
RACHEL WAMSLEY

CURRICULUM VITAE

+972 52-9380079

rwamsley@me.com

Education

- 2007-15 **Ph.D., Department of Comparative Literature,**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2011 **Advanced to Candidacy in Comparative Literature**
- 2006 **B.A. in Comparative Literature with Distinction of Highest Honors**
University of California, Berkeley
Honors Thesis, awarded Comparative Literature Departmental Citation: “*Keyner iz shoyn mer nito tsvishn: Avrom Sutzkever’s Helfandn bay nakht* and the Construction of a Hermaphrodite Poetics”

Employment

- 2023– **Academic Director, Naomi Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program**
Jona Goldrich Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, Tel Aviv University
- 2023– **Lecturer in Yiddish Language**
Division of Foreign Languages, Tel Aviv University
- 2022–23 **Cultural Programming Coordinator, Naomi Kadar International Yiddish Summer Program**
Jona Goldrich Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, Tel Aviv University
- 2020–21 **Lecturer**
Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics, Ben Gurion University of the Negev
- 2016–19 **Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and Jewish Studies**
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2015–16 **Harry Starr Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judaica, Center for Jewish Studies**
Harvard University

Dissertation

Exegetical Poetics: Tanakh and Textuality in Early Modern Yiddish Literature

Committee: Chana Kronfeld (UC Berkeley, Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies)

Robert Alter (UC Berkeley, Comparative Literature, emeritus)
Simon Neuberg (Universität Trier, Germanistik-Jiddistik)
Naomi Seidman (Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies, GTU)
Elaine Tennant (UC Berkeley, German)

Areas of Academic Interest

Print Culture and Material Bibliography
Poetics and Intertextuality
Translation Theory
History of Religion and Biblical Reception
Yiddish and Hebrew Literature (1500-1950)

Publications

- 2020 “Past Made Present: Temporal Translation in *Shmuel Bukh*.” *Yiddish and the Field of Translation*. Eds., Olaf Terpitz and Marianne Windsperger. Boehlau Verlag: Vienna, 2020. 97-116.
- 2020 “Editorial Policy in *Shmuel Bukh*: Between Augsburg and Cracow.” *The Worlds of Old Yiddish*. Eds., Simon Neuberg and Diana Matut. Legenda Press: Oxford, 2020. 60-77.
- 2018 “A Pure Language (or Lip): Representing Hebrew in Colonial New England.” *Studies in American Jewish Literature: A Journal of Literary Criticism and Theory* 37/2 (2018): 1–28.
-

-
- 2017 "Characters Against Type: Conversion, Mise-en-Page, and Counter-Exegesis in a Seventeenth-Century Purim Play." *Lias: Journal of Early Modern Intellectual Culture and its Sources* 44/1, Special Issue on Critical Bibliography (2017): 59–88.
- 2016 "Book Review: Early Yiddish Epic, Jerold Frakes." *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. (October 2016)

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

- 2016-19 **Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2016-21 **Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellowship**
Van Leer Institute of Jerusalem, *declined*
- 2016-17 **Sassoon Visiting Research Fellowship at the Bodleian Library**
Oxford University
- 2015-16 **Harry Starr Postdoctoral Fellowship in Judaica, Center for Jewish Studies**
Harvard University
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Krieger School of Arts and Sciences**
Johns Hopkins University, *declined*
- 2014-16 **Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School**
University of Virginia
- 2007-14 **Berkeley Fellowship**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2012 **Harold Hyam Wingate Fellowship**
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
- 2008 **Diller Research Fellowship in Jewish Studies**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2006 **Goor Prize in Jewish Studies, Best Undergraduate Research Paper**
The Living Bird in the Blood of the Bird which was Slaughtered: The Purity Laws of Leviticus 15 and the Paradox of the Israelite
University of California, Berkeley
- Theresa Hak Kyung Cha Fellowship for Best for Undergraduate Honors Thesis**
Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive
University of California
- Departmental Citation in Comparative Literature for Honors Thesis**
University of California, Berkeley

