

JESSICA LANG

Baruch College, CUNY
Weissman School of Arts and Sciences
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EDUCATION:

PhD, English and American Literature, Brandeis University
MA, English and American Literature, Washington University in St. Louis
BA, English and American Literature, Cornell University

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:

Interim Dean, Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, Baruch College, July 2020-Present

Baruch College is a senior college in the CUNY system serving 15,000 undergraduates. All entering first-year students enter through the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, which is home to thirteen departments, five graduate programs, a Performing Arts Center, and the Mishkin Art Gallery. The Weissman School of Arts and Sciences supports the General Education requirements for undergraduates and has over 3000 majors. It is home to 233 full-time faculty members, more than 500 adjunct faculty, and more than 60 staff members. More than 65% of Baruch's student population hails from communities of color, speaking more than 110 languages and representing 168 countries. Approximately half of our undergraduates receive some form of financial aid, 35% are first-generation college attendees, and 66% of students report working 20 hours a week or more to support themselves and their families.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Oversight of a \$40M budget; strategic planning; faculty and staff advancement; student support and success; vision and leadership through the COVID pandemic and beyond.

Selected Accomplishments:

Institutional:

- Developed a strategic plan implementation process and vision
- Created an external Dean's Council with fundraising capacity
- Implemented an engaged and forward-looking DEI initiative
- Revised internal practices for retaining faculty
- Designed innovative program collaborations between the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences and the Zicklin School of Business

Fundraising:

- Raise funds through private philanthropy, corporate gifts, foundation grants
- Raise funds and deepen connections through redesigning alumni networks, communication, and outreach
- Partner with the Advancement Office on faculty research funding opportunities, donor solicitations, and institutional partnerships

Student Success:

- Planning and launching an Executive Education degree program
- Collaborating with the Office of Undergraduate Enrollment on outreach, recruitment, and communications
- Supporting the launch of two new majors (Black and Latino Studies and Computer Science) and a new minor (Computer Science)
- Working with the Starr Career Center on early undergraduate initiatives
- Partnering with alumni affairs on events focused on alumni in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences
- Developing more experiential learning opportunities
- Creating opportunities for ZSB students to double major in WSAS
- Designing online and hybrid partnerships and opportunities for undergraduate and graduate degree programs
- Developing online stackable certificate programs within graduate programs

Faculty Development:

- Led WSAS as it transitioned to an exclusively online instruction environment during the pandemic
- Created research support for faculty during the pandemic
- Designed a series of communications campaigns that focus on faculty success and WSAS visibility
- Created a mentorship system for new department chairs
- Redesigned internal processes around graders, proctors, and jumbo course limits
- Met with every full-time faculty member in the School
- Re-designed the mentorship and guidance program for new faculty
- Partnered with departments to ensure that tenure and promotion guidelines are documented and align with disciplinary best practices

Chair, English Department, Baruch College, 2018-2020

The English Department is home to two General Education programs (First Year Writing and Great Works of Literature); a major; three minors; approximately 140 faculty members, both full-time and adjunct; over 100 majors; and 2 staff members.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Completed departmental self-study and external review
- Coordinated the launch of an English major student club
- Supported the creation of multiple online student resources
- Implemented a faculty mentorship system within the department
- Launched a tenure and promotion documentation committee
- Revised the faculty observation system
- Introduced adjunct faculty programming and integration into the department
- Secured funding for the student magazine *Refract*
- Secured funding for a series of full-time and adjunct faculty awards
- Collaborated with the dean's office and the provost's office for a cluster hire of lecturers

William Newman Founding Director, Wasserman Jewish Studies Center, Baruch College, 2010-Present

The Wasserman Jewish Studies Center is comprised of three areas: student-focused academic learning; advancement of research within the field for faculty and students; and public programming. The WJSC typically runs about a dozen programs a year; offers between four and six courses a year; partners with varied institutions in New York City, the United States, and globally to bring innovative and thoughtful programming to the College and the Baruch community.

