Andrew K. Atwell

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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*)

2026 "Resuscitating Torah: 'Judaization,' Moral Imagination, and National-Religious *ḥesed* in Central Israel." *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* 34, no. 2: 225-244. https://doi.org/10.1163/1477285x-12341385.

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

PUBLIC LECTURES

2026 "On the Moral Imagination of 'Strengthening Jewish Identity' in Central Israel," Binghamton University (State University of New York), Center for Israel Studies, 5 October 2026.

PARTICIPATION IN CLOSED CONFERENCES & COLLOQUIA

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 *ḥesed* 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.

Invited Discussant

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

INVITATIONS TO PRESENT IN COURSES OUTSIDE OF BARD

2026 Binghamton University (State University of New York), *Israeli Cultures*, Professor Talia Katz, 6 October 2026

CONFERENCE & PANEL ORGANIZATION

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 "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 *ḥesed* in Central Israel." Presentation delivered at Association for Jewish Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December.

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 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