Fred Astren is Professor in the Department of Jewish Studies at San Francisco State University. He holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. His current book project is entitled *Before the Geniza: Jews and the Early Middle Ages*, which casts a Mediterranean gaze on Jewish history in the years 500–950. In recent print and forthcoming are book chapters on the failure of Visigothic anti-Jewish legislation in Spain, and on the impact of papermaking on ninth-century Jewish sectarianism in the Abbasid caliphate, a journal article on how minority and majority groups "co-produce" historical narratives in medieval Islam, and a chapter in the *Cambridge History of Judaism*, vol. 5, *Jews in the Medieval Islamic World* on non-rabbinic Judaisms other than Karaism. Astren is the author of *Karaite Judaism and Historical Understanding* (University of South Carolina Press, 2004), and co-editor of *Judaism and Islam: Boundaries, Interaction, and Communication* (Brill, 2000). Astren serves on the Advisory Board of the Mediterranean Seminar, and is the coordinator of an upcoming roundtable sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, entitled "Umayyads, Early 'Abbāsids, and Historical Periodization."