Selected Accomplishments:

- Raised approximately \$6M:
 - Endowment of the Center
 - Endowment of the Directorship
 - Endowment of a Professorship
 - Funding for programming
 - Support for specially designed courses
- Created a Jewish Studies minor
- Support the creation of new interdisciplinary courses
- Recruit and support faculty in teaching Jewish Studies courses
- Created a WJSC Advisory Board
- Designed a micro-study abroad program that offers all students the possibility of participation (now being adopted more broadly)
- Raise funds annually through private philanthropy and foundation grants.
- Liaise with Jewish Studies Programs across CUNY
- Network and partner with a wide range of institutions locally and globally
- Collaborate with faculty, staff, and departments across the College on recruitment, programming, and courses

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

Baruch College, City University of New York:

Professor of English, 8/18-Present

Associate Chair of the English Department, 9/12-9/13

Associate Professor of English, 9/10-8/18

Acting Director of the First Year Writing Program, Spring 2005; Spring 2006

Assistant Professor of English, 9/04-8/10

The Johns Hopkins University, Post-Doctoral Fellow in English and Writing, 9/03-8/04

PROFESSIONAL HONORS, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIPS:

Presidential Excellence Award in Distinguished Teaching, 2017

Fellow, US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, July 2014

PSC-CUNY Research Award, City University of New York, annually from 2004-2010

Fellow, 2010 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for University Faculty, held at the

US Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, June 2010

Nominated for the Felix Gross Achievement Award, 2009

Whiting Foundation Teaching Fellowship, Spring 2008

Faculty Fellowship Publication Program Grant, Spring 2007

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2003-2004
 University Prize Instructorship, Brandeis University, Spring 2003
 Dissertation Year Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2002-2003
 Graduate Scholar-in-Residence, Brandeis University, 2001-2003
 Brandeis University Teaching Fellow, 2001-2002
 University Graduate Fellowship, Brandeis University, 1997-2001
 University Fellowship, Washington University in St. Louis, 1995-1996

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Textual Silence: Unreadability and the Holocaust. Rutgers University Press, 2017.

Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism, Edited by Jessica Lang and Ezra Cappell. SUNY Albany Press. July 2020.

Journal:

Invited Co-editors Glenn Dynner, Jessica Lang, Zalman Newfield, Joshua Shanes, *Journal of Jewish Identities.* Forthcoming 2022. Peer reviewed.

Essays:

Glenn Dynner, Jessica Lang, Zalman Newfield, Joshua Shanes, "Introduction." *Journal of Jewish Identities.* Forthcoming 2022. Peer reviewed.

"Newark," *Philip Roth in Context.* Edited by Magdalen McKinley. Cambridge University Press. 2021. Peer reviewed.

"Watching "Unorthodox" during COVID-19, Fordham University, Jewish Studies, May 2020
<https://jewishstudies.ace.fordham.edu/2020/05/10/lang-watching-unorthodox-during-covid-19/>.

"Troubled Aesthetics: The Survivor's Body in Post-Holocaust Film," *Palgrave Handbook of Holocaust Literature and Culture.* Edited by Victoria Aarons and Phyllis Lassner. Palgrave Macmillan. 2020. Peer reviewed.

"Introduction," *Off the Derech: Orthodox Judaism in the Modern World,* Edited by Jessica Lang and Ezra Cappell. SUNY Albany Press. 2020. Peer reviewed.

"Between Us: Intimacy in Women's Off-the-Derech Memoir," *Off the Derech: Orthodox Judaism in the Modern World,* Edited by Jessica Lang and Ezra Cappell. SUNY Albany Press. 2020. Peer reviewed.

"Feminism and Gender in Contemporary Jewish American Writing," *The New Jewish-American Literary Studies: Twenty-First Century Critical Revisions.* Edited by Victoria Aarons. Cambridge University Press. 2019. Peer reviewed.

"Narrating the Past in a Different Language: Teaching the Holocaust through Third Generation Fiction," *Jewish American and Holocaust Literatures: Approaches to Teaching.* Edited by Victoria Aarons and Holli Levitsky. SUNY Albany Press. 2019. Peer reviewed.

“Measure for Measure: Narrative and Numbers in Holocaust Textual Memorials.” *Third-Generation Holocaust Narratives: The Intergenerational Transmission of Memory, Longing, and Loss*. Edited by Victoria Aarons, Lexington Books. 2017. Peer reviewed.

“Jewish Studies at Baruch College.” *Departure to Destination: Reminiscences of the Weissman School of Arts and Sciences*. Edited by Aldemaro Romero and Gary Hentzi. City University of New York. 2017.

“The Problem with Reading the Holocaust: An Interpretation of Ozick’s *The Messiah of Stockholm*.” *The Burning: Cynthia Ozick*. Edited by Jane Statlander-Slote. Northeast Publishing. 2016.

“Unbound and Un-bodied: Reading Race in Malamud’s *The Tenants*.” *Bernard Malamud: A Centennial Tribute*, edited by Victoria Aarons and Gustavo Sanchez. Wayne State University Press. 2016. Peer reviewed.

