

**Hagith Sara Sivan (Professor Emerita)**  
**Department of History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045,**  
**USA**  
**Email: [dinah01@ku.edu](mailto:dinah01@ku.edu)**

## **EDUCATION**

PhD Columbia University (1983)

MA Yale University (1978)

*Without doubt, the highlight of my two years at Yale was the opportunity to organize an art exhibit dedicated to the most ancient synagogue in the world. The story of its discovery, during WWI, is worthy of Indiana Jones. The site, an ancient caravan city connecting the Roman and the Persian (Iranian) empires, was excavated extensively by French and American archaeologists. The city, known as Dura-Europos, boasted temples dedicated to a variety of gods, army barracks, public monuments and private homes, a Christian baptistry and a Jewish synagogue.*

*The walls of the synagogue were covered with colorful paintings featuring biblical figures and scenes (in defiance of the second commandment of “no graven images”).<sup>1</sup> If you visited the synagogue in its heyday, about 1700 years ago, you could have feasted your eyes on the marching Hebrews out of Egypt (the Exodus), and even on baby Moses in the floating ark, at the very moment when the Egyptian princess saved him.*

*<https://www.thetorah.com/article/retelling-the-story-of-moses-at-duraeuropos-synagogue>*

*These were two of the many painted panels that enriched this unique space.*

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://virtual-museum-syria.org/damascus/the-jewish-synagogue-of-dura-europos/> Excellent photos and map of the city.

*The originals were transferred to the national museum in Damascus (Syria) where they presumably still reside.<sup>2</sup> Full scale copies were deposited at Yale University Art Gallery. With the warm support of New Haven Jewish community and gracious permission from the Gallery, I was able to organize an art exhibit that recreated the synagogue's main hall of prayer with its paintings.*

*A period of intensive preparations was followed by the opening night of the exhibit at the Jewish Community Center in New Haven. I invite you to share the moment (invitation enclosed) as well as to read the article about the exhibit, published in the New York Time (a month after the opening, just in time for flood of visitors just before closing). Among the latter were Joseph and Ann Turnbach who became lifelong friends. Their own art collection was bequeathed to the arts museum at Queens College, New York City.*

*I am enclosing the NYT article, both the original and the digitized version, the latter full of typos.*

*The following is a link to the Ternbach Collection at Queen College, NYC.*

<https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/DuraEuropos/NYT%20on%20the%20Dura%20Exhibit.pdf>

*For anyone interested in this unique monument, I am enclosing the guidebook to the exhibit, printed (as I distinctly recall) during several nights in a local printing house and distributed free of charge to all visitors. Since then, many publications have been devoted to the Dura Europos synagogue, including my own analysis of children in the Dura*

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://syriascopetravel.com/the-national-museum-in-damascus-journey-through-past/> for a beautifully illustrated overview of the museum.

*synagogue in Sivan, Jewish Childhood in the Roman World. My modest 1978 guidebook is a good start.*

[https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Dura-Europos/Dura%20Europos%20Guide%20to%20the%20Exhibit%20\(1\).pdf](https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Dura-Europos/Dura%20Europos%20Guide%20to%20the%20Exhibit%20(1).pdf)

BA Tel Aviv University (1976, *summa cum laude*)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

1993-2018, University of Kansas. Dept of History

1983-1993, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. Dept of Classics

*A decade in my life at a moment of momentous transition phase in the history of South Africa. At Wits, as the university was affectionally known. I taught Greek, Latin and ancient (Greek and Roman) history, lunched regularly at the cozy faculty club presided by a French chef where conversations veered from apes of Africa to Mass Spectrometry. And I engaged, intensely and happily, in researching a variety of themes, from the barbarian settlements on Roman soil to pilgrimage to Palestine, and from the Roman army to Gallic (French) poets and politicians, Ausonius of Bordeaux. I owe the latter, a fourth century erudite administrator, a fellowship that enabled me to stay for a few months at the University of Bordeaux III (Talence), a perfect place to venture out to visit excavation sites throughout the region (Aquitaine). I also owe Ausonius the Routledge Ancient History Prize.*

*I was fortunate in my colleagues in the Department of Classics. The one who stands out vividly in my mind was Mr. Grounds, whom no one but his wife called Michael. Mr Grounds graduated with First Class Honors from Oxford in 1949, the year that he also completed the astonishing feat*

*of translating, from ancient Greek, the lengthy speeches of Themistius, one of the most tiresome speakers of antiquity*

*When I began to explore the imperial patrons of Themistius (second half of the fourth century AD), to whom he addressed lengthy speeches peppered with exaggerated compliments that would have appealed to politicians, then and now, I was greatly aided by these translations. For anyone interested in speech making in antiquity, as well as in the delicate balance between fact and fiction as you present your case to the most powerful men on earth, reading Themistius should be illuminating.*

*You may also notice that several speeches have two translations, one done by Mr Grounds (typed on a typewriter! and dated), the other done by myself.*

*I would like to take this opportunity of the uploading these enormously useful translations from a beautiful language that is inaccessible to most students and colleagues, to dedicate this space to the unforgettable Mr Grounds.*

