



THE POLONSKY PRIZES

For Creativity
& Originality
In The Humanistic
Disciplines

 The Hebrew University Of Jerusalem
BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2023


**SUSTAINABLE
PLANET**

JUNE 2023



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.

2023 PRIZE WINNERS

DR. KARMA BEN JOHANAN

Category: Researcher

First Prize

Jacob's Younger Brother: Christian–Jewish Relations after Vatican II (Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2022)

DR. YAKIR PAZ

Category: Researcher

Second Prize

From Scribes to Scholars: Rabbinic Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Homeric Commentaries (Tübingen: Mohr Siebrek Ek, 2022)

DR. NORA DERBAL

Category: Post-Doctoral Researcher

First Prize

Charity in Saudi Arabia: Civil Society under Authoritarianism (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022)

MR. AMI ASYAG

Category: Ph.D. or M.A. Students

The Corpus of Prayers from Girsu—NFT 202–211: The Earliest Sumerian Emesal Prayers

MR. YAKIR ARIEL

Category: Ph.D. or M.A. Students

The Emergence of The Nose: Opera as an Epistemological Metaphor for Complexity Theories of Cities



DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Since its founding in 1928, our faculty has been the country's leader in research and teaching of the humanities. Our faculty's researchers produce scholarship of the highest quality, making uncounted contributions to the world of knowledge in the process. We are the world leader in Jewish Studies, and also strive to excel in the study of Western civilization alongside Asian and African cultures. Our reputation and our international rankings continue to rise from year to year, and we find it important to present incentives to help maintain this progress.

The Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines, established in 2004 through the vision and generosity of Dr. Leonard Polonsky and the Polonsky Foundation, do precisely that. They encourage creativity and "out of the box" thinking, which make for an engaging scientific dialogue within the humanities. The prizes are also an excellent way to recognize outstanding faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, and advanced graduate students, who have produced innovative scholarship of the highest quality.

The Polonsky Prizes are the highest honor that we offer as a faculty, and we therefore receive many outstanding nominations every year. Choosing this year's winners was no simple task. As chair of the Polonsky Prize committee, I can personally attest to the difficulty of choosing only

four scholars from among so many impressive candidates.

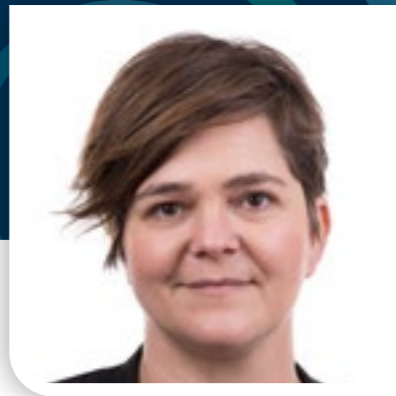
I wish to thank my eighteen fellow members of the prize committee for their participation and contribution to this process, to Prof. Menahem Blondheim who helped with its design, and to Prof. Aaron Palmon, Vice President for Research and Development, for his support. I also wish to thank Ms. Merav Atar from the University's Authority for Research and Development, Ms. Shulamit Lasnes, and Ms. Hivit Koudinski from the Faculty of Humanities, for coordinating the work of the prize committee.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Polonsky and the Polonsky Foundation for its continued support of our faculty and for helping us encourage cutting-edge scientific research in the humanities. We look forward to future Polonsky Prize winners who will join today's honorees in making their mark on world scholarship by generating new and creative ideas, approaches, and findings that promote scholarly excellence.