Op-Ed: “What’s wrong with March of the Living?” 14 April 2015, Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA), http://www.jta.org/2015/04/14/news-opinion/opinion/op-ed-whats-wrong-with-march-of-the-living?utm_source=Newsletter+subscribers&utm_campaign=ffe3823fee-Daily_Briefing_Multiple_Subject_Line_4_16_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2dce5bc6f8-ffe3823fee-25342569

Republished as lead briefing on 16 April 2015. Translated into German and Hebrew. Republished in at least five other news publications.

“The Three-Pronged Dialectic: Understanding Conflict in Chaim Potok’s Early Fiction.” *Chaim Potok: Confronting Modernity Through the Lens of Tradition*. Pennsylvania State University Press: 2013. Peer reviewed.

“The Language of Desire and the Urban Man: Reading Masculinity in Saul Bellow’s *Seize the Day*.” *Saul Bellow Journal*. Winter/Fall 2013. Volume 26. Number 1-2. 81-100. Peer reviewed.

“Jewish and American, Historical and Fictional: The (Un)ifying Experience of Reading Text.” *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. Spring 2012. 76-83. Peer reviewed.

“Rebecca Gratz: From Small Town Lancaster to Philadelphia.” *The Canadian Jewish News*. 8 September 2010. B14-B17.

“Mercy Flynt Morris and Nancy Flynt: A Portrait of Two Connecticut Sisters in the Early Republic.” *Massachusetts Review*. Summer 2010. 345-359. Peer reviewed.

“Retelling the Retold: Race and Orality in Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.” *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literatures, Culture and Theory*. Summer 2010. Volume 66, No. 2. 35-58. Peer reviewed.

“*The History of Love*, the Contemporary Reader and the Transmission of Holocaust Memory.” *Journal of Modern Literature*. Fall 2009. Volume 33, No. 1. 43-56. Peer reviewed.

“‘Nothing Remarkable Took Place’: Discovering the Flynt Sisters.” *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*. Spring 2009. Volume 28, No.1. Peer reviewed.

“Scratching the Surface: Reading Character in *Female Quixotism*.” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*. Summer 2009. Volume 51, No. 2. 119-141. Peer reviewed.

“Rebecca Newberger Goldstein.” *Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature*. Edited by Gloria L. Cronin and Alan L. Berger. Facts-on-File. 2009.

“Mazel.” *Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature*. Edited by Gloria L. Cronin and Alan L. Berger. Facts-on-File. 2009.

“*Call It Sleep*.” *Encyclopedia of Jewish-American Literature*. Edited by Gloria L. Cronin and Alan L. Berger. Facts-on-File. 2009.

“Violence, Redemption and the Shoah: The Role of History in Potok’s Early Fiction.” *Studies in American Jewish Literature*. 2008. Volume 27. 69-86. Peer reviewed.

“An Interview with Rebecca Goldstein.” *Contemporary Literature*. Spring 2008. Volume 49, Number 1. 1-23. Peer reviewed.

“The Survivor.” *The Massachusetts Review*. Autumn 2007. Volume 48. Issue 3. 358-360. Peer reviewed.

Book and Film Reviews:

Degrees of Separation: Identity Formation While Leaving Ultra-Orthodox Judaism. By Schneur Zalman Newfield, 2020. In *AJS Review*, Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming 2021.

The Spiritual Transformation of Jews Who Become Orthodox. By Roberta G. Sands. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2019. In *American Jewish History*, Johns Hopkins University Press. Forthcoming 2021.

Teaching Jewish American Literature. Edited by Roberta Rosenberg and Rachel Rubinstein. The Modern Language Association of American, 2020. In *MELUS Journal*, Oxford University Press. Forthcoming 2021.

A Hundred Acres of America: The Geography of Jewish American Literary History. By Michael Hoberman. Rutgers University Press, 2018. In *MELUS Journal*, Oxford University Press, 2020.

Third-Generation Holocaust Representation: Trauma, History, and Memory. By Victoria Aarons and Alan L. Berger. Northwestern University Press, 2017. In *Studies in Jewish American Literature*, Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019. Editor: Benjamin Schreier.

Holocaust Impiety in Jewish American Literature: Memory, Identity, (Post-) Postmodernism. By Joost Krijnen. Brill Rodopi, 2016. In *Philip Roth Studies*, Purdue University Press, 2018. Executive Editors: David Brauner and Debra Shostak.

Borrowed Voices: Writing and Racial Ventriloquism in the Jewish American Imagination. By Jennifer Glaser. Rutgers University Press, 2016. In *American Literary History*, Oxford University Press, 2017. Editor: Gordon Hutner.

Representations of Anne Frank in American Literature: In Different Rooms. By Rachael McLennan. Routledge Press, 2017. In *Philip Roth Studies*, Purdue University Press, 2017. Editors: Debra Shostak and David Brauner.