*You will find the translated speeches of Themistius, as completed by Mr Ground (and by myself) in the attached links.*

<https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Themistius/Oration%20II.pdf>

<https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Themistius/or%20III.pdf>

<https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Themistius/or%20iv.pdf>

<https://sivan.ku.edu/sites/sivan/files/documents/Themistius/Or%20V.pdf>

*I was fortunate in my colleagues elsewhere in South Africa. One, whom no one called by his first name but always as Professor Naudé, was a reincarnation of a scholar and a gentleman. I stumbled on the article that I had written in his honor. Since this collective endeavor honoring Professor Naude is not available online (so far as I could ascertain) I take the liberty of uploading the article. RIP Professor.*

### Festschrift Naude

*Two events stand out to this day. The first when I bid goodbye to the incredible women of the South African Black Sash, a human rights organization celebrating its 70 anniversary in 2025.*

<https://www.blacksash.org.za/>

I have just stumbled on one issue of the Black Sash magazine. It was an incredibly important issue. Taking the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, the article illustrated these principles as reflected in 1988 South Africa. I leave it to readers to figure out how much has changed or how little has changed in the past decades since this 1988 illustrated article.

### BLACK SASH AND HUMAN RIGHT IN 1988 AFRICAN CONTEXT

During my decade in South Africa I also developed a keen interest in biblical Eve, an interest that matured into two books, one on the relationship between biblical women and the Ten Commandments, the other on Jewish women, the Bible and the law. My first foray into the realm of women studies is enclosed. It was published in a community magazine that probably reached more readers than do articles published in scientific periodicals.

This was one obsession. Another temporarily centered on a Roman princess, Galla Placidia, whose life encapsulates the rewards and the dangers of living high in Late Antiquity. Galla married a barbarian king.

When he was assassinated, she was married off to a Roman general. Ultimately she saw her son rule the western provinces of the Roman empire and her daughter offering marriage to Attila the Hun.

### Galla Flyer

### Research and the Public

1993-Coming to Kansas

## PUBLICATIONS

*Books:*

*Jewish Childhood in the Roman World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2018)

*Galla Placidia: The Last Roman Empress* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press 2011)

*Palestine in Late Antiquity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2008)  
(Reviewed by Peter Brown, *New York Review of Books*, June 11, 2009, 41-43)

I am enclosing this beautifully written review by the luminary of the field of Late Antiquity.

[New York Review of Books](#)

*Between Woman, Man and God: A New Interpretation of The Ten Commandments* (Sheffield and Edinburgh: Sheffield UP/Continuum/T@T Clark, 2004)(hardcover and paperback)

*Dinah's Daughters: Gender and Judaism from the Hebrew Bible to Late Antiquity* (as Helena Zlotnick)(Philadelphia 2002)(hardcover and paperback)

*Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity* (co-edit, introduction; with R. W. Mathisen)(Aldershot: Variorum, 1996).

*Ausonius of Bordeaux* (London and New York: Routledge, 1993)(joint winner of the Routledge Ancient History Prize; winner of the French Academy's Toutain Blanchet Prize)

*The Paintings of the Dura Europos Synagogue* (New Haven 1978). A scholarly guidebook to the exhibit "Biblical Images" organized in conjunction with Yale University Art Gallery.

also:

*Re(Searching) Life: A Contemplation of Organizing Collectively* (ed. with Gunda Georg)(based

on the Fall 2002 faculty colloquium at KU Hall Center for the Humanities)(Lawrence 2004)

*Articles/chapters/entries in books (refereed):*

“Education or Indoctrination? How to Fashion Female (Illi)Literacy in Jewish (and Christian) Late Antiquity” in *Teaching and Learning the Norms of Life and Faith: Pedagogues, Educators and their Heritage in Abrahamic Religions*, ed. Catalin-Stefan Popa (*Studies in Education and Religion in Ancient and Pre-Modern History in the Mediterranean and Its Environs* (SERAPHIM))(Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck), 79-92

<https://www.mohrsiebeck.com/en/book/teaching-and-learning-the-norms-of-life-and-faith-9783161646218/>

“From Roman Palestine to a Christian “Holy Land”, in *The Routledge Handbook of Jews and*

*Judaism in Late Antiquity*, ed. C. Hezser (London and New York 2024), 15-29

“Sex and Sanctity in the Apocryphal *Acts of Andrew*: A Christian Bedtrick and Its Biblical

Bedrock,” with Fotini Hadjittofi, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*. Johns Hopkins University Press. Volume 32, Number 1, Spring 2024, 45-74

“Saint Stephen in Africa: On Saints, Spinsters, and Synagogues in Late Antiquity”, *Journal of*

*Late Antiquity*, Johns Hopkins University Press. Volume 16, Number 2, Fall 2023, 427-476

“The Making of Memory: Jerusalem and Palestinian Jewry in Late Antiquity” in *Jerusalem II* .