With best wishes,

Prof. Nissim Otmazgin

Dean



DR. KARMA BEN JOHANAN

Karma Ben Johanan is a senior lecturer at the Department of Comparative Religion at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her PhD at the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies at Tel Aviv University. Subsequently, she was a Fulbright postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and a postdoctoral fellow at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. In 2019, Ben Johanan was appointed the first chair of Jewish-Christian relations at the Faculty of Theology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she served until the summer of 2022. In 2023, Ben Johanan received the Dan David Prize—the world’s biggest prize in history.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

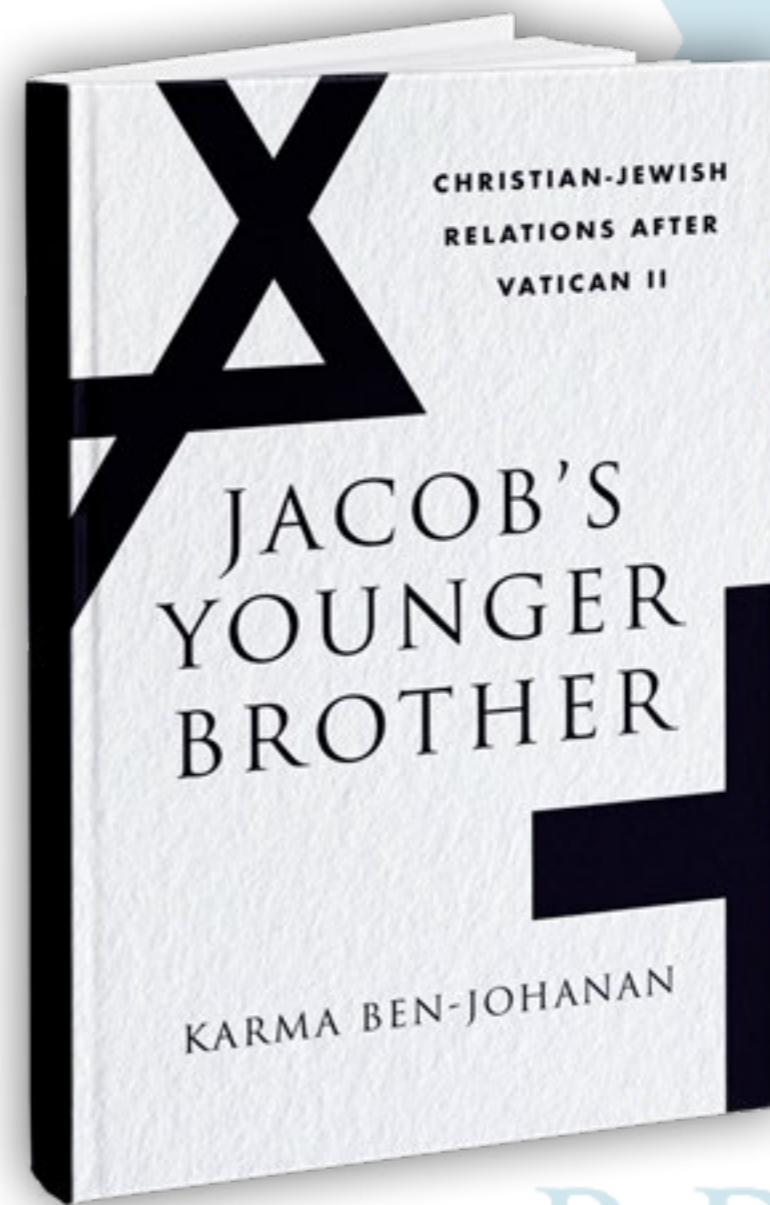
***Jacob’s Younger Brother: Christian–Jewish Relations after Vatican II* (Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2022)**

A new chapter in Jewish–Christian relations opened in the second half of the twentieth century, when the Second Vatican Council exonerated Jews from the accusation of deicide and declared that the Jewish people had never been rejected by God. In a few carefully phrased statements, two millennia of deep hostility were swept into the trash heap of history.

But old animosities die hard. While Catholic and Jewish leaders publicly promoted interfaith dialogue, doubts remained behind closed doors. Catholic officials and theologians soon found that changing their attitude toward Jews could threaten the foundations of Christian tradition. For their part, many Jews perceived the new Catholic line as a Church effort to shore up support amid

atheist and secular advances. Drawing on extensive research in contemporary rabbinic literature, *Jacob’s Younger Brother* shows that Jewish leaders welcomed the Catholic condemnation of antisemitism but were less enthusiastic about the Church’s sudden urge to claim their friendship. Catholic theologians hoped Vatican II would turn the page on an embarrassing history, hence the assertion that the Church had not reformed but rather had always loved Jews—or at least should have. Orthodox rabbis, in contrast, believed they were finally free to say what they thought of Christianity.

