

**Yaron Ben-Naeh**  
CURRICULUM VITAE

Updated: January 2021

**1. PERSONAL DETAILS**

Date of Birth: 28.11.65

Country of Birth: Israel

ID no.: 02217038-5

Nationality: Israeli

Marital status: married

No. of children: 2

Full Military Service: 1984-86

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**2. HIGHER EDUCATION**

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(in chronological order) - *At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem*

1987-1989: B.A. (magna cum laude) in Archeology, and Jewish History.

1990-1992: M.A. (magna cum laude) in Jewish History, specializing in Ottoman Jewry.

1993-1999: Doctoral thesis, under the guidance of Prof. J.R. Hacker, titled:

*The Jewish Society in the Urban Centers of the Ottoman Empire in the 17th Century  
(Istanbul, Salonica & Izmir).*

1995/6: Studied Modern & Ottoman Turkish at Bosphoros (Boğazici) University,  
Istanbul, and Ottoman History at Bilkent University, Ankara.

2000: Approval of Doctoral Thesis 'summa cum laude'.

2002/3-2005/6: Post-doctoral fellowship as a Mandel Scholar, Scholion Interdisciplinary  
Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**3. APPOINTMENTS AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

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(in chronological order)

October 1997– July 2001: Instructor, History of the Jewish People Dept., The Hebrew  
University, Jerusalem.

March 2002 – July 2002: Adjunct teacher

October 2002 – June 2005: Adjunct lecturer, and a Mandel postdoctoral fellow,  
Scholion

October 2003 – January 2007: Lecturer in the History of the Jewish People Dept.

January 2007 – Senior Lecturer with Tenure in the Department of History of the Jewish  
People and Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

October 2012: Appointed Associate Professor in the Hebrew University

November 2014: incumbent, The Bernard Cherrick Chair in the History of the Jewish  
People and Contemporary Jewry.

April 2019: Full professor.( As of Oct. 2017)

#### **4. ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS/TASKS AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

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(in a chronological order)

- \* 1996-2000: Advisor for BA students.
- \* 2002-2014: Coordinator of the bibliographic courses in the department.
- \* since October 2008: Director, Misgav Yerushalayim, Center for Research and Study of Sephardi and Oriental Jewish Heritage, at the Hebrew University.
- \* January-June 2010: Member of the scholarships and prizes committee of the Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies.
- \* June 2010-June 2012: Member of the Doctoral Committee of the School of History.
- \* October 2011-August 2019: Chairman, Faculty of Humanities' Library Committee.
- \* 2011: Member of the departmental scholarships and prizes committee.
- \* October 2012 – August 2020: Member of the Authority for Research Students.
- \* Since October 2013: Member of the screening committee for doctoral candidates, School of History.
- \* October 2014-August 2019: Member of the Hebrew University's Authority of Libraries.
- \* October 2014-August 2019: Head of the Modern Period Division in the Department.
- \* October 2015 – June 2018: Member of the Hebrew University's Senate, as a representative of our Faculty.
- \* Since September 2016: Member of a Screening Committee, Faculty of Humanities.
- \* Since October 2017: Member of the departmental scholarships and prizes committee.

Reviewer of files for Polonsky Prize (2020), for Scholion (2019, 2020) and others.

#### **5. SERVICE IN OTHER ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**

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(in chronological order)

- 1990-1999: Researcher at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of the Jewish Communities in the East (Jerusalem), and in a research project of the Institute of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2000-2002: Lecturer in the History of the Jewish People and Eretz-Israel Studies Department, Tel Aviv University.
- 2007: Visiting scholar for the spring semester at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.
- Oct. 2013: Visiting Professor, Institute of Judaic Studies, Moscow University.
- \* Since March 2017: Member of the Academic Council of the Ben Zvi Institute for the Research of Erets Yisrael.
  - \* Since October 2017: Member of the Academic Council of the Elyashar Research Center for the Study of the Sephardim in Erets Israel. (At Yad Ben-Zvi)
  - \* Since December 2019: Board member of the National Academy for Ladino ('Akademia de Ladino') – and a correspondent member of the Spanish Academia Real, Madrid.
  - \* Since December 2020: Member of the Academic Council of the Ben Zvi Institute

Reviewer of research proposals for the Israeli Science Foundation (ISF), the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (MFJC), the Ben Zvi insitute (MBZ) and others.

