

## **Amir Banbaji**

### CURRICULUM VITAE AND LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

#### **Personal Details**

Amir Banbaji  
Date of Birth: July 4, 1968, Israel  
Regular Military Service: 1986 - 1990

Institutional Address: Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben-Gurion University  
P.O.B 653, Beer Sheva, Israel 84105.

Home Address: 8 Shlayn Street, Jerusalem, Israel 9622311

Tel: 0523651259  
E-mail: amir.banbaji@gmail.com

#### **Education**

B.A	1990 – 1993	Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Comparative Literature and Philosophy, Cum Laude.
Exchange Student	1994 – 1995	Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, German literature and philosophy.
Ph.D.	1995 – 2003	University of California, Berkeley, Department of Comparative Literature. Advisers: Robert Alter, Anthony Cascardi (co-chairs), Martin Jay. Thesis: “Dialectical Criticism: A Study of Adorno and Abramovich”.

#### **Employment History**

2011- Present	Senior Lecturer, Department of Hebrew Literature. Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
2007 - Present	Lecturer, Sapir College.
2008 - 2009	Visiting Research Fellow, Frankel Institute for Advance Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.
2005 - 2011	Lecturer, Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

2005 - 2007	Adjunct Lecturer, Sapir College.
2003 - 2005	Kreitman Post-Doctoral Fellow, Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
1997 - 2002	Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley.

## **Professional Activities**

### (a) Positions in academic administration

2016- present	Head of Ofek Program, BGU
2007 – 2012	Head of Program in Literature, Department of General BA Studies, Sapir College.

### (b) Professional function outside Universities

2010 - 2017	Series co- Editor, <i>Massa Critit</i> , Heksherim Institute and Dvir Publishing House.
2008 - present	Referee, <i>Teoriah U-Vikoret</i> , Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Mehkarei Yerushalayim Be-Sifrut Ivrit

## **Educational Activities**

### (a) Course taught (selection)

“Literature and Politics”, Undergraduate Reading and Composition Class, UC Berkeley (1997-2003)

"Philosophy and Literature", Undergraduate course, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. (2003)

"Realism and Mimesis", Undergraduate Seminar, Ben Gurion university of the Negev. (2008)

"Enlightenment, Science and Literature", undergraduate course, Sapir College. (2010)

"History of Modern Hebrew Literary Criticism", MA Seminar, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. (2014)

"Marxism and Modernism in Hebrew Literature: 1917 - 1956", graduate Seminar, Ben Gurion University of the Negev. (2015)

Historical Survey of Hebrew Literature, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century, Undergraduate Introductory Class, Ben-Gurion University (2009-present)

Haskalah and Jewish Modernity: A Critical Reading, MA Seminar, Ben-Gurion University 2017

#### (b) Research Students

Yael Balaban, PhD, Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Jointly supervised with Yitzhak Ben Mordechai), 2014

Chen Shtrass, PhD, Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Jointly supervised with Yigal Schwarz) 2016

Orel Sharp, PhD (Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben Gurion University of the Negev (Jointly supervised with Haim Weiss), 2019 (expected)

Isaac Meller, PhD, Department of Hebrew literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Jointly supervised with Haim Weiss), 2020 (expected)

Moriah Kor, PhD, Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Jointly supervised with Shira Stav), 2021 (expected).

### **Awards, Honors, Fellowships**

#### (a) Honors, Citations Awards

1993 Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Cum Laude BA.

2003 ISEF (International Sephardic Education Foundation) Award for Academic and Social Excellence.

## (b) Fellowships

2000 - 2001	Mellon Foundation, UC Berkeley, 12,000\$, Dissertation Writing Grant.
2003 - 2005	Israel Ministry of Absorption, \$10000, Post-Doctoral Research.
2003 - 2005	Kreitman Foundation, Ben Gurion University 40,000\$, Post Doctoral Research.
2006 - 2008	Heksherim Institute, Ben Gurion University, 10,000\$, Research Fellowship.
2007 - 2008	Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, 4,000\$, Research Fellowship.
2008 - 2009	Frankel Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 50,000\$, Visiting Research Fellowship.
2009	Dubnov Institute Leipzig, \$2,500, Guest Scholar Fellowship

## **Scientific Publications**

### (a) Authored Books

(1) Amir Banbaji *Mendele and the National Narrative*, Beer Sheva: Heksherim Institute and Dvir Publishing House, 2009. [Hebrew]

Reviewed: *Haaretz* Books Supplement, July 1, 2009.

