

RAQUEL MARGALIT UKELES
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CURRENT POSITION

Curator of the Islam and Middle East collections, National Library of Israel (from November 2010)

HIGHER EDUCATION

June 2006: Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PhD in the Study of Religion, Concentration in Islamic and Jewish studies, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, with courses of study abroad in Fez, Morocco (Spring, 1999), and in the Hartman Institute and the MaTan Institute in Jerusalem (2001-2)

Dissertation: "Innovation or Deviation? Exploring the Boundaries of Islamic Devotional Law," May 2006.

June 2000: Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

MA in the Study of Religion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

June 1993-June 1994: American University in Cairo, Egypt

Center for Arabic Study Abroad program in advanced Arabic and Islam

June 1993: Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

BA cum laude in Religion, Certificate in Near East Studies

Thesis: "Beyond and Yet Within: Exploring the Legitimate Other in Islam and Judaism"

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2008-2010: Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, Program in Asian and African Studies
Golda Meir Postdoctoral Fellow

2009-2010: Academic Director, Intellectual Encounters: Philosophy and Science in the World of Medieval Islam

2005-2008: Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT, Department of Religious Studies

September 2005- April 2006: Lecturer in Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion

April 2006-August 2008: Assistant Professor in Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

2008-2010: Golda Meir Fellowship of the Hebrew University post-doctoral fellowship

2003-2004: Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation doctoral dissertation fellowship

2002-2003: Harvard Center for the Study of World Religions dissertation fellowship

Fall 2002: Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World doctoral research fellowship, Leiden, Holland

2001-2002: Lady Davis Fellowship Trust of the Hebrew University doctoral fellowship in Israel

2000-2001: Harvard University Foreign Language Area Studies grant for research in Arabic

2000-2001: U.S. Fulbright IIE Fellowship for dissertation research in Israel

2000: Harvard University Center for Jewish Studies graduate fellowship

1999: U.S. Information Agency fellowship for study in Fez, Morocco

1996-2000: Wexner Foundation graduate fellowship covering tuition and living expenses for Harvard University

1992, 1998: Mellon Foundation summer grants for language study (Aramaic, Arabic)

1993-1994: CASA/United States Department of Education fellowship for study in Cairo

1993: Princeton University Center for Ethics and Public Values Senior Thesis Award

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“The Lure of a Controversial Prayer: *Salat al-ragha'ib* (the prayer of great rewards) in medieval Arabic texts and from a socio-legal perspective.” Co-written with Dr. Daniella Talmon-Heller. *Der Islam*, 89/2 (2012): 141 – 166.

“Gender, Ritual, and the Parameters of Legal Change: The Debate over Women Imams in Contemporary Islam,” (article accepted for inclusion in forthcoming volume on contemporary Islamic law).

“Jurists’ Responses to Popular Devotional Practices in Medieval Islam,” (article accepted for inclusion in forthcoming volume in honor of Bernard Weiss).

“The Sensitive Puritan? Revisiting Ibn Taymiyya’s approach to law and spirituality in the light of 20th century debates over his ruling on *mawlid al-nabi*” in *Ibn Taymiyya and His Times*, edited by Shahab Ahmed and Yossef Rapoport. Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2010.

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Preserving the cultural treasures of Muslims and Arabs in Israel (Hebrew),” Conference presentation, “Multi-knowledge” conference of the Israeli Center for Libraries, Ramat Gan, February 2014.

“Navigating digital resources in the Middle East Studies (Hebrew),” Panel organizer and presentation, Middle East and Islamic Studies of Israel Annual Conference, Tel Aviv University, June 2013.

Middle East and Islamic Studies Librarians Association of Israel inaugural workshop, Conference organizer and presenter, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem, October 2012.

“To curate or not to curate: Creating digital collections of manuscripts and books by subject,” Paper for conference, Middle East Libraries Committee International Annual Conference, BULAC, Paris, June 2012.

“Between Tradition and Innovation: *Bid'a* in medieval Islamic law,” Paper for conference, Tradition and its Discontents: Continuities and Transformations in the Abrahamic Religions. Oxford University, July 2011.

“Rites of Rajab from Fatimid to Mamluk times,” Paper for workshop, co-written with Dr. Daniella Talmon-Heller, Egypt and Syria under Mamluk Rule: Political, Social and Cultural Aspects. University of Haifa, April 2011.

“Gender, ritual and the parameters of legal change: The debate over women imams in contemporary

Islam,” Paper for conference, Islamic Law facing the Challenges of the 21st century, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, October 2009.

“Debating new religious roles for women in contemporary Islamic law,” Paper for workshop, Islamic Law facing the Challenges of the 21st century, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel. March 2009.

“Jurists’ responses to pervasive devotional practices in medieval Islam and Judaism,” Presentation to a joint departmental seminar of Religious Studies and Jewish Thought, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. November 2008.

“Juristic approaches to popular devotional practices in medieval Islam,” Paper for conference, The Spirit of Islamic Law Conference in Honor of Bernard Weiss, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. September 2008.

“Debating new religious roles for women in Islamic law.” Paper for workshop, Divine Commandments and Aspects of their Implementation, Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem, Jerusalem, Israel. September 2008.

“Beyond questions of influence: Comparing Islamic law and Jewish law phenomenologically.” Paper for conference, Religious Communities in Islamic Empires, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. May 2007.

“Does Islam value or reject innovation? Qaradawi’s ‘modern’ interpretation of *bid’ah*.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. November 2006.

“Puritan and Empath: Revisiting Ibn Taymiyyah’s approach to law and spirituality in the light of 20th century debates over his ruling on *mawlid al-nabī*.” Paper for conference, Ibn Taymiyyah and his Times, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ. April 2005.