#### **6. OTHER ACTIVITY**

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(in a chronological order)

- \* Since 1990: Lecturing on Ottoman Jewry before different audiences.
- \* Since 2000: Lector/Reader and reviewer of (manuscript) articles for various Israeli and international periodicals as well as jubilee books, PhD dissertations; evaluating research proposals for the ISF and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.
- \* 2002-2007: Participation in conducting a five-year research project, headed by Prof. J.R. Hacker, and sponsored by the Israel Science Foundation (ISF): 'The Communal Ordinances of the Ottoman Jews, 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Centuries: A Reconstruction'. This is a sequel of a project on the printed sources (conducted: 1990-1997), which is in press at the Ben Zvi Institute.
- \* June 2004: Member of the organizing committee of an international conference: 'The Turks and Palestine: A 1000 Years of Relations', the Hebrew University & Yad Yitzhak Ben Zvi, Jerusalem.
- \* 2007-2011: Conducting a four-year research project, funded by the ISF, entitled 'The Sassoon Family: Jewish Plutocrats between East and West in an age of Transition'.
- \* 2008-2015: Member of the Sam Toledano Prize committee.
- \* Since 2011: 'Reader' - Evaluator of doctoral and fellowship applications for the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.
- \* Since 2010: Participating in the managing team of a German-Turkish-Israeli group cooperating in the **Personal Narratives Project**. (through the Orient Institut, Ist.)
- \* Participating in the managing team preparing the 'Abrahamic Religions' ICORE Project.
- \* 2012-2015: Member of the international executive of *Sefarad*: the Society for Sephardic Studies.
- \* Since 2013: Member of the editorial board of *ABA: Journal for the Study of the Jews of Iran, Bukhara, and Afghanistan*
- \* 2014: I took part in an ERC project of Prof. Vincent Lemire, Paris: 'Citadinite, Jerusalem 1840-1948'.
- \* Since August 2014: Member of the academic committee of 'Hatzar haYishuv haYashan' Museum, the Old City, Jerusalem.
- \* October 2015: A delegate to the 37th Zionist Congress.
- \* Winter 2015/6: Ben-Zvi Prize committee (chair); Landau (=Mif'al haPais) Prize committee (for research in the Ladino language, chair).
- \* Since 2016: Member of the Gaon Prize committee (Ben-Gurion University).
- \* An academic advisor (volunteering) for a movie on the De Boton family. It will follow the sojourn of this Sephardi clan from the Iberian Peninsula to Ottoman lands (esp. Salonica) and then to Israel.
- \* A member of a team headed by Prof. Haviva Pedaya that competed on creating a TV series on Sephardi Jewry for the Israeli Television, following the Biton committee recommendations. (The group did not win).
- \* An advisor to 'Da'at haMakom' I-Core's new serie (2018) that focused on Egyptian Jewry. Cooperation with Prof. Richard Cohen and Van Leer, Jerusalem.
- \* Oct. 2017: Member of the scientific committee of a new Turkey based periodical: *Israiliyat: Journal of Israeli and Judaic Studies*.
- \* January 2018: Ben-Zvi Awards committee for a Post-doctoral scholarship, and for doctoral students.
- \* Since March 2018: Member of the editorial board of *Ladinar: Studies in the Literature, Music and the History of the Ladino Speaking Sephardic Jews*

\* Since Winter 2020: Member of the editorial Committee of *Theory and Criticism* (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

## **7. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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(in chronological order)

- \* 2006-2007: Member in the forum of 'Young Scholars', in the Humanities and Social Sciences, the Israeli National Academy, Jerusalem
- \* Since 2007: Member of the Israeli Historical Society
- \* 2007-2015: Member of the World Union of Jewish Studies
- \* Since 2009: Member of the Middle East & Islamic Studies Association of Israel (MEISAI)
- \* Since 2010: Member of *Sefarad*: the Society for Sephardic Studies
- \* 2011-2013: Member of the AJS (Association for Jewish Studies. USA)

## **8. PRIZES & RESEARCH GRANTS**

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(in chronological order)

