

Adi Mahalel

New York, NY (646)-678-5420

amahalel@umd.edu

SUMMARY

- Visiting Assistant Professor of Yiddish Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- PhD in Yiddish Studies from Columbia University focusing on modern Jewish and Israeli culture and politics.
- Dynamic lecturer in English, Yiddish, and Hebrew.
- Areas of specialization include: cultural studies, artists as agents of social change, Jewish radicalism, Israel Studies.

EDUCATION

PhD in Yiddish Studies

Columbia University, New York, NY

Dissertation on the radical period (1890s) of the Yiddish and Hebrew writer I.L. Peretz, under the supervision of Professors Dan Miron and Jeremy Dauber. This work critically and comprehensively engages with the entire range of Peretz's literary output during this period in both Yiddish and Hebrew languages.

Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7916/D8FJ2DXD>

May, 2014

Master of Philosophy

Columbia University, New York, NY

Awarded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Germanic Languages.

Passed qualifying exams in History, Literature, and Literary Theory.

October, 2011

Master of Arts

Columbia University, New York, NY

Coursework focused on Yiddish and Hebrew literature, Jewish and general history, and comparative literature.

February, 2010

Bachelor of Arts, Honors

University of Haifa, Haifa, ISRAEL

Hebrew literature major; Ofakim Honors student. Coursework included major Hebrew works from Biblical to medieval to modern times, communication, and theater. Participant in exclusive scholarship program. Special coursework included supplementary seminars in philosophy, science, and literature. Elective courses in Yiddish and German languages, linguistics, and history.

June, 2007

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Participant in Summer Yiddish Programs for Teachers

At several institutions including Shalom Institute, Warsaw, Poland; Tel Aviv University, Israel; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York.

Summers 2007- 2011

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

Visiting Assistant Professor of Yiddish Studies, Department of Jewish Studies. Teach courses in the subjects of Yiddish culture, language, and literature, Jewish literature, and Israeli culture. Design and teach original courses including:

August, 2013 to

present

- **Jewish Humor From the Shtetl to Seinfeld** This course examines a broad range of Jewish humor in literature, press, comics, television, on stage and in film. The course will discuss questions like: What is Jewish humor? Does it stem essentially from the experience of an ex-territorial disadvantage minority? What becomes of it in the State of Israel?
- **Sex in Yiddish Literature** provides students with a unique exploration of texts by various Yiddish authors, with a focus on questions of gender and sexuality.
- **Introduction to Yiddish Literature** focuses on Yiddish literature from the early modern period through the late 20th century.
- **Introduction to Yiddish Culture** engages students with the many facets encompassed by Yiddish culture, from the writings of women in the early modern period in Europe, to Hassidism, to modern literature, to film and theatre, to politics and press, to contemporary popular culture.
- **Alternative Voices in Israeli Media and Popular Culture** presents a cross-examination of Yiddish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli cultures.

- **Radical Jewish Literature** focuses on literatures from America, Europe, and Israel from the past 150 years which exhibits a radical political tendency. This course seeks to help students critically examine their own place in society and history.
- **Introduction to Jewish Literature** covers a diverse range of texts from the Bible to Etgar Keret. It explores the very notion of a people's literature or *literatures*.
- **Yiddish language courses** from the beginner through advanced levels seek to expose students to a living, working language in an immersion environment. This challenge includes the development of fresh material for an online course.

Delivered courses in traditional classroom settings, online, and as hybrid (in person and online) formats.
Developed original curricula.

Contribution to the Field

Refereed on peer-reviewed journals *In geveb* and *Identities*

Book reviews coordinator for the journal *East European Jewish Affairs* (EEJA)

Yiddish Forward, New York, NY

Columnist. Contribute bi-monthly feature articles about cultural, political, and social issues in Yiddish.

Ongoing since May,
2011

YIVO Intensive Yiddish Summer Program, New York, NY

Instructor. Taught Intermediate II Yiddish language through texts and music. Responsible for planning, lecturing, grading, and instruction in an immersion style program.

Summer, 2011

Columbia University, New York, NY

Research Assistant. Researched, analyzed, and synthesized source material in Yiddish, Hebrew, and English for Professor Jeremy Dauber's book, *The Worlds of Sholem Aleichem*, (Random House, October 2013).

