

## David M. Freidenreich

Department of Religious Studies, Colby College  
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### EMPLOYMENT

- 2013– Pulver Family Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, Colby College  
2008–2013 Pulver Family Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Colby College  
2012 Richard and Susan Master Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome  
2012 Visiting Researcher, Maison des Sciences de l’Homme Ange-Guépin, Nantes  
2007–2008 Visiting Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies, Franklin & Marshall College  
2006–2007 Teaching Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Religious Studies, Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania

### EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D. in Religion, with distinction, Columbia University  
“Foreign Food: A Comparatively-Enriched Analysis of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law”  
2006 Rabbinic Ordination, Jewish Theological Seminary  
2006 M.A. in Jewish Studies, Jewish Theological Seminary  
*Specializations:* midrash, liturgy and ritual, Jewish philosophy  
2002 M.Phil. in Religion, with distinction, Columbia University  
*Fields:* Jewish law, Christian law, Islamic law, the comparative study of religion  
2000 M.A. in Religion, Columbia University  
1999 B.A., *summa cum laude*, with high honors in Politics and high honors in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, Brandeis University

BOOK

*Foreigners and Their Food: Constructing Otherness in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law*  
Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011

Winner of the AAR Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion (textual studies category)

*Foreigners and their Food* explores how Jews, Christians, and Muslims conceptualize “us” and “them” through rules about the preparation of food by adherents of other religions and the act of eating with such outsiders. David M. Freidenreich analyzes the significance of food to religious formation, elucidating the ways ancient and medieval scholars use food restrictions to think about the “other.” Freidenreich illuminates the subtly different ways Jews, Christians, and Muslims perceive themselves, and he demonstrates how these distinctive self-conceptions shape ideas about religious foreigners and communal boundaries. This work, the first to analyze change over time across the legal literatures of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, makes pathbreaking contributions to the history of interreligious intolerance and to the comparative study of religion.

EDITED VOLUME

*Beyond Religious Borders: Interaction and Intellectual Exchange in the Medieval Islamic World*  
co-editor, with Miriam Goldstein; Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012

CHRISTIAN–MUSLIM RELATIONS: ARTICLES ON LAW

*Christian–Muslim Relations: A Bibliographic History*, ed. David Thomas et al. (Leiden: Brill)

“Muslims in Canon Law, 650–1000,” 1: 99–114 (2009)

“Muslims in Western Canon Law, 1000–1500,” 3: 41–68 (2011)

“Muslims in Eastern Christian Law, 1000–1500,” 4: 45–57 (2012)

“Christians in Early and Classical Sunni Law,” 1: 83–98 (2009)

“Christians in Early and Classical Shi‘i Law,” 3: 27–40 (2011)

OTHER PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- 2013 “The Food of the Damned,” in *Between Heaven and Hell: Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of Others*, ed. Mohammad Hasan Khalil (Oxford University Press), 253–72
- 2013 “Food-Related Interaction Among Christians, Muslims, and Jews in High and Late Medieval Latin Christendom,” *History Compass* 11.11: 957–66
- 2013 “Reconstructing the Social History of Rabbinic Ideas,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 103.4: 581–88
- 2012 “Contextualizing Bread: An Analysis of Talmudic Discourse in Light of Christian and Islamic Counterparts,” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 80: 411–33

- 2012 “Fusion Cooking in an Islamic Milieu: Jewish and Christian Jurists on Food Associated with Foreigners,” in *Beyond Religious Borders: Interaction and Intellectual Exchange in the Medieval Islamic World*, ed. David M. Freidenreich and Miriam Goldstein (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press), 144–60
- 2012 “Why Jewish Studies Scholars Should Care About Christian–Muslim Relations,” *AJS Perspectives*, Spring, 14–15
- 2011 “The Jews of Maine,” *Maine Memory Network* (Maine Historical Society), [www.mainememory.net](http://www.mainememory.net)
- 2011 “Food and Table Fellowship,” in *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, ed. Marc Brettler and Amy-Jill Levine (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 521–24
- 2011 “The Implications of Unbelief: Tracing the Emergence of Distinctively Shi‘i Notions Regarding the Food and Impurity of Non-Muslims,” *Islamic Law and Society*, 18: 53–84
- 2010 “Five Questions about Non-Muslim Meat: Toward a New Appreciation of Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawziyyah’s Contribution to Islamic Law,” in *Re-evaluating Ibn Qayyim al-Ġawziyyah’s Literary Stature: Religious and Historical Issues*, ed. Caterina Bori and Livnat Holtzman, *Oriente Moderno* 90: 85–104
- 2010 “Holiness and Impurity in the Torah and the Quran: Differences within a Common Typology,” *Comparative Islamic Studies* 6: 5–22
- 2009 “Muslim–Jewish Dialogue,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*, ed. John Esposito (New York: Oxford University Press)
- 2008 “Sharing Meals with Non-Christians in Canon Law Commentaries, ca. 1160–1260: A Case Study in Legal Development,” *Medieval Encounters* 14: 41–77
- 2008/2009 “Kiddushin—A Service for Yom Hashoah,” *Conservative Judaism* 61.1/2: 120–52
- 2004 “Comparisons Compared: A Methodological Survey of Comparisons of Religion from ‘A Magic Dwells’ to *A Magic Still Dwells*,” *Method and Theory in the Study of Religion* 16: 80–101
- 2003 “The Use of Islamic Sources in Saadia Gaon’s *Tafsīr* of the Torah,” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 93: 353–95