*Jerusalem in Roman - Byzantine Time*, eds. Katharina Heyden und Maria Lissek unter Mitarbeit von Astrid Kaufmann (Civitatum Orbis Mediterranei Studia 5) Tübingen : Mohr - Siebeck 2021, 291-310

“Staging Rachel: Rabbinic Midrash, Theatrical Mime, and Christian Martyrdom in Late

Antiquity, with Fotini Hadjittofi, *Harvard Theological Review* 113:3 (2020) 299–333

“Subversive Pilgrimages: Barsauma in Jerusalem”, *Journal of Early Christian Studies*, Johns Hopkins University Press, Volume 26, Number 1, Spring 2018, 53-74

---

“Jewish Childhood in the Roman Galilee: Sabbath in Tiberias (c. 300 CE),” in *Children and*

*Everyday Life in the Roman and Late Antique World*, eds. C. Laes and V. Vuolanto (London 2016), 200-218

“Daughters as Disaster. Daughters and Fathers in Ancient Judaism” in *Children and Family in*

*Late Antiquity. Life, Death and Interactions*, eds. C. Laes, K. Mustakallio, V. Vuolanto

(Leuven 2015), 289-308

“Pictorial Paedea: Children in the Synagogue”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Childhood in the*

*Greco-Roman World* (Oxford: OUP 2013), 532-555

“Between Gaza and Minorca: The Un(Making) of Minorities in Late Antiquity”, in *Jews*,

*Christians and the Roman Empire. The Poetics of Power in Late Antiquity* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press 2013), 121-136

“Christianity”, in *Oxford Handbook of Roman Studies* (Oxford 2010), 782-796

This is a research project that I remember vividly, not the least because the skeleton of the article was conceived and executed in a small desert town in Israel, Yeruham, without a research library and with minimal internet access. But it was also a place populated by the most astonishing individuals. When one day I vaguely said that I would love to discuss my ideas for the article with someone familiar with the material, imagine my surprise when a few hours later a knock on the door announced a visitor who identified himself as a biblical scholar profoundly interested in Christianity. He was indeed. The short insert of the jacket of the large book and the first page of my contribution are included by way of a homage to the ubiquity of erudite individuals, even at this “end of the world” spot.

### Christianity in Yeruham

“On the Way to Bethlehem: Mary between Jerome and John of Jerusalem”, in *The Power of*

*Religion in Late Antiquity*, eds. A. Cain and N. Lenski (Farnham and Burlington: Ashgate 2009), 369-382

“Contesting Calendars: The 9<sup>th</sup> of Av and the Feast of the Theotokos” in *Pèlerinage et lieux*

*saints dans l’antiquité et le Moyen Âge*, ed. B. Caseau et al. (Paris 2006), 443-456

“Palestine between Byzantium and Persia (CE 614-619)”, in *La Persia e Bisanzio. Atti dei convegni Lincei*, (Rome: Accademia nazionale dei Lincei, 2004), 77-92

- “Alarico tra Pollenzo et l’Africa”, in *Romani et Barbari. Incontro e scontro di cultura*, ed. S. Giorcelli Bersani (Torino: Celid, 2004), 259-269
- “Moses the Persian? Exodus 2, the ‘Other’ and Biblical ‘Mnemohistory””, *Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 116 (2004), 189-205
- “Alaricus Rex: Legitimizing a Gothic King”, in *The Construction of Communities in the Early Middle ages*, ed. R. Corradini et al. (Transformation of the Roman World 12)(Leiden-Boston: Brill 2003), 109-121
- “Politics of Death in Late Antiquity: An Aquitanian Perspective”, in *Literature, Art, History: Studies in Classical Antiquity and Tradition*, eds. A. Basson and W. Dominik (Frankfurt 2003), 341-355
- “From Athanaric to Ataulf: The Shifting Horizons of ‘Gothicness’ in Late Antiquity”, in *Humana Sapit: Études d’antiquité tardive offertes a Lellia Cracco Ruggini*, eds. J-M Carrie and R. Lizzi Testa (Bibliotheque de l’antiquité tardive 3)(Turnhout-Paris 2002), 55-62
- “Canonizing Law in Late Antiquity: Legal Constructs of Judaism in the Theodosian Code”, in *Homer, the Bible and Beyond: Literary and Religious Canons in the Ancient World*, eds. M. Finkelberg and G. Stroumsa (Leiden 2002), 213-225
- “From Jezebel to Esther: Fashioning Images of Queenship in the Hebrew Bible”, (as Helena Zlotnick), *Biblica* 82 (2001), 477-495
- “The Rape of Cozbi: Notes on Numbers 25”, (as Helena Zlotnick), *Vetus Testamentum* 51 (2001), 69-80.
- “Why not Marry a Jew? Jewish-Christian Marital Frontiers in Late Antiquity” in *Law, Society, and Authority in Late Antiquity*, ed. R. W. Mathisen (Oxford 2001), 208-219
- “The Invisible Jews of Visigothic Spain”, *Revue des études juives* 159 (2000), 369-85.

