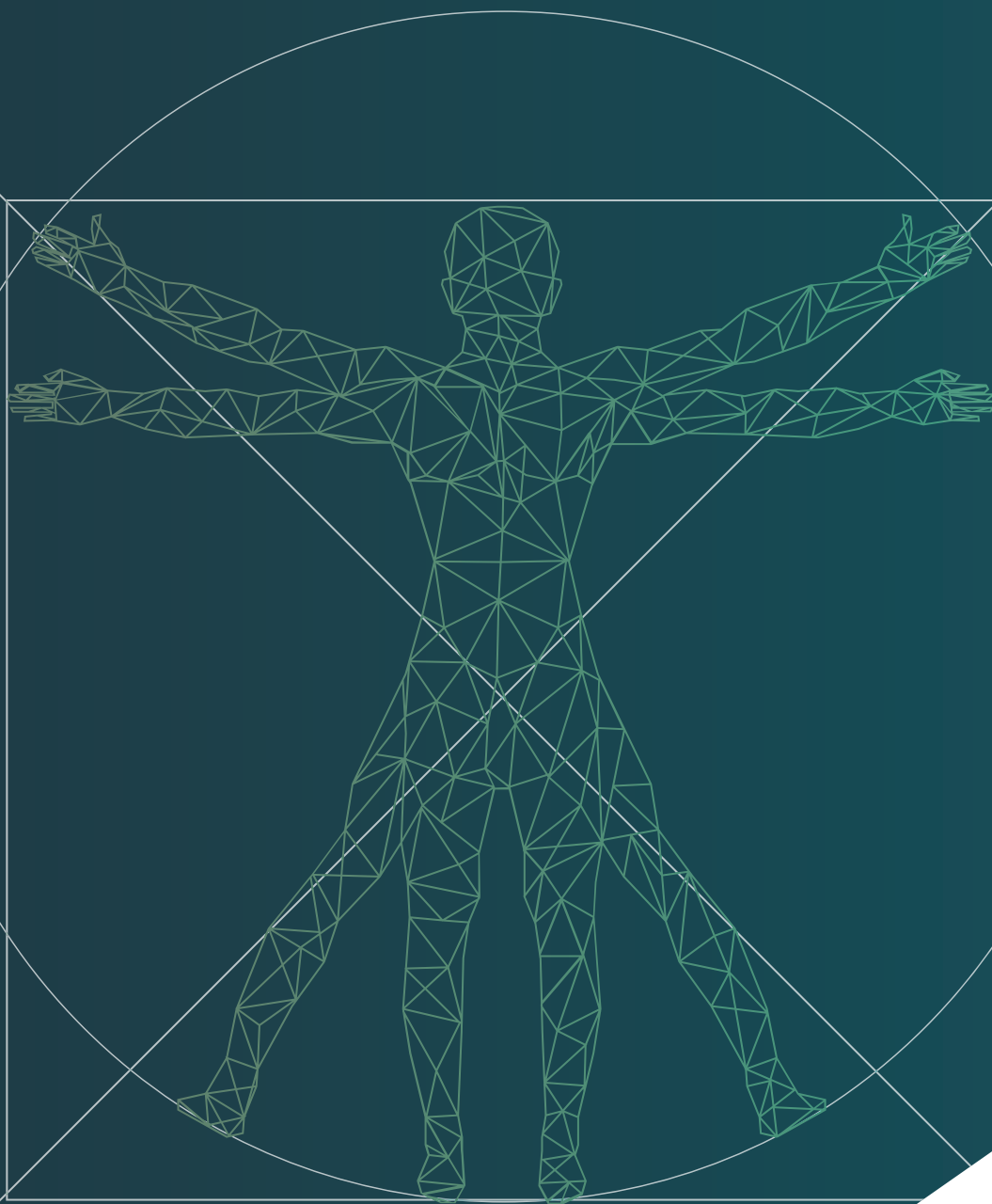


# THE POLONSKY PRIZES FOR CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY IN THE HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES

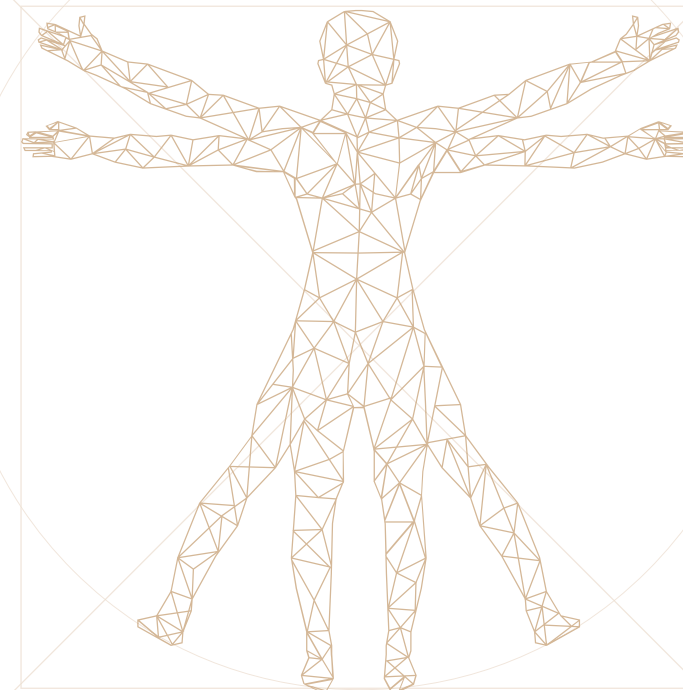
**At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem**



**2020**

# THE POLONSKY PRIZES FOR CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY IN THE HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES

**At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem**



2020



## Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky

Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky CBE has had a successful business career in the financial services sector and is a philanthropist with particular interests in higher education, cultural heritage and the arts. Dr. Polonsky grew up in New York City. He was a pupil at the prestigious Townsend Harris High School, and received his BA degree from New York University at age 18.

Following military service in 1945–46, he pursued graduate studies in literature at Lincoln College, Oxford, and at the Sorbonne, Paris, where he received his doctorate in 1952. He taught in Heidelberg several years before embarking on his business career.