Presentations and Invited Talks

- 2020 "The Benefits of Fidelity: A Case-Study from Early Yiddish Epic"
Department of Jewish History at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, July 6.
- 2019 "But Whither the Peacock: The Wallich Manuscript and Itzik Manger's Anthologism," *Association for Jewish Studies* Annual Conference, December 12-14, San Diego.
- 2018 "Hyperscripture? A Paratextual History of *The Pilgrim's Progress*"
Department of Foreign Literatures and Linguistics at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, June 4.
- "'Types Like the World Has Never Seen': Elias Hutter's *Via Sancta* and Philological Typography"
Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, March 22-24, New Orleans
- 2017 "Translating for Modernity: Shmuel Bukh and Historical Imagination"
EJAS Laboratory Yiddish Language and Culture. A Relay Station of Modernity and Lieu de Mémoire of Postmodernity, February 13-14, University of Vienna.
-

-
- “Anachronism Reconsidered: Historical Imagination in the Yiddish Biblical Epic”
Scholion Seminar, April 27, Mandel-Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University.
- “Judah Monis and His *Dickdook Leshon Gnebreet*: Representing Hebrew in Colonial New England”
Doctoral Honors Program Lecture Series, May 18, Mandel School, Hebrew University.
- “Scripted Futures: Foreknowledge and Agency in the Poetry of Itzik Manger”
Prophetic Urgency: From Romantic Visions to Contemporary Apocalypses, June 5-6, Mandel-Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University.
- 2016 “The Jewish Convert as Bibliographic Entrepreneur: Judah Monis in New England”
Starr Seminar in Judaic Studies, May 12, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University.
- “Judah Monis’s *Dickdook Leshon Gnebreet* and Its (Absent) Audiences”
Annual Harvard-Yale Conference in Book History, Apr. 29, Yale University.
- “The Finest Rose in All of Psalms: Itzik Manger and the Poetics of Biblical Anachronism”
Annual Conference for the American Comparative Literature Association, Mar. 18, Harvard University.
- 2015 “The Ironic Uses of Convention: A Seventeenth-Century Purim-Play and Its Paratexts”
Mandel Scholion Postdoctoral Lecture Marathon, Dec. 31, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 2014 “This is the gate of the LORD...: Jewish Baptism as Textual Transmission”
Trans-it: Annual Berkeley-Stanford Graduate Conference, Apr. 11, University of California, Berkeley.
- “The Talking Id: Literary Privilege and Sexual Privacy in the *Purim Shpil*”
Private Languages in the Early Modern Era, Apr. 18, Princeton University.
- “Importing Hebrew Print: Material Texts between Venice and Cracow”
U.C. Berkeley Townsend Working Group, Mobilities and Materialities of the Early Modern World, Oct. 28, University of California, Berkeley.
- “*Shmuel Bukh* After Italy: Renaissance Editing and the Rabbinic Intertext”
Annual Conference for the Association of Jewish Studies. Baltimore, December 2014.
- 2012 “Narrative Departure in *Shmuel Bukh*: Krakow 1578”
Words and Worlds of Yiddish Literature, Feb. 23-24, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.
- 2011 “Shmuel Bukh 55-64: A Case of Omission”
Annual Symposium of Yiddish Research Students, Jun. 5, Hebrew University.
- 2008 “‘Lion-Heart, Frate Mio, and So On in Two Languages’: Louis Zukofsky and Dismantling the Hebrew-Yiddish Polysystem,”
‘Mongrel’ America, Oct. 2-3, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2006 “*Keyner iz shoyn mer nito tsvishn*: Avrom Sutzkever’s Helfandn bay nakht and the Construction of a Hermaphrodite Poetics,”
Yiddish/Jewish Cultures: Literature, History, Thought in Eastern European Diasporas, Feb. 26-27, New York University.