Jacob’s Younger Brother pulls back the veil on interfaith dialogue to reveal how Orthodox rabbis and Catholic leaders spoke about each other when others were not listening. The tome reveals the Jews reluctant to accept the latest whims of a Church that had unilaterally dictated the terms of Jewish–Christian relations for centuries.



DR. YAKIR PAZ



Karma Ben Johanan is a senior lecturer at the Department of Comparative Religion at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her PhD at the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies at Tel Aviv University. Subsequently, she was a Fulbright postdoctoral scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, and a postdoctoral fellow at the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. In 2019, Ben Johanan was appointed the first chair of Jewish-Christian relations at the Faculty of Theology at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she served until the summer of 2022. In 2023, Ben Johanan received the Dan David Prize—the world’s biggest prize in history.

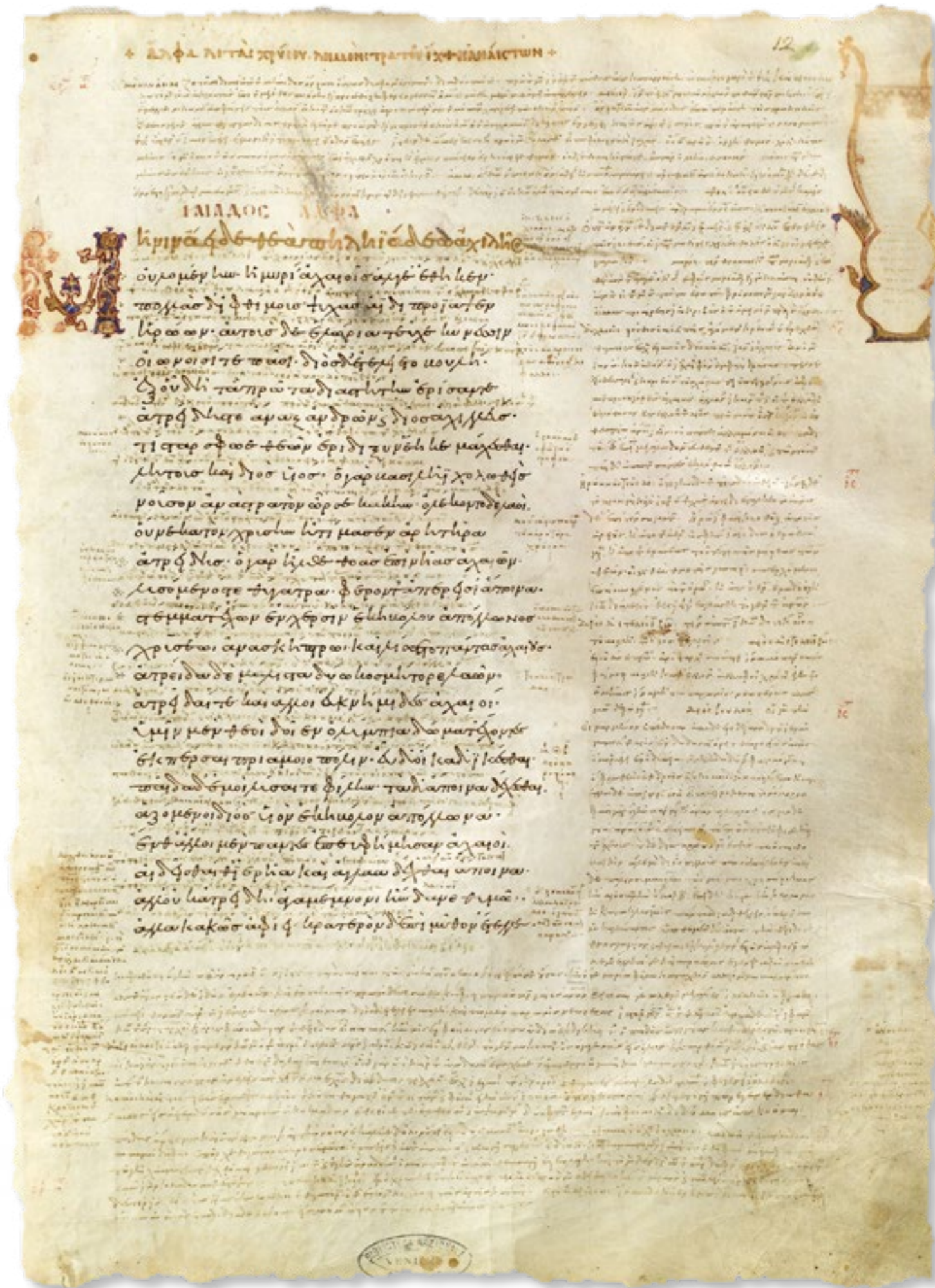
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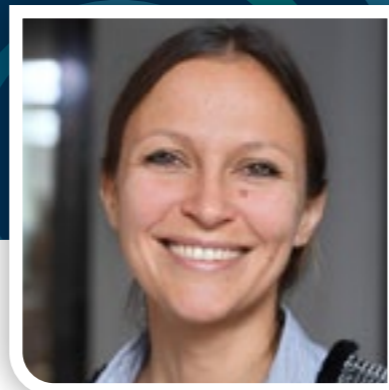
***From Scribes to Scholars: Rabbinic Biblical Exegesis in Light of the Homeric Commentaries* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebrek Ek, 2022)**

