

Marla Segol holds the Professorship in Jewish Studies at the University at Buffalo, in the department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies. She earned her PhD in Comparative Literature at Rutgers University New Brunswick in 2001, with a dissertation on religious conversion and cosmopolitanism. Since then she has worked in the fields of kabbalah, Jewish magic, and the history of the body and sexuality. Her most recent book was *Word and Image in Medieval Kabbalah: The Texts, Commentaries and Diagrams of the 'Sefer Yetsirah'* (Palgrave, 2012). Her forthcoming book, *Kabbalah and Sex Magic: A Mythical-Ritual Genealogy* discusses the history of the components that make up contemporary sex magic ritual as they appear in Jewish esoteric texts. Professor Segol has published articles on magic and astrology, American kabbalah, contemporary self-help literature, medicine and mysticism, and medieval cosmopolitanism. Recent awards include the Humanities Institute Fellowship, and a Research Grant from the Gender Institute at the University at Buffalo. Her next project, "Sexology and Embryology in Ancient, Medieval, and New Age Religion" will focus on North American New Age religion, examining the medieval roots and the modern expressions of esoteric conceptions of gender, embodiment, and sacred sexuality in contemporary North America.