Dr. Polonsky began working in financial services in New York in 1955, gaining further experience in Rome, Frankfurt, and Zurich, before establishing Liberty Life Assurance Company Limited in London in 1970. Hansard Global plc, its successor, of which he is President, has been listed on the London Stock Exchange since 2006.

Dr. Polonsky has involved himself in a broad range of philanthropic activities over many years. In 2013, he was named a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for charitable services by HM Queen Elizabeth II. He is a Companion of the Guild of Benefactors of Cambridge University, a Fleming Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford, and an Honorary Member of the Royal College of Music, London.

Dr. Polonsky holds an Honorary Doctorate from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, of which he is a Governor and where he serves on the Board of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace. At The Hebrew University, he established the Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities, which have been awarded annually since 2004. Other support for The Hebrew University includes awards for study in China and scholarships for undergraduates of Ethiopian background.

He is founding chairman of the board of trustees of The Polonsky Foundation, a UK-registered charity that supports cultural heritage, education and the arts in the UK, the USA, Israel, and Europe.

Dr. Leonard Polonsky is a Patron of the British Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Principal activities of The Polonsky Foundation include: the digitization of significant collections at leading libraries (the Bodleian Library, Oxford; Cambridge University Library; the British Library; the New York Public Library; the Library of Congress; the Vatican Apostolic Library; the Bibliothèque nationale de France); support for Theatre for a New Audience at the Polonsky Shakespeare Center in Brooklyn, New York; and post-doctoral fellowships at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

In Israel, The Polonsky Foundation also supports the University of Haifa, Tel Aviv University and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, of which Dr. Polonsky is a Governor and Honorary Fellow.

## Dear Friends and Colleagues

Research in the Humanities encompasses a multiplicity of disciplines, including literature, history, archeology, art, cognition, linguistics and philosophy, and an even broader range of cultures and corpora, from antiquity through the modern era. Members of the Faculty of Humanities at the Hebrew University regularly produce scholarship of the highest quality in all of these fields, publishing monographs in leading academic publishing houses and articles in prestigious journals and volumes in Israel and abroad. These sustained, impressive scholarly contributions have made the Faculty of Humanities in Jerusalem one of the leading centers of humanistic study in the world, and have contributed to the overall reputation of The Hebrew University as a foremost academic institution of international standing.

The Polonsky Prizes were established over fifteen years ago through the generosity and vision of Dr. Leonard Polonsky and the Polonsky Foundation. These prizes give important recognition to faculty members and advanced graduate and postdoctoral scholars at the Faculty of Humanities, who have demonstrated the highest standards of scholarship in the humanistic disciplines. This year's prize winners were chosen from a particularly strong list of contenders in the different categories, making the selection especially challenging. The outstanding quality of so many of the submissions provided the committee, consisting of leading scholars from the Faculty, with the vantage point to appreciate the impressive research being produced in all the fields of Humanities at the Hebrew University. As a member of the committee, I can attest to the sheer intellectual pleasure of learning from the work of all of the candidates.

I want to thank my fellow members of the prize committee for their hard work, as well as Prof. Reem Sari, Vice President for Research and Development, for his support, and Ms. Shulamith Lasnes from the Faculty of Humanities who coordinated the work of the prize committee.

We are extremely grateful to the Polonsky Foundation for their continued support and encouragement of the growth and development of the Humanities at the Hebrew University. We already look forward to future Polonsky Prize winners, who will join today's honorees, in making their mark through contributions of scholarly excellence.



With best wishes,

**Prof. Michael Segal**  
Dean  
The Faculty of Humanities





“Illusion versus Reality in the Study of Early Kabbalah:  
The Commentary on *Sefer Yetzira* Attributed to Isaac  
the Blind and Its History in Kabbalah and Scholarship,”  
*Tarbiz* (86:2-3 [2019]: 269-384).

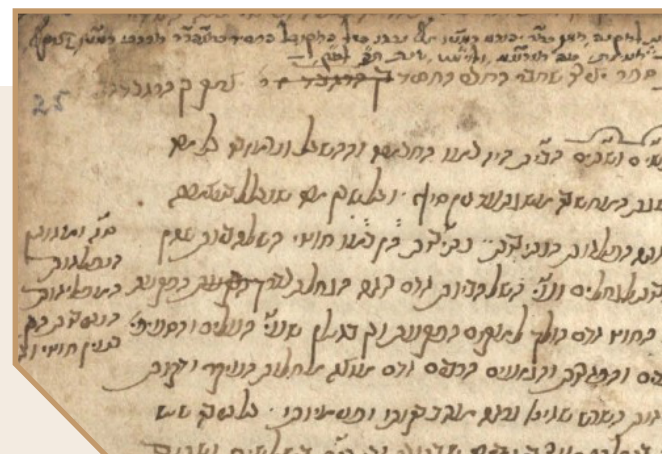
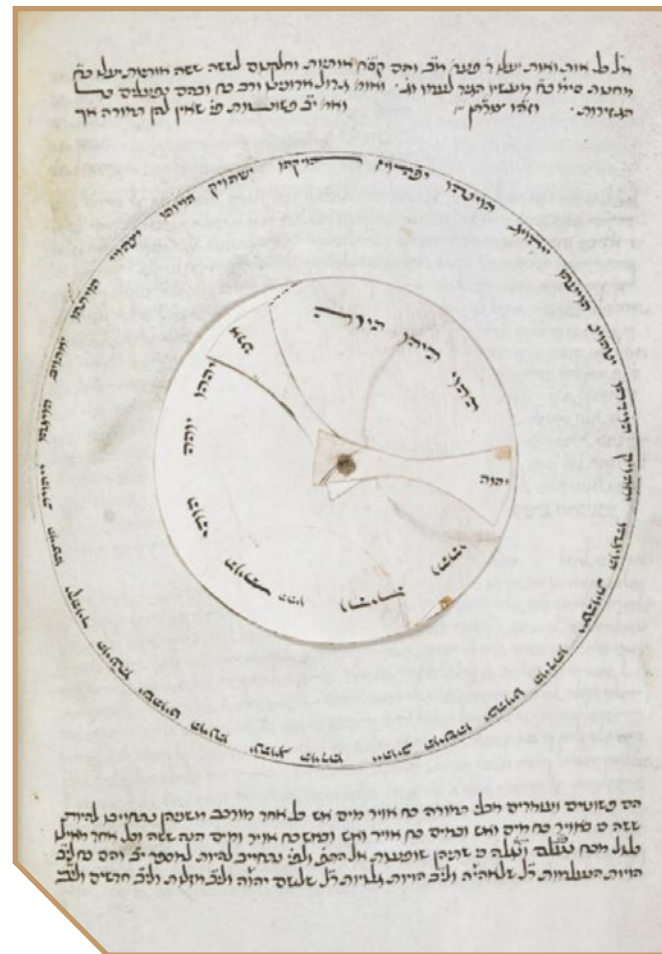
## Dr. Avishai Bar-Asher