- “From Byzantine to Persian Jerusalem: Jewish Perspectives and Jewish-Christian Polemics”, *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 41 (2000), 277-306
- “The Silent Women of Yehud: Notes on Ezra 9”, (as Helena Zlotnick) *Journal of Jewish Studies* 51 (2000), 3-18.
- “Aquitania” in *The Barrington Atlas of the Greek and Roman World*, ed. R. Talbert, (Princeton 2000), (maps, gazetteer).
- “Revealing the Concealed: Rabbinic and Roman Legal Perspectives on the Crime of Adultery”, *Zeitschrift der Savigny Stiftung für Rechtsgeschichte* 116 (1999), 112-146.
- “Forging a New Identity: The Kingdom of Toulouse and the Frontiers of Visigothic Aquitania”, in *The Visigoths: Studies in Culture and Society* (Leiden 1999), 1-60 (with R. W. Mathisen).
- “The Appropriation of Roman Law in Barbarian Hands” in *Strategies of Distinction. The Construction of Ethnic Communities 300-800*, eds. W. Pohl and H. Reimitzer (Transformation of the Roman World 2)(Leiden-Boston: Brill 1998), 189-203
- “The Body of a Sinner. The Price of Piety: The Politics of Adultery in Late Antiquity”, *Annales* 53 (1998), 231-253 (in French).
- “Rabbinics and Roman Law: Jewish-Christian Marriage in Late Antiquity”, *Revue des études juives* 156 (1997), 59-100.
- “Ammianus at Rome: Exile and Redemption?” *Historia* 46 (1997), 116-121.30.
- “Why not Marry a Barbarian: Marital frontiers in the Late Antiquity”, in *Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity* 1996 (above), 133-142.
- “Ulfila's Own Conversion”, *Harvard Theological Review* 89 (1996), 373-386.
- “The death of Paulinus' (of Nola) Brother”, *Rheinisches Museum* 139 (1996), 170-179.
- “Was Theodosius I a Usurper?” *Klio* 78 (1996), 198-211
- “The Making of An Arian Goth: Ulfila Reconsidered”, *Revue bénédictine* 10 (1995), 280-92.

- “Nicetas (of Remesiana) Mission and Stilicho's Illyrian Ambition: Notes on Paulinus (of Nola) Propemticon (Carmen 17)”, *Revue des études augustiniennes* 41 (1995), 79-90.
- “The Last (Prose) Gallic Panegyric: Paulinus of Nola and Theodosius I”, *Studies in Latin Literature and Roman History* 7 (1994), 577-594.
- “Anician Women, The Cento of Proba, and Aristocratic Conversion in the Fourth Century”, *Vigiliae Christianae* 47 (1993), 140-57.
- “On Hymen and Holiness in Late Antiquity: Opposition to Aristocratic Female Asceticism at Rome”, *Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum* 36 (1993), 81-93.
- “Numerian the Intellectual”, *Rheinisches Museum* 136 (1993), 360-65.
- “Adam, Eve and the Rib”, *Jewish Affairs* (May 1993).
- “Ammianus' Terminus”, in *Festschrift C E P Naude* (Pretoria 1993), 113-20.
- “The Dedicatory Presentation in Late Antiquity: The Example of Ausonius”, *Illinois Classical Studies* 17 (1992), 83-101.
- “The Historian Eusebius (of Nantes)”, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 112 (1992), 158-63.
- “Town and Country in Fifth Century Gaul: The Example of Bordeaux”, in *Fifth Century Gaul. A Crisis of Identity?* J. Drinkwater and H. Elton (eds.) (Cambridge 1992), 132-143.
- “A Late Gallic Branch of the Acilii Glabriones?” *Mnemosyne* 44 (1991), 435-9.
- “Eunapius and the West”, *Historia* 40 (1991), 95-104.
- “Pilgrimage, Monasticism and the Emergence of Christian Palestine in the Fourth Century”, in *The Blessings of Pilgrimage*, ed. R. Oosterhout (Illinois University Press 1990), 54-65.
- “Redating Ausonius' Moselle”, *American Journal of Philology* 111 (1990), 383-394.
- “Alarico in Italia: Pollenza e Verona”, *Historia* 39 (1990), 361-374. (With Maria Cesa of Urbino).
- “Sidonius Apollinaris, Theodoric II and Gothic-Roman Politics from Avitus to Majorian”, *Hermes* 117 (1989), 85-94.

- “Not a *Civis*? A Note on Ausonius' *Parentalia* 10.6 (Sch.)”, *Latomus* 48 (1989), 879-80.
- “Town, Country and Province in Late Antique Gaul: The Example of CIL XIII 128”, *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 79 (1989), 103-113.
- “Ausone et la legislation imperiale”, *Revue des études anciennes* 91 (1989), 47-53
- “Who Was Egeria? Piety and Pilgrimage in the Age of Gratian”, *Harvard Theological Review* 81 (1988), 59-71.
- “Holy Land Pilgrimage and Western Audience: Egeria and her Circle”, *Classical Quarterly* 38 (1988), 528-535.
- “A Forerunner of Ausonius: Notes on Arborius, Ausonius' Uncle”, *Ancient History Bulletin* 2 (1988), 145-149.
- “On *Foederati*, *Hospitalitas* and the Settlement of the Visigoths in AD 418”, *American Journal of Philology* 108 (1987), 759-772.
- “Rutilius Namatianus, Constantius III and the Return to Gaul”, *Medieval Studies* 48 (1986), 522-532.
- “Funerary Monuments and Funerary Rites in Late Antique Aquitaine”, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 5 (1986), 339-353.
- “An Unedited Letter of the Emperor Honorius to the Spanish Army”, *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 61 (1985), 273-287.
- “Jewish Mysticism: A Historical Approach”, *Jewish Affairs* (Sept. 1984), 87-96.