A Writer's Resource manuscript, by Elaine Maimon, Janice Peritz, and Kathleen Blake Yancey (New York: McGraw-Hill 2008). July 2008.

Film Review of "Blind Spot." *Scope*. Fall 2004.

Film Review of "The Grey Zone." *Scope*. May 2004.

Work In Progress:

Haredi Research Group. A multi-modal project involving thirty scholars and practitioners from a diverse array of fields examining the shift towards religiously oriented American conservatism in the Haredi community in New York and Israel.

The Assimilation of Memory and the Future of Jewish American Narration. Book Project.

The Holocaust in the Disciplines: Re-Viewing the Warsaw Ghetto: Intersections, Contexts and Limits, Co-Edited by Jessica Lang and Samuel Kassow.

INVITED AND PRESENTED PAPERS:

"Transforming Appearances: Understanding OTD Storytelling through a Transgender Lens," December 2020, Association for Jewish Studies. Online.

"Scholarship on the OTD Experience," Roundtable, January 2020, Footsteps Conference. New York City, NY.

"Dependents and Independence: The Image of the Jewish Mother in OTD Narrative," December 2019, Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

OTD (Off the Derekh) Memoirs and Contemporary Jewish Identity, Roundtable, December 2019, Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

"Gender and Identity Politics of OTD," Roundtable: Moderator and Participant. December 2018, Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

"Memory and Assimilation in Third Generation Holocaust Literature," November 2018. Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference. Miami Beach, FL.

"Picturing Past, Present and Future: Contemporary Graphic Holocaust Literature," May 2018. American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA.

"Measure for Measure: Narrative and Numbers in Holocaust Textual Memorials," Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability, December 2017, Columbia University, New York.

"OTD Narratives in American Jewish Culture and Modern Jewish Thought," Roundtable participant.

December 2017, Association for Jewish Studies. Washington, DC.

“Continental Drift: The Making of Global Holocaust Memory,” November 2017. Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference. Miami Beach, FL.

“Re-Viewing the Warsaw Ghetto,” Roundtable organizer and participant. December 2016, Association for Jewish Studies. San Diego, CA.

“Fact and Fiction: The Story Narrated in Third Generation Memoir,” November 2016. Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference. Miami Beach, FL.

Invited Respondent: “The Holocaust in Contemporary Jewish American Literature,” May 2016. American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA.

“Micro Study-Abroad and Teaching the Holocaust,” Roundtable Participant. December 2015. Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

“Reading Race in Malamud’s Fiction,” November 2015. Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference. Miami, FL.

“Waiting for the Moshiach: Reading Absence in Ozick’s *The Messiah of Stockholm*,” November 2014. Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Conference. Miami, FL.

“Becoming the Archive: Second Generation and the Act of Collecting.” December 2013. Association for Jewish Studies. Boston, MA.

“Reading and the Unreadable,” invited speaker, Georgetown University, Program for Jewish Civilization, April 2013. Washington, DC.

“Reading and the Holocaust: The Experience of Trauma in Contemporary American Holocaust Literature,” December 2012. Association for Jewish Studies. Chicago, IL.

“The Jewish Body and Its Shadow: Reading Philip Roth’s *Nemesis*,” May 2011. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

“ ‘The Business of Every Woman’ ”: Financing Widowhood in Rebecca Rush’s *Kelroy*, ” March 2011. Society of Early Americanists’ Seventh Biennial Conference. Philadelphia, PA.

“Staging Mass Collections and the Limitations of Props: Seeing Third Generation Memory at Work,” December 2010. Association for Jewish Studies Conference. Boston, MA.

“The Holocaust, Queer Memory, and the Third Generation,” May 2010. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Panel Chair. “Exploring Recent American Novels,” May 2010. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Invited Speaker. “Even an Illiterate Can Read ‘Greenhorn’,” Weissman Talks, November 2009. Baruch College, New York, NY.

“Witness to the End: Daniel Mendelsohn and the Third Generation Holocaust Memoir,” May 2009. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

Panel Chair: “What Can Happen Here?” May 2009. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

“History and Laughter in ‘Image before My Eyes,’” Weissman Talks, October 2008. Baruch College, New York, NY.

“Nicole Krauss’s *The History of Love: The Holocaust and The Post-Modern*,” May 2008. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

Panel Chair: “Bodies and Commodities: Consumption in 19th- and 20th-Century America,” May 2008. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

“The Search for the American Hero in Early American Novels,” May 2007. American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

Panel Chair: “Internationalizing American Literary Studies,” May 2006. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

“The Value of Reiterative Storytelling in Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*,” May 2006. American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA.