Department of Jewish Thought

Faculty of Humanities

Avishai's current research focuses on reception theory, textual study, and intellectual history of Jewish esotericism in the Middle Ages. His first book, a critical edition of Moses de León's *Sefer Mishkan ha-Edut* is a study on a work composed by the prolific Castilian kabbalist considered to be the central figure responsible for the composition and early diffusion of the main part of *Sefer ha-Zohar*. His recent book *Journeys of the Soul Concepts and Imageries of Paradise in Medieval Kabbalah* covers the most decisive period in the history of Jewish speculation about the Garden of Eden, through an investigation of scientific paradigms, legendary traditions, theosophical texts, and theological polemics in the religious literature of the period. His current *ISF* project is entitled 'Eschatology in Jewish and Islamic Mysticism in al-Andalus/Sepharad'.

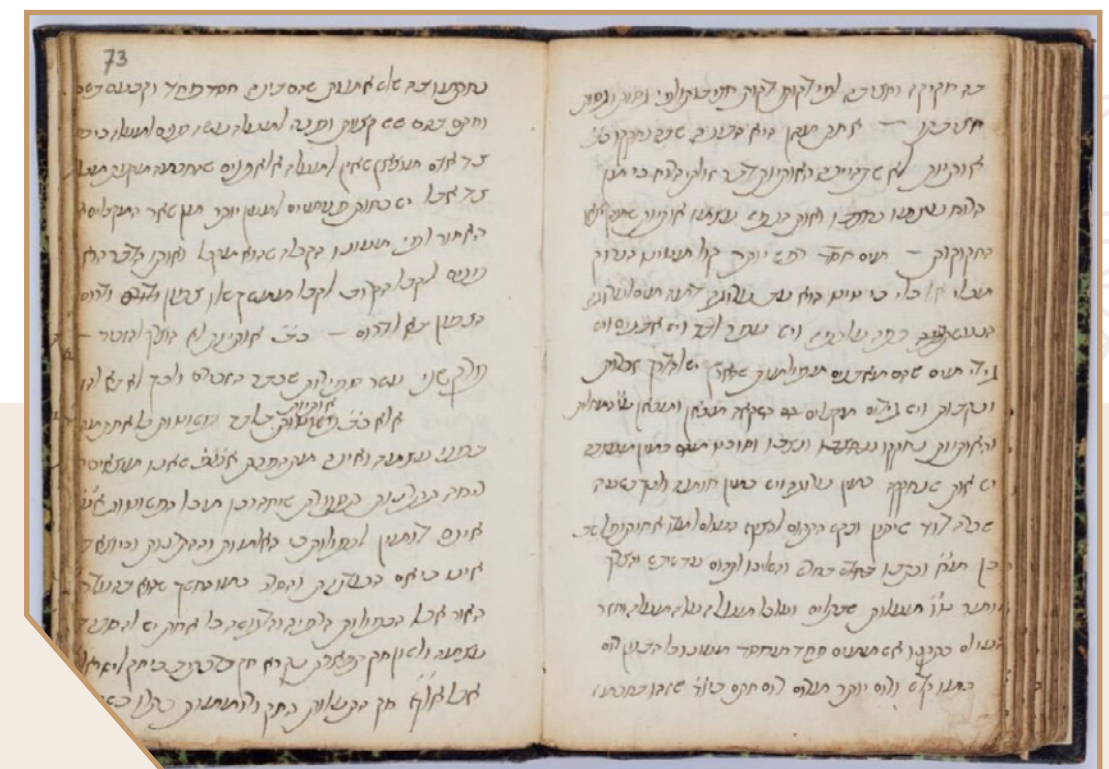
Avishai teaches at the Department of Jewish Thought and serves as the head of the Program in Jewish Studies. In recent years, he was awarded many prizes among them the Alex E. Berger Prize to an outstanding doctoral dissertation, the Golda Meir Prize for academic excellence, and *Matan'el* Prize for the Best Book in Jewish Thought Published During the Years 2018-2019.



This study inaugurated my new series of studies exploring the “origins of kabbalah,” in which I endeavor to critically reevaluate the historical-chronological, textual, and conceptual formation of the intellectual and social movement of the Middle Ages that we term “kabbalah.” These study challenges the prevailing narrative of kabbalah’s appearance from different angles, and together they propose a new alternative.

This article focuses on the history of what has come to be considered one of the few foundational works relevant to reconstructing kabbalah’s “origins”. With a preponderance of evidence amassed through a diverse set of methodologies, I prove that the attribution of this key work has no legs to stand on. Following a critical reappraisal of past scholarship, the article articulates a new theory about the context in which the spuriously attributed work was composed, concluding that it was produced in a different cultural milieu at a considerably later date than previously supposed.

These findings serve as the basis for a completely different account, which includes new historiographical lines of thought, an original proposal for characterizing the textual corpus (the anonymous and the attributed) linked to the earliest esotericists, and conceptual clarification of the fundamental ideas attributed to them in reliable traditions. These, in turn, can serve as building blocks for describing the circles of Jewish esotericists active in medieval western Europe, for rethinking their interrelationships, and, no less importantly, for identifying other schools of thought and works that might have had a hand in raising kabbalah in its infancy and in shaping its development.







