

Laura Arnold Leibman

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Education

- Ph.D. English literature. UCLA. 1995. Dissertation: "Crossing Cultures: Algonquian Indians and the Invention of New England."
M.A. English literature. UCLA. 1993.
B.A. English literature. UC Davis. 1989.

Academic Positions

- Reed College, Portland OR 1995-present
Professor of English and Humanities, 2010-present
Associate Professor of English and Humanities, 2001-2010
Assistant Professor of English and Humanities 1997-2001
Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Humanities,
1995-1997
University of Utrecht, Utrecht, The Netherlands Spring 2013
Fulbright Senior Scholar in American Studies
University of Panama, Panama City, Panama Fall 1998
Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies

Administrative Experience

- Chair, Faculty Research Support Committee, Reed College 2014-present
Chair, Community Affairs Committee, Reed College. 2013-2014
Chair, Drug and Alcohol Policy Committee, Reed College. 2010-2012
Chair, American Studies Committee and Program, Reed College 1999-2001, 2011-12
Co-Chair, American Studies Committee and Program 2006-2007
Chair, Writing Improvement Committee and Writing Center, Reed College. 2003-2009
Academic Director, *American Passages*, Oregon Public Broadcasting. 2000-2002

Academic Service

- Chair, Digital Media Committee, Association for Jewish Studies. 2013-present
Academic Council for the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), New York. 2011-Present

Executive Committee, AJHS.	2014-16
Co-Chair of the 2016 Bi-Annual Scholars Conference Planning Committee	2014-present
Advisory Board of Editors, <i>American Jewish History</i>	2014-present
Divisional Nominee, MLA Division of Religion and Literature	2014

Recent Grants & Awards

Sid and Ruth Lapidus Fellowship, AJHS	2014-15
<i>Choice</i> Outstanding Academic Title.	2013
National Jewish Book Award in Jewish American Studies.	2012
Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in Cultural Studies and Media Studies.	2012
Fulbright Senior Scholar in American Studies, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.	Spring 2013
Ruby Grant, Reed College. "Making Jews: Race and Identity In the Age of Emancipation."	2012
Mellon Collaborative Summer Fellowship, "Translating Jews in Colonial America," with Monique Balbuena (University of Oregon).	2012
Mellon Paid Leave Award and Travel Funds.	2009-2010
Ruby Grant, Reed College. "Cities of the Dead: Burial Practices in Colonial Curaçao."	2008
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend for "Converso: The Religious Life of the Sephardim of Colonial Newport."	2007
Ruby Grant, Reed College. "Grave Matters: Religious Change in an Eighteenth-Century Sephardic Cemetery."	2007
Dean's Summer Research Grant & Eddings Grants, Reed College.	1996-2007, 2009-14
Stillman Drake Grant, Reed College.	2003-07, 2009-2014
Murdock Grant, Reed College.	2004
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for "Islands of Conversion: A Cultural Edition of Experience Mayhew's <i>Indian Converts</i> ."	2002-2003
Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies, University of Panama, Panama	Fall 1998

Print Publications

Books

Messianism, Secrecy, and Mysticism: A New Interpretation of Early American Jewish Life. London: Vallentine Mitchell Press. Winner of the 2012 National Jewish Book Award in Jewish American Studies and the 2012 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in Cultural Studies and Media Studies. *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2013. 2012

A Cultural Edition of Experience Mayhew's Indian Converts or, Some account of the lives and dying speeches of a considerable number of the Christianized Indians of Martha's Vineyard, in New-England (1727). Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, Native Americans in the Northeast Series. 2008

Laura Arnold (Leibman), co-ed. *Instructor Guide, American Passages: A Literary Survey.* NY: W.W. Norton. Author of "Introduction," "Telling the Story of American Literature," "Getting Started," & co-author "Unit 1: Native Voices." 2003

Laura Arnold (Leibman), co-ed. *Student Guide, American Passages: A Literary Survey.* NY: W.W. Norton. 2003. Author of "Preface," "Introduction," "Ways of Telling the Story of American Literature," "Literature in its Cultural Context," "Writing About Literature," & co-author "Unit 1: Native Voices." 2003

