

SHAI ZAMIR

Gates-Blake 302, 5845 S. Ellis Ave., Chicago, IL 60637

zamir1@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

2023 Ph.D., History, University of Michigan

Dissertation Title: Friendship and Alternative Kinship in the Early Modern Iberian World.

Advisors: Helmut Puff (History) and Ryan Szpiech (RLL)

2015 M.A., History, Tel Aviv University (magna cum laude)

The Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024-2028* **Collegiate Assistant Professor**, University of Chicago. Harper-Schmidt Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. Affiliations: History and Romance Languages and Literatures.

2023-2024 **Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Northwestern University
Department of Spanish and Portuguese; second appointment: Jewish Studies

COURSES TAUGHT (POST-GRADUATE/ISTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

University of Chicago

Core Curriculum (2024-)

- History of European Civ. III
- History of European Civ. II (Modern)
- History of European Civ. I (Middle Ages)

Northwestern University

Department of Spanish and Portuguese

- Iberian Inquisitions (WI2024)
- The Formation of the Jewish-Sephardi Diaspora (FA2023)

Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel

Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies

- The History of Colonial Latin America (FA2021)

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED ARTICLES:

- “Debating Friendship in Seventeenth-Century Lima, 1678-1681”, *Colonial Latin American Review* 32.3 (2023): 414-438.

- “New-Christian Friendships and Spaces of Sociability in the Early Modern Spanish City,” *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* 24.3 (2023): 321-337.
- “Lima produces Saints for Spain and the Caribbean: The Miraculous Case of Antonio de San Pedro,” *Journal of Early Modern History* [accepted for publication; forthcoming 2025].

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- “Space, Movement, and Encounters,” chapter in *A Cultural History of Judaism: The Early Modern Age: 1492-1800*, Laura Leibman and Maria Cieřła, eds. [a study of Spanish-Jewish travelogues. Bloomsbury’s six-volume series on the cultural history of Judaism, forthcoming].
- “María de Albín’s Sworn Enemies (1653),” short annotated translated document for a source reader on gender and Jewish women, edited by Federica Francesconi et al. [Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025] [forthcoming].

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

- “Polemics,” in *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception* (EBR), edited by Constance Furey, Steven L. McKenzie, Thomas Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski. Berlin: De Gruyter (2024) [forthcoming].

REVIEWS IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS

- Francisco Bethencourt, *Strangers Within: The Rise and Fall of the New Christian Trading Elite* (Princeton University Press, 2024). *The Journal of Religious History* [forthcoming, 2025].
- Elizabeth Coggeshall, *On Amistà: Negotiating Friendship in Dante’s Italy* (University of Toronto Press, 2023). *The Medieval Review*, October 2024.
- Jonathan Ray, *Jewish Life in Medieval Spain: A New History* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023). *Renaissance Quarterly* 77.4 [forthcoming, winter 2024].
- Ross Brann, *Iberian Moorings: Al-Andalus, Sefarad, and the Tropes of Exceptionalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021). *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean* 35.2 (2023), 243-245.
- Gregory B. Kaplan, *Jewish Poetry and Cultural Coexistence in Late Medieval Spain* (Amsterdam University Press, 2019). *Renaissance Quarterly* 76.1 (Spring 2023): 332-334.
- Donald Gilbert-Santamaría, *The Poetics of Friendship in Early Modern Spain: A Study in Literary Form* (Edinburgh University Press, 2020). *Bulletin of the Comediantes* vol. 74, n.1-2 (2022-2023).
- Karma Lochrie and Usha Vishnuvajjala, eds. *Women’s Friendship in Medieval Literature* (The Ohio State University Press, 2022). *The Medieval Review* (August 2023).
- David M. Luebke and Mary Lindemann, eds. *Mixed Matches: Transgressive Unions in Germany from the Reformation to the Enlightenment* Berghahn, 2014). *European History Quarterly*, 49.1 (2019): 142-143.
- Mercedes Garcia-Arenal and Gerard Wiegers, *A Man of Three Worlds: Samuel Pallache, a Moroccan Jew in Catholic and Protestant Europe* (Magness Press, 2021). *Zmanim* 149 (2024) [Hebrew].

INVITED TALKS and WORKSHOPS

“New World Friendships (And Animosity),” colloquium, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL. 10/02/2024.

“Constructing Sanctity in Early Modern Lima,” Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean, University of Chicago, IL. 01/18/2024.

“The Vanities of Friendship in Sephardi Ethical Writing.” Center for Jewish History, New York, NY. 12/06/2023.

“Making Friends and Enemies in Spain and the New World.” Mediterranean Seminar Workshop: From Mediterranean to Atlantic. University of Miami/Florida International University. 02/03/2023.

“Antonio de San Pedro: A New-Christian Holy Man between Spain and Peru.” Seminar for the annual research group on *New Christian and New Jewish Discourses of Identity between Polemics and Apologetics*. Israel Institute for Advanced Studies (IIAS), Jerusalem, Israel. 12/05/2022.