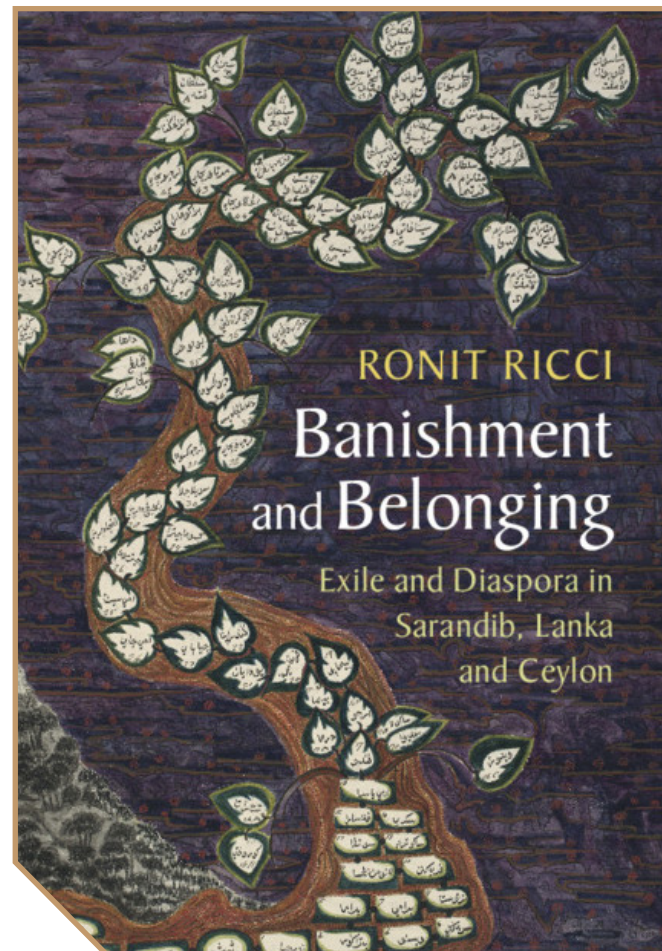
## Banishment and Belonging: exile and diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon

**Prof. Ronit Ricci**

**Department of Asian Studies**

**Faculty of Humanities**

Ronit Ricci is a Professor in the departments of Asian Studies and Comparative Religion. She holds the Sternberg-Tamir Chair in Comparative Cultures, is the Chair of the department of Asian Studies and Head of the Nehemia Levtzion Center for Islamic Studies. Her research interests include Javanese and Malay manuscript cultures, Translation Studies, and Islamic literatures of South and Southeast Asia. She teaches courses on Indonesian history and culture, on translation, and travel literature. She is the author of *Islam Translated: Literature, Conversion, and the Arabic Cosmopolis of South and Southeast Asia* (University of Chicago Press, 2011) and *Banishment and Belonging: exile and diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka and Ceylon* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), as well as editor of *Exile in Colonial Asia: Kings, Convicts, Commemoration* (University of Hawaii Press, 2016), and co-editor (with Greg Fealy) of *Contentious Belonging: The Place of Minorities in Indonesia* (ISEAS, 2019).



The island known variously as Ceylon, Lanka, and Sarandib, this book suggests, served as a concrete exilic site as well as a metaphor for contemplating and imagining exile across religious traditions, languages, regions and time: Sarandib, the site to which Adam was banished from Paradise; Lanka, where Sita languished in captivity; and Ceylon, faraway island of exile for

Indonesian royalty in the colonial period. Drawing on Malay manuscripts and documents from Sri Lanka, Javanese chronicles, and Dutch and British archival sources, the book considers histories and imaginings of displacement as they relate to the island through a study of the Sri Lankan Malays, and their historical, genealogical and literary connections to an exilic past.







1<sup>st</sup> Prize  
Post-Doctoral Researcher

## Eighteen Poets and a Half — A Literary Renaissance in Medieval Kerala

Dr. Sivan Goren

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel, School for Advanced Studies in the  
Humanities Department of Comparative Religion

Faculty of Humanities

Sivan Goren-Arzon received a Ph.D. in comparative religion from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2019. Her research uses literature composed in Kerala in the premodern and early modern periods to study the foundation and consolidation of South Asian vernacular literary cultures. The main question that motivates her research is how groups of individuals develop local literature after centuries of confining the composition of literary texts to the cosmopolitan language. She works on poetry composed between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries in Sanskrit and *Maṇipravāḷam*, a literary idiom combining Sanskrit with Kerala's spoken language. Her areas of interest include literary theory, vernacular literary cultures, South Asian poetics, Kerala's social history, and the study of women in premodern South Asia. She is currently a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows.



The focus of this dissertation is the development and consolidation of vernacular literature in Kerala, a region on the southwestern tip of the Indian subcontinent, between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries. In particular, it traces the links between this novel regional literature, termed *Maṇipravāḷam*, and cosmopolitan Sanskrit—a language that for centuries had been almost exclusively utilized for literary expression in Kerala as well as elsewhere in South Asia. *Maṇipravāḷam* literally means “rubies and coral.” As this metaphor implies, *Maṇipravāḷam* literature consists of two components—Kerala's spoken language (which later came to be known as Malayalam) and Sanskrit—combined into a single syntactical unit. While practically all Indian languages make some use of Sanskrit, *Maṇipravāḷam* is unique in that it incorporates in its syntax not only Sanskrit nouns but also Sanskrit nominal case endings and inflected verbs. Most premodern and early modern literature from Kerala was written in this idiom.

This investigation of a particular regional literary corpus invites wider questions (and answers) having to do with the contact between languages and literatures, the development of vernacular literary cultures, and the history of South Asia's rich poetic tradition. It also offers a new paradigm not only for understanding the cultural dynamics of premodern Kerala but also for analyzing the interaction between Sanskrit and Malayalam. This interaction has implications for a larger question in the study of Indian history, that is, the way in which a regional tradition defined itself vis-à-vis the universal Sanskrit tradition and, at the same time, radically transformed the Sanskrit literature written in that region. The dissertation is one of a number of recent scholarly efforts aimed at studying the South-Asian vernacular, an area often neglected in past scholarship in favor of the Indo-European and classical Sanskrit. This is the first such study consisting of in-depth research on and translation of selected *Maṇipravāḷam* poetry.