Refereed Journal Articles

"Poetics of the Apocalypse: Messianism in Early Jewish American Poetry." *Studies in American Jewish Literature* (Special Issue on Early Jewish American Literature). 33.1: 35-62. 2014

"Grave Matters: Childhood, Identity, and *Converso* Funerary Art in Colonial America." Co-authored with Suzanna Goldblatt. *Sephardic Horizons.* 2.3. 2012

"Cities of the Dead: Architectural Motifs and Burial Practices in Curaçao's Religious and Ethnic Communities." Co-authored with Kent Coupé. *Markers* (Annual Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies) 27: 56-87. 2011

"Sephardic Sacred Space in Colonial America," *Jewish History* 25.1: 13-41. 2011

"Early American *Mikvaot*: Ritual Baths as the Hope of Israel." *Religion in the Age of Enlightenment* 1: 109-145. **To be reprinted in *American Jewry: Transcending the European Experience*, ed. Christian Wiese and Cornelia Wilhelm. London: Continuum, 2015.** 2009

"From the Holy Land to New England Canaan: Rabbi Karigal and Sephardic Itinerant Preaching in the 18th Century." *Early American Literature* 44.1: 71-93. 2009

"Bridge of Difference: Sherman Alexie and the Politics of Mourning." *American Literature* 77.3: 541-61. **Reprinted** in *Sherman Alexie (Critical Insights)*, ed. Leon Lewis. Pasadena: Salem Press, 2012. 251-74. 2005

"Now...Didn't Our People Laugh?" Female Misbehavior and Algonquian Custom in Mary Rowlandson's *Captivity and Restauration*," *American Indian Culture & Research Journal*. 21.4:1-28 1997

Book Chapters

"What is Sephardic Culture?" *Vida Sefaradí: A Century of Jewish Life in Portland* [Exhibit Catalogue]. Portland, OR: Congregation Ahavath Achim and Oregon Jewish Museum. 11-16 2014

"Tradition and Innovation in a Colonial Wampanoag Family from Martha's Vineyard." In *Early Native Literacies in New England: a Documentary and Critical Anthology*. Ed. Hilary Wyss & Kristina Bross. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press. 174-97. 2008

Book Reviews

"Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname. Epitaphs. Volume 1; Remnant Stones: The Jewish Cemeteries and Synagogues of Suriname. Essays. Volume 2; Creole Jews: Negotiating Community in Colonial Suriname." *Jewish American History* 91.1: 85-88. 2011

"Indigenous Writing from the Convent." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 28.2: 348-51. 2011

The Common-Pot: the Recovery of Native Space in the Northeast." *Comparative Literature* 62: 193-195. 2010

The Collected Writings of Samson Occom, Mohegan: Leadership and Literature in Eighteenth-century Native America." *American Indian Culture and Research Journal* 32.1: 150-52. 2008

Forthcoming and in Progress

"Making Jews: Race, Gender, and Identity in Barbados in the Age of Emancipation." Co-authored with Sam May. *American Jewish History* 99.1 Forthcoming 2015

Making Jews: Sex, Race, and Gender in Early America Current Book Project

Digital Humanities & Multimedia

- Chair, Digital Media Committee, Association for Jewish Studies. 2013-present
- Contributor, *Religion in American History*. 2013-present
<http://usreligion.blogspot.com/>
- Curator and Creator, *Jewish Atlantic World Database*.
<http://cdm.reed.edu/cdm4/jewishatlanticworld> 2012
- Curator and Creator, *Indian Converts Collection*. 2008
<http://cdm.reed.edu/cdm4/indianconverts/>
- Lead Advisor for the Project and Featured Interdisciplinary Expert, “Episode 5: Domestic Architecture.” *Artifacts and Fiction. A Professional Development Series for Secondary Teachers of American Literature*. 2003

Eight workshops, each of which features an hour-and-a-half video documentary and curriculum materials for how to teach American Literature in its cultural context. Oregon Public Broadcasting and funded by Annenberg/Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).
- Academic Director, *American Passages: A Literary Survey*. 2003

Sixteen 30-minute video documentaries on American Literature survey from the colonial era to the present, A Companion Anthology, Print & On-line Study and Instructor Guides, an Interactive Web Museum, and Archived Digital Materials. Funded by Annenberg/CPB (Corporation for Public Broadcasting) and produced by Oregon Public Broadcasting. Gold Plaque for Best Educational/ Documentary Series, 39th Chicago International Television Awards (“Hugo Awards”).

