

Adi Mahalel

New York, NY

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SUMMARY

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

EDUCATION

PhD in Yiddish Studies

Columbia University, New York, NY

May, 2014

Dissertation on the radical period (1890s) of Hebrew and Yiddish writer I. L. Peretz, under the supervision of Professors Dan Miron (Hebrew) and Jeremy Dauber (Yiddish). This work critically engages with Peretz's literary output during this period in both Yiddish and Hebrew, in relation to his involvement with progressive Jewish politics. Available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.7916/D8FJ2DXD>

Master of Philosophy

Columbia University, New York, NY

October, 2011

Awarded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Department of Germanic Languages. Passed qualifying exams in History, Literature, and Literary Theory.

Master of Arts

Columbia University, New York, NY

February, 2010

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

Bachelor of Arts, Honors

University of Haifa, Haifa, ISRAEL

June, 2007

Hebrew and comparative 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.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Summer Yiddish programs for teachers:

Summers 2007- 2011

Shalom Institute, Warsaw, Poland; Tel Aviv University, Israel; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York; Yiddish Book Center.

Yiddish Pedagogy Program, Yiddish Book Center, MA

2018-2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

August, 2013 to

Visiting Assistant Professor of Yiddish Studies, Department of Jewish Studies. Teach courses in the subjects of Hebrew and Yiddish culture, language, and literature, Jewish literature, and Israeli culture. Delivered courses in traditional classroom settings, online, and as hybrid (in-person and online) formats. Developed original curricula courses including:

present

- **Yiddish language courses.** From the beginner through advanced levels, these courses expose students to a living, working language in an immersion environment. This challenge includes the development of fresh material for online courses. In advanced levels we read a selection of Yiddish literary texts in their original language.
- **Merchants, Rabbis and Schmaltz: The Politics of Jews and Film** This course looks at the different ways Jews and Jewishness have been represented in cinema over time. And the ways Jewish and non-Jewish filmmakers have used the cinematic medium to construct or deconstruct Jewish identity. Students investigate different types of representations of Jews, asking how they operate in the context of the broader film traditions, and more.
- **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. It discusses questions such as:

What is Jewish humor? Does it stem essentially from the experience of an ex-territorial disadvantaged minority? How does it change in the State of Israel?

- **Sexuality in Jewish Culture.** This course provides students with a unique exploration of texts and films by diverse Jewish authors and filmmakers, with a focus on questions of gender and sexuality.
- **Alternative Voices in Israeli Media and Popular Culture.** This course presents a cross-examination of Yiddish-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli cultures through literature, film, and television series.
- **Introduction to Jewish Literature.** This foundational course covers a wide range of texts from the Hebrew Bible to Israeli post-modernist Israeli author Etgar Keret. It explores the very notion of a people's literature or *literatures*.
- **Radical Jewish Literature.** Focusing on literatures from America, Europe, and Israel over the past 150 years, this course explores texts that exhibit a radical political tendency. This primary goal of this course is to help students critically examine their own place in society and history.
- **Jewish Culture and the Production of an Identity** Provides students with a unique exploration of cultural products produced by a diverse array of Jewish creators of literature, comedy and film, touching on the central social, economic, and cultural issues of Jews and their encounters with modernity. It explores the work of contemporary and recent creators such as Tiffany Haddish, Larry David, Sholem Aleichem, Adam Sandler, S. Y. Abramovitsch, Judd Apatow, Philip Roth, Amy Schumer, I. B. Singer, Ben Stiller, Franz Kafka, Dan Levy, opening a window to the diverse methods of construction of modern Jewish identities.

Contributions to the Field

Refereed peer-reviewed journals *In geveb* and for the Israeli journal *Identities*

Book reviews coordinator for the journal *East European Jewish Affairs* (EEJA) focused on research books published in Hebrew.