In antiquity, the Homeric poems and the Torah were identity-forming canonical texts in Hellenistic and Jewish cultures, respectively. The centrality of these texts and their undisputed status led to the development of exegetical communities in which these texts were interpreted in a collective effort by dozens of scholars over hundreds of years. In the Alexandrian library from the third century BCE onward, numerous scholars labored at editing the Homeric poems and interpreting them according to philological, rhetorical, grammatical, and literary criteria. This exegetical tradition continued to evolve during the first centuries of the Common Era throughout the Roman Empire. Parallel to the exegetical efforts on the Greek side, dozens of rabbis dedicated themselves during the first centuries CE to interpreting the Torah, using a wide array of exegetical methods. These rabbis were divided into

distinct exegetical schools, and their commentaries were collected and redacted during the third century CE into Midrashic compilations, known as the Halakhic Midrashim.

This book argues that ancient Homeric scholarship had a major impact on the formation of rabbinic biblical commentaries and their modes of exegesis. This impact is discernible not only in the terminology and hermeneutical techniques used by the rabbis, but also in their perception of the Bible as a literary product, their didactic methods, editorial principles, and aesthetic sensitivities. In fact, it is the influence of Homeric scholarship which can best explain the drastic differences between earlier biblical commentaries from Palestine, such as those found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the scholastic Halakhic Midrashim. The implications of this study call for a reexamination of numerous assumptions regarding the emergence of Midrash—as well as a broader appreciation of the impact of Homeric scholarship on biblical exegesis in Antiquity.





DR. NORA DERBAL

Nora Derbal is a postdoctoral fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She studied at Oxford University, King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, and Freie Universität Berlin where she earned her PhD in Islamic Studies in 2017. Before joining The Hebrew University, Derbal was a visiting researcher at the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh (2020); taught at the American University in Cairo (2018–2020); and worked for the Orient-Institut Beirut (2015–2016). Her current research examines the life and works of Heinrich von Maltzan (1826–1874), the German Orientalist and travel writer. Derbal has also started exploring Saudi–Palestinian relations during the British Mandate Period.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

***Charity in Saudi Arabia: Civil Society under Authoritarianism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022)**

Derbal's research examines politics "from below" and "everyday Islam" on the Arabian Peninsula through the lens of charity and humanitarian work. In her book, *Charity in Saudi Arabia: Civil Society under Authoritarianism*, she explores non-profit organizations dedicated to fighting poverty in Saudi Arabia and their struggle to improve the lives of marginalized communities. With zakat considered one of the five pillars of Islam, non-profit organizations in Saudi Arabia have enjoyed relative freedom and legitimacy under the umbrella of charity, which has enabled various types of activism. By following those social workers, philanthropists, and social activists, who actively engage working for the poor and needy in the kingdom, the book sketches a rich ethnography of community activism and the inner workings of Saudi society. The research explains

how Saudis and non-Saudis in the kingdom find in Islam a worldly guide and ethical framework that is often at odds with religious officialdom.

