

## NAOMI BRENNER

Associate Professor of Hebrew and Israeli Culture

Department of Near Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures ♦ The Ohio State University  
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### EDUCATION

#### University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, May 2008.

Dissertation: *Authorial Fictions: Literary and Public Personas in Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literature*

Specialization in Modern Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic literature.

#### University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

B.A., May 1998.

Highest honors in History, Comparative Literature and Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Department of Near Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures

Vice Chair, August 2020 - current

Associate Professor, 2015 – current

Assistant Professor, September 2008-2015

Member, Melton Center for Jewish Studies

Affiliated Faculty, Germanic Languages and Literatures

#### Mills College, Oakland, CA

Lecturer, Spring 2008

#### University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Instructor, Departments of Comparative Literature, German and Near Eastern Studies, 2002-2006

### PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

#### Books

*Lingering Bilingualism: Modern Hebrew and Yiddish Literatures in Contact.* Syracuse University Press, 2016.

*Literary Trash, Trashy Literature: The Emergence of Hebrew Popular Fiction.* In progress.

*Below the Line: Feuilletons and Modern Jewish Cultures.* Collection of essays, co-edited with Matthew Handelman and Shachar Pinsker. In progress.

#### Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Shund and Translation” *Yiddish and Translation: Collected Essays* (Forthcoming 2023).

“Hebrew and Yiddish: The Language War” *Routledge Handbook on Zionism* (Forthcoming 2023)

“Sabina vs. Aviva: Translation and Popular Fiction in Yiddish and Hebrew.” *Yod: Journal of Jewish and Hebraic Studies* (Forthcoming 2023).

“David Frishman: Hebrew Critic Par-Excellence.” *In Their Surroundings: Localizing Modern Jewish Literatures in Eastern Europe*. Eds. Efrat Gal-Ed, Natasha Gordinsky, Sabine Koller, Yfaat Weiss. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2023, 21-28.

“The Many Lives of *Sabina*: ‘Trashy’ Fiction and Multilingualism” *Dibur Literary Journal* 7 (2019).

“David Bergelson in Hebrew: Translation as Literary Memorialization.” *Prooftexts* 37.3-38.1 (2019): 642-655.

“Translation as Testimony: Hebrew Translations of Yiddish Literature in the 1940s.” *East European Jewish Affairs* 48 (2018): 263-283.

“Haven’t You Ever Heard of Bialik? The Specter of H.N. Bialik in Hebrew Literature.” *Prooftexts* 35:2-3 (2015): 211-249.

“*Milgroym, Rimon* and Interwar Jewish Bilingualism.” *Journal of Jewish Identities* 7:1 (2014): 23-48.

“Gendering Hebrew Modernism: Rahel Bluvstein and Avraham Shlonsky on the Pages of *Musaf Davar*.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 101:3 (2011): 383-405.

“Slippery Selves: The Minimalist Poetics of Rachel Bluvstein and Anna Margolin.” *Nashim: A Journal of Jewish Women’s Studies and Gender* 19 (2010): 100-133.

“A Multilingual Modernist: Avraham Shlonsky Between Hebrew and Yiddish.” *Comparative Literature* 61:4 (2009): 367-387.

“Itzik in Israel: Itzik Manger’s Yiddish in Hebrew Translation.” *Prooftexts* 28:1 (2008): 53-84.

### Digital Projects

“Below the Line: The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures” Research on Jewish feuilletons. <<https://feuilleton.judaic.lsa.umich.edu/>> Project co-director.

### Selected Book Reviews & Other Publications

Allison Schacter, *Women Writing Jewish Modernity, 1919-1939*. (Book Review) *AJS Review* (forthcoming 2023).

“Grace Aguilar and Yeshaya Gelbhoyz’s *War of Faith and Love*” part of “Below the Line: The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures.” <https://feuilleton.judaic.lsa.umich.edu/s/below-the-line/item/173>

“Hebrew Translation as Innovation.” Review essay of Ken Frieden, *Travels in Translation: Sea Travels at the Source of Jewish Fiction*; Lily Kahn, *The First Hebrew Shakespeare Translations*; and Adriana X. Jacobs, *Strange Cocktail: Translation and the Making of Modern Hebrew Poetry*. *Hebrew Studies* 61 (2020)

“*Milgroym* and *Rimon*, Fraternal Twins.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. June 2018. <https://ingeveb.org/blog/milgroym-and-rimon-fraternal-twins>

“*Milgroym*’s Cultural Context.” *In geveb: A Journal of Yiddish Studies*. February 2018. <https://ingeveb.org/blog/milgroym-s-cultural-context>

Yaron Peleg, *Directed by God*. (Book Review) *AJS Review* 42.1 (2018), 236-238.

“Hebrew Literary Trash” in *Israeli Histories, Societies, and Cultures*. Frankel Institute Annual, 2017.

“What Is the Role of Language Study in the Undergraduate Jewish Studies Curriculum?” *AJS Perspectives* (Fall 2015).

Allison Schachter, *Diasporic Modernisms*. (Book Review) *Comparative Literature* 66:2 (2014): 253-255.

