

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: The Shapes of Early Medieval Jewish History*, which covers the years 500–950. Forthcoming is a journal article on the failure of Visigothic anti-Jewish legislation in Spain, and a book chapter on the impact of ninth-century Muslim Arabic book culture on Jewish sectarianism. Recent publications include a journal article that examines ways that minority and majority groups “co-produce” historical narratives in medieval Islam and a chapter in the *Cambridge History of Judaism* 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 in 2021 coordinated a roundtable sponsored by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley, entitled “Umayyads, Early ‘Abbāsids, and Historical Periodization.”