Yiddish Forward, New York, NY

2011-2017

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

YIVO Intensive Yiddish Summer Program, New York, NY

Summer, 2011

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

YIVO Intensive Yiddish Summer Program, Remote Teaching

Summer, 2022

Taught Intermediate I Yiddish literature. Responsible for developing course plans, lecturing, grading, and instruction in an immersion style program.

Columbia University, New York, NY

September, 2010 –

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).

May, 2011

Germanics Department, Columbia University, New York, NY

September, 2008 –

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.

May, 2010

Department of Hebrew Literature, Haifa University, Israel

September 2006- June

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

2007

LANGUAGES

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

PAPERS PRESENTED and INVITED TALKS GIVEN

Invited talk, The University of Texas at Austin

October, 2022

The Tunnels and Chains in the Hebrew and Yiddish Works of Ayalti

World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

August, 2022

Hebrew Zionism and Yiddish Communism in the Works of Ayalti

BIAJS annual conference, London	July, 2022
The Burrows and Chains in the Hebrew and Yiddish Works of Ayalti	
Invited talk, LMU München	May, 2018
The Radical Peretz: Voyages of a Yiddish Intellectual	
MLA annual conference, New York	January, 2018
Neoconservative Yiddish Scholarship	
AJS 48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, San Diego	December, 2016
Yiddish Scholarship and the Neo-Conservative Revolution	
Sholem Aleichem 1916-2016: Writing Place, Jerusalem-Tel-Aviv	May 2016
The Tavern in the Works of Sholem Aleichem - A Place for Just Bohemians and "Goyim"?	
I.L. Peretz and his Circle, Warsaw-Zamość	September, 2015
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)	
Yiddish Scholarship in Past and Present Scholarship, Jerusalem	May, 2015
Yiddish Scholarship and the Neo-Conservative Revolution	
Tradition and the Avant-garde: Trilingual Literature of Polish Jews 100th Anniversary of I. L. Peretz's Death, Warsaw	April, 2015
The Radical Period of Y. L. Peretz: A Revisit	
AJS 46TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Baltimore	December, 2014
Between Liberal Satire and Socialist Roots: I. L. Peretz's Hasidic Creations of the 1890s	
The Xth Congress of the EAJS 2014, Paris	July, 2014
Heine's Political Influence on I. L. Peretz	
AIS 30th Annual International Conference, Sede-Boqer	June, 2014
<i>Beating Their Heads Against the Wall</i> : I. L. Peretz Satires in Hebrew and in Yiddish against the Choveve Zion	
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
<i>"Di milkhome mit di yehudim vos hot zikh nokh nisht farendikt"</i> : a kuk oyf Yosl Birshteyns "Tsvishn eylbertn" 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
<i>"The War with The Jews That Had Not Yet Ended"</i> : 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
<i>Between Liberal Satire and Socialist Roots: Peretz's Hasidic Creations of the 1890's</i> (abstract: http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/jewish-spirituality/abstracts/liberal/)	
"The New" Colloquium, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Israel	June, 2012
<i>In Postvagon</i> : Imagining the National-feminist and Creating a New Path for Yiddish Literature.	
YIVO Yiddish Language Seminars	Spring, 2012
<i>A kuk af Yosl Birshteyn's "Tsvishn Eylbertn" un zayn breytern politishin kontekst</i> (audio: http://www.yivoinstitute.org/video/index.php?tid=192&aid=1092).	
Symposium International Yiddish Theater Festival, Segal Center, Montreal	June, 2011
<i>The World of Sholem Aleichem... But What Would It Be Without Peretz? "Bontche the Silent" on the English-American Stage and Screen.</i>	

