

STEPHEN SPECTOR

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EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Yale University	1973
M.Phil.	Yale	1973
B.A. (English, high distinction, Honors Program),		
B.A. (Psychology, high distinction, Honors Program)	Penn State University	1967

HONORS AND AWARDS

London Book Festival Prize for Best General Non-Fiction Book of 2008:
Evangelicals and Israel: The Story of American Christian Zionism

The JDC-Herbert Katzki Award for “outstanding historical writing based on archival material, as well as the continuous creation of high caliber academic works.” Presented for *Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews*, December 2005

Senior Research Fellow, Center for Humanities, Wesleyan University, 2002-3

Senior Research Fellow, Center for Humanities, Wesleyan University, 2001
(declined)

Visiting Scholar, Hebrew University, 1996-97

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: Director of Summer Seminar for College Teachers: “Absence and Presence: The Jew in Early English Literature,” 1996

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant: Director of Summer Seminar for College Teachers: “Absence and Presence: The Jew in Early English Literature,” 1993

National Humanities Center: Research Fellow, 1985-86

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 1985-86

National Endowment for the Humanities Grant
(Research Materials), 1981-82

Wesleyan University, Center for Humanities, Senior Research Fellow, 1981

The Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize, 1980, for the best first article on a medieval topic. Awarded by the Medieval Academy of America for research undertaken while editing the *N-town Play* for the EETS.

Research Development Fund Incentive Grant, 1980

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Summer 1977

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, 1975-76

Stony Brook Faculty Grant, 1975-76

SUNY Research Foundation Fellowship,	1979
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Research Foundation Grant-in-Aid	1979-80
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NDEA Title IV Fellowship (Yale), Yale University Fellowship, 1968-72

Phi Beta Kappa, 1967

EMPLOYMENT

SUNY, Stony Brook:

Full Professor of English, affiliate appointments in Judaic Studies

9/90-

Associate Professor

9/80-8/90

Assistant Professor

1/74-8/80

Lecturer

9/72-12/73

PUBLICATIONS:

BOOKS:

Essays in Paper Analysis, Editor. Washington, London, Toronto: Folger Shakespeare Library, 1987.

The Genesis of the N-town Cycle. New York and London: Garland Press, 1988.

The Olde Daunce: Love, Friendship, Sex, and Marriage in the Medieval World, co-editor. Albany: SUNY Press, 1991.

The N-Town Play, Editor. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991. Early English Text Society Supplementary Series, volumes 11 (Introduction and Text) and 12 (Commentary).

Operation Solomon: The Daring Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Evangelicals and Israel: The Story of American Christian Zionism. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

May I Quote You on That: A Guide to Grammar and Usage. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.

The Quotable Guide to Punctuation. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

ARTICLES:

“Symmetry in Watermark Sequences,” *Studies in Bibliography* 31 (1978), 162-78.

“The Composition and Development of an Eclectic Manuscript: Cotton Vespasian D. Viii,” *Leeds Studies in English* (1977): 62-83.

“The Provenance of the N-town Codex,” *The Library*, 6th Series, 1 (1979): 25-33.

“Anti-Semitism and the English Mystery Plays,” *Comparative Drama* 13 (1979): 3-16.

“Anti-Semitism and the English Mystery Plays” (a summary of my work, with suggestions for further study), *The Shakespeare Newsletter* 29 (1979): 14.

“Paper Evidence and the Genesis of the Macro Plays,” *Mediaevalia* 5 (1979): 217-32.

“Symmetries in Watermarks within Gatherings” (a summary of my work on manuscript collation), *Manuscripta*, 1979.

“New Light on Southerne’s The Disappointment, 1684,” *The Library*, 6th series, 2 (1980): 465-66.

“Anti-Semitism and the English Mystery Plays,” reprinted in *The Drama of the Middle Ages*, eds. Clifford Davidson, C.J. Gianakaris, and John H. Stroupe (New York, 1982), pp. 328-41. Reprinted 1983, 1985.

“The Oberammergau Passion Play,” *Theologische Realenzyklopaedia*, 1990.

“Empathy and Enmity in the Prioress’s Tale,” in *The Olde Daunce: Love, Friendship, Sex, and Marriage in the Medieval World*, Stephen Spector, co-editor (Albany: SUNY Press, 1991).