The research is based on extensive fieldwork in Saudi Arabia. Derbal conducted three rounds of research between 2009 and 2020, with the support of fellowships from King Abdulaziz University, Effat University, and the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies. During the total of 19 months, Derbal arranged for almost 80 expert interviews and visited approximately 50 charity projects in Jeddah and Riyadh, including shelters, orphanages, food banks, project offices, ateliers, and charity bazaars.

Derbal hopes that her research will contribute to a more nuanced discussion of Saudi society across academic disciplines—a discussion that both listens to and gives voice to ordinary Saudis, and which considers the complexities of their everyday lives.

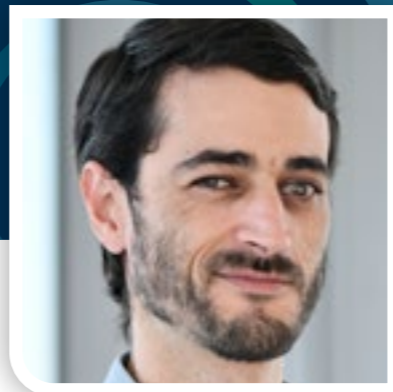


Beneficiaries of charity waiting for a charity meal from the CSR initiative *Ḍaif 'alā al-ṣūfra* of Dallah al-Baraka with the support of the 'umda Malak Mahmud Ba 'Aissa.

Photo: Nora Derbal, 2013.



MR. AMI ASYAG



Ami Asyag is a PhD (Honors) student at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. His doctoral thesis examines the continuity and change in the liturgy of Uruk in ancient Mesopotamia, in the second and first millennium BCE. He was an MA Honors student at the Mandel School for Advanced Studies and wrote his MA thesis on Sumerian Emesal prayers. The thesis examined an early Old Babylonian corpus from the city of Ġirsu and focused on local traditions related to the Lagash region and its pantheon, and on the syllabic orthography in which these texts are written. Asyag holds a BA in general history from the Open University of Israel (*summa cum laude*).

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

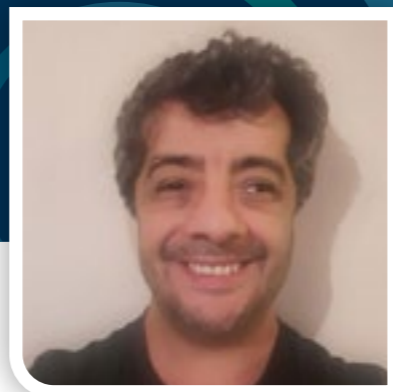
The Corpus of Prayers from Ġirsu—NFT 202–211: The Earliest Sumerian Emesal Prayers

In his master's thesis, written under the supervision of Prof. Uri Gabbay, Asyag published the first edition of a small corpus of Emesal prayers, written on clay tablets in the cuneiform script. This corpus consists of ten tablets and fragments that were excavated in the ancient city of Ġirsu (modern-day Telloh, in southern Iraq) and are considered the earliest cultic prayers ever attested in written records. Sumerian texts are typically written in an ideographic script, but this corpus was written phonetically making it difficult to understand.

The focus on a corpus from a single city, along with it being the earliest finding of its kind, being provenanced, and being dedicated to the city's goddess—led to several breakthroughs in the research field. First, Asyag discovered that when the corpus was written, ca. 2000

BCE, two types of Sumerian prayers existed: One in the standard register of Sumerian and the other in the Emesal register—reserved for goddesses and feminine beings in Sumerian literature—in contrast to the common opinion that all prayers were written in Emesal. Second, he was able to show that some of the prayers were dedicated to the city goddess, Bau, and not to Inana, the main goddess in Mesopotamia, to whom almost all the other cities dedicated their prayers. Third, Asyag demonstrated that during that period the editing process was still in its preliminary stage, with many experiments taking place in the structure of the prayers, the sequence of their units, and in the litany segment. This led him to suggest that this phenomenon could be seen as a rare example of a tradition in the making, which involved the composing of these cultic prayers before being standardized and performed for two millennia.