“Comparing religions one at a time: Juxtaposing Jewish and Islamic law to illuminate Islamic normative practice.” American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. November 2004.

“Muslim movements in the United States – initial research findings.” Paper for conference, Dialogue or Clash? September 11, 2001: The Year After, Jerusalem, Israel. September 2002.

INTER-RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND PROGRAMS

“Encounters between American and Middle Eastern Cultures, Values and Institutions,” Academic Director and Lecturer on Judaism at the World Leadership Program’s inaugural summer institute, hosted by Georgetown University, Washington, DC. July 2010.

“The Integration of Muslim Immigrants in Europe and the United States,” Discussant on public panel sponsored by The Mosaica Center for Inter-Religious Cooperation, Jerusalem, Israel. December 2009.

“Comparative Reflections on Modest Dress in Contemporary Islam and Judaism,” Article, *JOFA Journal*, 3/2 (Fall 2009), pp. 7ff.

“Islam: Between Moderation and Extremism.” Moderator for panel, The Israeli Presidential Conference facing Tomorrow, Jerusalem, Israel. October 2009.

“Intertextuality in the Joseph Narratives between Torah and Qur’an,” Lecturer and Jewish faculty for workshop, The RRC Retreat for Emerging Jewish and Muslim Religious Leaders,” Garrison, NY. August 2009.

“Four circles of obligation: Jewish moral responsibilities towards others (Arabic).” Paper for conference, Sixth Annual Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, Doha, Qatar. May 2008.

“Jewish-Muslim Dialogue: Contemporary opportunities and challenges.” Guest Lecture for seminar on Islam and Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Philadelphia, PA. May 2008.

“Using text study as a tool for interfaith dialogue,” All-day workshop leader, Building Abrahamic Partnerships II, Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT. June 2007.

“Obstacles to Inter-religious dialogue (Arabic).” Paper for conference, Fifth Annual Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, Doha, Qatar. May 2007.

“God will fight your enemies for you: The Laws of war in Judaism and Islam.” Lecture, Hebrew Institute of White Plains, White Plains, NY. February 2007.

“Creating a New Model for Dialogue,” Article, *Sh'ma* issue on Muslim-Jewish Dialogue, 35/621 (May 2005), pp. 3-4.

“Different paths towards worshipping God: Islamic and Jewish laws on ritual.” Lecture, Hebrew College, Boston, MA. October 2004.

“Dialogue with Muslims: It’s a Good Idea,” Opinion piece, *The Jewish Week* (Oct 8, 2004), pp. 24.

“The Challenge of America for Jews and Muslims.” Panel presentation for Muslim-Jewish Relations Conference, Bronfman Foundation, New York, NY. February 2004.

The Evolving Muslim Community in America: The Impact of 9/11. Monograph. Jerusalem: Mosaica – Research Center for Religion, State and Society, 2004.

Locating the Silent Muslim Majority: Policy Recommendations for Improving Muslim-Jewish Relations in America. Monograph. Jerusalem: Mosaica – Research Center for Religion, State and Society, 2004.

“Islam and the emerging Muslim community in the United States.” Lecture, General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, Indianapolis, IN. November 1997.

TEACHING

Hebrew University Overseas Program – Master’s degree course:
Classical Islamic Texts and the Formation of the Muslim Community (Spring 2011)

Fairfield University – Bachelor’s degree courses:
Introduction to Religious Studies (Spring 2006-Spring 2008); Introduction to Islam (Spring 2006-Fall 2006); Advanced Seminar on Contemporary Islam (Spring 2007); Islam in America (Spring 2008).

Harvard University – Bachelor’s degree courses as teaching fellow:
Theism and Moral Reasoning (Spring 2003); Comparative Religious Ethics (Fall 1999)

Adult education classes – six-eight session courses:
Meah Graduate Institute, New York area, NY
Maimonides: Understanding the Legacy (Fall 2004);
Muslim-Jewish Encounters through the Ages (Fall 2007)

Jewish Community Center, New York, NY
Muslim-Jewish Encounters through the Ages (Fall 2005);
Islam behind the Headlines (Summer 2006)

Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT – all day workshops for interfaith facilitators:
“Using text study as a tool for interfaith dialogue” (July 2007; June 2008)

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

May 2009 – current: Academic Director, *Intellectual Encounters: Philosophy and Science in the World of Medieval Islam*.

Summer 2000: Research Assistant for Dr. Saba Mahmood, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

May 1999: Arabic-English Translator for Dr. Muhammad Ghazwi, Dean of University of Jordan Law College, at a Yale Law School-sponsored conference on the Rule of Law in the Middle East, Fez, Morocco

1996-1998: Co-founder, Center for Higher Education in the Middle East, Cambridge, MA

Summer 1997: Research Assistant for Dr. William Graham, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

August 1994-June 1996: Research Assistant, Emerging Markets of the Middle East, Smith Barney, New York, NY

VISITING SCHOLAR POSITIONS

Fall 2004-Spring 2006: Exchange scholar, Columbia University

October – November 2002: Visiting research fellow, Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Leiden, Holland

December 2000-October 2002: Visiting research fellow in the Humanities, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

December 2000-August 2001: Talmud program fellow, Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem

Spring 1999: Fellow in advanced program in Arabic and Islamic texts, Arabic Language Institute, Fez, Morocco

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Fluency in classical and modern Egyptian Arabic; proficiency in Palestinian Arabic

Hebrew: Fluency in rabbinic and modern Hebrew