“Time, Space, and Identity in the Play of the Sacrament,” in *The Stage as Mirror*, ed. Alan Knight (Bury St. Edmunds: Boydell & Brewer, 1997).

“Leaving Ethiopia for Zion,” *Jerusalem Post*, February 13, 2005.

“Leaving Ethiopia for Zion,” reprinted on the Jewish Agency for Israel website (Israel), February 2005 (www.jafi.org.il/papers/2005/feb).

“Leaving Ethiopia for Zion,” reprinted on the Spazio forum website (Italy), March 2005 (www.spazioforum.net/forum/index).

“The Pontiff’s Bridges,” *Statesman*, April 7, 2005.

“An American Heroine and the Exodus of the Ethiopian Jews: The Untold Story behind a Crisis,” *Midstream*, July-August 2005.

“Unfinished Rescue of the Falas Mura,” *The Jerusalem Report*, January 9, 2006.

“Empathy and Enmity in the Prioress’s Tale,” reprinted in Lee Patterson, ed., *Geoffrey Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales: A Casebook* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 183-209.

“Faith Tints Palin’s Political Palette,” *Newsday*, September 16, 2008.

“Faith Tints Palin’s Politics,” *Chicago Tribune.com*, September 16, 2008.

“Faith Tints Palin’s Politics,” Baltimore Sun.com, September 16, 2008.

“Faith Tints Palin’s Politics,” South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com, September 16, 2008.

“Five Questions for Sarah Palin,” *Jerusalem Post*, October 27, 2008.

“Feeding Crocodiles,” Oxford University Press Blog, April 8, 2009.

“What Every Jew Needs to Know about Evangelicals,” *Jewish Week*, May 6, 2009.

“Evangelical Support for Israel: Promise, Prophecy, Gratitude, Love and Remorse,” *Jerusalem Post Christian Edition*, May 2009.

“What Every Jew Needs to Know about Evangelicals,” *Kansas City Jewish Chronicle*, May 22, 2009.

“I Will Bless Those Who Bless You,” *Midstream*, Summer 2009, 13-17.

“The Evangelical Perspective,” *New York Times*, Room for Debate, July 8, 2010.

“Shamir’s Greatest Legacy?” *Tablet*, July 3, 2012.

“God and Magog in the White House: Did Biblical Prophecy Inspire the Invasion of Iraq?” *Journal of Church and State*, 56 (Summer, 2014), 534-52.

“The Meaning of *Terrorism*,” Oxford University Press Blog, Nov. 18, 2015.

Reprinted on philosophynews.com.

Tweeted by Mignon Fogarty (Grammar Girl) to 270,000 followers.

“On Our Love-Hate Relationship with Punctuation,” *Literary Hub*, December 5, 2017.

“Me? Whee!” Oxford Words Blog (Oxford University Press), February 20, 2018.

“All the President’s Tweets,” OUP Blog (Oxford University Press), March 10, 2018.

“Empathy and Enmity in the Prioress’s Tale,” reprinted in *The Canterbury Tales*, eds. V.A. Kolve and Glending Olson, 3rd Norton Critical Edition (New York and London: Norton, 2018), 629-48.

“This Year in Jerusalem: Prophecy, Politics, and Trump’s Middle East Policy,” *Journal of Church and State* (Oxford University Press), <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/csz001>, April 12, 2019.

RADIO AND TELEVISION INTERVIEWS:

“The Light Side of the Dark Ages,” with Morton Bloomfield. In the “Soundings” series broadcast on NPR, 1987.

Interview about Operation Solomon on the John Batchelor Show, ABC radio (national), March 24, 2005.

Interview about Operation Solomon with Dr. Alvin Augustus Jones on WCBQ-WHNC-AM (North Carolina and Virginia), April 6, 2005.

Interview about Operation Solomon on “The World Tonight” with Rob Breakenridge, CHQR and CHED (Calgary and Alberta, Canada), May 9, 2005.

Interview about Operation Solomon with Betty Ehrenberg for the Orthodox Union website, May 25, 2005.

Interview about Operation Solomon with Bob Gilmartin on KVOI (Tucson), July 12, 2005.

Interview about Operation Solomon for American Jewish Joint Distribution website, New York, October 9, 2005.

