

Zahava Feldstein

PHD STUDENT

OBJECTIVE

Dedicated and experienced Jewish educator, and doctoral student in Education and Jewish Studies at Stanford University. Committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive Jewish learning environment, I aim to leverage my expertise in curriculum development, community engagement, and educational leadership to inspire students, empower faculty, and strengthen connections with Jewish identity. Distinguished in executing comprehensive research, I am adept in technical writing and offer exceptional analytical abilities. With a passion for innovative teaching methodologies and a deep understanding of Jewish values and traditions (I am a graduate of 16 years of formal Jewish schooling, a rabbi's daughter, and a graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School), I am eager to contribute to the continued growth and excellence of you and/or your organization.

EDUCATION

- 2023-Present **Stanford University**
PhD, Education and Jewish Studies
- Minor: Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity; Jewish History
Adviser: Ari Kelman, PhD
- 2021-2023 **University of Chicago, Divinity School**
MA, Religious Studies
- Adviser: James Robinson, PhD
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
- 2016-2019 **Scripps College**
BA, American Studies
- 3-Year Advanced
Graduated Cum Laude
Research track: Collective Memory and Curriculum Construction
Thesis: "Boycotting the Zionist: Disputing the California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum (2019)"
Minored in Psychology (Educational)
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AWARDS

- 2023-2028 **Jim Joseph Fellow, Stanford University**
5-year funding package covering tuition and health insurance, with additional living stipend, RA-ship salary, and research fund.
- 2021-2023 **Divinity Dean's Fellowship, University of Chicago**
Merit-scholarship covering full tuition and a supplementary living stipend for 2-year degree program.
- 2022-2023 **Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS)**
Academic-year scholarship providing a living stipend for studies in Modern Hebrew and related area courses.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present **Dissertation**, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
Advisor: Ari Kelman, PhD
- Read relevant scholarship extensively and compiled comprehensive literature review.
 - Facilitated introductory contact with potential schools to request student participation.
 - Apply for IRB and followed ethical standards.
 - Wrote consent/assent forms for participating schools, students, and parents.
 - Developed and maintain relationships with participating schools, students, and parents.
 - Design pre-survey questionnaires to select for twenty longitudinal study participants.
 - Complete and transcribe interviews.
- 2023-Present **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA
Research Assistant, Ari Kelman, PhD
- Conduct empirical, literary, and analytical research for the following projects:
 - The development of Jewish studies as a university discipline.
 - The development of collegiate ethnic studies programs.
 - The California ethnic studies mandate.
 - Contemporary antisemitism and anti-Zionism.
 - Teaching Israel-Palestine in Jewish educational spaces.
 - Attend weekly one-on-one meetings to discuss progress and ongoing projects.
 - Maintain thorough notes and track research events, Monitor and report on research progress and related activities.
 - Participate in community events, such as talks and colloquia.
 - Interview participants and transcribe oral interviews.
 - Perform literature reviews to identify current trends in the aforementioned fields.
 - Collect, review, and analyze primary and secondary source materials to identify relevant information for projects.
- 2020-2022 **American Jewish Archives**, Cincinnati, OH
Associate Archivist/Intern, Rabbi Gary Zola, PhD
- Developed educational materials for teachers using primary source documents from the archive.
 - Compiled historical timelines, particularly related to American Jewish history and the Hebrew Union College.
 - Processed, digitized, interpreted, and disseminated archival data.
 - Wrote descriptions for museum exhibits (e.g. “200 Years of Cincinnati Jewish History”; “50 Years of Women in the Rabbinate”)
 - Utilized specialized software application to manage digital databases of archived materials.
- 2019 **Georgia State University**, Atlanta, GA
Research Assistant Intern, Gertrude Tinker-Sachs, PhD, Dept. Chair, Dept. of Education
- Wrote comprehensive literature reviews summarizing existing research on the following topics.
 - The native speaker myth.
 - Efficacy beliefs.
 - Imposter syndrome.
 - Critical pedagogy in education.
 - Transcribed interviews and analyzed data for descriptors of race, geography/global positioning, and linguistics.
 - Presented publicly on Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL)
 - Assisted Primary Researcher in preparing manuscript for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- 2018 **Chino Unified School District**, Chino, CA
Externship
- Shadowed district school psychologist for undergraduate research in educational psychology.
 - Assisted in classroom teaching (40 students); Observed student IEP assessment meetings.

