Stanford



Ari Y. Kelman

Jim Joseph Professor of Education and Jewish Studies

Graduate School of Education

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Admin. Support**

  Elayne Weissler-Martello

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Bio

BIO

Professor Kelman's research focuses on the forms and practices of religious knowledge transmission. He holds a specific research interest in American Jewry.

He is the author of Shout to the Lord: Making Worship Music in Evangelical America (NYU 2018) and Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio (California, 2009). He is also the co-editor (with Jon Levisohn) of Beyond Jewish Identity (2019: Academic Studies Press), the editor of Is Diss a System?: A Milt Gross Comic Reader (NYU, 2010), co-author of Sacred Strategies: Transforming Synagogues from Functional to Visionary (Alban Institute, 2011). Together with research partners at Stanford and elsewhere, he maintains an active research agenda and publishes regularly in venues both scholarly and popular.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Graduate School of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Undergraduate Honors in Education Thesis Program, (2019- present)
- Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University, (2012- present)
- Associate Director, American Religions in a Global Context, (2019- present)
- Director, BJPA@Stanford, (2019- present)
- Director, Concentration in Education and Jewish Studies, (2012- present)
- Affiliate, Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, (2012- present)
- Affiliate, American Studies Program, (2012- present)
- Core Faculty, Center for Jewish Studies, (2012- present)
- Interim Director, Taube Center for Jewish Studies, (2017-2018)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Executive Vice President, Membership, Association for Jewish Studies (2021 - 2023)

- Editor, Jewish Social Studies (2020 - 2026)
- Chair, Network for Research in Jewish Education (2019 - present)
- Board Member, Network for Research in Jewish Education (2016 - 2019)
- Board Member, Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry (2015 - 2019)
- Board Member, Association for Jewish Studies (2015 - 2018)
- Associate Professor of American Studies, UC Davis (2009 - 2011)
- Assistant Professor of American Studies, UC Davis (2006 - 2009)
- Scholar-in-Residence, American Jewish Historical Society (2005 - 2006)
- Historian, National Museum of American Jewish History (2003 - 2005)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies
- Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- BA, UC Santa Cruz , Sociology (1994)
- PhD, New York University , American Studies (2003)

LINKS

- Webpage: http://edjs.stanford.edu

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Community-Engaged Research
- Curriculum Studies & Design
- History of Education
- Jewish Studies
- Learning Outside of Schools
- Politics of Education
- Qualitative Methods
- Race, Culture, and Identity
- Religion

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Professor Kelman's research focuses on the forms and practices of religious knowledge transmission. His work emerges at the intersection of sociocultural learning theory and scholarly/critical studies of religion. Methodologically, he draws on social scientific and historical approaches to the study of these phenomena.

His interests have drawn him to research phenomena as diverse as Yiddish radio, Evangelical worship music, Jewish online learning, release time programs, religious dictionaries, Jewish identity, ritual, Google algorithms about religion, Jewish students and antisemitism, citational research networks, campus chaplaincy, and the educational dimensions of the ongoing tension between church, state, and schooling. All of these organize around the question of how religious knowledge is constructed, encoded, transmitted, understood, and practiced.

At present, he as work on a handful of projects ranging from a synthetic work about Jewish education, the study of religious education in the post-war period, studies of Google's algorithmic definitions of religion, and intersections between AI and religion.

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Apprehending the World: Feeling, Knowing, and Believing: EDUC 113N (Aut)
- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325A (Aut)
- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325B (Win)
- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325C (Spr)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199A (Aut)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199B (Win)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199C (Spr)
- Understanding Jews: JEWISHST 115 (Spr)

2025-26

- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325A (Aut)
- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325B (Win)
- IDEAS Seminar: EDUC 325C (Spr)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199A (Aut)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199B (Win)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199C (Spr)
- Understanding Jews: AMSTUD 215, JEWISHST 115 (Aut)

2024-25

- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199A (Aut)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199B (Win)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199C (Spr)
- Understanding Jews: AMSTUD 215, JEWISHST 115 (Win)

2023-24

- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199A (Aut)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199B (Win)
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar: EDUC 199C (Spr)
- Understanding Jews: JEWISHST 115 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Samantha Basch, Naama Sadan

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Jon Ball, Clarissa Gutierrez

Master's Program Advisor

Joe Dobrenski, . Grimes, Jordan Hamilton, Grace Harryman

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Tom Nachtigal

Doctoral (Program)