### (b) Editorship of Collective Volumes

(1) Amir Banbaji and Nitza Ben-Dov, *Intersecting Sights: New Critical Essays on A.B. Yehoshua*. Tel Aviv: Ha-kibbutz Ha-Me`uhad, 2010. [Hebrew]

(2) Amir Banbaji and Hannan Hever, *Literature and Class: Anthology of Critical Essays*, Jerusalem: Van Leer Institute, 2012 [Hebrew]

### (c) Chapters in Collective Volumes

(1) Amir Banbaji, "A. B. Yehoshua and the Debate over Realism" in *Leggere Yehoshua*, ed. Emanuela Trevisan-Semi, Einaudi Publishing House, 2006, pp. 107-117 [Italian]

(2) Amir Banbaji, "Molcho's Three Fallacies: Realism, Modernism, Mizrahiyut", in *Intersecting Sights: New Critical Essays on A.B. Yehoshua*, eds. Amir Banbaji and Nitza Ben Dov, Tel Aviv, 2010, pp. 173-194 [Hebrew]

(3) Amir Banbaji, "A. B. Yehoshua's Reception in Hebrew literary Criticism: in *Intersecting Sights: New Critical Essays on A.B. Yehoshua*, eds. Amir Banbaji and Nitza Ben Dov, Tel Aviv, 2010, pp. 15- 30 [Hebrew]

(4) Amir Banbaji, "National Renaissance and Haskalah in the history of Hebrew Literary Theory: Excessive Polemics and Artificial Reconciliation," in *Literature and Life: Poetics and Ideology in Modern Hebrew Literature A Festschrift dedicated to Menachem Brinker*, eds. Hamutal Tsamir et. el., Karmel Press, 2011 pp. 333-364.

(5) Amir Banbaji, "Main Currents of Hebrew Literary Criticism and Theory, 1900-1960", In *Literature and Class*, eds. Amir Banbaji and Hannan Hever, Van Leer Institute, 2012 [Hebrew]

(6) Amir Banbaji, "David Kena`ani and Socialist Realism," in *Literature and Class*, eds. Amir Banbaji and Hannan Hever, Van Leer Institute, 2012 [Hebrew]

(7) Amir Banbaji, "Hebrew `melitsah`: The Adventures of a Maskilic Concept in Isaac Satanov *Mishle Assaf*", in *The Makil in Our Time: Studies in Honor of Moshe Pelli*, eds Zev Garber, Lev Hakkak, Shmuel Katz, Tel Aviv: Hakibutz Hameuchad, 2017, pp. 15-39.

#### (d) Refereed articles

(1) Amir Banbaji, "Mendele the Book-Peddler and the Ideology of Negation of Exile" in *Iyunim b- Ttkumat Yisrael* 17, 2007, pp. 81 – 106 [Hebrew]

(2) Amir Banbaji, "What is Political Literature? Adorno and Marxist Aesthetics", *Mikan* 9, 2008, pp. 216-234 [Hebrew]

(3) Amir Banbaji, "An Attempt to Rehabilitate the Allegory in Hebrew Criticism: a New Reading of Adam ha-Cohen's *Emet ve-Emuna* and A. Y. Paperna's Criticism", *Bikoret u-farshanut* 42, 2010, pp. 333-365 [Hebrew]

(4) Amir Banbaji, "The Orient in the Literature of the Haskalah: A Levantine Reading of Euchel, Löwisohn and Mapu", *Journal of Levantine Studies* 1 (Summer 2011), pp. 95-130

Number of citations according to ISI: N/A (article just published)

Journal impact factor (IF) according to ISI: N/A

Journal ranking (JR) according to ISI: N/A (not rated)

(5) Amir Banbaji, "The Broken Promise of Transcendence: A New Reading of the Haskalah Allegory", *Prooftexts* 31:3 (2012) pp. 143-180.

(6) Amir Banbaji, "Defending Haskalah Poetry on Its Own Turf: Poetry, Time and the Deconstruction of Selfhood in Mikhal's *Shlomo VeKohelet*", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 2013, pp. 1-20.

(7) Amir Banbaji, "Two Paradigms of Aesthetics in Haskalah Literary Criticism: From Satanov to Lebensohn", *Hebrew Studies* 53 (2012 ) pp. 143-177.

\*(9) Amir Banbaji, "The Literary Character of the Haskalah", Review Essay, *Contemporary Study of Judaism* 29, 2015, pp. 264-270

\*(10) Amir Banbaji, "Sabbatian Haskalah: Abraham Mapu's 'The Visionaries'", *El Presente: Studies in Sephardic Culture* 10 (2016), pp, 11-39.

\*(11) The *Maskilim* as 'Defenders of the Text': A Third Paradigm of Jewish Enlightenment. *Mehkare Yerushalayim be-Sifrut Ivrit* 29 (2017) pp. 107-144.

(e) Published scientific reports

(f) Unrefereed Professional articles and publications (selection)

(1) Amir Banbaji, review of Zeev Levi, *Hermeneutics in Modern Jewish Thought* (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 2007), *Haaretz* Books Supplement, Passover Special Edition, April 2007.

(2) Amir Banbaji, Scientific Editorship of Theodor W. Adorno, "Commitment", translation into Hebrew by Danit Dotan, *Mikan* 9, 2008, pp. 235-251.