“Meet the Author,” Cablevision, April 6, 2006.

Interview about Operation Solomon, WTEN television, Albany, NY May 7, 2006.

Interview about Christian Zionism with Brett Winterbee, Covert Radio, December 12, 2008.

Interview about Christian Zionism with Jeff Schechtman, KVON, Napa, CA, December 16, 2008.

Interviews about Operation Solomon with William J. Wolf, Middle East Radio Forum, Phoenix, January 11, 2009, and March 8, 2009.

Interview about evangelical support for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital, “The Current with Anna Maria Tremonti,” Canadian Broadcasting Company (Canada’s most listened-to radio program), December 11, 2017.

PAPERS AND LECTURES ON JUDAICA:

“Sartre, Anti-Semitism, and the Medieval Drama,” MLA Convention, 1977.

“Disparate Messianic Expectations,” response to the paper “Jesus in God’s Plan,” New York Metropolitan Interfaith Dialogue, Queens College, 1979.

“The Outsider in Religious Drama,” Columbia University, 1980.

“The Literature of Intolerance,” Center for Humanities, Wesleyan University, 1981.

“The Presentation of Shylock,” debate with Murray Roston, National Humanities Center, 1985.

“The Triumph of Love in the Prioress’s Tale,” at conference on Love, Friendship, and Sexuality, National Humanities Center, 1986.

“Time, Space, and Identity in the Play of the Sacrament,” conference on the Stage as Mirror, Penn State, 1993.

“Does God Speak through Women?” Catholic Ministry lecture, SUNY, Stony Brook, 1994.

“Shylock and Shakespeare,” Rabbi Isaac Klein Memorial Lecture, Jerusalem, 1997.

“Medieval Drama,” Hebrew University, 1997.

“The Jew in English Literature to Shakespeare,” Hebrew University, 1997.

“Intolerance and Literature,” Ben-Gurion University, 1997.

“What’s at Stake in the Play of the Sacrament,” Medieval Institute, Kalamazoo, 1997.

“Operation Solomon: Narrative History and Documentary Truth, Or, Desperately Seeking Susan,” Michael Wade Memorial Lecture, Hebrew University, 1997.

“Prelude to Prejudice,” Hebrew University, 1997.

“Operation Solomon: Narrative History and Documentary Truth, Or, Desperately Seeking Susan,” Michael Wade Memorial Lecture, Stony Brook, 1998.

“The White Man, Like a Child, Believes Anything You Tell Him: Three Cultural Perspectives on the Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews,” Wesleyan University, 2002.

“The White Man, Like a Child, Believes Anything You Tell Him: Three Cultural Perspectives on the Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews,” Penn State University, 2003.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Makor/Steinhardt Center, New York, March 10, 2005.

“The Miracle of Operation Solomon,” with Bizu Riki Mullu, the 92nd Street Y, New York, May 11, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Israeli Consulate and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, New York, May 18, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” with Bizu Riki Mullu, for the Birthright Israel program, Random House, New York, May 25, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Jewish Book Council, Kraft Center for Jewish Life, New York, May 31, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Port Washington, NY, Public Library, August 12, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Hewlett, NY, Public Library, September 14, 2005.

“Hagar and the Stranger,” Reconstructionist Synagogue of the North Shore, Manhasset, NY, October 5, 2005.

“The Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews: The Untold Story,” American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Board of Directors, New York, October 9, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Rochester, NY, Jewish Book Fair, October 31, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Detroit Jewish Book Fair, November 7, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” with Riki Mullu, Merrick-Bellmore-Wantaugh-Massapequa Jewish Adult Education Program, Merrick, NY, November 8, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston, November 9, 2005.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” the Robert Siegel Memorial Lecture, San Diego State University, November 13, 2005.

“The Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews,” North Shore Jewish Center, Port Jefferson, NY, December 13, 2005.

Scholar-in-residence lectures at Beth Emeth synagogue, Mount Sinai, NY, January 22, 2006.

“Behind the Scenes: The Role of American Jewish Leaders in the Rescue of the Ethiopian Jews,” Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, New York, NY, January 30, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Dix Hills Jewish Center, Dix Hills, NY, May 2, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” with Riki Mullu, the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, May 3, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” United Jewish Federation of Northeastern New York, May 7, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Brandeis University National Women’s Committee, Oceanside, NY, May 23, 2006.

