

## **Michael Scott Alexander**

michael.alexander@ucr.edu

michaelscottalexander.com

### **POSITION**

#### **University of California, Riverside**

Associate Professor, Religious Studies Department

2008-present

#### **Temple University**

Director, Feinstein Center for American Jewish History

2005-2008

Associate Professor, History Department

Affiliate Faculty, Religion Department

Affiliate Faculty, American Studies Program

#### **University of Oklahoma**

Associate Professor, History Department

2004-2005

Assistant Professor, History Department

1999-2004

Affiliate Faculty, Religious Studies Department

Affiliate Faculty, Film Studies Program

### **EDUCATION**

Yale University, Ph.D. - Religious Studies

1992-1999

Hebrew University, Graduate Research Program

1993-1994

University of Pennsylvania, B.A. - Oriental Studies

1988-1992

### **LANGUAGES**

Hebrew, Yiddish, Aramaic, German, French, Spanish

### **ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

As director of The Myer and Rosaline Feinstein Center for American Jewish History at Temple University I served to inspire public awareness and scholarly research related to the American Jewish experience. I designed and developed unique lectures, conferences, publications, and fellowships in order to promote discussion regarding the place of Jews in American life.

### **TEACHING COMPETENCE**

*Primary:* Modern Jewish History, Judaism

*Secondary:* Religious Studies, American Religious History, American History

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Jazz Age Jews*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.

\* Awarded the National Jewish Book Award

\* Awarded the Koret Foundation Jewish Studies Publication Prize

### **Articles and Essays**

"Frankfurter Among the Anarchists: 'The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti.'" *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* Vol. XVII. Edited by Eli Lederhendler. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001: 175-191.

"Exile and Alienation in America." *American Jewish History* 90(2) (June 2002): 165-171.

"The Triumph of the Jewish Therapeutic." *Reviews in American History* 33(2) (June 2005): 287-292.

"The Meaning of American Jewish History." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 96(3) (Summer 2006): 423-432.

"The Jewish Bookmaker: Gambling, Legitimacy, and the American Political Economy." *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* Vol. XXIII. Edited by Ezra Mendelsohn. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008 [forthcoming].

### **Encyclopedia Entries**

"Al Jolson." In *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*, edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2007, 499-503.

"Golda Meir." In *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*, edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2007, 212-214.

"Henry Kissinger." In *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*, edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2007, 316-319.

"Sammy Davis, Jr." In *Encyclopedia of American Jewish History*, edited by Stephen Norwood and Eunice Pollack. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio, 2007, 506-507.

"Jews." In *Encyclopedia of Revolutionary America*, edited by Paul A. Gilje. New York: Facts on File, 2008 [forthcoming].

## **Book Reviews:**

Review of Samuel G. Freedman, *Jew vs. Jew: The Struggle for the Soul of American Jewry* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000) in *American Jewish History* 88:4, (December 2000), 565-67.

Review of Noah Feldman, *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003) in *Forward*, June 20, 2003.

Review of Jules Chametzky, John Felstiner, Hilene Flanzbaum, and Kathryn Hellerstein, eds., *Jewish American Literature: A Norton Anthology* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001), *CCAR Journal*, (Summer 2003), 5-7.

Review of Neil Baldwin, *Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of Hate* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2001) in *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, 94:4 (Fall 2004) 716–718.

Review of Mark Oppenheimer, *Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003) in *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 35:2 (Autumn 2004) 324-5.

Review of Warren Grover, *Nazis in Newark* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 2003) in *The Jewish Quarterly Review* 95:2 (Spring 2005) 418–419.

Review of Laurel Leff, *Buried by the Times: The Holocaust and America's Most Important Newspaper* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005) in *New Haven Advocate*, April 28, 2005.

Review of Eric L. Goldstein, *The Price of Whiteness: Jews, Race, and American Identity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006) in *American Jewish History* 93.1 (March 2007) 96-99.

Review of Murray Friedman, *The Neoconservative Revolution: Jewish Intellectuals and the Shaping of Public Policy* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005) in *AJS Review* 31:2 (November 2007), 403-407.

## **INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS**

<i>After Jolson Sang Swanee: The Impact of Jewish Minstrelsy</i>	2008
The Burton Lewis Lecture Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life University of Southern California	
<i>The Jewish Bookmaker:</i>	2008
<i>Gambling, Legitimacy, and the American Political Economy</i> Hofstra University	
<i>Golda &amp; Henry: Jews, Power, and the Path to the Yom Kippur War</i>	2005

University of California, Riverside	
<i>The Jewish Lawyer: Type and Stereotype in Jewish History</i>	2003
Fairfield University	
<i>Themes in Exile and Slavery</i>	2002
The Newstadt Lecture, Oklahoma City University	
<i>The Casino Industry</i>	2001
Nordic Association of American Studies	
<i>Biznez iz Biznez: The Black Sox and the Jews</i>	1999
University of Oklahoma	
<i>"Mammy, Don't You Know Me?": Jews and Minstrelsy</i>	1999
Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple Univ.	
<i>Frankfurter Among the Anarchists: "The Case of Sacco and Vanzetti"</i>	1999
Western Jewish Studies Association (WJSA)	
<i>The Jazz Singer and the Jews</i>	1998
University of Washington Judaica Colloquium	
<i>Al Jolson and the Jews</i>	1998
Yale Judaica Colloquium	
<i>Financial Margins: The Jewish Business of Gambling</i>	1997
Association for Jewish Studies	

## **PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Center for Jewish Culture and Creativity, Los Angeles	2003
American Friends of the Hebrew University, Los Angeles	2003
Brandeis Women's Book Association of Arizona	2002
Jewish Community Center of Hollywood, Florida	2002
Houston Jewish Community Center	2001
Austin Jewish Community Center	2001
San Antonio Jewish Community Center	2001
Cleveland Jewish Community Center	2001
Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington D.C.	2001
Jewish Community Center of Greater Philadelphia	2001
Temple B'nai Emunah, Tulsa	2001
Temple Israel, Tulsa	2001
Anti-Defamation League, Seattle	1999

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS**

Irene Rothbaum Award for the Outstanding Assistant Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences (OU)	2003
Cole Fellow in Jewish Studies (University of Washington)	1998-1999
Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Summer Fellow (Temple)	1998
Pew Fellow in American Religious History (Yale)	1997-1998
Holtzman Fellow (Yale)	1992-1996
Interuniversity Fellow (Hebrew University)	1993-1994

Benjamin Franklin Scholar (University of Pennsylvania)	1989-1992
Phi Beta Kappa (University of Pennsylvania)	1992
Dean's Scholar (University of Pennsylvania)	1991
New York State Summer Scholar	1991

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Academy of Religion  
 American Jewish Historical Society  
 Association for Jewish Studies

## **SERVICE**

### **National**

American Jewish Historical Society, Executive Committee	2003-present
AJHS Nominations Committee Chair	2006-present
<i>American Jewish History</i> , Editorial Board	2006-present
<i>Association of Jewish Studies Review</i> , Editorial Board	2003-present
Immigration and Ethnicity Committee of the OAH	2002-present
Rutgers University Press, Reader	2003
Smithsonian Press, Reader	2002
Journal of American History, Reader	2002-present
NEH - Division of Public Programs, Media Project Review Panel	2002