(3) Amir Banbaji, "Mendele Mocher Sefarim," in *Encyclopedia of Jewish Folklore*, edited by Raphael Patai, founding editor, and Haya Bar Itzhak (2011).

## Lectures and Presentations

(b) Presentation of Papers at Conferences and Meetings

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1997 | "Vitalism in Shaul Tchernichovsky's Poetry," the Annual Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in America, Los Angeles                   |
| 2000 | The Negation of 'Negation of Exile: Abramovich's Representation of Eastern European Exile," the MLA Annual Convention, Washington DC.                            |
| 2000 | "The Negation of 'Negation of Exile: Abramovich's Representation of Eastern European Exile," the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston |

- 2001 "The Making of What is Unmade: Truth, Morality and Social Critique in Adorno's *Aesthetic Theory*," International Conference, UC Berkeley.
- 2001 "Representation of Jewish Exile after the Holocaust: A Reconsideration of the 'Kariv Debate' and Mendele Mocher Sefarim's Work", the Annual Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, New York,
- 2002 "The 'Self-Criticism Dispute' between Brenner and Gordon: A Literary and Philosophical Perspective", the Ben-Gurion Research Center, Sede Boker,
- 2005 "A. B. Yehoshua and the Debate over Realism," Ca'Foskari University, Venice.
- 2005 "Nationalism and Haskalah: a Pro-Maskilic Reading in Hebrew Literary Theory," the Annual Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in America, Stanford.
- 2005 "Mendele The Book-Peddler: A Symbol of Modern Jewish Identity?" 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.
- 2008 "A Curious Version of Cultural Criticism: On Hannan Hever's *ha-Sipur ve-Hale'on*", Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem.
- 2009 "Mizrahiyut in Hebrew Literary Criticism", Annual Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in America, London.
- 2010 "Aesthetics, Oriental Despotism and Secularization: the Political Identity of Isaac Euchel's *Igrot Meshulam*", Journal of Levantine Studies International Research Workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem.
- 2010 "The Arab, the Jew, and their Poetry: Concepts of Belonging in Jewish Enlightenment", 2nd Annual German-Israeli Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Potsdam, Germany.
- 2011 "Haskalah Allegories and the Dialectics of Jewish Enlightenment", Annual Conference of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew in America, Washington DC.
- 2012 "Ethnicity, Secularization and Nationalism in Hebrew Culture", workshop, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

- 2013 "Is it Possible to Envision Haskalah Historiography without Relying on the Secularization Thesis?" 16<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies.
- 2013 "Two Notions of Beauty in Haskalah Aesthetic Theory", Research Workshop, Brandeis University.
- 2014 "Two Concepts of Modernity in Haskalah Literature: Miron On Wessely", A Conference Honoring Dan Miron's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Tel Aviv University
- 2015 "Sabbatianism and Haskalah: The Case on Abraham Mapu, Eco of Sabbatai Zvi Jewish Literatures, Ulcinj, Montenegro
- 2016 "A New Paradigm of Jewish Enlightenment", Third Bremen Conference on Language and Literature in Colonial and Postcolonial Contexts, Bremen.
- 2017 "Spinoza and Mendelsohn on Prophecy and Rhetoric", American Comparative Literature Association, Annual Meeting, Utrecht
- 2017 Mendelssohn and Hebrew Literary Modernity: Melitsah and Rhetoric, 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

(d) Seminar Presentation at Universities and Institutions

- 2003 "Abramovich and the Disgust," Departmental Seminar, Department of Hebrew Literature, Ben Gurion University.
- 2005 "Before and After Mendele: on Gershon Shaked's Book ", Departmental Seminar, Department of Hebrew Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2007 "National Renaissance and Hebrew Enlightenment in the history of Hebrew Literary Theory: Between Excessive Polemics and Artificial Reconciliation". Departmental Seminar, Department of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, Haifa University.
- 2009 "A New Look at the Literary History of Jewish Enlightenment", Colloquium, Frankel Centre for Advance Judaic Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



- 2009 "Maskilic Allegories: a New Reading the Literary History of the Haskalah", Townsend Centre for the Humanities, UC Berkeley.
- 2015 "Three Paradigms of Haskalah Scholarship", Cherrick Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2015 "Two Views of Hebrew Literary Modernity: The Melitsah in Haskalah Discourse" in "The Rise of Nationalism and the Nineteenth-Century Jewish Literary Imagination", Conference, Department of Comparative Literature and the Program for in Judaic Studiesm Yale University.

### **Research Grants**

- 2009 - 2010 Sol Leshin Foundation, 10,000\$, Amir Banbaji, Gil Hochberg , "Representations of Arabness in Hebrew Literature."

### **Present Academic Activity**

Research in Progress:

History of Haskalah literary and Aesthetic Theory