Introduction to the film “Live and Become,” Sid Jacobson JCC, Greenvale, NY June 14, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” 92nd Street Y/Makor Center, New York, June 27, 2006.

“Evangelical Support for Israel,” University Yom Kippur sermon, October 2, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Temple Kol Ami, Philadelphia, November 10, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Temple Israel, Riverhead, New York, December 1, 2006.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Stony Brook Library Authors Series, March 28, 2007.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Town and Village Synagogue, New York, New York, February 2, 2008.

“Yearning for Jerusalem,” Stony Brook Hillel, February 29, 2008.

“Israel and the Ethiopian Jews,” Sid Jacobson JCC, Greenvale, NY, June 17, 2008.

“Evangelicals and Israel,” Georgetown University, February 18, 2009.

“Christian Zionism,” Fourth Annual Margolis Lecture on the Jewish Experience in the American South, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, February 23, 2009.

“Evangelical Zionists and the Holocaust,” marking the appearance of the National Holocaust Museum’s “Deadly Medicine” exhibit at Stony Brook, May 4, 2009.

“An Uneasy Alliance,” Williams College, September 24, 2009.

“Evangelicals and Israel,” Anti-Defamation League, New York, October 30, 2009.

“The Real Reason Evangelical Christians Support Israel,” Oheb Shalom Congregation, South Orange, New Jersey, June 24, 2018.

Presentation on an experiment to promote friendship among Jews, Christians, and Muslims:

“Extended Contact: What We Know and Where We Are Going,” presentation at the 10th Biennial Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, Portland, Oregon, June 27-29, 2014; co-authored with Arthur Aron et al.

“The Real Reason that Evangelical Christians Support Israel,” Congregation Oheb Shalom, South Orange, NJ, June 24, 2018

Twenty years of synagogue talks on Genesis, on topics including “Creations,” “Crime and Punishment in Genesis,” “Adam’s Apple,” “All about Eve,” “Was J a Woman?” “So Sarah Laughed,” “Silence and Symmetry: The Akedah,” “Beauty, Unity, and God,” and “Assassins” (the religious and historical background to 9/11).

SELECTED SERVICE

Department chairman, 2006-12:

As chair, oversaw seven faculty hires, three department administrator hires, and six tenure and promotion cases.

Oversaw Roger Rosenblatt’s promotion to distinguished professor.

Oversaw Roger Rosenblatt’s candidacy for the Cherry Prize as best teacher in the United States (he finished in the final three).

Oversaw the revision of the undergraduate English major.

Oversaw the establishment of a new paradigm for Ph.D. admissions, support, and benchmarks.

Chair, tenure committee for Charles Haddad, School of Journalism.

Chair, tenure committee for Steven Reiner, School of Journalism.

Member, committee that appointed Howard Schneider full professor of Journalism.

Member, search committee that hired Stephen Post as director of the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics, Stony Brook Medical School.

Chair, search committee that hired Gene Hammond as director of the Writing Program.

Chair of the search committee that hired Peter Manning.

Chair of the search committee that hired Susan Scheckel.

Graduate Program Director, 1992-94

Graduate Program Director, 1998-99

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, 2017-

Member, CAS NEH Summer Stipend Internal Review Committee, Fall 2018

Compiled teaching report for Mike Rubenstein's tenure and promotion case, 2014

Compiled teaching report for Celia Marshik's promotion case, 2014

Compiled teaching report for Drew Newman's promotion case, 2018

Compiled teaching report for Hongkyung Kim's promotion case, *Asian & Asian-American Studies* 2019

Secretary of the CAS Senate, 1993-94

Secretary of the CAS Senate, 1995-96

Chair, CAS Senate Ad hoc Education Committee, 1995

Member, provost's committee on the future of the Humanities (given access to provost's budget), 1993

Led provost's task force that recommended change of CAS to single decanal structure, 1993

Consultant:

Senatorial staff of then-Senator Joseph Lieberman on Evangelical Christians, 2009

Oxford University Press

NYU Press

National Endowment for the Humanities

Associated Press on Evangelical Christians

Washington Post on Evangelical Christians

National Public Radio: *This American Life* on the Israeli rescue of the Ethiopian Jews