

GILA S. SILVERMAN

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EDUCATION

- PhD (2015) **Sociocultural Anthropology**. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
Dissertation: *Complexities and contradictions: prayer, healing, belief and identity among liberal American Jews*.
- MPH (2000) **Community Health Practice**. University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ.
Master's project: *Refuah Shleimah: an exploration of Jewish healing centers in the US*.
- AB (1990) **Anthropology**. Vassar College. Poughkeepsie, NY

Continuing Education

Educator's Training Program. Institute for Jewish Spirituality. (2004-2006)

Certificate in Congregational Health Ministry/Spirituality and Health, Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Newton, MA. (2003-2005)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Research, evaluation, and writing consultant. (2015-present)
- Visiting scholar. Arizona Center for Judaic Studies, University of Arizona. (2016-present)
- Research Associate. The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University. (2017 – 2018)
- Scholar-in-Residence. The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University. (Summer 2017)
- Interim Program Coordinator. Jewish Community Relations Council. Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. (2015-2016)
- Instructor. School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. (2013-2015)
- Project Manager. Bat Mitzvah Project. The Hadassah Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University. (2003-2005)
- National Director. Shleimut Institute for Judaism, Health and Healing. (2002-2004)
- Evaluation Specialist. LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. Tucson, AZ (2001-2002)
- Development Consultant, Self-employed, Jerusalem, Israel. (1996 – 1998)
- Program Officer, New Israel Fund, Jerusalem, Israel. (1993-1996)
- Volunteer Placement Coordinator, Shatil, Jerusalem, Israel. (1991-1992)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications:

- 2017 Silverman, G. *Multiple Judaisms and mosaic selves: an ethnographic exploration of liberal American Jews*. *Culture and Religion*. 4: 392-408
- 2016 Silverman, G. “*I’ll say a Mi Sheberach for you*”: *prayer, healing and identity among liberal American Jews*. *Contemporary Jewry*. 36(2):169-185.201
- 2016 Silverman, G., A. Cohen, and K. Johnson. *To believe or not to believe, that is not the question: the complexity of Jewish beliefs about God*. *Psychology of Religion and Spirituality*. 8(2): 119-130.
- 2016 Silverman, G. *Hoping, praying, gathering data: studying healing when loved ones are ill*. *Arizona Anthropologist*. Spring.

Manuscripts under review:

Silverman, G. *Kaddish and continuing bonds: an ethnographic exploration*. *Social Analysis*.

Other writings:

- 2018 Fighting the same fights as our feminist mothers: some thoughts on sexual harassment and academic careers. *Fresh Ideas from HBI: the HBI Blog*. August 14.
- 2018 On Yizkor, realizing that if ‘life is with people’ in Judaism, death is too. *Arizona Jewish Post*. May 17.
- 2017 What survey data don’t tell you. *The Forward.com*. October 24.
- 2017 It takes a community to say kaddish, especially as a woman. *Fresh Ideas from HBI: the HBI Blog*. August 3.
- 2017 What Judaism teaches us about loss and grief. *The Forward.com*. May 30.
- 2012 Be Kind: Winterhaven Festival of Lights. *Arizona Jewish Post, Tucson, AZ*. December 17.
Recognized by the Arizona Press Club, First Place for Social Issues Reporting.
- 2010 Chanukah on Christmas Avenue: raising a Jewish family in Winterhaven. *Arizona Jewish Post, Tucson, AZ*. November 26.
Recognized by the American Jewish Press Association, Simon Rockower Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism. First place, Personal essay, Newspapers under 14,999 circulation.
- 2007 Some thoughts on the Health Ministries Association as a multi-faith organization. *Health Ministry Journal* 3:1, Winter.
- 2005 A public health perspective on the religion-health connection. Monograph published by the National Center for Jewish Healing.
- 2000 *Avelut: a year of mourning*. *The Forum: A Publication of the Association for Death Education and Counseling*. July.

HONORS, GRANTS and FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Travel grant. Association for Israel Studies. Impact of gender on career trajectories in Israel Studies.