“Blurring with Fiction: Cynthia Ozick and the Holocaust Story,” April 2006. 12th Annual American Literature Association Jewish American & Holocaust Symposium. Boca Raton, Florida.

Invited Panelist: “Jewish Life in Germany: Past, Present, and Future,” August 2004. German Consulate, Office of the Foreign Ministry.

Keynote Speaker: “Weak Constitutions and Unstable Unions: The Politics of Foster’s *The Coquette*,” March 2004. A Celebration of Hannah Webster Foster’s *The Coquette*, Peabody Historical Society, Peabody, Massachusetts.

“Affection and Affectation in Tabitha Tenney’s *Female Quixotism*,” March 2003. Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

Invited Speaker: “The Role of Teaching in a Graduate Student’s Career,” September 2002. Teaching Fellows Orientation, Brandeis University.

Invited Panelist: “20/20 Hindsight: Reflections on Graduate School,” September 2002. Brandeis University.

“The Role of Female Passing in ‘Angry Harvest,’” April 2002. Northeast Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada.

“The Symptomatic ‘Body’ of Susannah Rowson,” Conference on Feminist Studies, December 2001. Brandeis University, English Department and Women’s Studies Program.

“The Politics of Death in Hannah Foster’s *The Coquette*,” March 2001. Feminist Colloquium, Brandeis University, English Department.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE:

Service to the Department

Executive Committee Member, 2012-2013; 2017-2020

Curriculum Committee Member, 2010-2013; 2018-2020

Composition Committee Member. Spring 2004, Spring 2006-2010; 2014-2020

Secretary of Department, Fall 2007, Fall 2008

Co-leader of “Four Fridays,” Spring 2007

Secretary of Composition Committee, 2006-2007

Acting Writing Director. Spring 2005, Spring 2006

Service to the College

Baruch College, WSAS Promotion and Budget Committee, 2014-2018; Fall 2018-Present

Search Committee in English, 2019 (chair), 2017, 2015, 2013 (chair), 2012

Search Committee in Sociology/Anthropology, 2018

Selection Committee for Presidential Award in Teaching (Adjunct) 2018

Search Committee in History, 2012

Chair, Undergraduate Honors Committee, Fall 2012-Fall 2013; member, 2008-2012

Weissman School of Arts and Sciences Representative to the Zicklin School of Business, 2008-2013

Chair, Joint Committee on Faculty Research, 2010-2012

Weissman School of Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Standing, 2010-2012

Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Committee Review, 2010-2011

Chair, Committee on Prizes, Scholarships and Awards, 2008-2010

Committee on the Library, 2008-2010

Search Committee for Director of the Writing Program, Fall 2012

Search Committee for Director of the Writing Center, Fall 2008

Search Committee for Director of Student Academic Services, Spring 2006

Taskforce on Writing in the University, Spring 2007-Spring 2008

Search Committee for Director of Student Academic Services, Spring 2006

CUNY Proficiency Exam (CPE) Committee Member. Spring 2005

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

MLA Delegate, Jewish American Literature Forum, 2021-2024.

Member of the Editorial Board of *Studies in Jewish American Literature*, 2012-Present.

Member of the Editorial Board of *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, 2008-2010.

Reviewer for the following academic presses: Palgrave Press, Rutgers Press, SUNY Press, University of Virginia Press.

Dissertation Reader:

Sailing Through Darkness: A Study of Identity Crisis in Select Novels of Anita Desai.

Dissertation manuscript by M. Vimaladevi. University of Madras. Department of English, Stella Maris College. July 2015.

After 'Postmemory': Coping with Holocaust Remembrance in Postmodern Hebrew Literature. Dissertation manuscript by Yael Seliger. York University. Graduate Program in Humanities. March 2015.

The Literary Transmigration of Draupadi in Pratibha Ray's Yajnaseni and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's The Palace of Illusions. Dissertation manuscript by L. Kavitha Nair. University of Madras. Department of English, Madras Christian College. Sept. 2009.

Mystical Vision-Reflections of Kabir in Tagore, J. Krishnamurti and Osho. Dissertation manuscript by V.K. Vasudevan. University of Madras. Department of English, Madras Christian College. August 2008.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES AT BARUCH:

Courses Taught:

- The American Novel
- Film and the Holocaust
- Great Works of Literature II
- Jewish American Literature
- New York and the Jewish Experience
- New York Writers
- The Holocaust: Psychology and Literature
- Survey of American Literature (I)
- Writing
- Writing and Literature
- The Holocaust and Historical Memory
- Literature of the Holocaust

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

American Association of University Women, Association for Jewish Studies, Modern Language Association, National Council of Teachers of English, National Women's Studies Association.