September, 2010 –
May, 2011

Germanics Department, Columbia University, New York, NY

Language Teacher. Contributed to development of refreshed interactive curriculum as participant in Columbia Curriculum Committee. Taught first-year Yiddish language (Beginner's I and II) in Yiddish, through texts, music, and film. Responsible for planning, lecturing, grading, and instruction in an immersion style program.

September, 2008 –
May, 2010

Department of Hebrew Literature, Haifa University, Israel

Teaching Assistant. Graded student papers, taught tutorials for *Introduction to Drama*.

September 2006- June
2007

PAPERS PRESENTED

AJS 48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, San Diego

Yiddish Scholarship and the Neo-Conservative Revolution

December, 2016

Sholem Aleichem 1916-2016: Writing Place, Jerusalem-Tel-Aviv

The Tavern in the Works of Sholem Aleichem - A Place for Just Bohemians and "Goyim"?

May 2016

I.L. Peretz and his Circle, Warsaw-Zamość

Revolutionizing the Means of Production and Radicalizing the Jewish Calendar in Peretz's the Yontef Bletlekh (video, from 1:07:00: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CcEns2hss>)

September, 2015

Yiddish Scholarship in Past and Present Scholarship, Jerusalem

Yiddish Scholarship and the Neo-Conservative Revolution

May, 2015

Tradition and the Avant-garde: Trilingual Literature of Polish Jews 100th Anniversary of I. L. Peretz's Death, Warsaw

The Radical Period of Y. L. Peretz: A Revisit

April, 2015

AJS 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Baltimore

Between Liberal Satire and Socialist Roots: I. L. Peretz's Hasidic Creations of the 1890s

December, 2014

The Xth Congress of the EAJS 2014, Paris

Heine's Political Influence on I. L. Peretz

July, 2014

AIS 30th Annual International Conference, Sede-Boqer

Beating Their Heads Against the Wall: I. L. Peretz Satires in Hebrew and in Yiddish against the Choveve Zion

June, 2014

- AJS 45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Boston** December, 2013
The Socialist Yiddish Poetry of I. L. Peretz
- The Sixteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem** July, 2013
Ambiguous Relations: I. L. Peretz and the Hebrew New Wave
- AJS 44TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Chicago** December, 2012
A Skeptical Mystical: I. L. Peretz's Two 1897 Takes on the Revolution
- XV. Symposium für Jiddische Studien in Deutschland, Universität Düsseldorf, Germany** September, 2012
"Di milkhome mit di yehudim vos hot zikh nokh nisht farendikt": a kuk oyf Yosl Birshteyns "Tsvishn eylbertrn" un zayn breytern politishn kontekst (Yiddish)
- AIS 28th Annual International Conference: "Multicultural Israel in a Global Perspective: Between One Society and Many Societies", University of Haifa, Israel** June, 2012
"The War With The Jews That Had Not Yet Ended": Yossel Birstein's Israeli Yiddish Story, "Between the Olive Trees" and its Broader Political Context.
- Jewish Spirituality in Eastern Europe — A Textual Perspective, University College London, England** June, 2012
Between Liberal Satire and Socialist Roots: Peretz's Hasidic Creations of the 1890's (abstract: <http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/jewish-spirituality/abstracts/liberal/>)
- "The New" Colloquium, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Israel** June, 2012
In Postvogn: Imagining the National-feminist and Creating a New Path for Yiddish Literature.
- YIVO Yiddish Language Seminars** Spring, 2012
A kuk af Yosl Birshteyn's "Tsvishn Eylbertrn" un zayn breytern politishin kontekst (audio: <http://www.yivoinstitute.org/video/index.php?tid=192&aid=1092>).
- Symposium International Yiddish Theater Festival, Segal Center, Montreal** June, 2011
The World of Sholem Aleichem... But What Would it Be Without Peretz? "Bontche the Silent" on the English-American Stage and Screen.
- Symposium für Jiddische Studien in Deutschland, Universitaet Triers** September, 2009
Eyn pogrom, tsvey lider: a farglaykhiker kuk oyf Telers un Molodovskis poezye vegn dem pogrom in Brisk.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