- 2019 Research grant, The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. Impact of gender on career trajectories in Israel Studies.
- 2017 Research grant, The Hadassah-Brandeis Institute. Saying *kaddish*: an ethnographic exploration of gender, mourning and Judaism
- 2015 Haury Dissertation Fellowship, School of Anthropology, University of Arizona.
- 2015 Student Essay Award. Conference on Medicine and Religion, Boston, MA.
- 2013 Arizona Press Club, Best Journalism in Arizona, First Place, Non-metro reporting: Social Issues.
- 2013 Dissertation Research Grant, Social and Behavioral Science Research Institute, University of Arizona.
- 2012 New Directions in the Study of Prayer Grants Program, Social Science Research Council, alternate for funding.
- 2011 American Jewish Press Association, Simon Rockower Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism. First place, Personal essay.
- 2010 Summer Research Grant Development Award, Social and Behavioral Sciences Research Institute, University of Arizona.
- 2000 University of Arizona College of Public Health. Award for Excellence: Outstanding Internship Presentation.
- 1990 Vassar College, General and Departmental Honors
- 1990 Vassar College, Phi Beta Kappa

PRESENTATIONS

Plenary addresses/Invited lectures:

- 2017 What are we praying for when we pray for healing? Duchin Lecture, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Arizona. March 27.
- 2015 Connection and comfort: ethnographic perspectives on prayer and healing among liberal American Jews. Conference on Medicine and Religion. Cambridge, MA. March 8.
- 2005 In search of Shleimut (wholeness): Jewish perspectives on health and healing. Wesley Nurse Health Ministries Annual Symposium, San Antonio, TX, February.
- 2004 Health and healing in the Jewish community. Theology and Medicine Seminar. Duke Divinity School, April.

Conference papers:

- 2019 Gender and careers in Israel Studies: preliminary findings. Association for Israel Studies Annual Meeting. Tiberias, Israel. June 26.
- 2017 Mourning, Gender, and Judaism: A Multi-Disciplinary Exploration. Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. Washington, DC. December 18.
- 2017 “We sat *shiva* for three days”: Jewish mourning among liberal American Jews. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. November 21.
- 2017 Saying *kaddish*: Towards an Anthropology of Ritual, Religion and Continuing Bonds. Towards an Anthropology of Grief – Collaborative Workshop,

- Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains, Université Libre de Bruxelles. March 9.
- 2016 An Imaginary Ideal: The “Good Jew” and Liberal American Jewishness. American Academy of Religion, Western Region Conference. Tucson, AZ. April 4, 2016
- 2015 Experiential outcomes and embodied evidence: Lessons from Jewish prayer for healing. Conference on Medicine and Religion. Cambridge, MA. March 6-8.
- 2014 Complexities and contradictions: Ethnographic reflections on American Jewish identity. Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD. December 14-16.
- 2014 “I’ll say a Mi Sheberach for you”: Prayer and healing among liberal American Jews. American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA. November 22-25.
- 2014 Jewish identity in the US: Getting the conceptual picture right. Western Jewish Studies Association. Tucson, AZ. May 4-5.
- 2014 Journeys of connection: Praying for healing among Liberal American Jews. Society for Applied Anthropology/Society for Medical Anthropology, Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM. March 20-22.
- 2014 “I’ll say a Mi Sheberach for you”: Prayer, ritual and healing among liberal American Jews. Humanities, Medicine and Wellness Conference. University of Arizona, February 27-28.
- 2011 Healing of body, healing of spirit: anthropological reflections on Judaism and health. American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada. November 16-20.
- 2011 The medicalization of grief: anthropological perspectives. Association for Death Education and Counseling, Annual Conference. Miami, FL. June 22-25.
- 2010 H1N1 vaccination and the moral identities of parents. American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. November 28-December 2.
- 2008 Jewish Perspectives on Health, Healing and Wholeness. 1st Annual Research Meeting of the Society for Spirituality, Theology and Health. Duke University, June.
- 2005 “Give me Your Hand”: Jewish Stories of Healing (half-day preconference) Health Ministries Association National Conference, Omaha, NE, July.
- 2004 Promoting Health in the Jewish Community: The Shleimut Initiative. American Public Health Association Annual Meetings, Washington DC, November.
- 2003 Shleimut as a Collaborative Model. Models of Cooperation: Reflections on the Jewish Healing Movement, San Francisco, CA, December.

