

Andrew K. Atwell

Bard College | 30 Campus Road | Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
andrewkatwell.com | aatwell@bard.edu | Updated July 2026

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2026- Assistant Professor of the Interdisciplinary Study of Religions and Jewish Studies, Bard College
- 2025-26 Visiting Assistant Professor of the Interdisciplinary Study of Religions and Jewish Studies, Bard College
- 2024-25 Visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bard College

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- 2025- Director, Hebrew Language Program, Bard College

EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D., Anthropology, University of Chicago
Dissertation: “National-Religious Activism and Moral Imagination in Israel’s Social Periphery: An Ethnography of ‘Social Settlement’”
Committee: Hussein Ali Agrama (Chair), Michael Fisch, Alireza Doostdar, Lea Taragin-Zeller (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- 2020 M.A., Anthropology, University of Chicago
- 2017 M.A., Religious Studies, University of Chicago
- 2014 M.A., Physics, University of Virginia
- 2013 B.A., Physics, Eckerd College, *High Honors*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Temporality and ethics; messianism; religion and the secular; Jewish Studies; Middle East; sensibility and embodiment; political theology; sovereignty and intervention; Israel/Palestine

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- In Progress “The Difficulty of Reality and the Difficulty of *mitzvot*.” (article manuscript to be submitted to *Critical Inquiry*)
- In Progress “‘A Rising Tide Raises All Boats’: Torah Seed Groups and Post-’67 National-Religious Socioeconomic Mobility.” (article manuscript to be submitted to *Jewish Social Studies*)

In Press “Resuscitating Torah: ‘Judaization,’ Moral Imagination, and National-Religious *hesed* in Central Israel.” *Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* (forthcoming special issue Summer 2026)

2013 M. Kang, A. A. Al-Heji, J. E. Lee, T. W. Saucer, S. Jeon, J. H. Wu, L. Zho, A. L. Katzenstein, D. L. Sofferman, V. Sih, R. S. Goldman, “Ga nanoparticle-enhanced photoluminescence of GaAs,” *Applied Physics Letters* 103, 101903.

Contributions to Edited Volumes

2022 “Religion, Authority, Grammar: The Scholarly Legacy of Secular Concepts.” *Buddhist Violence and Religious Authority: A Tribute to the Work of Michael Jerryson*. Ed. Margo Kitts and Mark Juergensmeyer. United Kingdom: Equinox Publishing Ltd., 2022.

Book Reviews

In Progress Review of Shlomo Fischer, *Expressivist Religious Zionism: Modernity and the Sacred in a Nationalist Movement*. New York: Routledge, 2025. (review manuscript for *Jewish Review of Books*)

Book Manuscripts in Progress

2025 *Lod Alight: National-Religious Activism, Moral Imagination, and the Cunning of Endurance in Israel’s Social Periphery*

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

2022 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation, \$20,000

2018 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Hebrew, United States Department of Education, \$5,000

2017 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Hebrew, United States Department of Education, \$5,000

2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for Arabic, United States Department of Education, \$5,000

University of Chicago

2023 Junior Fellowship, Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion, \$2,500

2023 Graduate Student Fund Grant, Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory, \$1,000

2022 Fuerstenberg Fellowship in Jewish Studies, \$12,500

2022 Ph.D. Research Grant, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights, \$5,000

2022 Leiffer Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, \$2,000

2019 Research and Travel Grant, Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, \$3,000

- 2019 Leiffer Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, \$2,000
- 2015 Summer Language Fellowship, Language Center

CONFERENCE & PANEL ORGANIZATION

- 2026 Panel, “Temporalities of Fracture: Ethical Choreographies in Contemporary Israel” (Co-organizer with Talia Katz, SUNY-Binghamton), Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December.
- 2026 Panel, “Repugnance and Secularity: Interlocutors, Ethnographers, and the Uncanny” (Co-organizer with Nicholas Lorenz, University of Chicago), American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, November.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PARTICIPATION

- 2026 “Jewish Political Theology and the Crises of Contemporary Israel.” Roundtable participant at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December.
- 2026 “Social Settlement and Sacred Time: Emplotting Moral Imagination in Lod.” Presentation delivered at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December.
- 2026 “The Difficulty of Reality and the Difficulty of *mitzvot*.” Presentation delivered at American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, November.
- 2025 “A Rising Tide Raises All Boats’: Torah Seed Groups and Post-’67 National-Religious Socioeconomic Mobility.” Presentation delivered at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., December
- 2023 “Resuscitating Torah: ‘Judaization,’ Moral Imagination, and National-Religious *hesed* in Central Israel.” Presentation delivered at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December.