“Debating Friendship in Colonial Peru.” *Seminario de Historia Cultural*, Department of Modern History, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain. 05/31/2022.

“The Practices of Friendship among Portuguese New Christians in Seventeenth-Century Spain.” The Premodern Spanish History Association of the Midwest (PSHAM) Annual Meeting. University of Kentucky (moved online). 03/19/2022.

“Friendship in Colonial Peru.” Research Seminar, Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. 01/05/2022.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selection)

“Sacred No More: The Disenchantment of an Amical Ritual,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Toronto, Canada. 11/02/2024.

“Racing Pianos at The Harbor: Sephardi Jewish Masculinity put to Test.” International Workshop: In the Name of the Father? Writing Jewish Masculinities across the Middle East and North Africa, Venice (Online participation). 10/28/2024.

“Friendship as a Historical Engima,” Weissbourd Symposium, University of Chicago, 10/25/2024.

“Sephardi Science in Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam: Its Portuguese Roots and Jewish Apologetics.” The Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies 53rd Annual Conference, Lisbon, Portugal. 07/11/2024.

“A Sephardi Exercise in Writing Love.” Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. 03/22/2024.

“The Age of Friendship.” Converso Identity II: Identity and Community Among Former Conversos. Association for Jewish Studies 55th Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA. 12/18/2023.

“Jewish-Christian Polemics in Judeo-Spanish.” 2023 Norman E. Alexander Celebration of Collections: Columbia University, New York, NY. 11/09/2023.

“Lima turns New Christians Heretics into Holy Men.” Conversos in the Colonial Spanish Americas: Experiences and Expectations, 12th Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Frankfurt, Germany, 7/17/2023.

“Illicit Jewish Business in Potosí, 1599,” The Annual Conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies, Antigua, Guatemala. 03/23/2023.

“Portuguese New Christian Foodways in Early Modern Spain.” Association for Jewish Studies 54th Annual Conference, Boston. MA. 12/20/2022.

“ZAKHOR at 40: Jewish Memory, History, Literature.” Round Table. Association for Jewish Studies 54th Annual Conference, Boston. MA. 12/18/2022.

“María de Albín's Sworn Enemies (1653).” New York State Working Group on Jewish Women and Gender in Global Perspective, New York, NY. 12/11/2022.

“The “Jew” Antonio Correa.” Rothschild Prize Research Symposium in honor of Jeremy Cohen, The Israeli Museum, Jerusalem, Israel. 11/28/2022.

“Friendship in Colonial Lima.” Latin American and Caribbean Section of the Southern Historical Association (LACS-SHA), Baltimore, MD. 11/13/2022.

“Every-day Religious Polemics among Portuguese Conversos (1640-1660).” The 34th annual conference of the Midwest Jewish Studies Association, University of Nebraska, Omaha. 09/19/2022.

“Female Friendship among Portuguese New Christians.” the Lusophone Studies Association International Conference on *Women, Gender and Intersectionality in the Lusophone World*, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal. 07/01/2022.

“The History of Friendship and the Spanish Inquisition.” The Ninth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University, MO. 06/21/2022.

“Crypto-Judaism goes Public: Social Practices among Portuguese New Christians in Seventeenth-Century Spain.” Hayim Perelmuter Conference: “Competing Identities: Practice and Faith in the Public and Private Squares,” University of Notre Dame and Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, University of Notre Dame, IN. 03/21/2022.

“Isaac Cardoso on Friendship.” Judaic Studies Colloquium, U-M. 03/24/2022.

“The History of Sephardi Friendship in Early Modern Amsterdam.” Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. 03/28/2022.

“Sephardic Friendship in Early Modern Spain and beyond.” Leo Baeck Summer Seminar in Sephardic History and Culture. 07/07/2022.

ORGANIZING AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Seminar

The Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. Co-directing (together with Dana Fishkin) a week-long intensive seminar on medieval philosophy and poetry (June 2024).

Conferences, lectures and symposia organized:

“‘Matalotaje del anima’: Translation as Spiritual Resistance in the Writings of Luis de Carvajal/Joseph Lumbroso.” Lecture supported by a grant from the *Bibliographical Society of America*, Northwestern University, 02/28/2024.

“Jewish Friendships 1650-1950.” Co-organizer (together with Shachar Pinsker) of two-day conference, supported by the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, and International Institute, U-M. 10/26-27/2022.

Organizer and chair of a book launch event for the Hebrew translation of *Samuel Pallache: Merchant, Pirate, and Diplomat between Marrakesh and Amsterdam*, by Mercedes García-Arenal and Gerard Wiegers. Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, Israel. 05/02/2022.

Conference panels organized

“Lessons from Early Modern Friendships: The Iberian Case,” Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Toronto, Canada. 11/02/2024.

