed.). *Negative Theology as Jewish Modernity*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

- 2017 'Hassidic Idealism: Kurt Vonnegut and the Creator of the Universe' in T. Goldschmidt and K. Pearce (Eds.), *Idealism: New Essays*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2016 'Reconciling Imagery and Doctrine,' in D. Franks and A. Segal (Eds.), *Jewish Philosophy Past and Present: Contemporary Responses to Classical Sources*. New York: Routledge

## Reviews

- 2021 A. Goshen-Gottstein (ed.), *Religious Truth: Towards a Jewish Theology of Religions* and, A. Goshen-Gottstein (ed.), *Judaism's Challenge: Election, Divine Love and Human Enmity*, in *Religious Studies*.
- 2020 *On the Genealogy of Universals: The Metaphysical Origins of Analytic Philosophy* by Fraser MacBride, *Philosophical Quarterly*, 70/281, 877-880.
- 2020 *Joseph Albo on Free Choice: Exegetical Innovation in Medieval Jewish Philosophy* by Shira Weiss, in *Religious Studies*, 56/1, 135-138.
- 2019 *Jewish Philosophy in the Middle Ages* by T. Rudavsky, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2018 *Radical Skepticism and the Shadow of Doubt* by E. Hirsch, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2016 *Ritualized Faith: Essays on the Philosophy of Liturgy* by T. Cuneo, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- 2014 'Hebrew Philosophy or Jewish Theology? A False Dichotomy', review of *The Philosophy of Hebrew Scripture* by Y. Hazony, *Journal of Analytic Theology* 2

## PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Talks

- 2022 'Virtue and Religious Practice' at an invited session for the American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago.
- 2020 'Proselytism as Epistemic Violence', Inaugural conference of the Princeton Project in Philosophy and Religion.
- 2020 'Russell and the Philosophy of Philosophy', Jerusalem Philosophical Encounter, Hebrew University.
- 2019 'Russell and Idealism', Bar Ilan University, Israeli Philosophical Association.
- 2018 'From Maimonides to the Ba'al Shem Tov: Via Copenhagen, Consciousness, Kurt Vonnegut, and Berkeley', University of Innsbruck, Personal and A-personal Theology Conference.
- 2017 'Rationality, Reasonability and Religiosity', University of Haifa, Rational Belief and Normative Commitments Conference.
- 2017 'On the Semantics of Nonfictional Names in a Fictional Context', Ben Gurion University, Israeli Philosophical Association.
- 2016 'The Life of Faith as a Work of Art', Baylor University and Western Washington University, Summer Seminar on the Nature and Value of Faith.

- 2015 'Rational Religiosity', Baylor University and Western Washington University, Summer Seminar on the Nature and Value of Faith.
- 2014 'Interpreting Religious Belief', Baylor University and Western Washington University, Conference on the Nature and Value of Faith.
- 2013 'Midrash and Metaphor', Shalem Center, Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Bible Talmud and Midrash.
- 2012 'The Izbicer, Gareth Evans, and Berkeley, on Free Will', University of St Thomas, Philosophy of Religion Summer Seminar.
- 2011 'How to Cut a Sentence into Bits', Shalem Center, Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Bible Talmud and Midrash.
- 2009 'Keith Hossack's Theory of Judgement', Birkbeck/University College London Conference.
- 2009 'A Neglected Theory of Judgement', Chicago, Bertrand Russell Society, Central APA.
- 2008 'A Substantive Non-Solution to the Problem of Unity', University of Latvia, Annual Symposium of Cognition, Logic and Communication; on 200 years of Analytic Philosophy.
- 2007 'The Meaning of Pain and Suffering: A Jewish Perspective', Lake Windmere, The British Pain Society.

### **Colloquia**

- 2020 'Proselytism as Epistemic Violence,' Center for Philosophy of Religion, Leeds University.
- 2019 'Dying *De Se* and *De Re*', Department of Philosophy, Tel Hai.
- 2018 'The Principles of Judaism', Center Philosophy of Religion, Rutgers University.
- 2016 'Kurt Vonnegut and the Creator of the Universe', Philosophy of Religion, Reading Group, Fordham University.
- 2016 'The Promise of a New Past', with T. Goldschmidt, Center for Philosophy of Religion, Rutgers University.
- 2015 'The Primordial Torah', Center for Philosophy of Religion, Rutgers University.
- 2014 'The Primordial Torah', Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame.
- 2013 'God and His Imaginary Friends', Center for Philosophy of Religion, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010 'Russell's Theory of Judgment', Department of Philosophy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

### **Invited Lectures**

- 2021 'Jewish Epistemology and Communitarianism,' The Joseph Butler Society, Oxford University.
- 2018 'Berkeley and Hassidic Idealism', D Society, University of Cambridge.

- 2018 'Pantheism, Panentheism and Acosmism', Department of Philosophy, University of Birmingham.
- 2013 'Negative Theology', Philosophy Club, Pepperdine University.
- 2013 'Epistemology of Religiosity', Glazer Institute, Pepperdine University.

#### **Conference Organizer (or co-Organizer)**

- 2021 Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation
- 2019 Worship: A Jewish Philosophical Investigation
- 2019 Meaning of Life Conference, University of Haifa
- 2018 Philosophy of Religion Conference, University of Haifa

#### GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2022 Global Philosophy of Religion Project – Grant to support a course on the philosophy of the afterlife at the University of Haifa, and the Ibn Haldun University – co-principal investigator (£31,820)
- 2018-2020 John Templeton Foundation Project Grant (\$234,575)
- 2016-2019 Templeton World Charity Foundation Research Grant (\$214,710)
- 2016 Baylor Summer Seminar on the Nature and Virtue of Faith (\$4000 scholarship)
- 2015 Baylor Summer Seminar on the Nature and Virtue of Faith (\$4000 scholarship)
- 2012 St Thomas Summer Seminars in the Philosophy of Religion (\$3000 scholarship)
- 2006-2010 Arts Humanities Research Council Award

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### **Recent Courses**

Introduction to Medieval Philosophy, Philosophy of Literature, Idealism from Berkeley until Today, Time and Time Travel, Time and Literature, Mind and Body in the Philosophy and Literature, Philosophy of Language, *Tractatus Logico Philosophicus*, Advanced Topics in Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Death.

#### MANUSCRIPT REVIEW

American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, British Journal for the History of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Faith and Philosophy, Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, Journal for the History of Analytic Philosophy, Mind, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Res Philosophica, Synthese, Journal of Religious Ethics, Tradition: A Journal of Orthodox Jewish Thought.

#### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- 2011- Association for the Philosophy of Judaism (founding chairperson)
- 2013- American Philosophical Association
- 2016- Israeli Philosophical Association
- 2009-2010 Bertrand Russell Society