Teaching Experience

- 2019 **Translation in Theory and Practice**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, MA seminar
- Telling Time: Problems in the Literary Representation of the Past**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, MA seminar
-

-
- 2018 **Style: The King James Bible in the Literary Tradition**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 3rd year seminar
- 2016 **Eros and Sacred Poetry**
Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 3rd year seminar, cross-listed with *Comparative Literature*.
- 2012-13 **German 95A: Elementary Yiddish**
German 95B: Intermediate Yiddish
German 95C: Advanced Yiddish: an Introduction to Yiddish Literature
University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2009 **Yiddish 101: Introductory Yiddish for Advanced Students**
University of California, Berkeley
- 2008 **Yiddish 101: Introductory Yiddish for Advanced Students**
University of California, Berkeley

Further Study and Research

- 2016 **Advanced Seminar in Critical Bibliography**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, taught by Michael Suarez.
- The Bible and Histories of Reading**
Rare Book School at the University of Pennsylvania, taught by Peter Stallybrass.
- Censorship of Jewish Books in the Early Modern Period**
Lehmann Master Workshop in the History of the Jewish Book, taught by Piet van Boxel
- 2015 ***Book Production and Social Practice in Early Modern Europe and America***
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, Harvard University/Houghton Library, taught by Ann Blair and David Hall.
- 2014 **Colloquium for Andrew W. Mellon Fellows in Critical Bibliography**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.
- Analytical Bibliography**
Rare Book School at the University of Virginia, taught by Stephen Tabor.
- London-Oxford Field School for Mellon Fellows in Critical Bibliography**
Facilitated by the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.
- 2012 **Old Yiddish: Old Texts, New Contexts**
European Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, convened by Simon Neuberger
Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies
- 2010 **Mendele the Novelist**
Seminar in Modern Yiddish Literature, convened by Yitskhok Niborski,
Bibliothèque Medem, Paris
- 2010 **The Old Yiddish Biblical Epic, Shmuel Bukh**
Independent research supervised by Jean Baumgarten.
- 2009 **Brandeis Summer Hebrew Ulpan**
Brandeis University
- Brandeis University-Middlebury Summer School of Hebrew**
Middlebury College
- 2008 **Goldreich Research Seminar in Yiddish Studies**
Tel Aviv University
- Breadloaf Annual Writers' Conference**
Middlebury College
- 2007 **German Immersion Intensive Course**
Goethe-Institut Berlin
- 2006 **Vilnius Summer Yiddish Program**
Vilnius Yiddish Institute at Vilnius University
-

Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture
New York University/YIVO

Editorial and Organizational Work Experience

- 2018 **Peer-Reviewer**
AJS Review
Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies
- 2016-18 **Member of the Editorial Board**
In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies
- 2014 **Editorial Assistant**
The World of Old Yiddish, eds. Simon Neuberger and Diana Matut
- 2012 **Editorial Assistant**
The Annual Report of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Old Yiddish specialist in collaboration with Senior Editor Jeremy Schonfield. Content and style editing of articles emerging from the 2012 ESAJS, Oxford
- 2009 **Conference Organizer**
History and Literature: Intersecting Methodologies, annual meeting of the Bay Area Jewish Studies Academic Consortium
- 2008 **Conference Organizer**
Altered States, Annual Comparative Literature Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Berkeley.

Research Languages

English
Yiddish (Old, Middle, Modern)
Hebrew (Biblical, post-biblical, Modern Israeli)
German (Old, Middle High, Modern)

Professional Memberships

Renaissance Society of America
American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association
Association for Jewish Studies

References

Chana Kronfeld (Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley)
kronfeld@berkeley.edu

Robert Alter (Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Studies, UC Berkeley, emeritus)
altcos@berkeley.edu

Ilana Pardes (Comparative Literature, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
ilana.pardes@mail.huji.ac.il