*Major Book Reviews and Review Articles (Selected):*

Y. Harari, *Early Jewish Magic: Research, Method, Source* (Heb), *Journal of Late Antiquity* 4 (2011), 177-181

Sylvie Crogiez-Pétrequin, Pierre Jaillette, Jean-Michel Poinsotte, *Codex Theodosianus - Le Code Théodosien, V. (Texte latin d'après l'édition de Mommsen. Traduction, introduction et notes, Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2010.09.54 (online)*

- I. Himbaza, *Le Décalogue et l'histoire du texte. Études des formes textuelles du Décalogue et leurs implications dans l'histoire du texte de l'Ancient Testament* (Göttingen 2004), *Biblica* 87 (2006), 273-276
- D. Noy et al (eds.), *Inscriptiones Judaicae Orientis I. Eastern Europe. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism* (Tübingen 2004), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2005.09.58
- R. Leader Newby, *Silver and Society in Late Antiquity. Functions and Meanings of Silver Plates in the Fourth to the Seventh Centuries* (Aldershot 2004), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2004.07.48
- H. Lapin, *Economy, Geography and Provincial History*, in *Later Roman Palestine, Review of Biblical Literature* (2002)
- L. I. Levine and Z. Weiss, eds., *From Dura to Sepphoris: Studies in Jewish Art and Society in Late Antiquity* (Portsmouth 2000), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2002.06.25.
- The Cambridge History of Judaism III*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2000.11.15.
- G. Clarke et al., eds., *Identities in the Eastern Mediterranean in Antiquity*, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2001.06.07
- P. Broglio and A. Wallace-Hadrill, eds., *The Idea and Ideal of Town in Late Antiquity in the Early Middle Ages*, *The Medieval Review* (March 2000).
- What does Jerusalem have to do with Rome (or with Athens, for that matter)? Review of S. Cohen's *The Beginnings of Jewishness* (Berkeley 1999), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 1999.07.21.
- S. Lieu and N. Montserrat eds, *Constantine. History, Historiography, and Legend* (New York 1998), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 1999.03.09.

*L'Antiquité tardive* I (1993), *Journal of Roman Archaeology* (1996), 575-579.

R. H. P. Green, *The Works of Ausonius* (Oxford 1991) in *American Journal of Philology* 114 (1993), 464-467.

J. F. Matthews, *The Roman Empire of Ammianus* (Baltimore 1989) in *American Journal of Philology* 112 (1991), 137-141.

David Noy et al, *Inscriptiones Judaicae Orietis I: Eastern Europe* (Tübingen, Mohr Siebeck, 2004), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2005.09.58

Fergus Millar, *Rome, the Greek World and the East III: The Greek World, the Jews and the East*, edited by H. Cotton and G. Rogers (Chapel Hill 2006), *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2007.01.14

*The Petra Papyri III, Journal of Late Antiquity* 1 (2008), 197-99

Konstantin M. Klein, Johannes Wienand (eds.): City of Caesar, City of God. Constantinople and Jerusalem in Late Antiquity (Berlin/Boston 2022), in *Gnomon* 97.3 (2025), 656-658

## REGRETS?

Here are two project proposals, started but not finished, and an offer of a scholarship that I rejected, to my eternal regret.

Unfinished Book Project One:

[The Sinai in Antiquity](#) (project proposal and scholarship offer from the American School in Cairo, Egypt)

Unfinished Book Project Two:

[Roman and Barbarians: Themistius' Gothic Orations \(CE 368-383\)](#)

Another project proposal composed years ago that had not come to fruition yet sounds so timely

[The Origins of Human Violence](#)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

2010 KU Higuchi Award (for “lifetime research achievement”)

I am enclosing a note of congratulations from one of the university's top officials. The most attractive side of this award was serving two years on the selection committee, an invaluable opportunity to meet wonderful colleagues from other campuses in KS.