- 1989: The Faculty of Humanities Dean's Prize and the Hattman Prize, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 1990: Hefetz Prize, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 1991-1992: Grant from the Oriental Jewish Heritage Center, Ministry of Education
- 1990-1993: Living stipends from the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 1993: Ashtor Prize, Galbar Prize, Asseo Foundation Prize,
- 1993: Sephardi Federation (WZO)
- 1994/5: Memorial Foundation (New York) - Mark Uveeler Doctoral Scholarship; SEC Grant
- 1994/5-1996/7: Rotenstreich living stipend
- 1995/6: Sephardi Federation (WZO) Grant
- 1996/7: Memorial Foundation Scholarship (New York), SEC Grant
- 1998-1999: Elyashar Fellowship in the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of the Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem.
- 2000/1: Warburg Prize, the Institute of Jewish Studies of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2001: Ephraim Urbach Post-Doctoral Fellowship, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.
- 2002/3-2004/5: Mandel Post-Doctoral Scholar, Scholion Center, Mandel Institute for Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- 2005/6: A Golda Meir Fellow, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- May 2005: Granted financial support (\$1,500) from the Faculty of Humanities, for the preparation for publication of a jointly-authored volume *The Communal Ordinances of the Jews in the Ottoman Empire*.
- \* November 2006: A one-year personal research grant (\$10,000) from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF).
  - \* February 2007: A Grant (\$3500) from the Faculty of Humanities research fund for research on the Sassoon Family. (Added to a former \$12,000 grant for the same purpose).
  - \* April 2007: Awarded the President Yitzhak Ben Zvi Prize for my book: *Jews in the Realm of the Sultans* (Hebrew version).

- \* October 2007: A four-year personal research grant (\$100,000) from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF). The subject of the project: 'The Sassoon Family: Jewish Plutocrats between East and West in an Age of Transition'. (no. 1157/06)
- \* December 2007: Granted financial support (\$2000) from the Faculty of Humanities for the preparation for publication of a jointly-authored volume 'Everyday Life realities in The Hasköy Quarter of 17<sup>th</sup> Century Istanbul'. This project also received financial aid from Misgav Yerushalayim Center.
- \* August 2008: A Grant (\$8,000) from the Ben-Barukh Fund, for a research on Jews' wills from the Ottoman Empire.
- \* February 2009: A Grant (\$5,000) from the Ben-Barukh Fund, for a research on the Hasköy quarter, Istanbul.
- \* October 2011: Awarded the Marc Wiznitzer Prize for my book: *Jews in the Realm of the Sultans* (Hebrew version. 25,000 NIS).
- \* November 2015: submitted a proposal to ISF.
- \* January 2017: Zahava Lambert Family Endowment - A special grant for the project titled: 'Jews of Arab Lands Through the Eye of the Camera' by Dr. Nathan Shifris and myself. (\$10,000).

## **9. TEACHING AT THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY**

### **A. Supervision of master and doctoral degree students in the last five years**

#### **Master's degree students: (since 2005)**

- Mr. David Angel: 'Purim Customs among Ottoman Jews in the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.' Co-supervisor: Prof. Galit Hasan-Rokem. (concluded: 85)
- Mrs. Yael Ben-Yashar: Jerusalem's 'Sephardi' Jews according to the Montefiore Registers. (Hashlamot for PhD. concluded: 80)
- Mrs. Zufit Inbar: '19<sup>th</sup> Century Jerusalem Yeshivot (=religious academies)' Co-supervisor: Prof. Richard Cohen. (concluded. 85)
- Mr. Aviezer Tutian: 'Karaite Communities in the Ottoman East, and the Relations between them, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries'. (concluded: 97)
- Mrs. Tzipi Cohen: 'Everyday Life in Ottoman Palestine'. (concluded: 88)
- Mrs. Avital Porat-Lubensky: 'The Sassoons – The New Sephardi Jews'. (got married and withdrew)
- 2012: Ms. Dikla Aharon, 'Afghani Jews – the Persian speaking Communities in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century: A Case Study'. (concluded:90)
- 2012: Mr. Felix Konovitz: 'Ottoman Policy in Nineteenth Century Palestine According to Ottoman Official Documents' (Rothberg Overseas School. withdrew)
- 2014: Mr. Shai Vahaba, 'The Material Culture of Jerusalem Jews during the Ottoman Period'. (98)
- 2016: Mr. Elad Schlesinger (on Hida's perception of Kabbalah. Submitted - March 2018)
- 2016/7: Mr. Tzemach Edan (on modernization processes of Tunisian Jewry. Submitted - Summer 2018)
- 2016/7: Mr. Gabriel Abensour (on the rabbinic elite of Mogador, Morocco, in the 19th- early 20th centuries)
- 2020: Ms. Shifra Pomson, Jewish-Muslim Relations in the Maghreb, as reflected in Hebrew Folk Tales