MR. YAKIR ARIEL

Yakir Ariel, a doctoral candidate at the Department of Musicology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has dedicated his academic pursuits to exploring the intersections of music with various scientific fields. With a bachelor's and a master's degree in musicology from The Hebrew University, Ariel's research interests extend beyond the confines of traditional musicology. He is fascinated by the exchange of ideas across creative arts and the complex causal relationship between music making and economic prosperity or crises.

RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

The Emergence of *The Nose*: Opera as an Epistemological Metaphor for Complexity Theories of Cities

In this work, Ariel interprets *The Nose* (1928), Dmitri Shostakovich's (1906–1975) first opera, as a contemporary epistemological metaphor for the complex behavior of the populated urban space. On a larger scale, the research aims to explore whether the operatic genre is still relevant in contemporary society and whether *The Nose*, which has recently been revived in various opera houses, is an artistic commentary on the complexities of urban living.

The study hypothesizes that *The Nose* is indeed a relevant opera and a meaningful metaphor for the current era. The analysis is structured into two separate layers: the first puts forward and interlocks the idea that *The Nose* serves as an epistemological metaphor, while the second analyzes the ways in which this metaphor is enacted in the opera. The epistemological metaphor of *The Nose* is constructed from five points of view: the chronology of the narrative, from Gogol's original version to Shostakovich's composition; the legends of the city of St. Petersburg; the political reality of Soviet Russia; absurdist literature;

and the notion of complexity in Western thinking. This second layer of research analyzes the musical language of *The Nose* in relation to the concept of a complex system (a scientific physical phenomena), which describes the dynamics of many components that coalesce into superstructures through emergence and self-organization. The city of St. Petersburg is viewed as a hybrid system, and the ad-hoc musical language of *The Nose* is shown to be a consolidated expression of the complexity of the city. Ariel also examines various concepts of complexity, such as order out of chaos and nonlinearity, which are musically delineated in the percussion interlude and the opera's two urban scenes. The research concludes by demonstrating how the entire opera is structured as a twofold fractal organized over a definitive pivot point.

The general implication of Ariel's work is the plausibility of analyzing the musical language of a modern opera through the prism of a scientific theory.

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Allegro ♩ = 132

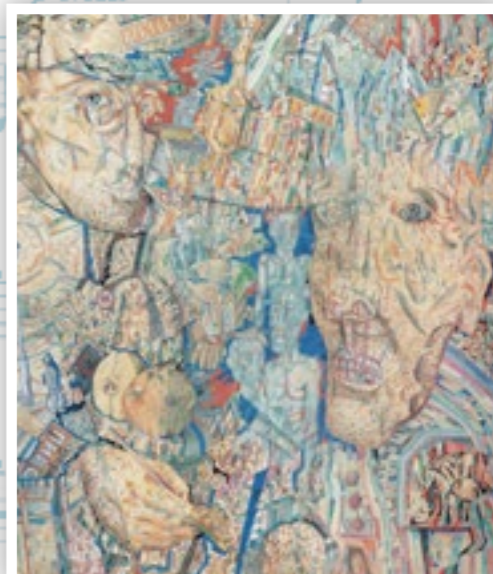


Table no. 1 – The overall recursive structure of *The Nose*.