PUBLICATIONS	
BOOKS	
<i>The Radical Isaac: I. L. Peretz and the Rise of Jewish Socialism</i> , SUNY Press. Available for order at: https://sunypress.edu/Books/T/The-Radical-Isaac	April 2023
<i>Boom and Chains</i> by Hanan Ayalit, Translation from Yiddish and scholarly Introduction	In perpetration
<i>Modern Jewish Literature and the Rise of Film</i>	In development
PEER-REVIEWED	
"We Will Not Be Silent: I.L. Peretz's <i>Bontshe The Silent</i> vs. 1950's McCarthyism in America," <i>Studies in American Jewish Literature</i> , Volume 35, Number 2, pp. 204-230.	Fall 2015
Yiddish, Israel, and the Palestinians in Yosel Birshteyn's 'Between the Olive Trees'," <i>Israel Studies Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal</i> , Volume 30, Issue 2, Winter 2015: 71-91.	Winter 2015
"Weaving The Revolution: Peretz The Social Protest Writer," <i>In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies</i> . (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 <i>Yontef Bletlekh</i> ," (Hebrew) <i>Kesher: Journal of Media and Communications History in Israel and the Jewish World</i> , Volume 48, Summer 2016: 59-64.	Summer 2016
"Yiddish, Scholarship, and Neoconservatism," <i>AJS Review</i> , 44:1 (Spring 2020), 119-147.	Spring 2020
" <i>Nit dos dorf, nit di kretshme</i> : Speaking About Jewish Taverns in the Works of Sholem Aleichem." <i>In geveb</i> , June 2020: https://ingeveb.org/articles/speaking-about-jewish-taverns-sholem-aleichem .	Summer 2020
BOOK CHAPTERS	
"To Be a Fighter with Both Fists!': Peretz as a Radical Hebrew Writer," in Molisak, Alina, and Shoshana Ronen. 2017. <i>The trilingual literature of Polish Jews from different perspectives: in memory of I.L. Peretz</i> , pp. 284-297.	2017
"I. L. Peretz's ' <i>In Postvogn</i> ': Imagining the Jewish Woman and Creating a New Path for Yiddish Literature," (Hebrew) <i>Peretz Book</i> .	Forthcoming
"A Yiddish Conservative, The Less Known Side of Yitzhok Bashevis Singer," in Schwarz Jan, <i>Bashevis Book</i>	Forthcoming
TRANSLATIONS	
Translation of Yosel Birshteyn's "Between the Olive Trees" from Yiddish to English, <i>Metamorphoses: Journal of the Five-College Seminar on Literary Translation</i> 23.1 (2015): 27—33	Spring 2015
Introduction and Translation of Moyshe-Leyb Halpern's "My Only Son" from Yiddish to Hebrew, <i>Haaretz</i> . Online version: http://www.haaretz.co.il/literature/poetry/.premium-1.2972499	June 13, 2016
Translation of Lili Maylat's "Between Evening and Morning Prayers" from Hebrew to Yiddish, <i>Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal</i> 364-365, 38-40.	Summer-Autumn, 2014
Introduction and Translation of Yankev Glatshteyn's "Qibya" from Yiddish to English, <i>In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies</i> . Available online at: http://ingeveb.org/texts-and-translations/qibya , recently used by the Yiddish punk band Koyt Far Dayn Gedakht.	February 2016
Translation of Yosel Birshteyn's " <i>Between the Olive Trees</i> " from Yiddish to Hebrew in <i>Collected Yiddish Israeli Prose</i> (working title), Shachar Pinsker (ed), Tel Aviv. Also available online at: https://iberzets.org/art-translation/%d7%a6%d7%95%d7%95%d7%99%d7%a9%d7%9f-%d7%90%d7%99%d7%99%d7%9c%d7%91%d7%a2%d7%a8%d7%98%d7%9f/	Forthcoming