### Higuchi Award

- 2007-8, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, UPenn (fellow)
- 2006, American Research Center in Cairo (declined)
- 2005, Sum. Newberry Library-British Academy
- 2004, Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship, Bellagio (fellow)
- 2003-4, Fulbright-Hays Senior Fellowship (Jerusalem, HU and The Albright Institute of Archaeology)
- 2003-4, Albright Institute of Archaeology. Annual Professor (declined)
- 2002, fall, University of Kansas, Hall Center for the Humanities (fellow)
- 2001, University of Kansas, Vice Chancellor Subvention Award.
- 1999, Fall, Institute for Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (fellow)
- 1999, American Philosophical Society Travel Grant
- 1996/7, Institute for Advanced Study. Princeton. Member (School of Historical Studies)(fellow)
- 1996, Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres (French Academy). Toutain Blanchet Prize.
- 1996, European Science Foundation. Transformation of the Roman World Project (invited participant).
- 1995, American Philosophical Society Travel Grant.
- 1994, Princeton University Library Visiting Fellowship.
- 1994, University of Kansas, Hall Center Travel Grant.
- 1993-, University of Kansas, Graduate Research Fund award.

- 1992/3                    University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Center for Science Development award.
- 1991,                    Routledge International Ancient History Prize (joint winner).
- 1991,                    University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, Vice Chancellor Research Award.
- 1989-90,                Mellon Fellowship.
- 1989,                    University of the Witwatersrand, Council Overseas Research Award.
- 1989,                    South Africa, Human Sciences Research Council, Senior Research Award
- 1988,                    South Africa, Specialized Overseas Research Grant, Human Sciences Research Council
- 1987,                    Kress Foundation, New York. Conferences Grant.
- 1984-6,                 University of the Witwatersrand, University Travel Grants.
- 1980-1,                 Columbia University, The Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship.
- 1976-80,                Yale and Columbia. Annual University and President fellowships.

## TEACHING

I am enclosing an essay that we are asked to compose regarding "[teaching Philosophy](#)"

Roman history has been my passion. It has its somber but also its light side. The latter is reflected in the enclosed cartoons. I do not claim to be the originator. I could not find who created them but I wish to express my

gratitude to her/him for displaying so cleverly the fun or lighter side of the mighty Romans.

### The Fun Side of Roman History

I have taught many classes over my twenty five years at the University of Kansas. Recently I stumbled on a flyer that proposed a course on the Ancient Near East in a contemporary Middle Eastern context. Perhaps the greatest surprise when I unearthed this attractive flyer was its date—already in 2015 I offered a remote course, predating by years the universal online courses that accompanied the Covid pandemic.

### Flyer Announcing Online Middle East Course

Among others, a course on Jerusalem throughout the ages enabled me to create assignments that combined the material studied in class with live experiences. I am enclosing two samples of the essays submitted, both of excellent quality, both fulfilling my expectations of broadening the students' learning horizons.

### From a Complex Code to a Simple Guide: Two Views of Jerusalem

### An American Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

I have no doubt that some of the most satisfactory moments of anyone's teaching career are crystalized in a brief note like the one here enclosed from a student whom I had taught long ago.

### Student's Note

## **Areas and Specialties**

Late Antiquity (Mediterranean)

Christianity: From Jesus to Jerome and beyond  
Palestine from Ezra to Umar  
Gaul from Caesar to Clovis  
Women in Antiquity-comparative perspectives  
Biblical Interpretation-Jewish and Christian  
Identities and Collective Memories in antiquity  
Late Ancient Judaism (Mishnah-Talmuds)  
The Hebrew Bible in historical context  
Intertestamental Judaism (esp. comparative historiography)  
Diasporas and exile in antiquity  
Samaritans in antiquity

## **Experience**

- 1993-present, University of Kansas  
. 1983-1993, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.  
1979-1983, Columbia University, Preceptor (Literature Humanities, Latin).  
1973-, Adult Education (South Africa, England, US, France)

## **CONFERENCES, SEMINAR PAPERS, GUEST LECTURES**

- 2013, Paris, Sorbonne IV (Obsession with Numbers)  
At some point I became interested in counting time, specifically how time was counted and presented in the Bible and beyond. The result was a public lecture with many illustrations.
- 2012, Rome, Finish Academy, Roman Family VI International Conference (Daughters as Nightmare? Rabbinic Configurations of Paternal Obligations)
- 2012, Grove City College, PA (two invited lectures: 1. Treasures from the Cairo Geniza 2. Sinai Treasure Hunters: Ancient Palimpsests and Modern Adventures)
- 2012, KU Hillel (Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths)

- 2012, Israel, Meeting of Galilean Archaeologists (Archaeology and History: Visual Literacy and Induction of Children into the Synagogue)
- 2012, Israel, Kinneret College (The Sinai: Modern and Ancient)
- 2011, New York, Yeshiva University, Invited Lecture (December 8<sup>th</sup>)(Jews, Christians, and Samaritans in the Holy Land in Late Antiquity)
- 2011, Chicago, DePaul University. Byzantine Studies Conference (“Translating Jerusalem in Late Antiquity: Cyrus, Alexander, and Patterns of Imperial Patronage of Sectarian Sanctuaries”)
- 2011, Manchester (UK), International colloquium on childhood in antiquity (“children in the synagogue”)
- 2011, Aveiro (Portugal), International conference on myths of origin (“Inscribing Sinai: Ancient and modern palimpsests”)
- 2009, Jerusalem, The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Jewish Studies (“To Whom Was the Decalogue Addressed? ”)
- 2009, Jerusalem. The 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Jewish Studies (Chair. Session on Biblical Studies)
- 2008, Theorizing the Early Middle Ages (Pacific University)(“The Body as Border: Where does Late Antiquity End and the Early Middle Ages Begin?”)
- 2008, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Colloquium in Judaic Studies, UPenn (“Between Minorca and Gaza: The Un -Making of Minorities in Late Antiquity”)
- 2008, Philadelphia Seminar on Christian Origins (North Africa and Western Mediterranean)
- 2007, Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity VII, Boulder, Co (‘The Making of Mary and the Jerusalem Patriarchate in Late Antiquity’)
- 2006, American Schools of Oriental Research Annual Meeting (“The Weeping Pillars of Caesarea”)(also: Commentator)