Conference Papers & Presentations

- “The New Jewish Woman: Single Blessedness in the Era of Emancipation.” Modern Language Association, 130th Annual Convention. January 2015
- “Teaching with Social Media,” (Roundtable) Association for Jewish Studies, 46th Annual Conference. December 2014
- “Proclaiming Race: Clothing and Manhood in the Sephardic Caribbean.” Mapping Western Sefardi Diaspora in the Caribbean. November 2014
- “Love Affairs: Marriage, Romance, and Race among Early Caribbean Jews.” Early Caribbean Society’s Third Symposium on “Early European Caribbeana.” July 2014
- Thirteen Ways of Looking at Women Travelers in the Atlantic World*, July 2014

- Panel Chair. Society of Early Americanists Conference.
- “Digitizing Race and Ethnicity: Rethinking Identity Through Online Gaming.” American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholar’s Conference. June 2014
- “A National History of *Mikva’ot*.” Association for Jewish Studies, 45th Annual Conference. December 2013
- Leveraging Social Media as Resources and Tools in Jewish History Research and Pedagogy* [Roundtable], Participant. Association for Jewish Studies, 45th Annual Conference. December 2013
- “The Rabbi’s House and Religious Authority in Colonial Curaçao.” 6th Contact Day Jewish Studies in the Low Countries. May 2013
- Jewish Atlantic World Database* [Digital Media Workshop]. Association for Jewish Studies, 44th Annual Conference. December 2012
- “A Home for the Soul: *Conversos* and Domestic Architecture.” Association for Jewish Studies, 44th Annual Conference. December 2012
- “Beyond the Text: Embodying Early American Judaism.” American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Scholar’s Conference. June 2012
- “Soul Food: Kosher Food, Community, and Jewish Identity in the Atlantic World.” Western Jewish Studies Association Conference. March 2012
- “Rethinking the Borders of Early Jewish American Studies.” Sephardic Literary Studies and Comparative Methodologies in Iberia and the Americas. CUNY-Graduate Center. November 2011
- “*Yu di hudin*: Sephardim, Slaves, and Religious Identity.” 5th Biennial Conference of Society of Early Americanists. March 2009
- “Family Purity: The Jewish Ritual Bath in Colonial American and the Caribbean.” 40th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Historians. May 2008
- Colloquy with Laura Stevens on The Poor Indians* [Roundtable], Participant. American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. March 2008
- “Sephardic Sacred Space in Colonial America,” Association for Jewish Studies, 39th Annual Conference. December 2007
- “Grave Matters: *Converso* Funerary Art and Identity in Colonial America,” American Studies Association Conference. October 2007. An extended version of this paper was chosen to be the keynote address for the Institute for Judaic Studies of the Pacific Northwest.
- "From the Holy Land to New England Canaan: Rabbi Karigal and Sephardic Itinerant Preaching in the 18th Century," 4th Biennial Society of Early Americanists and Omohundro Institute June 2007

Conference.

"Getting Funded: A Grant Writing Workshop," Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference. April 2007

"On this Day Abraham Chose to Excel in Idiocy': Redemption and the *Am Ha-Aretz* in 18th Century Sephardic Life," Western Jewish Studies Association Conference. March 2007

"Artifacts & Fiction: An American Studies Pedagogy Workshop," Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference. April 2005

"Women and Children First: Changing Views in a Native Community," Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference. April 2004

Reintroducing American Literature to the American Public [Dialogue], Chair. American Studies Association Conference. November 2001

"Nostalgia Hurts': Elizabeth Alexander's Jazz Elegies." American Literature Association Conference. May 2000

"Sherman Alexie and the Politics of Mourning." National Association of Native American Studies Conference. February 2000

"American Literature and the Origins of American Culture." Guest Lecture at the University of Panama. September 1998

