# **Dr. Menachem Ratson-curriculum vitae**

## Date of birth: April, 3rd ,1968

### Address: Derech Ha’Ilanot 24/9 Gedera 70700 Israel

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Current institutional affiliation: Ben Gurion University, The Open University of Israel

#### ACADEMIC EDUCATION

**B.A (10/1990-10/1993)**

Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dean’s list – 1992/3.

Completed: Magna cum laude.

**M.A (10/1993-7/1997)**

Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

M.A Thesis: “The Political Leadership and the Law in Maimonides’ Thought: Flexibility and Rigidity”.

Guides: Dr. Jeffrey Macy (Political Science Dept.) and Prof. Zev Warren Harvey (Jewish Philosophy Dept).

Completed: Magna cum laude.

**Ph.D (9/1997-2/2004)**

Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Doctorate Thesis: “The Political and Social Principles in the Thought of R. Abraham Ibn Ezra”.

Guides: Prof. Zev Warren Harvey and Dr. Jeffrey Macy.

Members of Dissertation Committee: Prof. Uriel Simon (Bible Dept., Bar-Ilan University), Prof. Sara Strumza (Arabic Language & Literature Dept.), Dr. Dan Avnon (Political Science Dept.).

**TEACHING CERTIFICATE (10/1995-7/1996)**

Post-Primary Teachers Department, School of Education, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Final Project: Teaching proposal in the subject of Jewish political philosophy in high school and college.

##### LANGUAGES

* Hebrew
* English
* Arabic

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Book**

**Theocracy and Humanity: The Political and Social Principles in the Thought of R. Abraham Ibn Ezra**, Tel Aviv: Resling, 2012

**Articles**

* "Social Contract Theory - Thomas Hobbes and John Locke: Between Scientific Methodology and Biblical Hermeneutics". **Politika** 22 (2013) pp. 135-186.
* "Political Leadership and the Law in Maimonides' Thought: Flexibility and Rigidity", **Hebraic Political Studies**, 2/4 (2007) pp. 377-423
* "Politics and Astrology in the Thought of R. Abraham Ibn Ezra", **Journal of Jewish Studies**, LXIV/2 (2013) pp. 326-346.
* “The Political Attitude in Two Commentaries of R. Abraham Ibn-Ezra on Jethro’s Advice (Exodus 18:13-26)” **Beit Mikra – Quarterly** 3 (182) (April-June 2005) pp. 281-291

# "Rules (*klalim*) and Details (*pratim*) in the Contemplations of Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra and Maimonides - The Laws of Nature, Political Laws and the Problem of the Generality of the law", **Daat – A Journal of Jewish Philosophy & Kabbalah** (Bar Ilan University) 73 (2012) pp. 45-83

# "The Question of Royalty in the Interpretations of Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra, Rabbeinu Behaya and Gersonides (Ralbag) - Biblical Interpretations and Their Comparative Political-Analytical Significance", **Mo'ed – Annual for Jewish Studies**, 20 (2010) pp. 153-197.

* "Anti-Monarchism in Abravanel’s Political Thought: Between Theocracy and Humanism", **Zev Harvey's Book**. (forthcoming, Magnes)
* "Ibn Ezra and Medieval Islamic Political Thought" (forthcoming, Mo'ed)

**EMPLOYMENT**

The Hebrew University, The Open University, The Tel-Aviv Academic College, The Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Military Academy of IDF (senior officers and pilots).

**[1] LECTURER (1993-)**

* Issues in Jewish Political Philosophy
* Introduction to Political Philosophy (Classical, Medieval, Modern)
* Theories and Methods in Political Research
* Government and Politics in the State of Israel
* Comparative Politics
* [Dictatorships in the 20th Century](http://www-e.openu.ac.il/courses/10662.htm)
* Democratic Regimes
* Democracy: An Interdisciplinary Approach
* Selected Topics in Modern Democracy
* Contemporary Democratic Theories

**[2] LECTURER ASSISTANT (1993-2003)**

* **Prof. Shlomo Aronson**: “Historical Introduction to Contemporary Politics”, “Israeli Strategy in the Nuclear Age”, “Nazism-Fascism”, “Issues in Israeli Politics”, “History of Political Thought”.
* **Prof. Ehud Sprinzak**: “Terrorism: Its Roots and Historical Tradition”, “Contemporary International Terrorism”, “Extremist Politics, Violence and Terrorism in Israel”, “Historical Introduction to Modern Politics”.
* **Prof. Gadi Woolfsfeld**: “Politics and Mass Media”.
* **Prof. Mario Snaider**: “”Historical Introduction to Contemporary Politics”.

###### [3] RESEARCH

* **Prof Abraham Melamed** (2004-2005): Publication of three books about “Medieval Jewish Political Philosophy”.
* **Researcher in the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute** (2002-2003): Chairman Denis Rose, President Prof. Yehezkel Dror.
* **Prof. Ehud Sprinzak** (1993-2003): Theoretical and empirical research about radical right wing in Israel, Islamic Terrorism and extremism among Israeli Arabs.
* **Prof. Ehud Harary** (1993-1994): politics and mass media.

##### SCHOLARSHIPS AND REWARDS

During my Ph.D studies:

* The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: 42,000 NIS (10,000$)
* Shair Foundation (Canada): 17,000$
* Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (USA): 7,500$