- 2006, Paris, College de France Workshop on The Protection of Children in Antiquity (“Stains of Illegitimacy: Foundlings, Bastards and the Silenced in Ancient Judaism)
- 2006, Paris, Sorbonne, Seminar (“Mixed Unions: Legalities and Prejudices)
- 2005, American Association of Ancient Historians, Columbia, MO (The Samaritans in Late Ancient Palestine)
- 2004, Society of Biblical Literature/American Academy of Religion annual conference, San Antonio, (Perception of Peripheries: The Islamization of the Negev)
- 2004, European Studies Conference, Lincoln (Murder on Trial and the Art of Evidence: The 1927 Trial of Shalom Schwartzbard for the killing of Symon Petlyura)
- 2004, Albright Institute of Archaeology, Jerusalem (The Language of Violence in Late Ancient Palestine)
- 2003, American Historical Association (commentator: *Conversions: Literature and Propaganda*)
- 2003, Bra, Italy. Romans and Barbarians. International Conference commemorating the 1600 anniversary of the battle of Pollentia (Alarico tra Pollenzo e Roma)
- 2002, Accademia dei Lincei (Rome)(conference: *Between Byzantium and Persia*)
- 2002, Kalamazoo International Medieval Conference (Pseudo Society, ‘The Secret Diaries of Galla Placidia’; also, co-organized session on Nature and culture in pilgrimage accounts)
- 2002, Chicago, Spertus Institute of Judaism (guest lectures: Ideals and ideas of heroism in Judaism; The ancient synagogue)
- 2001, San Francisco, SFSU, Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity IV (‘Communicating Gothicness’)
- 2000, Madison, US Society of Ancient Historians (‘Canonization of Law in Late Antiquity’)

- 1999, Jerusalem, Hebrew University, International Conference on Mechanisms of Canon Making in Antiquity ('Constructs of Legal Identity in Late Antiquity')
- 1999, Evanston, Ill., Northwestern University. Jewish Studies Program. The Helen Krebs Shapiro Lectures ('Can Judaism survive intermarriage?'; 'Revealing the Concealed. Roman and Jewish Perspectives on Adultery')
- 1999, Atlanta, Emory U., Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity III ('Rabbinic Landscapes and Domestic Space in Roman Palestine')
- 1999, Oxford, XIII International Conference on Patristic Studies (Master Theme: 'The Falls of Jerusalem in the Seventh Century and Jewish-Christian Polemics')
- 1999, Hartford, Trinity College, Workshop on the Origins of the Jewish Christian Tradition Reconsidered
- 1999, Kalamazoo, 34<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies ('The Jews of Visigothic Spain')
- 1998, Tübingen, Germany, International Society for the Classical Tradition ('Romanization and the rabbis')
- 1998, Tel Aviv, University of Tel Aviv, Israel Society for the Promotion of Classical Studies ('The End of Byzantine Palestine')
- 1997, Princeton University, Program in the Ancient World ('Unholy Matrimony: Forbidden Unions in Late Antiquity')
- 1997, Toronto, Center for Medieval Studies, Conference on the Holy Land
- 1997, Columbia, SC, University of SC, Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity II: The Transformation of Law and Society ('Rabbinics and Roman-Byzantine Law').
- 1997, Princeton, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Sciences ('Miscegenation: Ancient Perspectives on a Modern Dilemma').
- 1997, Princeton University Forum for Late Antiquity ('Roman Bans in Barbarian Hands').

- 1997, UCLA, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.
- European Science Foundation conference on the Transformation of the Roman World ('The Rhetoric of Authority: Uses and Abuses of late Roman Law in the Early Middle Ages').
- 1996, Princeton, Delaware Medieval Association conference ('Violence and Women in Public in Late Antiquity').
- 1995, New York, Byzantine Studies Conference ('Worldly Time and Temporal Eternity in Holy Land Pilgrimages').
- 1995, Oxford, International Conference of Patristic Studies ('Ulfila's Own Conversion').
- 1995, Duke University, Forum for Late Ancient Studies ('Unholy Matrimony in Late Antiquity').
- 1995, Arizona State University, Reinventing the Middle Ages ('Worldly Time and Temporal Eternity').
- 1994, Chicago, North America Patristic Conference ('In the Margins of Orthodoxy').
- 1993, Princeton, Byzantine Studies Conference ('Was Theodosius I a Usurper?').
- 1992, Melbourne, International Conference for the Study of Religion ('On Hymens and Holiness in Late Antiquity').
- 1991, CapeTown, University of CapeTown, Southern Africa Classical Association ('The Conversion of Aristocratic Women to Asceticism').
- 1990, Pretoria, South Africa Patristic Association ('Pauline Influences on the Development of Pilgrim's Literature').
- 1989, Duke University, Colloquium in Late Antiquity (Late Roman Bordeaux).
- 1989, Sheffield, England, Fifth Century Gaul international conference ('Town and Country in Late Roman Aquitania').
- 1987, Columbus, Ohio, Byzantine Studies Conference ('The Holy Land in the Fourth Century: Archaeology and history').
- 1987, Pretoria, Medieval Studies Conference ('The Role of Women in Early Christian Asceticism and Monasticism').