PART 1								PART 2							
ACT I								ACT II				ACT III			
prologue	Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 3	Scene 4	prologue	Scene 1	Scene 2	Scene 1	Scene 2	Intermedia	Epilogue	Finale			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
City/heart's Barber shop	Kovalev's Nose	Streets of St. Petersburg, and the embarkment	Percussion interlude	Kovalev's Bedroom	Gallop on route Kozlov	Rain Cathedral	Hansen Ltd./ House of Chief of police	Newspaper Ad. Department	Estro'acte (Fugue) Kovalev's Theme	Kovalev's Nose	Outskirts of St. Petersburg streets	Revolution and Potholov's houses	St. Petersburg Streets – a lookout after the nose	Kovalev's House /Kovalev's Barber Shop	Nativity Prospect
♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩	♩
S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F	S F

Glossary: S – Staccato Figure ♩ F – Flowing Figure

2022

First Prize:

PROF. ELITZUR BAR-ASHER SIEGAL

Department of Hebrew Language
Faculty of Humanities

"The NP-strategy for expressing reciprocity: typology, history, syntax and semantics" (Benjamins John Company, 2020).

Second Prize:

PROF. YOSSI MAUREY

Department of Musicology
Faculty of Humanities

"Liturgy and Sequences of the Sainte-Chapelle: Music, Relics, and Sacral Kingship in Thirteenth-Century France" (Brepols Publishers, 2021).

First Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

DR. OFER PERES

Department of Comparative Religion
Faculty of Humanities

In the Trail of the Wailing King: A Cultural Biography of a Traditional Indian Narrative.

First Prize Ph.D. and M.A. Students:

DANIELLA SELTZER

Department of Cultural Studies
Faculty of Humanities

What do we talk about when we talk about walking? Walking with Haredi Women.

Second Prize Ph.D. and M.A. Students:

JOEL BINDER

Department of Talmud and Halakha
Faculty of Humanities

A Multi-Text Manuscript from Fourteenth Century Ashkenaz: MS Darmstadt, University and State Library, Cod. Or. 25 in Context.

2021

First Prize:

PROF. RUTH HACHOEN (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

2020

First Prize:

DR. AVISHAI BAR-ASHER

Department of Jewish Thought
Faculty of Humanities

"Illusion versus Reality in the Study of Early Kabbalah: The Commentary on Sefer Yeirah Attributed to Isaac the Blind and Its History in Kabbalah and Scholarship" Tarbiz 86 (2019).

Second Prize:

PROF. RONIT RICCI

Department of Asian Studies
Faculty of Humanities

Banishment and Belonging: Exile and Diaspora in Sarandib, Lanka, and Ceylon

First Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

DR. SIVAN GOREN

Department of Comparative Religion
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

Second Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

DR. NICOLE KHAYAT

History department
Faculty of Humanities

Historiography and Translation during the Arabic Naha: European History in Arabic (Ph.D. dissertation, University of Haifa)

Graduate Student:

ELAD EISEN

Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities

The concept of borrowability not on the basis of the empirical frequency of borrowing, but rather on the basis of typological frequency

2019

First Prize:

PROF. RUTH HACHOEN (PINCZOWER) & PROF. YARON EZRAHI

Musicology Department, Faculty of Humanities

Composing Power, Singing Freedom, The Interplay of Music and Politics in the West

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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 TCHEKhanOVETS

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.

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)

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 Nizāmi Manuscripts as a Case Study

Young Researcher:

MS. NOA NAHMIA

Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Displaying Patriotism: Narratives of the May 4th Movement in Chinese Museums

10th 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 ('Piyutei 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)

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

MS. NOGA AYALI-DARSHAN

Department of Jewish History, Faculty of Humanities

The Bride of the Sea: The Tradition about Astarte and Yamm in the Ancient Near East

2009

First Prize:

DR. YUVAL NOAH HARARI

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities

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

Second Prize:

PROF. SIMCHA EMANUEL

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

Student Prize:

MS. NOA SHASHAR

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

The Role of Niddah Laws in Daily Lives of Men and Women in the Ashkenazi World of the 17th-19th Centuries

Student Prize:

MR. KOBI BEN-MEIR

Forum Europa, Faculty of Social Sciences

Images of Pain, Disease and Death in 1970's Israeli Art

2008

First Prize:

DR. MICHAEL SEGAL

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

The Book of Jubilees: Rewritten Bible, Redaction, Ideology and Theology (2007)