#### PUBLICATIONS IN PROCESS

- “Dietary Law,” *The Oxford Handbook of the Abrahamic Religions*, ed. Adam Silverstein and Guy G. Stroumsa (Oxford University Press)
- “Food and Faith in Christian Culture [review],” *Journal of Religious History*
- “Food (Medieval Period),” *The Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* (Brill)
- “Jews, Pagans, and Heretics in Early Medieval Canon Law,” in a forthcoming volume edited by John Tolan (Brepols)
- “Making It in Maine: Stories of Jewish Life in Small-Town America,” *Maine History* 49.1 (January 2015)

INVITED SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

- 2011– “Food and Identity in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,” Bowdoin College, Coe College, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 2014 “Reading Islamic Studies Through the Lens of Jewish Studies,” Trinity College (invited)
- 2013 “Muslims Killed Christ? A Preposterous Medieval Allegation and Its Implications,” New York University
- 2013 “Islamic Studies and Jewish Studies: Differences in Context,” Islamic Studies in the Columbia Curriculum, 1886–2012: From Oriental Studies to Area Studies and Religious Studies, Columbia University
- 2012 “Judaizing Muslims: An Overlooked Trope in Christian Portrayals of Islam,” NEH Summer Institute, “Networks and Knowledge: Innovation and Synthesis in the Muslim–Christian–Jewish Medieval Mediterranean”
- 2012 “Foreigners and Their Food in Medieval Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law,” Universität Konstanz
- 2012 “Conceptions of Muslims and Christians in the Halakhic Literature of the Geonim and Rishonim,” Ben Gurion University in the Negev
- 2012 “Food and Identity as ‘Basic Needs’ in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Law,” Maison des sciences de l’homme Ange-Guépin
- 2011 “Jews, Pagans, and Heretics in Early Medieval Canon Law,” RELMIN Workshop “Jews in Ecclesiastical, Roman-Barbarian, and Byzantine Law (6th–11th Centuries): Changes, Ruptures, Adaptations,” Fontevraud, France
- 2011 “Jews, Pagans, and Heretics in Early Medieval Canon Law,” Brandeis University
- 2011 “Ways of Walking: Rabbinic and Academic Approaches to Comparing Jewish and Islamic Law,” Judaism and Islam in America: The Interpretation of Law and Scripture, Hartford Theological Seminary
- 2011 “How Jewish are Muslims? Conceptions of Judaism and Islam in Medieval Canon Law,” The Origins of Islam: Narratives of History and the Historiography of Narratives, Dartmouth College
- 2010 “Old Memory in New Media: How Colby’s Maine Jewish History Project Collects and Presents Its Data,” Annual Meeting, Maine Archives and Museums
- 2010 “The Food of the Damned,” Islam, Salvation, and the Fate of the Other, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2007 “Foreign Food under Foreign Rule: Developments in Jewish and Christian Law within an Islamic Milieu,” Gruss Colloquium in Jewish Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2003 “Building Walls at the Borders: The Creation of Restrictions on Foreign Food in Modern Islam and Medieval Christianity,” Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin Working Group on Modernity and Islam