	Introduction and Translation of Yankev Glatshteyn's "Qibya" from Yiddish to Hebrew, <i>Iberzets: Hamakom shel Yiddish Be'ivrit</i> . Available online at: https://iberzets.org/art-translation/%d7%a7%d7%99%d7%91%d7%99%d7%90%d6%b7-2/	March 2023
	BOOK REVIEWS	
	"Yiddish Culture Peaked After 1945," review of <i>'Survivors and Exiles: Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust,'</i> by Jan Schwarz (Hebrew), <i>Haaretz</i> . 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 <i>'Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity, and the Construction of Modern Judaism,'</i> by Shaul Magid, <i>H-Net Reviews</i> . Available online at: https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=43201	September, 2015
	Review of <i>'Survivors and Exiles: Yiddish Culture after the Holocaust,'</i> by Jan Schwarz, <i>Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies</i> 34.2 (2016): 128-130.	Spring, 2016
	Review of <i>'Hasidism Incarnate: Hasidism, Christianity, and the Construction of Modern Judaism,'</i> by Shaul Magid, (Hebrew) <i>Identities: Journal for Jewish Culture and Identity</i> , Volume 8.	2017
	Review of <i>The Stage as a Temporary Home: On Dzigán and Schumacher's Theater (1927-1980)</i> , by Diego Rotman, <i>East European Jewish Affairs</i>	Spring, 2020
	Review of <i>Yiddish in Israel: A History</i> , by Rachel Rojanski, <i>Israel Studies Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal</i> , Volume 35, Issue 3, Winter 2020.	Winter 2020
	Review of <i>Zionism and Melancholy: The short Life of Israel Zarchi</i> by Nitzan Lebovic, <i>Israel Studies Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal</i> . (1-3)	Spring 2021
	ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS	
	Regular contributor to the <i>Yiddish Forward</i> , 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/אורי-מהלאך/ .	2011-2017
	Selected translations of <i>Yiddish Forward</i> articles into other languages: "Can an Orthodox Jew See the World Through Palestinian Eyes?," <i>Jewish Daily Forward</i> , September 23, 2016. Available at: http://forward.com/culture/350563/can-an-orthodox-jew-see-the-world-through-palestinian-eyes/?attribution=home-hero-item-text-3 . "La Nakba palestinese nella poesia ebraica," translation from Yiddish to Italian by Margherita Pascucci, pubblicato in Forverts, <i>The Yiddish Daily Forward</i> , 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, <i>Yiddish Daily Forward</i> , September 28, 2012. Available at: http://www.chicagovivo.org/pdfs/YIVO_Bulletin_Summer_2013_web.pdf	
	"The Journalist Warrior, Yitzhak Luden," (Yiddish) <i>Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal</i> 372-373, 46-49.	Summer-Fall 2016
	"I. L. Peretz," "S.Y. Abramovitch," and "Yiddish Literature 1864-1939," encyclopedia entries for <i>Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism</i>	May, 2016
	"Between Shavit and Omar in 2014," (Yiddish) <i>Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture</i> 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) <i>Lebns Fragn: A Socialist Monthly-Journal for Politics, Society, and Culture</i> 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 "Between the Olive Trees" and Its Broader Political Context," (Yiddish) <i>Afn Shvel: Social-Literary Journal</i> 356-357, 28-35.	Summer-Fall, 2012
	"Divided workers burn cold," "A poem written a hundred years after the Triangle Shirtwaist fire. (Yiddish) <i>Gilgulim: Yiddish Literary Magazine</i> 3, 52-53.	Spring, 2012

<p>"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)</p>	<p>Accessed September 17, 2012</p>
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SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellowship	2020-2021
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

Daniel Mann Literary Luminaries Lecture, Congregation Beth El at Montgomery County	Winter, 2021
<p>The Jewish Tavern in the Works of Sholem Aleichem, recording available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyRo8fEbU7w</p>	Fall, 2018
<p>INDECENT, Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, Washington DC Assistance with Yiddish pronunciation.</p>	
<p>Jewish Museum of Maryland, Baltimore Late Night on Lloyd Street: The Best Yiddish Workshop Ever!</p>	January, 2014
<p>MSC SPECIAL EVENTS, New York LET'S LEARN YIDDISH. Presentation to mixed audience on the history of Yiddish with an introduction to basic phases.</p>	June, 2014
<p>"No Place on Earth" Yiddish voice actor in documentary film.</p>	Summer 2012