- 2018 **Rainbow Services**, San Pedro, CA
Children's Program Intern
- Worked with children at a domestic violence shelter, either living in residential services or participating in outreach programs.
 - Provided individualized tutoring and academic support.
 - Conduced learning styles assessments and created individualized learning goals and plans for each student.
 - Supplied parents with a written breakdown of tools for their students to give to teachers (as these students move schools often).

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2022 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Divinity School
- Professor: Dr. David Barak-Gorodetsky / Course: "Religion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Peacemaking."
 - Taught and lead class discussion on indigeneity, colonialism, and religion.
 - Coordinated with guest lecturers.
 - Graded undergraduate midterm essays and provided written feedback.
 - Provided in-class assistance, especially related to small-group work and discussions.
 - Implemented disability accommodations for a student who is blind, including accessibility of written and digital materials.
 - Negotiated the specific challenges related to issues of the course.
 - Developed and implemented lesson plans for a variety of learning styles.
 - Facilitated small group discussions on topics related to the subject matter.
 - Encouraged critical thinking by posing questions during lectures and discussions.
 - Communicated regularly with colleagues about teaching strategies, resources.

K-12 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2020 **Hannah Senesh Community Day School**, Brooklyn, NY
Substitute Teacher
- All subjects (including Jewish studies) for K-8 classrooms.
- 2020 **Temple Sinai of Atlanta**, Sandy Springs, GA
Lead Religious School Teacher
- Lead teacher in a Sunday religious school (5th grade, 10 students) and Saturday family programming (virtual on Zoom, nine families).
- 2020 **Epstein School**, Atlanta, GA
Teaching Aide - Middle School
- Facilitated in-classroom support for teachers joining via Zoom during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2020 **Atlanta Jewish Academy**, Sandy Springs, GA
Lead Teacher - Maternity Cover, then Roving Substitute
- Lead maternity substitute in 3rd-grade classroom.
 - Full-time roving substitute (elementary & middle school)
- 2018-2019 **Central Learning Center**, Chino, CA
Academic Tutor
- Facilitated after-school tutoring for students aged pre-K through adult learners in a low-income neighborhood.
 - Created engaging activities in general studies instruction and English as a Second Language (ESL) for Spanish-speaking students.
- 2016-2019 **Temple Beth Israel of Pomona**, Claremont, CA
NFTY Youth Group Adviser & Religious School Teacher
- Advised a youth group chapter of 30 high school students in the chapter's first year.
 - Worked closely with the youth board to facilitate leadership and program design/implementation.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Summer 2024	ISGAP-Oxford Summer Institute for Curriculum Development in Critical Contemporary Antisemitism Studies <i>Oxford University, St. Catherine's College, United Kingdom</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop cutting-edge course syllabus integrating contemporary antisemitism studies.• Present my curriculum independently at the culmination of the institute.• Collaborate with scholars and professionals from around the world who are committed to challenging contemporary antisemitism through knowledge production and teaching pedagogy.
(Renewed) Autumn 2023	CITI Training

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2023-Present	Association for Jewish Studies
2024-Present	American Studies Association

LANGUAGES

English	Native language
Hebrew	Advanced
Spanish	Conversational
Yiddish	Beginner
German	Beginner

SKILLS

Curriculum development: Designing comprehensive Judaic studies curriculum that integrates Jewish values, texts, and traditions with modern educational practices to engage and inspire students.

Community engagement: Building strong relationships with students, families, faculty, and community members to promote a sense of belonging and connection within the school community, as well as collaborating with local Jewish organizations to enhance programming and resources.

Jewish pedagogy: Applying innovative teaching methodologies and experiential learning techniques to bring Jewish education to life, cultivating critical thinking skills, and nurturing a love for Jewish learning.

Cultural Competency: Demonstrating a deep understanding and respect for diverse Jewish backgrounds, beliefs, and practices, and fostering an inclusive environment that celebrates and honors the richness of Jewish heritage.

Visionary Leadership: Setting a clear vision and strategic direction for the Judaic studies program, grounded in Jewish values and traditions, and inspiring others to join in the pursuit of educational excellence and meaningful Jewish learning experiences.

Reflective Practice: Engaging in ongoing professional development and reflective practice to continuously improve teaching strategies, curriculum design, and programmatic initiatives based on feedback, research, and best practices in Jewish education.

Program Development: Creating and implementing engaging Jewish experiential programs, holiday celebrations, and special events that enhance students' connection to their Jewish identity and foster a sense of pride in their heritage.

Additional Skills: **Conflict resolution; Critical thinking; Care for Learners & Love of Learning**

REFERENCES

Available upon request.