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2013 “Reading Islamic Studies Through the Lens of Jewish Studies,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2013 “Laws on Food as a Source for Medieval Interreligious Interactions,” Annual Conference, Medieval Academy of America
- 2012 “Conceptions of Gentiles in Halakhic Literature from Christian Spain,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2011 “Food and Identity in the Pauline Communities,” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2011 “Response: Religion and Law in the Medieval Mediterranean World,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2010 “A Tale of Two Colleges: Jews and Baptist Institutions in Maine During the Interwar Years” (co-presenter with Desiree Shayer, Colby ’12), Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2008 “Poking Holes in Israel’s Holiness: Explorations in the Juxtaposition of Leviticus and the Qur’an,” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2008 “The Scholar as Community Educator: Lessons I’ve Learned Teaching Islam to Jews... as a Rabbi,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2007 “People of the Oral Book? Attitudes Toward Rabbinic Law in Islamic Legal Literature,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2006 “Foreign Food in the Marketplace: Recovering Historical Data Through Comparison,” Annual Meeting, American Historical Association
- 2005 “Reading Scripture Against the Grain in Christian and Islamic Communities: A Comparatively-Enriched Study,” Annual Meeting, Society of Biblical Literature
- 2005 “Prohibitions of Commensality with Jews in Early Medieval Canon Law,” Annual Meeting, International Congress of Medieval Studies
- 2004 “Jewish and Islamic Restrictions on Foreign Food: A Case Study in the Significance of Similarity,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion
- 2003 “On the Literary Dependency of the Tosefta,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2002 “Preliminary Observations on the Source of the Mishnah and Tosefta,” Annual Conference, Association for Jewish Studies
- 2002 “Neither Fish nor Fowl: The Conception of Islam in Canon Law Sources on Commensality,” Annual Meeting, American Academy of Religion

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2012 Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion (textual studies category), American Academy of Religion (for *Foreigners and Their Food*)
- 2012 Summer Scholar, NEH Summer Institute, “Networks and Knowledge: Synthesis and Innovation in the Muslim–Christian–Jewish Medieval Mediterranean”
- 2005–2006 Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellow, Columbia University
- 2005–2006 Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, National Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 2005 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellow, Columbia University (for the advanced study of classical Arabic at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem)
- 2004–2005 Doctoral Scholarship Grant recipient, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
- 2003–2004 Paul H. Klingenstein Fellow, Columbia University
- 2003 Summer Academy Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin Working Group on Modernity and Islam
- 2003 Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Summer Fellow, Columbia University (for manuscript and archival research in Vatican City and Munich)
- 1999–2003 Presidential Fellow, Columbia University
- 1999–2000 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson Foundation
- 1995–1999 Justice Brandeis Scholar, Brandeis University

COURSES TAUGHT AT COLBY

- Conceptions of Jews and Judaism, RE 181 (taught annually)  
Jews and Judaism in the Modern World, RE 182 (taught annually)
- Personal Writings about God, RE 120 (taught alternately)  
Topics in Maine’s Jewish History, RE 221 (taught alternately)  
Food and Religious Identity, RE 322 (taught alternately)  
Jewish Responses to Ethical Dilemmas, RE 384 (taught alternately)
- Introduction to Talmud, RE 197 (not currently taught)  
The Making of Judaism, RE 282 (not currently taught)  
Abraham in the Abrahamic Religions, RE 382 (not currently taught)  
Exhibiting Maine’s Jewish Experiences, RE 398 (not currently taught)

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION: REGULARLY OFFERED PUBLIC LECTURES

- “Abraham in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam”
- “The Changing Role of Religion in the Israel/Palestine Conflict”
- “Encountering Islam: An Introduction for American Jews”
- “Food and Identity in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam”
- “Making It in Maine: Jewish Stories from the Pine Tree State”
- “Ways of Walking: Jewish Law and Islamic Law Compared”
- “What Makes Food Jewish? (Or: The Jewishness of Chinese Food)”

## CURRENT SERVICE IN THE FIELDS OF JEWISH STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- member, Board of Directors, Association for Jewish Studies
- co-founder and steering committee member: “Religions in Europe and the Mediterranean World, 500–1650,” American Academy of Religion program unit
- curator, “The Medieval Canon Law Virtual Library” (<http://web.colby.edu/canonlaw/>)

## CURRENT SERVICE TO COLBY COLLEGE

- member, Jewish Studies Program steering committee
- founding member, Colby Hillel advisory board
- director, Colby’s Maine Jewish History Project (<http://web.colby.edu/jewsinmaine/>)
- member, Arts & Humanities Center faculty coordinating committee
- member, off-campus study committee

## SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS

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| 2014      | Center for Arts & Humanities (Colby College) and New England–Maritimes Region of the American Academy of Religion: “Anti-Judaism and Its Implications” (one-day conference)                                      |
| 2011      | Schusterman Visiting Artist Program, supported by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation: Israeli filmmaker-in-residence at Colby  |
| 2010–2011 | Legacy Heritage Jewish Studies Project, directed by the Association for Jewish Studies: “Telling the Stories of Maine’s Jewish History”  |
| 2009–2011 | Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (Colby College): four separate grants to support teaching, collaborative research, and public programming related to the study of Maine’s Jewish history |