Jon Ball, Clarissa Gutierrez, Tom Nachtigal, Rachel Rosten

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Toward a Sociology of Religious Knowledge** *JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kern, R.
  2026
- **Bridging Sacred Tradition and Secular Aspiration: Cultural Capital in Bar/Bat Mitzvah Rituals** *QUALITATIVE SOCIOLOGY*
  Horwitz, I. M., Kelman, A. Y., Hassenfeld, Z. R., Lockwood, J.
  2026
- **American Judaism in the Twenty-First Century** *STATE OF AMERICAN JEWRY*
  Kelman, A. Y.
  edited by Greenspahn, F. E.
  2025; 6: 185-209
- **Jewish Education** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y.
  2024: 1-193
- **Jewish Education**
  Kelman, A. Y., Yares, L., Kober, H. Z.
  Oxford University Press.
  2024 ; Oxford Bibliographies (Online):
- **The Other Dual Curriculum: Jewish Community High School Students' Reflections on What Counts as "Jewish" Learning** *JOURNAL OF JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Horwitz, I. M., Ahmed, A.
  2023
- **From Aesthetics to Experience: How Changing Conceptions of Prayer Changed the Sound of Jewish Worship** *RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE-A JOURNAL OF INTERPRETATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Lockwood, J.
  2020; 30 (1): 26–62
- **Forum** *RELIGION AND AMERICAN CULTURE-A JOURNAL OF INTERPRETATION*
  Holscher, K., Ebel, J., Riess, J., Edmonds, J., Heo, A., Kelman, A. Y.
  2019; 29 (1): 1–35
- **Learning and Learning about Religious Knowledge** *RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y.
  2019
- **What We Talk About When We Talk About Research in Jewish Education: How References Produce a Field** *JOURNAL OF JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Marom, M., Keep, B.
  2019; 85 (3): 240–67

- **Beyond Jewish Identity**
  Kelman, A. Y.
  edited by Levisohn, J. A.
  Academic Studies Press.2019
- **Shout to the Lord: Making Worship Music in Evangelical America**
  Kelman, A. Y.
  New York University Press.2018
- **The Political Economy of Day Schools** *American Jewish History*
  Kelman, A. Y., Bordelon, J.
  2018; 102 (1): 59-84
- **Shout to the Lord: Making Worship Music in Evangelical America**
  Kelman, A. Y.
  NYU Press.2018
- **Traditional Judaism: The Conceptualization of Jewishness in the Lives of American Jewish Post-Boomers** *JEWISH SOCIAL STUDIES*
  Kelman, A. Y., Belzer, T., Horwitz, I., Hassenfeld, Z., Williams, M.
  2017; 23 (1): 134–67
- **THE TOUGHEST KID IN HEBREW SCHOOL Introduction** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 1-7
- **Estranged Siblings** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 11-38
- **Modes of Transmission** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 80-112
- **Logics of Production** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 41-79
- **Learning in Jewish Education** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 115-138
- **EDUCATION EVERYWHERE Conclusion** *JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Kelman, A.
  2024: 139-141
- **Counting on Whiteness: Religion, race, ethnicity, and the politics of Jewish demography** *JOURNAL FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF RELIGION*
  Tapper, A., Kelman, A. Y., Saperstein, A.
  2022
- **Learning History Through Culture The Krakow Jewish Festival** *TEACHING AND LEARNING THE DIFFICULT PAST: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES*
  Kelman, A. Y.
  edited by Gross, M. H., Terra, L.
  2019: 274–89
- **Introduction, The Jewish 1968 and its Legacies** *AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY*
  Kelman, A. Y., Michels, T., Prell, R.
  2018; 102 (1): 1–4

- **The Political Economy of Day Schools** *AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY*
  Kelman, A. Y., Bordelon, J.
  2018; 102 (1): 59–84
- **Golem: Modern Wars and Their Monsters (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Kelman, A. Y.
  2017; 104 (2): 527–28
- **Encountering the past in the present: An exploratory study of educational heritage tourism** *International Review of Education*
  Gross, M. H., Kelman, A. Y.
  2017; 63 (1): 51-70
- **Traditional Judaism: The Conceptualization of Jewishness in the Lives of American Jewish Post-Boomers** *Jewish Social Studies*
  Kelman, A. Y., Belzer, T., Horwitz, I., Hassenfeld, Z., Williams, M.
  2017; 23 (1): 134-167
- **HOW COME BOYS GET TO KEEP THEIR NOSES (Book Review)** *SHOFAR-AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES*
  Book Review Authored by: Kelman, A. Y.
  2016; 35 (1): 119–20
- **Trouble in the Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict over Israel (Book Review)** *MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL*
  Book Review Authored by: Kelman, A. Y.
  2016; 70 (4): 682–83
- **Learning Across Church and State: Student Experience of a Released Time Program** *RELIGIOUS EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y., Wolford, Z.
  2016; 111 (1): 49-74
- **Spirits Rejoice!: Jazz and American Religion. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF POPULAR MUSIC STUDIES*
  Book Review Authored by: Kelman, A. Y.
  2015; 27 (4): 530–32
- **The Present in Future Tense** *JOURNAL OF JEWISH EDUCATION*
  Kelman, A. Y.
  2012; 78 (4): 302–4