

Avital Davidovich-Eshed

CURRICULUM VITAE

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4 Prof. Israel Robert Uman St. Rehovot, Israel

Education

(All at Tel-Aviv University)

- 2014 **Ph. D.** (awarded Dec. 2014). Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies
Dissertation title: *"How then could I gaze at a virgin"? : The Concept of
Virginity in Medieval Jewish Culture in Christendom.*
Advisor: Prof. Jeremy Cohen.
- 2006 **M. A. *summa cum laude.*** The Department of the History of the Jewish
people. Thesis title: *Mekadshot Ha'shem: The Representation of Women in
the Hebrew Texts of the Crusades.* Advisor: Prof. Jeremy Cohen
- 2002 **B. A. *magna cum laude.*** The Hebrew Literature Department and The
Humanities Interdisciplinary Studies Program.

Appointments and Employment

Teaching & Research

- 2015- 2016: Post-Doctorate, Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious
Encounters (I-Core), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 2011- 2016: Research Fellow, Kogod Research Center for Contemporary
Jewish Thought, Shalom Hartman Institute.
- 2014- 2015: Teaching Fellow, *Ovakim* Program Tel Aviv University.
- 2014- 2015: Lecturer, Folklore Studies Program, Achva Academic College.
- 2008, 2012: Lecturer, Overseas Studies Program, Tel Aviv University.
- 2003- 2010: Research Assistant, Prof. Jeremy Cohen, the Jewish History Department,
Abraham and Edita Spiegel Family Foundation Chair for European
Jewish History, Tel Aviv University.

Other Relevant Activities

- 2014- 2015: Member, The Advisory Committee to Israel's Ministry of Education on the 'Jewish-Israeli Culture Studies' curriculum.
- 2013- 2015: Teaching Fellow, Be'eri School for Teacher Education, Shalom Hartman Institute.
- 2009-2013: Discussion leader, *Lev Aharon* Program, IDF and Shalom Hartman Institute. A program designed for IDF Lieutenant-Colonels and Colonels and explores the interplay between Judaism and democracy in Israeli society.

Publications

Papers in Refereed Journals

- 'Sanctified God, Desecrated Woman: The Female Body as a Site of Cultural Conflict in the Middle-Ages. Rereading the Story of Sarit's Murder from the 1096 Hebrew Chronicle', (In Hebrew), *Jerusalem Studies in Hebrew Literature* 27 (2014), pp. 37-66.
- 'On Brides and Braids: Bride's Hair and Virginity in Ashkenazi Wedding Customs', (In Hebrew), *Zmanim* 118 (Spring 2012) pp. 50-61.

Papers Presented, Conferences, Workshops

- Jul. 2015, 'Defloration and Cultural Drama: Body, Gender and Conflict in Early-Modern Jewish Culture'. The Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem and the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts in Deutschland, seminar on German-Jewish and Central-European Jewish History, Berlin.
- March 2015, ' "A Maiden is Married": Virginity and Social Drama in Wedding Rituals in Medieval Ashkenaz', Middle Ages Now Annual Conference, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- May 2014, 'The Virginal Body as a Site of Inter-Religious Struggle in Medieval Jewish Culture'. University of Cambridge, *CRASSH* Seminar: The Dynamics of Religious Interaction.

- Jul. 2013, 'From *Betula* to *Beula*: The Meaning of *Be'ilat Mitsva* and the Concept of Virginity in Medieval Ashkenazi Jewish Culture' (in Hebrew). The 16th International Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.
- Oct. 2012, 'Virgin *de iure* vs. Virgin *de facto*: On the Concepts of Virginity in Medieval Jewish Culture', (in Hebrew). *Hallacha* Research - Methodological Considerations, Research Seminar. The National Library of Israel.
- Jun. 2010, 'The Transformative Power of Defloration and the Essence of Virginity in Medieval Jewish Culture' (in Hebrew). Gender and Jewish Identity International Conference, Bar-Ilan University.
- Mar. 2010, 'Braiding and Bridling the Virgin's Hair', The Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem.
- Aug. 2009, 'Sanctified God, Desecrated Woman: The Female Body as a Site of Cultural Conflict in the Middle-Ages' (in Hebrew). The 15th International Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.
- Sep. 2008, 'The Concept of Virginity and representation of Virgins in Medieval Jewish Culture'. The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, *HSPCG & Concepta* International Summer School for the History of Concepts.
- May 2007, 'Mother of Mercy: The Hermeneutical Woman in the Hebrew Chronicles of the First Crusade'. The Israeli Historical Society Annual Seminar for Graduate and Research Students, Zalman Shazar Center, Jerusalem.
- Jan. 2007, 'The Murder of Sarit: The Construction of the feminine Body in a Hebrew Text from the first Crusade' (in Hebrew). Bar Ilan University, Gender and Discourse in Israel annual Conference.

Grants Awards and Fellowships

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| 2015 | Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem. The Yaacov Katz award for Outstanding Ph.D. research. |
| 2011- 2015 | Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at Shalom Hartman Institute. Fellowship. |
| 2012 | Leo Baeck Institute, Jerusalem. Doctoral scholarship. |
| 2012 | The School of Jewish Studies at Tel Aviv University and the Balaban-Glass Foundation. Doctoral scholarship. |

- 2011 The Faculty of Humanities at Tel Aviv University and the Bubis Foundation. Doctoral Scholarship.
- 2011 The Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (MFJC), New-York. Doctoral Scholarship.
- 2010-2011 Tel Aviv University, Faculty of Humanities, Annual Dean's Scholarship.
- 2010 The Historical Society of Israel, Jerusalem. The Yaacov Katz award for Outstanding Ph.D. Candidates.
- 2010 Minerva Institute for German History at Tel Aviv University, Neuberger Scholarship.
- 2010 School of Jewish Studies at Tel Aviv University and YANIV Foundation. Doctoral Scholarship.
- 2008 -2010 Kogod Research Center for Contemporary Jewish Thought at Shalom Hartman Institute. *Maskilot* Program Fellowship.
- 2008- 2009 Tel Aviv University, Annual President's Scholarship for Outstanding Ph.D. Candidates.
- 2009 Young Fellow at the Porter Institute for Poetics and Semiotics at Tel Aviv University.
- 2009 NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program at Tel Aviv University, CHUTICK Foundation Scholarship.
- 2006 The Faculty of Humanities at Tel Aviv University Award for Outstanding M.A Thesis.
- 2004 -2006 Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University Fellowship for M.A. Students.
- 2006 Nordrhein-Westfalen Wissenschaftszentrum Bursary for Israeli Students in the North Rhine-Westphalia Universities.
- 2005 The Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies at Tel Aviv University award for Outstanding Seminar Paper.
- 2005 The Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University award for Undergraduate Students.