Community presentations:

- 2019 Panelist, Living fully, preparing for death: a symposium faith leaders. Southwest Folklife Alliance/Arizona End of Life Care Partnership. May 2.
- 2018 What are we praying for when we pray for healing? Chaverim educational club, Splendido Retirement Community, Rancho Vistoso, AZ. December 14.
- 2017 Sheryl Sandberg and the Torah of grief. Congregation Bet Shalom, Tucson, AZ. May 30.

- 2015 What's Jewish about healing? Adult education program, Congregation Anshei Israel, Tucson, AZ. February.
- 2013 Methodological limitations in the Pew study on American Jewry. Public Forum sponsored by the Tucson Board of Rabbis. Tucson, AZ. November.

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION EXPERIENCE

Independent Ethnographic Research:

Gender and Jewish Mourning. (2016-present)

Praying for healing among liberal (non-orthodox) American Jews. [Dissertation fieldwork] (2012-2015)

Vaccination, trust, and contested expertise. (2009-2011)

Applied Research Consultancies:

Impact of Gender on Career Trajectories in Israel Studies. Taskforce for the Investigation of the Status of Women in Israel Studies, Association for Israel Studies. (2018-2019)

Evaluation of Cohort Based Programs, Institute for Jewish Spirituality, with Tobin Belzer, PhD. (2019)

Evaluation of the Brawerman Fellowship, Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles (2018-2019)

Evaluation of the Spirituality Initiative of the New York Campus, Hebrew Union College (2018), with Tobin Belzer, PhD

Clergy Engagement Assessment, American Jewish World Service (2017), with Tobin Belzer, PhD

Research Assistantships:

Integrative Medicine for Cancer Survivorship. Department of Family Medicine, University of Arizona. (2009)

Southwest Center for Community Health Promotion, University of Arizona. (1998-2000)

Teacher's Training Program for Ethiopian Immigrants, Hebrew University School of Education, Jerusalem, Israel. (1991-1993)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

School of Anthropology, University of Arizona. (2012-1014)
 Many ways of Being Human - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.
 Culture and the Individual.
 Suffering and Care in Society.
 Human Variation in the Modern World - Introduction to Biological Anthropology.

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Founding board member, Association for Israel Studies Women's Caucus (2019-present)
 Reviewer, Israel Science Foundation, Personal Research Grants. (2019-present)
 Community host and interviewer, Southwest Folklife Alliance End-of-Life: Continuum project. (2018-2019)
 Tucson Jewish Community Population Study Committee. (2018-2019)
 ASSJ-NRJE Database Committee. (2018-present)
 Reviewer, Secularism and Nonreligion. (2018-present)
 Reviewer, International Journal for the Psychology of Religion. (2017-present)
 Site coordinator, HBI Conversations, Tucson, AZ. (2017-2019)
 Founding steering committee member, Anthropologists for Dialogue on Israel and Palestine. (2014-present)
 Reviewer, Conference on Medicine and Religion. (2015)
 Co-chair, Tikkun Middot Project, Tucson Hebrew Academy. (2013- 2015)
 Baby Boomer and Older Adult Task Force, Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona. Tucson, AZ. (2012- 2013)
 National Advisory Committee. Kalsman Institute Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research. (2009-2012)
 Board member, Second Street Children's School. Tucson, AZ. (2009-2011)
 National Secretary and Board Member, Health Ministries Association. (2005-2007)
 Senior Resource Faculty, National Center for Jewish Healing. (2002-2006)
 Teacher, Tucson Hebrew High School. (1998-2002)

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)
 Hebrew (fluent)