

YEHUDA SARNA

New York University
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NYU POSITIONS:

Executive Director The Bronfman Center at NYU	2013-
University Chaplain Global Spiritual Life at NYU	2010-
Adjunct Associate Professor NYU Wagner	2012-
Co-Founder/Senior Fellow Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership at NYU	2012-
Manager of Religious Life The Bronfman Center at NYU	2002-2012

FORMAL EDUCATION

M.A. Coursework, Bernard Revel Graduate School/Yeshiva University	2002
B.A. Magna Cum Laude, Honors Program, Yeshiva University	2001
High School Diploma, Bilingual (French/English), Hebrew Academy, Montreal	1995

ENHANCED EDUCATION

Jewish Law and Legal Theory Working Group, Cardozo Law School	2003-2006
Rabbinic Ordination, RIETS/Yeshiva University	2003
Kavvanah, Jewish Spirituality, Dr. Alan Brill	2002-2004
Teacher's Certificate, Herzog College	1997
Yeshivat Har Etzion, Israel	1995-1997

CORE COMPETENCIES

Dynamic, visionary leader who excels at framing a mission, developing a supporting narrative, marshaling resources, and energizing staff and stakeholders. Entrepreneurial mindset, systemic thinking and team-building. Brings ideas to fruition. Inspirational passion for youth empowerment, bridge-building, scholarship, spirituality and public policy. Effective mentor.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Toward a Jewish Perspective on Culture: The Orthodox Forum Series, Editor (Yeshiva University Press, KTAV Publishing: 2013).

Koren Shabbat Evening Siddur, Editor with Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks (Koren: 2011).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The Freedom of Speech and The Obligation to Listen: How to Save Political Discourse on American College Campuses”, *Pluralism in Peril: Challenges to an American Ideal*, Edited by MJ Chertoff (Aspen Institute: 2018), pp. 117-124.

“Actually Jewish: How Young American Jews See Their Status and How Orthodox Rabbis Respond”, *Conversion, Intermarriage, and Jewish Identity* (The Orthodox Forum Series), Edited by Adam Mintz and Marc Stern (Yeshiva University Press, KTAV Publishing: 2015).

“The End of the Middle of the Road: Re-envisioning Modern Orthodoxy for the Twenty-first Century”, *The Next Generation of Modern Orthodoxy* (The Orthodox Forum Series), Edited by Shmuel Hain (Yeshiva University Press, KTAV Publishing: 2012), pp. 332-349.

“The Salt Saga: Lot’s Wife or Sodom Itself,” *Nahalah: The Yeshiva University Journal for the Study of Bible* (1999), pp. 75–84.

Selected General Public Writing

“Foreword”, *Warm Peace: How People-to-People Diplomacy Can Build What Governments Cannot*. Edited by Sarah R. Cohen, (Warm Peace Institute: 2021).

“Here’s how to build Jewish life in a 21st-century Muslim nation”, *USA Today*, August 11, 2021.

“What I’ve learned teaching Jewish texts in the UAE”, *Jewish News Syndicate*, March 23, 2021.

“We are guests in the UAE; let’s be gracious”, *Jewish News Syndicate*, January 18, 2021.

“How I became Chief Rabbi of the UAE and why that matters to Global Jewry”, *Times of Israel*, August 21, 2020.

“Chief Rabbi of UAE: Reflections on a Historic Accord”, *Philadelphia Jewish Exponent*, Sept. 17, 2020.

“The Danger in Sears Judaism”, *E-Jewish Philanthropy*, October 21, 2018.

“At NYU, Interfaith Solidarity Abounds”, *The Forward*, December 23, 2016.

“A Plea For Dialogue, Not More Stunts”, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, April 29, 2014.

“Open Hillel: Right Spirit, Wrong Partners”, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, December 24, 2013.

FILM AND MEDIA (FEATURED)

Amen. Amen. Amen, Thomas Gallagher (Religion Media Company: 2021).

- Premiered on PBS in New York in 2021
- Story of first Torah Scroll ever gifted to an Arab ruler, from Rabbi Sarna to Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed

First Holocaust Rememberance Ceremonies Held in Arab States, Interview, Fox News Radio (April 8, 2021).

- Story of Holocaust exhibit in the Crossroads of Civilizations Museum in Dubai, featuring Dr. Mohamed Helmy who saved Rabbi Sarna’s relatives at risk of his own life

Of Many, Chelsea Clinton and Linda Mills (Spicy Icy Productions: 2014).