Foreign Students – individual tutorial:

- 2005/6: Ms. Kira Alvarez (Penn/Chicago University)
- 2005/6: Ms. Julia Cohen (Stanford University)
- 2005/6: Ms. Pnina Robasova (Prague University), returned 2007/8 for PhD.
- 2006: Ms. Jessica Marglin (Harvard University)
- 2009: Ms. Daria Kovaleva (Moscow University)
- 2010: Ms. Tanya Soloduhina (Moscow University)
- 2011: Ms. Aishe Emirova (Crimea)
- 2016: Ms. Evgeniya Zarubina (Moscow University)

**Doctoral degree students:** (since 2009/10):

- Mr. Yosef (Edi) Dagan: 'The Jews of Gabbes (Tunisia) 1820-1965: A Profile of a Community between Continuity and Change'. (withdrew)
- Mr. Yair Shapiro, 'The Separdi-Portuguese Communities in North America during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries' (died in 2015)
  
- Mr. Aviezer Tutian, 'The Jewish Community of Istanbul: 1760-1839'. [ended without writing: July 2020]
- Mr. Tamir Karkason, 'The Ottoman-Jewish Haskalah, 1839-1908: A Transformation of the Jewish Communities ...' (submitted in Oct. 2018)
- Mr. Shai Vahaba, 'The Material Culture of 17th Century Palestine'. (submitted in September 2019)
- Ms. Tali Buskila, 'Jewish Popular Beliefs on Pregnancy and Birthgiving in Ottoman Syria-Paslestine'. (submitted in January 2021)
- Member of the advisory committee for Ms. Hadar Feldman: 'Sabbatean Ladino Poetry'. (submitted and approved Dec. 2018)
- Ms. Ariela Amar, 'Shadayot' of the Ioanina Romaniote Community'. (-)
- Mr. Gabriel Even Tzur, ...Algeria

I maintain informal connections with PhD students and scholars from various universities in Turkey, USA and Russia. They seek professional advice, guidance, information, co-operation, etc. Some have come through the Rothberg Overseas School. To mention several examples: Shaun Halper (Berkeley University), Rami Regavim (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia), Tomer Levi, Avner Wishnitzer (whom i recommended for Lady Davis Fellowship), Yasin Meral, Mustafa Kulu, Erdem Bastanoğlu (München), Ahmet Sen, Mrs. Canan Bolel (Washington) and others. in January 2017: PhD student Mr. Gürer Karagedikli from METU, Ankara, Turkey.

### **B. Post-doctoral Visitors**

Dr. Arturo Marzano, Pisa University

Dr. Richard Wittmann, Orient Institut, Istanbul

Prof. Nuh Arslantaş, Marmara University, Istanbul

Dr. Marcella Simoni, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Dr. Dario Miccoli, Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Erasmus. He will return in May 2018)

Dr. Avner Wishnitzer, a Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow for 2017(?) I was his host  
Dr. Gürer Karagedikli, METU University, Ankara (was here twice through Erasmus).  
This year (2018/19) he is here as a Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow, and I am his

host. We cooperate, and about to publish together 2-3 articles. One was already published in MHR).

Dr. Oded Cohen, a Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow for 2019/20. I was his host.

### **C. Courses taught in the last 5 years**

#### **• Bachelor's degree courses**

Palestine and Palestinian Jewry under the Mamluks  
Palestine and Palestinian Jewry under the Ottomans  
'A Land as all Lands' – Jews in Ottoman Palestine  
'Galut ba-Aretz': Eretz Israel Jews in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries  
Holy Safed and Profane Safed: The Safed Community in the Sixteenth Century  
Eretz Israel Jews in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries  
Jewish Life in Late Ottoman Palestine  
Issues in the History of Jewish Communities under Islam in the Nineteenth Century  
Assorted Topics in Communal and Individual Lives of the Jews under Islam  
Individual, Family and Community under Islam  
Jewish Family in the Islamic World in the Early Modern Period  
Aspects in the History of the Ottoman Jewry  
Women, Men and Children: The Jewish Family in the Ottoman Empire  
'Sabbatean Matters': The Sabbatean Movement and its Aftermath  
Jerusalemite Inscriptions – The Late Ottoman and Mandate Period as Mirrored in Memorial Inscriptions (included 3 tours in various parts of town)  
The Eastern Sephardi Diaspora  
The Forgotten History of Mizrahi Jews (with visiting lecturers)  
Sephardi Jews as Mirrored in Photography and Painting (1850-1950)  
Sabbateanism: Myth and Reality  
Peddlers and Prostitutes: Sephardi Lives in Yehudah Burla's Stories  
Safed in the Sixteenth Century  
Jerusalem's Sephardim in the Nineteenth Century  
Jerusalem's Jewish Community according to Hebrew Sources  
Jerusalem's Jewish Community according to Arabic Sources (the Sijil)