“Retelling Colonial Jewish Histories across the Americas,” Jews in the Americas: A Hybrid Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Kansas, 04/19/2024.

“Making New Christians in the Early Modern Iberian World,” (together with Yonatan Glazer-Eytan), Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Baltimore, MD. 10/27/2023.

Panel on medieval and early modern Jewish foodways (together with Flora Cassen) for the AJS annual conference, Boston, MA. Participants: Daniel Lord Smail, Flora Cassen, Zamir. 12/20/22.

Conference panels moderated/chaired:

“Politics and Inter-Religious Interaction,” The 36th Annual Conference, Midwest Jewish Studies Association, Ann Arbor, MI. 09/16/2024.

“Engaging Religious and Racial Others.” Ninth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO. 06/21/2022.

“The Medici and the Ghetto.” The Medici and the Jews: Religion, Culture, and Urban Strategies in Early Modern Florence'. Tel Aviv University, Israel. 06/13/2018.

Board Member

2022- Midwest Jewish Studies Association.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

External

2023-2025 **Ray D. Wolfe Postdoctoral Fellow.** University of Toronto (declined).

2022-2023 **Lapidus Graduate Research Fellowship.** Center for Jewish History, New York.

2022 **Research Award.** Rothchild Foundation, Israel.

2021 **Research Fellow.** John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, Providence.

2021 **Research Fellowship.** Albert J. Beveridge Grant for Research in the History of the Western Hemisphere (Latin America), American Historical Association.

2021 **Research Residency.** Casa de Velázquez Research Fellowship, Casa de Velázquez - École des Hautes Études Hispaniques et Ibériques, Madrid, Spain.

2021-2022 **Visiting Doctoral Fellowship.** Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, Haifa, Israel.

2015 **Award for Best Graduate Paper.** University of Maryland and Tel-Aviv University Workshop, for “The Image of the Jewish Woman in the Trent Blood Libel.”

2012 **DAAD Scholarship.** Intensive German. Goethe Institute, Hamburg, Germany.

Internal (all competitive)

2022-2023 **Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship.** U-M.

2022-2023 **Graduate Student Fellow.** Institute for the Humanities, U-M (declined).

2021 **Diane Owen Hughes Scholar Fellowship.** MEMS, U-M.

2021 **Research Grant.** Center for European Studies, U-M.

2021 **Rackham International Research Award.** U-M.

2019 **Rackham Language Fellowship.** U-M, for intensive Spanish at Middlebury College.

2018 **Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Summer Award.** U-M, for Arabic at Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

2017 **Rackham International Student Fellowship.** U-M (given to 25 PhD students from various departments at the University of Michigan).

2017 **Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Grant.** U-M, for intensive Spanish summer course at the University of Granada, Spain.

2012-2013 **Full scholarship** as part of Tamar Herzig's project "Female Mysticism and Heresy at the Threshold of the Early Modern Era," The Israel Science Foundation.

2009-2013 **Full tuition and scholarship.** The Adi Lautman Interdisciplinary Program for Outstanding Students, Tel Aviv University, Israel.

OTHER ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2022 **Research Assistant.** Comparing different Talmudic manuscripts, for prof. Rachel Rafael Neis, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, U-M.

2021-2022 **Visiting Doctoral Student.** The Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, University of Haifa, Israel. Supervisor: Cedric Cohen Skalli.

2021-2022 **Dissertation Seminar: The Translocal and the Transnational,** The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.

2021 **Research Assistant.** Hebrew transliteration for Alessandro Guetta's project "Early Modern Jewish Translations." *Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales*, Paris.

- 2021 **Spanish American Textual Technologies to 1700.** Rare Book School (online), University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2021 **Michigan Library Scholars.** Collaborative research with Curator of Judaica in a project focused on researching U-M's Judeo-Spanish collection.
- 2019-2020 **Visiting Doctoral Student.** Institute of Mediterranean and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (ILC), Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).
- 2018 **Research Assistant.** For prof. Rachel Rafael Neis in the project: "The Seduction of Law: Rethinking Legal Studies in Jewish Studies." Frankel Center, U-M.
- 2017 **University of Pennsylvania and the Hebrew University Advanced Summer School in Jewish Studies.** Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2014 **Medieval Latin Paleography and Codicology Intensive Summer Course.** Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
- 2012-2013 **Research Assistant,** for prof. Tamar Herzig's Israel Science Foundation funded project "Female Mysticism and Heresy at the Threshold of the Early Modern Era." Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel.

LANGUAGES

Hebrew (native speaker)
English (near native)
Spanish (high proficiency)
Judeo-Spanish/Ladino (reading proficiency)
Portuguese (reading proficiency)
Italian (reading proficiency)
Arabic (reading)
Medieval Latin (reading)
German (reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Renaissance Society of America
Sixteenth Century Society
Association for Jewish Studies