“What Would You Like *Perspectives* to Be?” *AJS Perspectives* (Spring 2014): 72.

#### **SELECTED INVITED AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“*Arur ata, goral!* The Rise of Hebrew Sensation Fiction in the 1930s” Annual conference of the National Association for Professors of Hebrew, June 2023.

“Cultural Economics of *Shund*: Commercialism, Consumption, and Popular Fiction” Pulp Fiction Conference, Bar Ilan University, June 2023.

“*Shund* and Yiddish Translation,” Conference on Jiddisch und Übersetzung, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf Universität Regensburg (online), June 2022.

“Stealing Stories: Translation and Popular Fiction in Yiddish and Hebrew,” Conference on Yiddish and Translation, Middle East and Mediterranean Research Center (CERMOM) at the National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisation in Paris (Inalco) and the Paris Yiddish Center – Medem Library, (online), September 2021.

“How to Write a Hebrew Roman-Feuilleton,” Seminar at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2020 (online). Seminar convener and presenter.

“Soferet Lohemet: Rachel Faygnberg’s Combative Zionist Aesthetics,” Zionism Then and Now, Tulane University, New Orleans, February 2020.

“What is a (Jewish) Roman Feuilleton?” Conference on the Feuilleton, the Public Sphere and Modern Jewish Cultures, November 2019, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Organizer, presenter and chair.

“Story Time: Serialization and Jewish Popular Fiction,” Melton Coalition Conference, March 2019, Columbus OH.

“The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures,” Roundtable session at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2018, Boston MA. Organizer and discussant.

“Shifting Boundaries: Jewish Literatures,” Roundtable session at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2018, Boston MA. Organizer and discussant.

“How to Write a Feuilleton...” Roundtable session at “Below the Line: The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures” conference, October 2018, Columbus OH. Conference organizer, discussant and chair.

“Literary Poison: Mass Market Melodramas and the Hebrew Literary Establishment,” annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2017, Washington D.C.

“Reading Literary Trash: *Aviva* and the Hebrew Canon,” annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association, July 2017, Utrecht University, The Netherlands.

“French Priests, Prostitutes and Villains: Translating the Roman-Feuilleton into Hebrew and Yiddish,” for “Below the Line?": The Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures Symposium. October 2017, University of Michigan.

“Between Original and Translation,” Wieseneck Symposium on Multilingualism in Israeli Literature, February 2017, University of Michigan.

“Jewish *Mystères de Paris*,” annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, San Diego CA, December 2016.

“Jewish Writers on Vacation: Sholem Aleykhem’s *Fir zenen mir gezesn*,” Sholem Aleichem 1916-2016: Writing Place. Conference sponsored by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University and the Israel National Library. Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, May 2016.

“Rachel Feygenberg on the Margins of Hebrew Literature,” annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Baltimore MD, December 2014.

“*Mi-sfat ha-zman le-sfat ha-netsach*: Translating Yiddish into Hebrew in the 1940s,” National Association of Professors of Hebrew International Conference, Be’ersheva Israel, June 2014.

“The Future of Polish Jewish Studies” (Roundtable) The Ohio State University, Columbus OH, March 2014.

“*Rimon, Milgroym* and the Dissemination of Modern Jewish Culture.” Melton Coalition Conference, The Transmission of Jewish Culture Outside the Classroom. Columbus, OH, February 2013.

“Y.D. Berkovits, Zalman Shneour and the Transformations of Early Twentieth Century Hebrew Literature.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Chicago, IL, December 2012.

““Only a World War Could Bring Us Such Elegance’ *Milgroym, Rimon* and the Transformation of Interwar Jewish Culture.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, RI, March 2012.

“Who Are We? What Do We Want to Create? *Rimon, Milgroym* and Jewish Art in Berlin.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies. Washington, D.C., December 2011.

“Culture and Bilingualism in Berlin’s *Rimon* and *Milgroym*.” Invited talk, Goldreich Institute for Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, Tel Aviv University. May 2011 [Hebrew]

“Slippery Selves: The Minimalist Poetics of Rachel Bluvstein and Anna Margolin.” Works in Progress Session, Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington D.C. December 2008.

#### **SELECTED COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS**

“Feuilletons Then and Now” Workshops (online) with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus, OH. January 2023.

*Where is Anne Frank?* Conversation with Filmmaker Ari Folman, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH. November 2022.

“Living Afghanistan” Photo Exhibit and Gallery Talk, featuring Robert Nickelsberg. Global Gallery, Hagerty Hall, Columbus, OH. March-April 2022.

“Emergence of Popular Fiction in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Hebrew” workshops (online) with the Melton Text Study group, Columbus, OH. January 2021.

“The Legacy of the Holocaust in Israeli Fiction.” Workshops with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus, OH. January 22 and February 12, 2020.

“Israeli and Palestinian Literatures in Contact.” Workshops with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus, OH. November 29 and December 6, 2017.

“From Sinai to the Kibbutz: Shavuot through the Ages.” Congregation Torat Emet, Columbus OH. June 1, 2017.