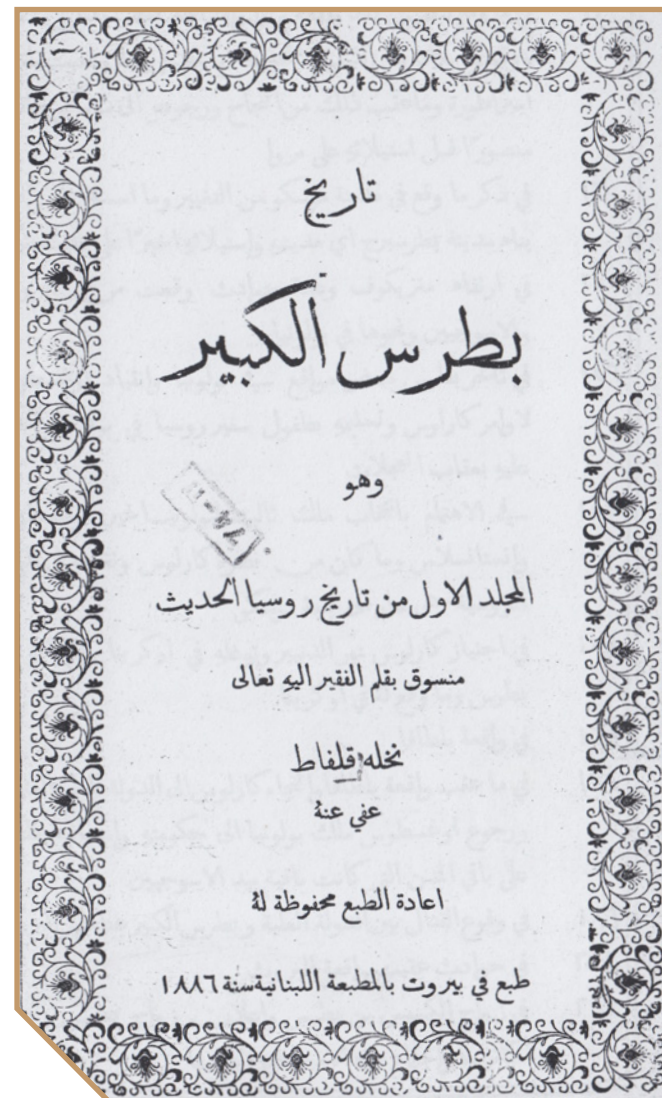
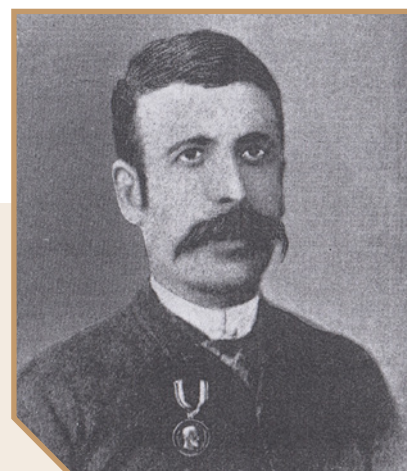
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize  
Post-Doctoral Researcher

## Dr. Nicole Khayat

Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

Faculty of Humanities

Nicole Khayat is a historian of the Middle East, focused on intellectual and socio-cultural history in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She received her Ph.D. in 2017 from the department of Middle East History at the University of Haifa. She has since concluded a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in an ERC project titled “A regional history of medicine in the Middle East” and is currently a Post-doctoral fellow of the School of Historical Studies at the Tel-Aviv University. She is also a teaching fellow at the Hebrew University. She has written and published about translation, Arabic textual production, historiography and medical history. She is currently working on her manuscript based on her dissertation and is co-editing two special issues. She is also co-chair and founding member of the Women Historians’ Forum at the Haifa Feminist Research Institute.

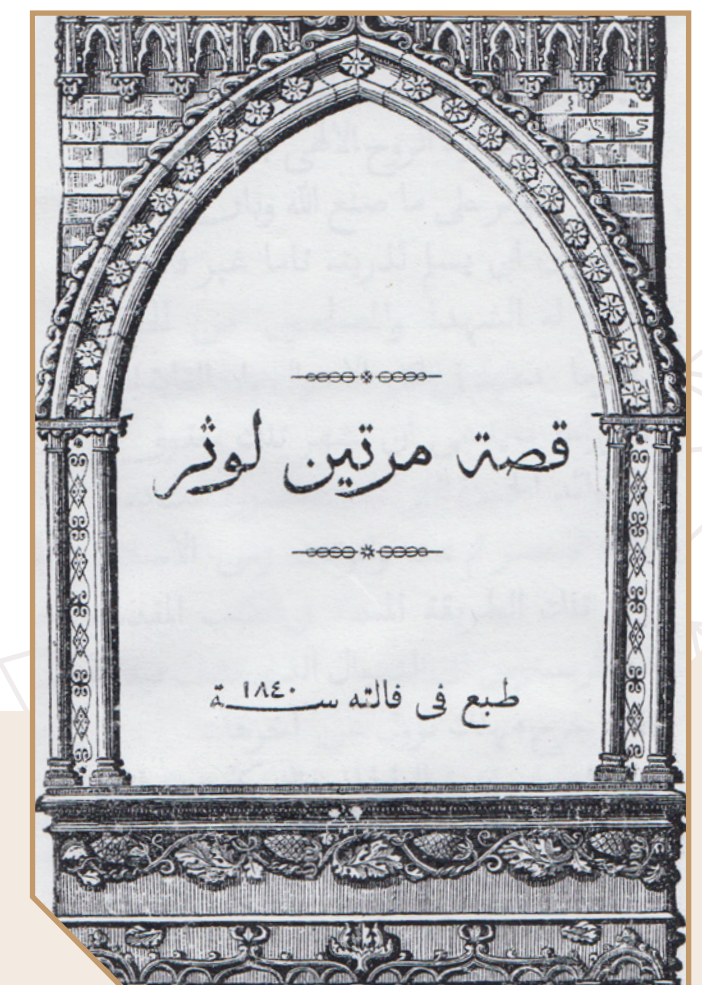


## Historiography and Translation during the Arabic Nahda: European History in Arabic

The Arabic *nahda*, as it has become known, was a major phenomenon in the social-cultural history of the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire during the long 19th century. This was a period of highly accelerated printed literary production in Arabic that both created and enabled discourses of self-reflection in which Arab litterateurs examined and re-evaluated aspects of their society and the world and negotiated what it meant to be modern. This reflective process created new unified references and focal points from which to view the Arab provinces in relation to the world.

