

"This short book is a highly theoretical exploration of how to engage in original and erudite Jewish studies. It encourages the reader to seek new avenues for source material and develop innovative analytical models to better understand the Jewish experience."

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*Jewish Studies*, the first volume in the groundbreaking series, *Key Words in Jewish Studies*, introduces the series' basic approach by organizing discussion around key terms in the field that have emerged over the last two centuries: history and science, race and religion, self and community, identity and memory. The book is oriented by contemporary critical theory, especially feminist and postcolonial studies, and the multidisciplinary approaches of cultural studies.

By looking backward and forward—and across continents and disciplines—to unearth the evolution of the scholarly study of Jews, Andrew Bush provides a comprehensive introduction to the development of Jewish studies from the turn of the nineteenth century to the present. In the course of engaging scholarship on periods from the classical to the contemporary and from the disciplines of history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and literary studies, Bush questions male-dominated and Ashkenazi-centric visions of the field. He concludes with an experimental exposition of a new Jewish studies for a time where attention to difference has overtaken the security of canons and commonalities.

ANDREW BUSH is a professor of Jewish studies and Hispanic studies at Vassar College. He is the author of *The Routes of Modernity: Spanish American Poetry from the Early to the Mid-Nineteenth Century*.