

Mark Oppenheimer

(203) 589-3725

mark.e.oppenheimer@gmail.com

markoppenheimer.com

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Education:

Yale University. Ph.D., 2003. Religious Studies. Porter Prize for Dissertation in the Humanities
Yale University. B.A., 1996, *Magna Cum Laude*. Phi Beta Kappa

Books:

Judy Blume: A Life. Forthcoming, Putnam, 2025
The Confidante: The Life and Legacy of Ann Landers. Forthcoming, Putnam, 2027
The Dirty Bicker: Princeton, the Jews, and the Scandal of 1958, Princeton U. Press, 2029
Squirrel Hill: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting and the Soul of a Neighborhood. Knopf, October 2021
The Newish Jewish Encyclopedia (with Stephanie Butnick and Liel Leibovitz). Artisan, 2019
The Zen Predator of the Upper East Side (Atlantic Monthly e-books), 2014
Dan Savage: The First Gay Celebrity (e-book), 2012
Wisnheimer: A Childhood Subject to Debate. Free Press, 2010
Thirteen and a Day: The Bar and Bat Mitzvah Across America. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005
Knocking on Heaven's Door: American Religion in the Age of Counterculture. Yale U. Press, 2003

Administration:

Editor, *Religion & Politics*, May 2024–.
American Jewish University, Vice President for Open Learning, 2023-2024.
Senior Editor, Tablet Studios, 2015–present (founded and oversaw growth of largest Jewish-themed podcast studio, now with five podcasts and over 7 million downloads)
Yale Journalism Initiative, Director, 2006–2022
Thread at Yale storytelling conference, 2015–2019
New Haven Review, founding editor, August 2007–June 2013
New Haven Advocate, editor in chief, September 2004–June 2006

Writing, Staff Positions:

New York Times, religion columnist, 2010-2016
Christian Century, staff writer, 2001-2003
Hartford Courant, religion reporter, 2000-2001

Teaching:

Washington University, St. Louis, Professor of Practice in Religion and Politics, 2024–.
Yale College, Lecturer in English, 2008–2022
Boston College, Corcoran Professor in Christian-Jewish Learning, 2014–15
Wellesley College, Robert Garis Visiting Professor of Nonfiction, Fall 2008, 2010
New York University Carter Journalism School, visiting professor, 2007, 2008
Hartford Seminary, 2006, "Religion and Protest"
Stanford University, 2003, "The Question of Jewish Fiction"
Wesleyan University, 2002, "Apocalyptic Thought in American Culture"

Periodical Writing (selection):

"The Schools that Ban Smartphones," *The Atlantic*, Feb. 18, 2023
"America Forgot the 1918 Pandemic. Will We Forget COVID?," *Wall Street Journal*, Jan. 21, 2023
"The Doociness of America" (about Fox's Steve Doocy) *Columbia Journalism Review*, Oct. 20, 2020
"How to Turn a Red State Purple," *Politico*, January 12, 2018
Los Angeles Times, monthly op-ed columnist, July 2016–Dec. 2017
The New York Times, religion columnist ("Beliefs"), Feb. 2010–June 2016
The New Republic, "Fatherland" columnist, Jan. 2013–Jan. 2015
"Peter Popoff, Born-again Scoundrel," *GQ*, February 2017
"Evangelical Scion Who Stopped Believing," *Times Magazine*, Dec. 2016
"The Beggars of Lakewood," *New York Times Magazine*, Oct. 16, 2014
"Will Misogyny Bring Down the Atheist Movement," *Buzzfeed*, Sep. 11, 2014
"Technology's Not Driving Us Apart After All," *Times Magazine*, Jan. 7, 2014
"Attacks From Within: On Janet Malcolm," *The Nation*, June 10–17, 2013
"Stephen Burt: Poetry's Cross-Dressing Kingmaker," *Times Magazine*, 9/12
"Pikuach Nefesh: On God and Gays," *The Nation*, May 7, 2012
"Sentimentality or Honesty?: On Charles Taylor," *The Nation*, Aug. 10, 2011
"Leaving Janet Malcolm," *Yale Review*, October 2011
"Married, with Infidelities," about Dan Savage, *New York Times Magazine*, July 3, 2011
"The Race That Is Not About Winning," *The Believer*, March 2011
"Doing Unto Others, on the Tennis Court," *New York Times*, Sept. 3, 2011
"Behold the Beard," *The New York Times*, Aug. 6, 2011
"The Church that Oprah Winfrey Built," *The New York Times*, May 28, 2011
Introduction to 50th-anniversary edition of the novel *Mrs. Bridge*, Arion Press, November 2010
"The Denial Twist," four-part series on America's leading Holocaust deniers, *Tablet*, June 2009
"What Is George Scialabba Good For?," *AGNI*, May 2009
"It's a Wonderful Block," *New York Times Magazine*, Oct. 5, 2008
"Judgment Day," *New York Times Magazine*, Sept. 19, 2008
"The Turning of an Atheist," *New York Times Magazine*, Nov. 4, 2007
"For the Love of Xenu," *Slate*, July 31, 2007
"The Actualizer," *The New York Times Magazine*, July 15, 2007
"Knowing Not," review of *Religious Illiteracy*, *The New York Times Book Review*, June 10, 2007
"Susan Sontag, Juggler of the Moral and Aesthetic," *The Forward*, May 18, 2007
"Jewish Noir," review of Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* in *The Forward*, April 20, 2007
"The First Dance," *The New York Times Magazine*, January 28, 2007
"Where Have All the Intellectuals Gone?," *The Chronicle of Higher Education Review*, Sep. 22, 2006
"Climbing the Family Tree," review of Daniel Mendelsohn's *The Lost*, in *The Forward*, Sep. 8, 2006