In this study I examine perceptions of Europe in Arabic writings during the 19th century, focusing on a few specifically “modern” historical topics such as Martin Luther, the Protestant Reformation, and the biographies of Peter the Great. I ask what and why Arab literatures translated from, and wrote, about European history; what impact this had on socio-political and cultural concepts; and how these publications reflected and shaped the *nahda*.

I examine changes in historical writing not only as ways of imagining the past, but also of shifting perceptions of placement in three overlapping ways: in terms of space, time, and one’s relative position in the world. Part of the study therefore analyses how these changes in historiography redefined how litterateurs and readers perceived the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire in relation to the rest of the world. The dissertation demonstrated that Arab intellectuals used historiography as a tool to order, re-order, evaluate, compare, and interject oneself into a seemingly universal discourse in terms of content and form.







# Ph.D. or M.A. Student

# The Typology of Phonological Segment Borrowing

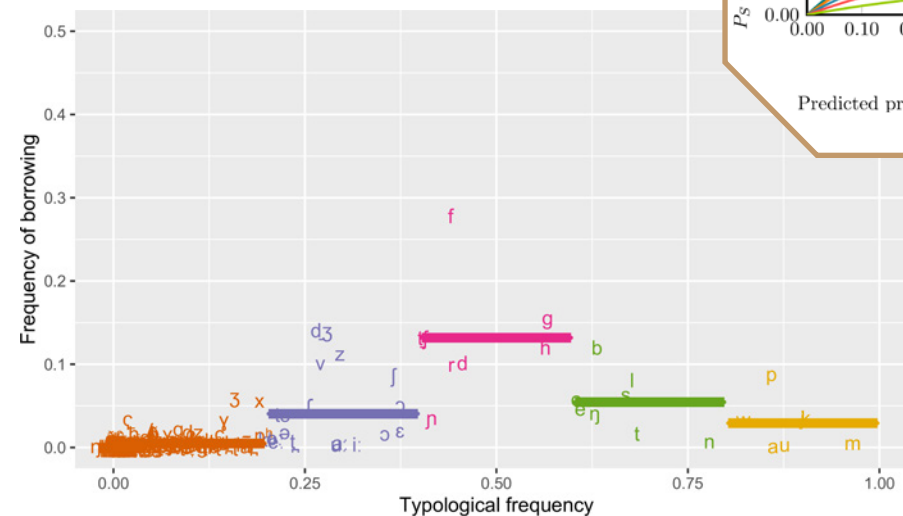
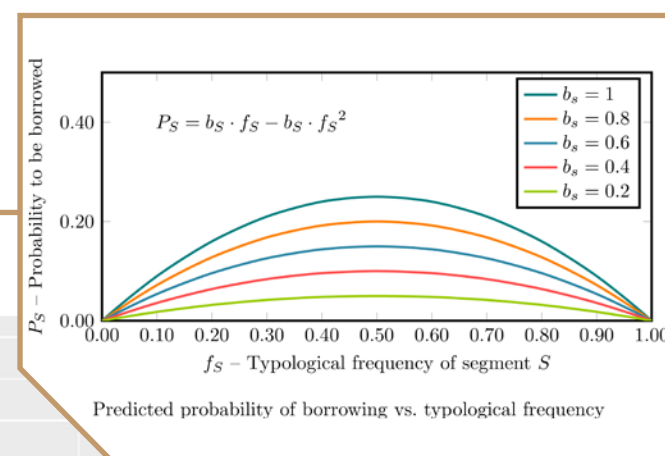
Mr. Elad Eisen  
Department of Linguistics  
Faculty of Humanities

**Supervisors:** Prof. Eitan Grossman and Dr. Steven Moran

Elad Eisen holds a B.A. in Linguistics and Hebrew Language and an M.A. in Linguistics, both from the Hebrew University. In his studies, he focused on Semitic languages and especially Neo-Aramaic. His research on grammaticalization in Neo-Aramaic was supported by the Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies.

Elad is a scholar in the digital humanities, who uses methods of quantitative research and statistics to analyze large databases. He works in the fields of historical linguistics and linguistic typology, which ask questions such as: How does language change over time? To what extent did language contact play a role in the history of modern and ancient tongues? How diverse can human languages be, and what features are common to all languages, if any?

His master's thesis investigates how languages adopt foreign sounds, and the factors that play a role in this process.



Frequency of borrowing vs. typological frequency, with average lines

All languages change. Often, these changes are the result of language contact.

A common contact-induced change is *lexical borrowing*, the introduction of a foreign word into a language. When a *foreign sound* is introduced to a language through lexical borrowing, the language is said to have borrowed a phonological segment. For example, the segment /tʃ/ was introduced into Modern Hebrew by loanwords such as /tʃips/ ‘french fries’, from English *chips*.