“Hebrew and Yiddish Culture in 1920s Berlin.” Congregation Beth Tikvah, Worthington, OH. February 12, 2014.

*The World is Funny.* Guest lecture and discussion. Columbus Jewish Film Festival, November 17, 2013.

“Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story.” Facilitated discussion. OSU Chabad House, April 15, 2013.

“Talk-Back Q&A – *The Gatekeepers.*” Drexel Theatre, Bexley, OH. April 4, 2013.

“Imagining the Women of Judges.” Workshops with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus OH. February 20 and March 6, 2013

“*Waltz with Bashir* and Contemporary Israel.” Ohio State University Hillel, April 25, 2012

“Contemporary Israeli Short Films.” College of Jewish Knowledge, Columbus Jewish Federation. April 29, 2012.

“Filming the Land – Early Zionist Cinema.” Workshops with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus OH. February 1 & February 15, 2012.

“Watching Israel Now: Contemporary Israeli Society on Television.” College of Jewish Knowledge, Columbus Jewish Federation, May 23, 2010.

“Women of the Wall.” Ohio State University Hillel, Columbus OH. January 26, 2010.

“Bialik(s) in Israel.” Workshops with the Melton Text Study Group, Columbus, OH. February 18, 2009.

“What is Zionism Today?” Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus OH. January 25, 2009.

#### **SERVICE TO ACADEMIC SOCIETIES**

Program Committee 2022-2024  
Association for Jewish Studies

Hebrew Forum Executive Committee 2022-2025  
Modern Languages Association

Selection Committee 2022-2024  
Fenia and Yaakov Leviant Memorial Prize in Yiddish Studies  
Modern Languages Association

## COURSES

### *The Ohio State University*

Comparative Studies 2101 (H): Literature and Society, Spring 2014, Spring 2015  
Hebrew 422: Modern Hebrew Poetry, Winter 2012  
Hebrew 402: Intermediate Hebrew Conversation and Composition, Autumn 2008  
Hebrew 401/4102: Hebrew and the Media, Spring 2010, Spring 2013, Spring 2014  
Hebrew 2367: Scripture and Script: The Bible and Contemporary Arts and Media: Spring 2019.  
Hebrew 3705: Israeli Society and the Holocaust, Spring 2018, Spring 2020  
Hebrew 374/2704/3704: Biblical and Postbiblical Women in Literature, Winter 2009, Winter 2010, Autumn 2011, Autumn 2012, Autumn 2013, Autumn 2014, Autumn 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2021, Spring 2022  
Hebrew 245/2245/3245: Israeli Film & Society, Winter 2012, Spring 2013, Autumn 2014, Autumn 2016, Spring 2019, Autumn 2020, Autumn 2021, Autumn 2022  
Hebrew 241: Culture of Contemporary Israel, Winter 2009, Winter 2010  
Hebrew 104: Intermediate Hebrew II, Fall 2008  
Jewish Studies 201/2201: Introduction to Jewish Studies, Spring 2010, Autumn 2011, Autumn 2013, Autumn 2017, Autumn 2018, Spring 2020, Autumn 2020  
NELC 1125: Stories of the Middle East and South Asia, Spring 2020, Autumn 2021, Autumn 2022  
NELC/Comparative Studies 7301: Theorizing Literature, Autumn 2012, Spring 2015  
NELC 4601: Israeli and Palestinian Literatures, Autumn 2017, Autumn 2018

### *Mills College*

English 180D: Gender and the Literature of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Spring 2008

### *University of California, Berkeley*

Yiddish 102: Yiddish for Advanced Students, Spring 2006  
Hebrew 10: Intensive Elementary Hebrew, Summer 2006, Summer 2005  
Comparative Literature 1:A: Literature and Music, Fall 2004  
Comparative Literature 1B: Self-Portraits – Creating the Self through Narrative, Fall 2002

## ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

National Endowment for the Humanities, Convening Grant	2019-2021
Below the Line: the Feuilleton, the Public Sphere and Modern Jewish Cultures	
Co-Director, with Shachar Pinsker and Matthew Handelman	
American Academy for Jewish Research, Small Grants Initiative	2018-2019
Feuilleton and Modern Jewish Cultures	
Co-Director, with Shachar Pinsker and Matthew Handelman	
Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies, Fellow	2017
Israeli Histories, Societies, and Cultures	
Hanadiv Fellowship in Jewish Studies	2010-2011
National Foundation for Jewish Culture Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	2006-2007
American Academy of Jewish Research Graduate Student Seminar	2006
Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2005-2006
California Regents' Intern Fellowship, UC Berkeley	2004-2005
Wexner Graduate Fellowship, Wexner Foundation, Columbus, OH	2000-2004
Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Fellowships in Humanistic Studies	2000-2001

**LANGUAGES**

Hebrew; Yiddish; Arabic; French

**RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

Hebrew and Israeli literature and culture; Yiddish literature and culture; comparative Jewish literatures; comparative Middle Eastern literatures; multilingualism; textual constructions of identity and gender; migration, immigration and exile; intertextuality and translation; film and society; popular fiction; feuilletons.

UPDATED: JUNE 2023