PARTICIPATION IN CLOSED CONFERENCES & COLLOQUIA

Invited Discussant

- 2021 Discussant of Yair Wallach, *A City in Fragments: Urban Text in Modern Jerusalem*, Greenberg Book Conversations, University of Chicago, May 2021.

Workshop Presentations

- 2026 “The Difficulty of Reality and the Difficulty of *mitzvot*.” Invited paper presented at “Jewish Theology and Anthropology: A Conversation,” a virtual working group co-convened by Miri Freud-Kandel (University of Oxford) and Lea Taragin-Zeller (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), February.
- 2024 “Resuscitating Torah: ‘Judaization,’ Moral Imagination, and National-Religious *hesed* in Central Israel.” Paper presented at the Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago,

March.

- 2019 “Sanity and Settlement in Israel/Palestine: Toward Imagining the Settler Other-Wise.” Paper presented at the Jewish Studies Workshop, University of Chicago, May.

COURSES TAUGHT

Core Courses, Interdisciplinary Study of Religions and Jewish Studies, Bard College

- ANTH 238 Anthropology of Religion (200-level) | F26 | also ISR, GIS, MES, JS
 REL 317 Imagining Religion: Theory and Methods for the Study of Religion (300-level) | S26 | also MES
 REL 104 Judaism (100-level) | F25 | also JS, MES
 ANTH 250 Anthropology of/and Judaism (200-level) | S25 | also JS, ISR
 HEB 101 Elementary Hebrew I (100-level) | F26 | also JS, MES
 HEB T100 Elementary Hebrew Tutorial (1-credit, 1 student) | F25 [student later withdrew]

Core Undergraduate Curriculum, Bard College

- L&T Language and Thinking (100-level) | F24, F25, F26
 FSEM First-Year Seminar (100-level) | F24, S26, F26
 CITZ SCI Citizen Science: Science Communication for Public Action (100-level) | F24

Courses Cross-Listed with Anthropology, Human Rights, Politics, Philosophy, Middle Eastern Studies, Global & International Studies, Africana Studies, & Physics, Bard College

- ANTH 247 Ethnographies of Religious Zionism (200-level) | F25 | HRP, JS, MES, PS, ISR
 REL 273 After Evil (200-level) | S26 | JS, ANTH, HRP, GIS, PS, PHIL
 MES 110 Arab Jews (100-level) | S25 | AS, JS, ISR
 PHYS 141 Introduction to Physics I Laboratory (100-level) | F24

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Senior Project Boards, Bard College

- 2025-26 William Axelrod, Philosophy (Fall – Midway; Spring – Final)

Senior Projects Advised, Bard College

- 2026 Nico Wenis, Anthropology (Spring to Fall)

PHYSICS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Virginia

- 2015 Nuclear Physics Experimentalist, Jefferson Lab E01-012 Detector Fabrication, Nilanga Liyanage
 2013 High Energy Physics Experimentalist, CERN Compact Muon Solenoid Data Analysis

Optimization, Brad Cox

Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

2012 Fusion Energy Experimentalist, Flowing Liquid Metal Tokamak Heat Removal, Hantao Ji

University of Michigan

2011 Materials Science Experimentalist, Gallium Nanoparticle Photoluminescence, Rachel Goldman

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Hebrew	Advanced proficiency
Arabic	Low Intermediate proficiency (Modern Standard)
French	Intermediate proficiency (reading)
German	Intermediate proficiency (reading)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hebrew

2018	Modern Hebrew Ulpan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
2017	Modern Hebrew Ulpan, Tel Aviv University
2017	Reading Modern Hebrew for Research Purposes, University of Chicago

Arabic

2016	Modern Standard Arabic Summer Intensive, Qasid Arabic Institute
2015	Modern Standard Arabic Summer Intensive, University of Chicago