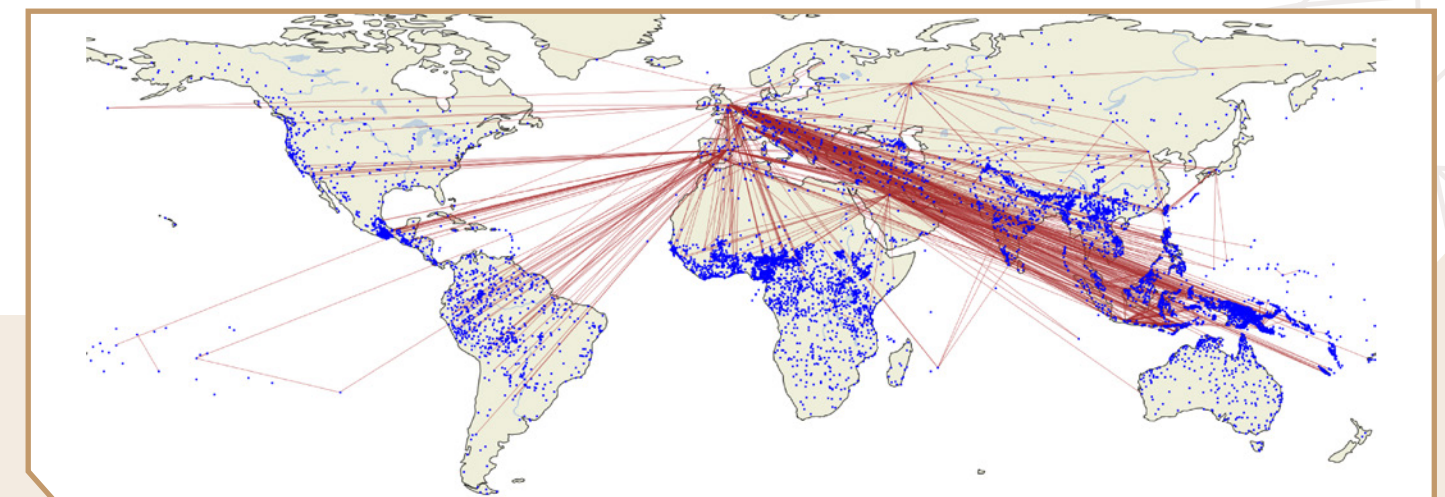
So far, phonological segment borrowing has not been the object of a wide-scale study. However, a recent study has addressed this lacuna and introduced SegBo, a first-of-its-kind database of borrowed segments in the world's languages, conducted by Prof. Eitan Grossman, Dr. Steven Moran, Dr. Dmitry Nikolaev, and Elad Eisen. In his master's thesis, Eisen demonstrates the broad spectrum of possibilities for research that can be carried out using the SegBo data.

The major theoretical contributions of this thesis, as well as important empirical findings, are in its treatment

of *borrowability*. Borrowability is a central concept in language contact research, reflecting the idea that some linguistic items are easier to borrow than others. Although common, this notion has never been properly defined.

Eisen proposes a definition that makes a clear distinction between borrowability and frequency of borrowing, a definition which is operationalized in a probabilistic model of segment borrowing. The model is innovative in taking into account how typological frequency affects the frequency of borrowing, and it makes a number of novel predictions, which are empirically tested and seem to hold.

This work sheds light on a hitherto under-explored domain at the intersection of phonology, language change, typology and language contact. It allows linguists, for the first time, to quantitatively assess the borrowability of sounds and to make better predictions about what sounds are likely to be borrowed in contact situations.



The largest segment donors in the database: Spanish, English, Arabic, Indonesian and Russian



# Previous Winners

2004-2019

THE POLONSKY PRIZES  
FOR CREATIVITY &  
ORIGINALITY IN THE  
HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES

At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## 2019

First Prize: **Prof. Ruth HaCohen (Pinczower) & Prof. Yaron Ezrahi**  
Musicology Department, Faculty of Humanities  
Composing Power, Singing Freedom, The Interplay of Music and Politics in the West

First Prize: **Prof. Maren Niehoff**  
Department of Jewish Thought  
Faculty of Humanities  
Philo of Alexandria. An Intellectual Biography

Post-Doctoral Researcher: **Dr. Hadar Feldman Samet**  
Department of Jewish Thought  
Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Faculty of Humanities  
The Songs of the Sabbatian Ma'aminim in their Ottoman Cultural Context

Graduate Student: **Qiao Yang**  
Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies  
Faculty of Humanities  
Like Stars in the Sky: Networks of Astronomers in Mongol Eurasia

Graduate Student: **Moishi Chechik**  
Department of Talmud and Halakha  
Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Faculty of Humanities  
The Struggle over Ashkenazi Legacy in Poland: The Printing of Shulhan Aruch in Poland and the Reactions to It

## 2018

First Prize: **Dr. Ayelet Even-Ezra**  
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities  
Schemata as Maps and Editing Tools in Thirteenth-Century Scholasticism

First Prize: **Dr. Abigail Jacobson**  
Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine

Post-Doctoral Researcher: **Dr. Michal Birkenfeld**  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities  
Changing Systems: Pre-Pottery Neolithic B Settlement Patterns in the Lower Galilee, Israel

Post-Doctoral Researcher: **Dr. Yanina Tchechanovets**  
Department of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities  
Armenian, Georgian and Albanian Communities in the Holy Land in the Byzantine and Early Islamic Periods

Ph.D. or M.A. Student: **Mr. Yehonatan Naeh**  
Department of Romance and Latin American Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
On Knowing Other People's Lives: A Study of La Galatea and Lazarillo de Tormes on the Background of the Spanish Inquisition

## 2017

First Prize: **Prof. Moshe Taube**  
Department of Linguistics & the Department of German, Russian and East European Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
THE LOGIKA OF THE JUDAIZERS: A Fifteenth-Century Ruthenian Translation from Hebrew, Critical Edition of the Slavic Texts Presented Alongside Their Hebrew Sources with Introduction, English Translation, and Commentary, Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities 2016.

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Second Prize: **Prof. Robert Brody**  
Department of Talmud and Halacha, Faculty of Humanities  
Mishnah and Tosefta Ketubbot: Text, Exegesis and Redaction

Young Researcher: **Dr. Michal Marmorstein**  
Department of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities  
Tense and Text in Classical Arabic: A Discourse-Oriented Study of the Classical Arabic Tense System.  
Leiden: Brill. 2016.

Young Researcher: **Ms. Bat-Ami Artzi**  
Department of Romance and Latin American Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
“...and they are Indians to be conquered”: The Incas’ Feminine Allegories of the Four Suyus in Archaeological and Ethno-historical Testimonies

MA/Doctoral Student: **Mr. Shraga Bick**  
Department of Comparative Religion, Faculty of Humanities  
“But I am Prayer”: Voice, Body and the Anthropology of the Praying Self in Rabbinic and Syriac-Christian Literature

**2016**  
First Prize: **Prof. Rina Talgam**  
Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities  
Mosaics of Faith: Floors of Pagans, Jews, Samaritans, Christians, and Muslims in the Holy Land

Second Prize: **Prof. Manuela Consonni**  
Department of Romance and Latin American Studies  
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry, and School of History Faculty of Humanities  
L’eclisse dell’Antifascismo. Resistenza, questione ebraica e cultura politica in Italia, 1943-1989

Young Researcher: **Dr. Yakir Paz**  
Department of Talmud and Halacha, Faculty of Humanities  
From Scribes to Scholars: Rabbinic Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Homeric Commentaries