- "We Will Not Be Silent: I.L. Peretz's *Bontshe The Silent* vs. 1950's McCarthyism in America," *Studies in American Jewish Literature*, Volume 35, Number 2, pp. 204-230. Fall 2015
- Yiddish, Israel, and the Palestinians in Yosl Birshteyn's 'Between the Olive Trees'," *Israel Studies Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Volume 30, Issue 2, Winter 2015: 71-91. Winter 2015
- "Weaving The Revolution: Peretz The Social Protest Writer," *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. Online version in: <http://ingeveb.org/articles/weaving-the-revolution-i-l-peretz-the-social-protest-writer> May 2016
- "Revolutionizing the Means of Artistic Production and Radicalizing the Jewish Calendar in the *Yontef Bletlekh*," (Hebrew) *Kesher: Journal of Media and Communications History in Israel and the Jewish World*, Volume 48, Summer 2016: 59-64. Summer 2016

BOOK CHAPTERS

- "To Be A Fighter With Both Fists! Peretz the Radical Hebrew Writer." *The Trilingual Literature of Polish Jews from Different Perspectives: In Memory of I.L. Peretz*, edited by Alina Molisak, Shoshana Ronen, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017, pp. 284-297. August, 2017
- "*Nit dos dorf, nit di kretshme*. Speaking About Jewish Taverns in the Works of Sholem Aleichem," in *There's a Jewish Way of Saying Things: A Volume of Essays and Other Literary Contributions Honoring David Roskies* Forthcoming: March, 2018
- "I. L. Peretz's "*In Postvogn*": Imagining the Jewish Woman and Creating a New Path for Yiddish Literature," (Hebrew) *Peretz Book*. Forthcoming: 2018

TRANSLATIONS

- Translation of Yosl Birshteyn's "Between the Olive Trees" from Yiddish to English, *Metamorphoses: Journal of the Five-College Seminar on Literary Translation* 23.1 (2015): 27–33 Spring 2015
- Introduction and Translation of Moyshe-Leyb Halpern's "My Only Son" from Yiddish to Hebrew, *Haaretz*. June 13, 2016
Online version: <http://www.haaretz.co.il/literature/poetry/.premium-1.2972499>
- Translation of Lili Maylat's "Between Evening and Morning Prayers" from Hebrew to Yiddish, *Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal* 364-365, 38-40. Summer-Autumn, 2014
- Introduction and Translation of Yankev Glatshetyn's "Qibya" from Yiddish to English, *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. Available online at: <http://ingeveb.org/texts-and-translations/qibya> February 2016
- Translation of Yosl Birshteyn's "Between the Olive Trees" from Yiddish to Hebrew in *Collected Yiddish Israeli Prose* (working title), Shachar Pinsker (ed), Tel Aviv. Forthcoming, 2017

BOOK REVIEWS

- "Yiddish Culture Peaked After 1945," review of '*Survivors and Exiles: Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust*,' by Jan Schwarz (Hebrew), *Haaretz*. Available online at: <http://www.haaretz.co.il/literature/study/.premium-1.3024925> August 7, 2016
- "Crossovers: The Hasidic Master and the Jewish Jesus," Review of '*Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity, and the Construction of Modern Judaism*,' by Shaul Magid, *H-Net Reviews*. Available online at: <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=43201> September, 2015
- Review of '*Survivors and Exiles: Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust*,' by Jan Schwarz, *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies* 34.2 (2016): 128-130. Spring, 2016
- Review of '*Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity, and the Construction of Modern Judaism*,' by Shaul Magid, (Hebrew) *Identities: Journal for Jewish Culture and Identity*, Volume 8. Summer, 2017

ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS

- Regular contributor to the *Yiddish Forward*, writing about cultural, political, and social issues (Yiddish). Most contributions are available online in Yiddish at: <http://yiddish.forward.com/taxonomy/term/732>, and at: <http://yiddish-preview.forward.com/authors/אָדיר-מַהלאַאָל>. Ongoing since May, 2011

Selected translations of *Yiddish Forward* articles into other languages:

- "New Folksbiene Play: Singing Against Trump's America," *Jewish Daily Forward*, August 2, 2017. Available at: <http://forward.com/yiddish/378872/new-folksbiene-play-singing-against-trumps-america/> .
- "EXCLUSIVE: Did Writer Sholem Asch Reject His Orphaned Nephews?," *Jewish Daily Forward*, March 15, 2017. Available at: <http://forward.com/yiddish/366151/exclusive-did-writer-sholem-asch-reject-his-orphaned-nephews/> .
- "Can an Orthodox Jew See the World Through Palestinian Eyes?," *Jewish Daily Forward*, September 23, 2016. Available at: <http://forward.com/culture/350563/can-an-orthodox-jew-see-the-world-through-palestinian-eyes/> .
- "La Nakba palestinese nella poesia ebraica," translation from Yiddish to Italian by Margherita Pascucci, pubblicato in Forverts, *The Yiddish Daily Forward*, 28 Marzo 2014 edizione del 25 Aprile 2014. Available at: <http://www.fondazioneqp2.org/?p=3414> .
- "Interpreting Yiddish in Germany: Impressions of the Symposium for Yiddish Studies," translation from Yiddish to English by Alan and Jill Todres, *Yiddish Daily Forward*, September 28, 2012. Available at: http://www.chicagoyivo.org/pdfs/YIVO_Bulletin_Summer_2013_web.pdf
- "The Logic of the Ridiculous in I. L. Peretz's "The Rabbi's Pipe"," (Hebrew) *Mikan Ve'eylakh: Journal for Diasporic Hebrew* Under Review
- "The Journalist Warrior, Yitzhak Luden," (Yiddish) *Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal* 372-373, 46-49. Summer-Fall 2016
- "I. L. Peretz," "S.Y. Abramovitsh," and "Yiddish Literature 1864-1939," encyclopedia entries for *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism* May, 2016
- "Between Shavit and Omar in 2014," (Yiddish) *Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture* 735-736, 19-20. Also available online at: <http://www.lebnsfragn.com/bin/articles.cgi?ID=1412> May –June 2014
- "Did Godot Expect the Jewish Mother-Tongue?," (Yiddish) *Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture* 731-732, 10-11. Also available online at: <http://www.lebnsfragn.com/bin/articles.cgi?ID=1356> November –December 2013

"Kadia Molodowsky's Poetry About the Pogrom in Brisk," (Yiddish) <i>Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture</i> 729-730, 15-17. Also available online at: http://www.lebnsfragn.com/bin/articles.cgi?ID=1331	August –September 2013
"Concerning Leyb Teller's Two Sorts of Textual Testimonies of the Pogrom in Brisk," (Yiddish) <i>Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture</i> 723-724, 17-19. Also available online at: http://www.lebnsfragn.com/bin/articles.cgi?ID=1288	March-April 2013
"The War with the Jews That Still Is Not Over": A Look at Yosl Birshteyn's " <i>Between the Olive Trees</i> " and Its Broader Political Context," (Yiddish) <i>Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal</i> 356-357, 28-35.	Summer-Fall, 2012
" <i>Divided workers burn cold</i> ," "A poem written a hundred years after the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. (Yiddish) <i>Gilgulim: Yiddish Literary Magazine</i> 3, 52-53.	Spring, 2012
"A Dovish Voice Here it Comes," (Hebrew) <i>Ha-okets: A critical platform on economic, society, politics, media and culture issues</i> (2012) (article: http://www.haokets.org/2012/01/16)	Accessed September 17, 2012

LANGUAGES

Hebrew: mother tongue. **English:** fluent. **Yiddish:** excellent. **German:** good. **French** basic.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Honorary Fellow in East European Jewish Studies at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research	2013-2014
Dissertation Fellowship, National Foundation for Jewish Culture.	2012-2013
Irene C. Fromer Fellowship in Jewish Studies at Columbia University	2009

NON-ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore Late Night on Lloyd Street: The Best Yiddish Workshop Ever!	January, 2014
MSC SPECIAL EVENTS, New York LET'S LEARN YIDDISH. Presentation to mixed audience on the history of Yiddish with an introduction to basic phases.	June, 2014
"No Place on Earth" Yiddish voice actor in documentary film.	Summer 2012