"Six Degrees of Treyf: An Interview with Gary Shteyngart," *The Forward*, April 28, 2006
"The Church's Way on Gay Seminarians," *Details*, Jan./Feb. 2006
"Supersede Me: Evangelicals and Conversion of the Jews," *Slate*, Jan. 19, 2006
"An Era of Awkward Repression," *The Believer*, February 2005
"Fiction in Review: Bernard Malamud," *Yale Review*, Winter 2004
"Bright Union Years," *The American Scholar*, Spring 2003
"The Sixties' Surprising Legacy," *Chronicle of Higher Education Review*, Oct. 8, 2003
"Who Lives? Who Dies? A Profile of Peter Singer," *Christian Century*, July 3-10, 2002
"For God, Not Country" profile of Stanley Hauerwas," *Lingua Franca*, September 2001
"Folk Music in the Catholic Mass," *Religions of the United States in Practice*, Princeton U Press, 2001
"My Word: Today's Christianity Offers Different Bible for Everyone," *Harper's*, May 2001
"At August's End: Serving Time in Leftist Summer Camps," *Yale Review* 88:3, July 2000
"Memories of a Lesbian Girlhood," *Southwest Review*, Spring 2001
"In the Biblical Sense: The Christian Sex Advice Industry," *Slate*, November 29, 1999
"Why Judy Blume Endures," *The New York Times Book Review*, November 16, 1997

Audio (selection)

Host, *Antisemitism USA*, R2 Studios of George Mason University, 2024.
Host, *LBI Presents*, Leo Baeck Institute (for German Jewish History), 2023.
Exec. producer, writer, & host, *Gatecrashers: Jews, the Ivy League, and America*, 10/22
Host, *Unorthodox* podcast, July 2015— (*Guardian* "Top 50 Podcasts"; #1 Jewish themed podcast on
Apple Podcasts, 7 million downloads so far)
Contributor, *This American Life* and *Snap Judgment*

Judging Juries

2021 Connecticut Book Prize (Fiction)
2018 Windham-Campbell Book Prize (Nonfiction)
2015 Grawemeyer Award for Religion
2010 Goldberg Prize for Jewish Fiction by Emerging Writers

Speeches (selection from over 200)

Pepperdine University, April 2023
Boston College, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, March 2023
Mount Holyoke College, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion and Jewish Studies lecture, March 2023
University of Wisconsin, Jewish Studies lecture, 2019
Harvard University, English Department, 2017, 2018
Kanuga Conference, United Methodist Church, 2016
Boisi Center, Boston College, 2014
American Academy of Religion, 2014
University of Texas at Austin, 2013
Central Connecticut State University, 2013
Westminster College (Pa.), 2010

Kenyon College, April 2008
Southern Methodist University, The Gilbert Lecture, 2008
Luther College (Iowa), 2008

Prizes and Awards

Connecticut Book Award, Nonfiction, 2022
Connecticut Book Award, Biography/Memoir, 2011
Hiatt Prize in the Humanities, Dallas Institute for Humanities, 2010
Koret Young Writer on Jewish Themes Award, 2003
Center for Study of Religion and American Life, 2002
Pew Trusts, Institute for Advanced Study of Religion, 2001
The Gralla Fellowship, Brandeis University, 2000
Jonathan Edwards College, Yale University, Graduate Fellow
The Jacob Javits Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 1998
The Francke Interdisciplinary Fellowship, Yale University, 1998
The Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, 1997
The A. Bartlett Giamatti Fellowship, Yale University, 1997
The Mellon Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 1996