Young Researcher: **Dr. Meron Piotrkowski**  
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry, Faculty of Humanities  
Priests in Exile: The History of the Temple of Onias and Its Community in the Hellenistic Period

MA/Doctoral Student: **Mr. Ray Schrire**  
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities  
Learning Latin in 16th and 17th Century England: Lily’s Grammar as a Case Study in Cognitive History

**2015**  
First Prize: **Dr. Yossi Maurey**  
Department of Musicology, Faculty of Humanities  
Medieval Music, Legend, and the Cult of St. Martin: The Local Foundations of a Universal Saint

Second Prize: **Prof. Yfaat Weiss**  
Department of the History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry, and the School of History, Faculty of Humanities  
Journey and Imaginary Journey: Leah Goldberg in Germany, 1930-1933

Young Researcher: **Dr. Joseph Witztum**  
Department of Arabic Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities  
The Syriac Milieu of the Quran: The Recasting of Biblical Narratives

Young Researcher: **Mr. Eli Osheroff**  
Department of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Where Did You Come From? The History of the Jewish People in Early Palestinian Historiography (1920-1948)

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**2014**  
First Prize: **Prof. Dror Wahrman**  
Department of History, Faculty of Humanities  
Mr. Collier’s Letter Racks: A Tale of Art and Illusion at the Threshold of the Modern Information Age

Second Prize: **Dr. Uzi Leibner**  
Institute of Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities  
The Origins of Jewish Settlement in the Galilee in the Second Temple Period: Historical Sources and Archaeological Data

Young Researcher: **Dr. Tawfiq Da’adli**  
The Martin Buber Society of Fellows, Faculty of Humanities  
The Pictorial Language of the Herat School of Painting: Two Nizāmī Manuscripts as a Case Study

Young Researcher: **Ms. Noa Nahmias**  
Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Displaying Patriotism: Narratives of the May 4th Movement in Chinese Museums

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prize: **Prof. Ronit Ricci**  
Departments of Comparative Religion and Asian Studies Faculty of Humanities  
The Sri Lankan Malays: Islam, Literature, and Diaspora across the Indian Ocean

**2013**  
First Prize: **Dr. Ofra Tirosh-Becker**  
Department of Hebrew and Jewish Languages, Faculty of Humanities  
Rabbinic Excerpts in Medieval Karaite Literature

Second Prize: **Dr. Shimon Gesundheit (Bar-On)**  
Department of Bible, Faculty of Humanities  
Three Times a Year: Studies on Festival Legislation in the Pentateuch

Young Researcher: **Dr. Yitzhak Freedman**  
Department of Comparative Religion, Faculty of Humanities  
Death, Performance and Text in the Early Upanisads

Young Researcher: **Mr. Ariel Zinder**  
Department of Hebrew Literature, Faculty of Humanities  
“Is This Thy Voice?” Rhetoric and Dialogue in Shlomo Ibn-Gabirol’s Poems of Redemption (‘Piyyutei Ge’ulah’)

Young Researcher: **Ms. Liat Naeh**  
Institute of Archeology, Faculty of Humanities  
Miniature Vessels and Seven-Cupped Bowls in the Middle Bronze Age Temple of Nahariya: Their Role and Meaning in Light of Cultic Miniature and Complex Vessels of the Middle Bronze Age

**2012**  
First Prize: **Prof. Ruth HaCohen**  
Department of Musicology  
The Music Libel against the Jews

Second Prize: **Dr. Yuval Noah Harari**  
Department of History  
A Brief History of Mankind

Young Researcher: **Dr. Aleksei Krakhmalnikov**  
Department of German, Russian and Eastern European Studies  
The Literature of the Belokrynitsa Old-Believers (1846-1862)

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Young Researcher: **Dr. Jennifer Oser**  
Federmann School of Public Policy and Government  
Expanded Citizen Participation and Participatory Inequality: A Vicious or Virtuous Circle?

MA/Doctoral Student: **MR. Yaron Girsh**  
School of Education and Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
“The Cultural Boundaries of Thinking”: Cultural Narratives in the Philosophy of Education of Friedrich Nietzsche and John Dewey

**2011**  
First Prize: **Prof. Maren R. Niehoff**  
Department of Jewish Thought  
Jewish Exegesis and Homeric Scholarship in Alexandria (Cambridge, 2011)

Second Prize: **Prof. Esther Cohen**  
Department of History  
The Modulated Scream: Pain in Late Medieval Culture. 1755-1816 (Chicago, 2010)

Young Researcher: **Dr. Maoz Kahana**  
Department of the History of the Jewish People  
From Prague to Pressburg: Halakhic Writing in a Changing World, from the “Noda B’Yehudah” to the “Hatam Sofer,” 1730-1839

MA/Doctoral Student: **Ms. Michal Altbauer Rudnik**  
Department of History  
The Wounds of Love Are Cured Only by Those Who Made Them: Prescribing Marriage for Lovesickness in Early Modern European Medical Writing

**2010**  
First Prize: **Prof. Yuri Pines**  
Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Envisioning Eternal Empire

Second Prize: **Dr. Pawel Maciejko**  
Department of Jewish Thought, Faculty of Humanities  
The Mixed Multitude: Jacob Frank and the Frankist Movement 1755-1816

**Dr. Simcha Kojman-Rozen**  
History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science Program, Faculty of Humanities  
Time and Emergence in Scientific Theories in England in the 19th Century

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Department of Jewish History, Faculty of Humanities  
The Bride of the Sea: The Tradition about Astarte and Yamm in the Ancient Near East

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The Ultimate Experience: Battlefield Revelations and the Making of Modern War Culture, 1450-2000

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Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
Fragments of the Tablets - Indian and Armenian Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
The Fullness of Emptiness: Nāgārjuna’s Thought in Light of the Yukti-sastika-karika and the Śūnyatā-saptati

Young Researcher: **Dr. Nira Alperson-Afil**  
Institute of Archeology, Faculty of Humanities  
Ancient Flames: Controlled Use of Fire at the Acheulian Site of Gesher Benot Ya’aqov, Israel

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Forum Europa, Faculty of Social Sciences  
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Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities  
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Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities  
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