- 1986, Johannesburg, International Judaica Conference ('Traditions of Holy Land Topography in the Early Byzantine Period').
- 1984, Johannesburg, Judaica Conference ('Jewish Mysticism. An historical approach').
- 1982, San Francisco, Archaeological Institute of America ('Funerary monuments in late Roman Gaul').
- 1981, Philadelphia, American Philological Association ('Urbanism in late antique Gaul').
- 1981, Boston, Byzantine Studies Conference ('Greek Culture in fifth century Gaul').

## SERVICE

Departmental, College, University (major committees)

- 2011 Pivotal History Events (main speaker)(this is the main fundraising event of the department)
- 2010 Latin America Search Committee
- 2010- Departmental minute taker
- 2007/9 Faculty Evaluation Board
- 2006 CLAS, Graduate Research Fund Committee
- 2005 Third Year Review Committee
- 2004 to present, Representative on MHAMS Council and History-Track Coordinator, Museum Studies MA Program
- 2004 to present, Ancient Medieval Standing Field Committee, Chair
- 2005 to present, University Judicial Board
- 2001-2003, Graduate Board
- 2002, fall, University of Kansas, Hall Center for the Humanities, Faculty Seminar (co-initiator and co-director with Gunda Georg, University Distinguished Professor of Medicinal Chemistry)(topic: 'Researching Life: Organizing Collectivities').
- 2002, Search committee, Ahamson Murphy Distinguished Chair in Medieval History

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2002,      | Advisory board, Women Studies program   |
| 2001,      | Search committee, Department of Anthropology  |
| 2001,      | Ahamson Murphy Search Committee   |
| 2001,      | Director, KU-Castagneto Carducci summer program (Italy)   |
| 1999-2000, | Director, KU-Caesarea Summer program (Israel)   |
| 1998/2000, | History, Dissertation Awards Committee; Library Committee   |
| 1999-,     | University Governance, Human Relations Committee  |
| 1999,      | Initiated, coordinated and organized the visit of Professor Patrich of Haifa University, Israel   |
| 1997/8,    | History, Staff Needs Committee  |
| 1995/6,    | History, Undergraduate Syllabus Committee; Graduate Awards Committee; Standing Field Committee (chair)  |
| 1994/5,    | History, Shifting Frontiers Conference Committee, chair; Graduate Awards Committee  |
| 1993/4,    | History, Undergraduate Syllabus Committee   |
| 1983-1993, | University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa: Curriculum Development Committee; Recruitment Committee; Research Liaison; Overseas Visitors committee, chair; Classical Civilization sequence, coordinator. |

*To the Profession:*

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2010 | External Evaluator-P@T, Indiana University (History); Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Geography) |
| 2010 | Fellowship committee evaluator, Chateaubriand Fellowships (French government)                    |
| 2010 | Reader (Wiley Blackwell Publications)  |
| 2010 | Evaluator of submissions (American Historical Journal)   |
| 2009 | External Evaluator—Tenure and Promotion (UCLA--Depts of History and Near Eastern Studies)        |
| 2009 | External Evaluator—grant application. The Swiss  |

Also:

1999, Committee Elected to the University Governance, Human Relations

1999, College Committee on Sabbatical Leave (alternate 1999-2002)

1999-2000, Director, KU Study Abroad Summer Institute in Israel

- 1999, Phi Alpha Theta guest lecture (A People is Born)
- 1999, Guest lecture, Anthropology, Old World Archaeology
- course
- 1995, *Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity* (Organization, invitations, program, fund raising, of the first international interdisciplinary conference on Late Antiquity. University of Kansas, Lawrence, March 22-25, 1995. With R. W. Mathisen of the University of South Carolina).
- 1983-1993, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1984-1986, Academic Staff Association, Executive Committee
- 1986-1990, Arts Research Seminars. Initiated and organized interdisciplinary series of faculty seminars
- 1987-89, Staff Club Committee.
- 1992-3, Undergraduate Syllabus Committee.
- 1993, Higher Degrees Committee.
- 1992-3, University Research Charter (member of university committee).
- 1993, Wits Think Tank (WTT)(founder).

## LANGUAGES

Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic (ancient)  
French, German, Italian, Spanish, Hebrew (modern)