- Premiered at Tribeca Film Festival in 2014
- Aired nationally on ABC in 2017 to 8.1 million viewers (according to Nielsen)
- Story of an “unorthodox” friendship between Rabbi Sarna and Imam Latif

Millenial Perspectives, Host (Jewish Broadcasting Service: 2016-present)

- Carried by Comcast, Spectrum, DirecTV, Optimum, etc.
- Filmed 6 Episodes, which continue to air until present

9/11 Fifteenth Anniversary, Interview (Public Broadcasting Service 09/08/2016)

Ritual Fence Set for Jews in Manhattan Is Extended, Interview (New York Times, 06/16/2007).

RESEARCH GROUPS

Institute for Impact and Intrapreneurship, Bronfman Center/New York University, Co-founder (2018-present).

Mapping Jewish Chaplaincy Strategic Planning Group, Brandeis University, Member (2021-2022).

The Warm Peace Institute, Bronfman Center/New York University, Chair (2021-2022).

Countering Violent Extremism Through Arts and Culture, UAE Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development, Member (2019-2020).

The Orthodox Forum Steering Committee, Yeshiva University, Member (2012-2015).

The Applied Research Collective for American Jewry, Bronfman Center/New York University, Chair (2018-2020).

Community Relations Working Group, UJA Federation of New York, Member (2019-2020).

COURSES TAUGHT

Lead with a Story: How to Change the World through Public Narrative, Instructor, NYU Abu Dhabi (J-term 2022).

Multifaith Leadership in the 21st Century, Co-Instructor, NYU Wagner School for Public Service (2012-present).

Legal and Philosophical Approaches to Judaism, Instructor, NYU Wagner School for Public Service (2012-2015).

Select Independent Studies, Instructor, NYU Gallatin School for Individualized Study (2004-2010).

The Jewish Learning Fellowship (2007-present).

- Established non-credit course at the Bronfman Center, now taught at hundreds of campuses through Hillels around the country.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Certificate in Multifaith Leadership in Higher Education, Designed curriculum and Instructor, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development (2018-2020).

Entrepreneurship Lab and Certificate for Human Trafficking Survivors, Designed Curriculum, Bronfman Center and RestoreNYC (2019).

EdD in Campus Religious Life, offered as a track within EdD in Higher Education, Designed curriculum, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development (2018-2019).

Certificate in Spiritual Leadership and Social Impact, Developed curriculum and Instructor, Bronfman Center and Yeshivat Chovevei Torah (2018-2019).

Of Many Institute Professional Training Modules, Developed curriculum

- Jewish Ally Zone (2020)
- Beloved Community (2019)
- Faith Zone - Religious Literacy, NASPA Award (2017)

RESEARCH-AND-ACTION GRANTS

The Warm Peace Institute (\$300,000 from 2020-present)

The Applied Research Collective for American Jewry, (\$800,000 total from 2018-2020)

The Jewish Learning Fellowship, (\$1,500,000 total from 2007-2012)

AWARDS

Moving History Forward, Yeshiva University Magazine 2022

Alumnus of the Year, Yeshivat Har Etzion 2013

Juliet Hollister Award, Temple of Understanding 2012

Hallmark Award, New York University	2010
36-under-36 Changemakers, The New York Jewish Week	2009
Educator of the Year, Orthodox Union/JLIC	2009
Exemplar of Excellence, Hillel International	2008

MEMBERSHIPS/PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Jewish Council of the Emirates, Chief Rabbi	2019-
Rabbinical Council of America	2014-
Muslim Jewish Advisory Council	2016-
Conference of European Rabbis	2019-
AJC New York, Board Member	2021-
The Downtown Va'ad, Founder	2015-
Association of Gulf Jewish Communities, Co-founder and Honorary Chair	2021-
International Rabbinic Fellowship, Member	2012-2020
Jewish Disaster Response Corps	2010-2013
24/6, Advisory Board Member	2008-2010

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

The Bronfman Fellowship, Faculty	2012-2019
Yeshiva University High School, Faculty for Honors Talmud, Bible	2000-2012
Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, Assistant Rabbi	2001-2002
National Council of Young Israel, National Youth Leader Training Specialist	2000-2002
<i>Tradition</i> , Copy Editor	1999-2000
Camp Moshava, Wild Rose, WI, Head Counselor	2000
Camp Moshava, Ennismore, Ontario, Canada, Head Counselor, Division Head	1997-1999

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English and Hebrew. Proficient in French. Basic Yiddish.