#### **• Master's degree courses**

Port Jews and Court Jews in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries  
The Hida's Diary ('*Ma'agal Tov ha-Shalem*') as a Mirror for the Jewish World in the Eighteenth Century  
Bibliographic Travels: Jewish Society and Culture in the Early Modern Mediterranean  
Modernization Processes in the Jewish Communities under Islam  
Family and Gender; Family Life among Ottoman Jews  
Ottoman Jerusalem and its Jewish Community  
Ottoman Jerusalem according to the Shari'a Court Records  
Communal regulations - From Baghdad to Meknes  
Authors, Readers and Printers  
Wills as a Historical Source  
Holy Men and Women (hagiographic stories)  
Yehuda Burla's stories as a mirror for Sephardi life

(2017/8)

\*Ottoman-Jewish Wills

\* Sephardi Autobiographies

\* From Biblical Canaan to Modernity: Images from Palestine  
(An English course for overseas students taking the 'Israel Studies' division)

(2018/9)

Sephardi Communities in the Light of Communal Regulations  
Palestine Jewry during the ottoman Period

(2019/20)

\*Back to the Archive

\*Hebrew Book Introductions

\*Jerusalem's Sephardim 1800-1948

(2020/21)

Jewish Questions: Guided Reading in Rabbinic Responsa from the Ottoman Empire  
Hida's Diary '*Ma'agal Tov ha-Shalem*'  
In the Footsteps of the Emissaries (*Shadarim*)

**In the last few years I applied for a few grants:**

\*Early Modern Jewish Public Activity as Captured by the Camera (1881-1929): New Insights (ISF 1558 - 2015)

\*Jewish Public through the Camera's Lens: Politics, Society, Culture (1881-1939) (ISF 1951 - 2016. resubmission of the former. refused as well)

\* In March 2016 I applied to the Max van Berchem Foundation, requesting 78,000 euro for a three-year project: Material Culture and Daily Life in Ottoman Palestine: A Reconstruction (refused)

\* In Oct. 2016, I tried to apply to the ISF for a new project, but failed to do so for technical reasons. (Application no. 2016001289 in MOP). The project is titled: Lost Libraries - 'Redeemed' Manuscripts: Accounting for the Dark Legacy of Coveted Hebrew Books from Islamic Lands.' resubmitted Oct. 2017, together with Dr. Noah Gerber, Tel Aviv University. Application no. 1187/18.

\* In Oct. 2017: **Submission to GIF**, together with Dr. Noah Gerber, Tel Aviv University, and with Prof. Jörg Deventer, Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig. Proposal ID I-75-111.5-2017 (Application no. 2017001204). Title of proposal: 'The Obsession for Hebrew & Oriental Books and Manuscripts: Dealers, Collectors and Scholars.' The two project are similar but not identical. Both deal with the Hebrew libraries - mostly owned by rabbis and *yeshivot*, the way in which they were accumulated, their nature, and their dissolution in the period 1850-1950 (devastation, selling, thefts) - and the passage of old printed books and manuscripts from Islamic countries to private collectors and academic libraries in Europe and the US.

\*Oct. 2018 – resubmission of the proposal for the ISF with some changes.  
(Application no. 548/2019)

Since March 2019: A research project on the Sephardi entrepreneur Yosef Navon Bey. There are hundreds of Arabic and Ottoman-Turkish written documents concerning his ventures in the Ben-Zvi archives; other documents were located by my colleague in State archives in Istanbul, turkey. Navon was an important Sephardi entrepreneur in late 19 century Jerusalem (similar to Valero, Amzalag and Shlush



families, which Ruth Kark and Joseph Glass wrote about). He is known as the person who initiated the train to Jerusalem. We intend to write about him, using all the relevant documents, thus hoping to write another chapter in the history of late ottoman Palestine.