"Into, Through, and Beyond: Teaching Poetry for Language and Content." 12th Annual Central American and Caribbean Regional TEOSL Conference. September 1998

"What's Really Useful? Integrating the American Studies Web into Classrooms and Syllabi." Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference. April 1998

"I Haven't Seen an Attractive Woman for Years': Mobile Masculinity and the American Bachelor Abroad." American Studies Association Conference. October 1996

"Really Reading American Indian Religious Verse." Guest Lecture at Portland State University. October 1996

"Not Just Another Creation Myth: Teaching the American Indian Oral Tradition in American Literature Survey Courses." Pacific Northwest American Studies Association Conference. April 1996

"In Search of a Usable History." UCLA Conference on the *Cambridge History of American Literature*. University of California, Los Angeles. April 1995

"Colonial Border Dialogues: Roger Williams' Key to Controlling Cross-Cultural Communication on the Narragansett-Rhode Island Frontier." American Studies Association Conference. October 1994

"Diversity in the Classroom." Workshop Presented at the Twenty-first Annual TA Conference. UCLA. September 1994

"Who's Converting Whom? Christian Rhetoric in William Apess's *A Son of the Forest*." MELUS Annual Conference. April 1994

Recent and Upcoming Public Appearances

Women's Day of Jewish Learning: "A Quick History of *Mikva'ot* from Antiquity to the Present." Portland, OR. May 2014

Celebrate 350 Lecture: "Love Affairs: Marriage, Romance, and Early American Jews," New York Public Library. New York, NY. October 2013

Guest Speaker for Utrecht Seminar for Cultural History. University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. February 2013

Guest Speaker for Washington Jewish Genealogical Society. Seattle, WA. January 2012

Guest Speaker for Oregon Jewish Genealogical Society. Portland, OR. November 2010

Guest Speaker in Sephardic Studies. University of Portland, Portland, OR. March 2009

Keynote speaker for the Institute for Judaic Studies of the Pacific Northwest. February 2008

Discussion Leader, "Neighbors: The World Next Door," *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature*. Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR. Spring 2009

Discussion Leader, "A Mind of Her Own: Fathers and Daughters in a Changing World," *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature*. Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR. Fall 2008

Discussion Leader, "Modern Marvels: Jewish Adventures in the Graphic Novel," *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature*. Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR. Spring 2008

Discussion Leader, "Demons, Golems, and Dybbuks: Monsters of the Jewish Imagination," *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature*. Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR. Fall 2007

Discussion Leader, "Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming," *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature*. Multnomah County Library, Portland. Spring 2006 & 2007

Courses Taught

Graduate Courses

Jewish Atlantic World (Reed College and University of Utrecht); American Dead and Undead (Reed College, 2015); Cultures in Contact (Reed College); Ethnic American Poetry (Reed College); American Indian Literature and Cultures (Reed College)

Undergraduate Courses

American Studies Seminars

The Promised Land: Jewish American Literature (Reed College); American Dead and Undead (Reed College); The Death of Satan: Evil in American Culture (Reed College); The End of the World as They Knew It: Apocalypse in Colonial America (Reed College)

Junior Seminar: Research and Methods

America After the Fall: Milton to Whitman (Reed College)

Upper Division Early American Literature & Culture

Sex and Gender in Early America (Reed College); Native Literacies: Colonial Literature by Native Americans (Reed College); Nation and Narration (Reed College); Cultures in Contact (Reed College); Frontier Literature (Reed College)

Upper Division Poetry

Ethnopoetics (Reed College); Poetics of Resistance (Reed College); America After the Fall (Reed College)

Introduction to Literature

Ethnic American Poetry (Reed College), American Poetry (Reed College), Poetry and Poetics (Reed College and University of Panama), Graphic Novel (Reed College), Native American Literature (Reed College and University of Utrecht), Environmental Literature (Reed College), American Nationalism (Reed College), American Short Story (Reed College), American Gothic (Reed College), Introduction to Drama (University of Panama),

Western Humanities

The Ancient Mediterranean, The Hellenistic Period, and the Rise of the Roman Empire (Reed College); Early Modern Europe (Reed College)

References Furnished Upon Request