Second Prize:

PROF. RONNIE ELLENBLUM

Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences and School of History, Faculty of Humanities

Crusader Castles and Modern Histories (2007)

Second Prize:

DR. MICHAEL ROUBACH

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities

Being and Number in Heidegger's Thought (2008)

Student Prize:

MR. MAOZ KAHANA

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Stability and Change in the Responsa of Rabbi Moshe Sofer

Student Prize:

MR. ODED PORAT

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Studying the Treatise "Brit Hamnuha" ("Covenant of Serenity"): Its Ideas, Literature Relationships and an Introduction to the Critical Edition

2007

First Prize:

DR. DIEGO OLSTEIN

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities

La Era Mozárabes: Los Mozárabes de Toledo (Siglos XII y XIII) en la Historiografía: Las Fuentes y la Historia

Second Prize:

PROF. GANNIT ANKORI

Department of Art History, Faculty of Humanities

Palestinian Art

Second Prize:

DR. JONATHAN DEKEL-CHEN

Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Faculty of Humanities

Farming the Red Land: Jewish Agricultural Colonization and Local Soviet Power, 1924-1941

Young Researcher Prize:

DR. TSIPPI KAUFFMAN

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Between Immanence and Religious Behavior: Avodah be-Gashmiyut in the Early Stages of Hasidism

Student Prize:

MR. ILYA BERKOVICH

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities

Sally: A Comparative Survey into the Nature of Medieval Warfare

2006

First Prize:

PROF. YOSEF GARFINKEL

Institute of Archeology, Faculty of Humanities

Dancing at the Dawn of Agriculture

First Prize:

PROF. BENNY SHANON

Department of Psychology, Faculty of Social Sciences

The Antipodes of the Mind

Young Researcher Prize:

DR. HILA KEREN

Faculty of Law

Textual Harassment: A New Historicist Reappraisal of the Parol Evidence Rule with Gender in Mind

Student Prize:

DR. ELISHEVA RIGBI-SHAFRIR

Department of Musicology, Faculty of Humanities

The Modern in Music 1980-1920 against the Crisis of Historicism and the Breakdown of Rational Paradigm: A Critical Analysis of a Style

Student Prize:

MS. GABRIELA STERNFELD

Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies, Faculty of Humanities

La Organización Laboral del Imperio Inca: Las Autoridades Locales Básicas

2005

First Prize:

PROF. GABRIEL HERMAN

Department of History, Faculty of Humanities

Morality and Behaviour in Democratic Athens – A Social History

Young Researcher Prize:

DR. TZACHI ZAMIR

Department of English, Faculty of Humanities

Double Vision

Student Prize:

DR. EMMANUELLE MAIN

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Des Mercenaires Rhodiens dans la Judée Hasmonéenne? Etude du Morif Floral de Monnaies de Jean Hyrcan et d'Alexandre Jannée

Student Prize:

MR. RONNIE GOLDSTEIN

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

The Lie and Rumor -The Double Account of Jeremiah's Meeting with Zedekiah and Ancient Techniques for Challenging the Existence of Rival Versions

Student Prize:

MR. AHMED ABU-ABIED

School of Education

The Effect of Pre-school Attendance on Primary School Achievement

2004

First Prize:

PROF. MARA BELLER

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities

Quantum Dialogue: The Making of a Revolution

Second Prize:

PROF. AVIHU ZAKAI

Department of American Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Jonathan Edwards's Philosophy of History: The Reenchantment of the World in the Age of Enlightenment

Young Researcher Prize:

DR. ANAT HELMAN

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies and Cultural Studies Program

Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Faculty of Humanities

The Development of Civil Society and Urban Culture in Tel-Aviv during the 1920s and 1930s

Student Prize:

MS. OPHIR MINTZ-MANOR

Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, Faculty of Humanities

Other Voices: Haman, Jesus, and the Representations of the Other in Purim Poems from Byzantine Palestine



THE POLONSKY PRIZES

FOR CREATIVITY & ORIGINALITY IN THE HUMANISTIC DISCIPLINES

At The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

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