

Dr. Sara Offenber

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Curriculum Vitae

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The image of the Jew in art, literature and cinema

Jewish-Christian relations in art and literature

Hebrew illuminated manuscripts

Piyyut commentary

Hasidei Ashkenaz

STUDIES

2009-2010 VATAT Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Interdepartmental Division of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

2002-2009 PhD in a direct doctoral program for outstanding students in the Department of Jewish Thought and the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Subject of doctoral thesis: "Expressions of Meeting the Challenges of the Christian Milieu in Medieval Jewish Art and Literature." (*Summa cum laude*)

2008 The 3rd Summer School for Jewish Studies and Comparative Religion: Polemics and Identity in Cultural Context: Jews, Christians and Muslims, IAS, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2005 MA in Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

2000-2002 Teaching Workshop, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

1998-2002 BA studies in the Department of Jewish Thought and the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (*cum laude*)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Since 2014 Senior Lecturer in the Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University

Since 2008 Teaching Associate in the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

- 2011 – 2014 Teaching Associate in the Department of Jewish Art, Bar-Ilan University
- 2014 Teaching Associate in the Department of Judaism and the Arts, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies
- 2013 – 2014 Teaching Associate in the Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- 2003-2009 Tutorial Assistant in the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- 2003-2006 Research Assistant in the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- 2003 Cataloguer of joint project of the Index of Christian Art, Princeton University

TEACHING

1. Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev

- 2003–2009 “Medieval Art” (1st year, undergraduate course)
- 2007-2009 “Ancient and Classic Art” (1st year, undergraduate course)
- 2008-Present “Art and Judaism in Antiquity and in the Middle Ages” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2010-2011 “The Image of the Jew in Art” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2012 “War and Peace: Expressions of Conflict and Coexistence in Jewish Art throughout the Ages” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2012-2013 “Once Upon a Time there was a Painting: Tales and Jewish Art in the Middle Ages” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2014 “Humor, Satire and Polemics in Art: From Ancient Greece to Contemporary Art” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)

2. Ginsburg-Ingerman Overseas Student Program, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev

- 2008 “Visual Culture in Ancient and Medieval Judaism” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)

3. Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg

- 2010 “Jewish Reactions to Christian Art in Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts” (M.A. workshop)

4. Department of Jewish Arts, Bar-Ilan University

- 2011-Present “Jewish Art” (1st year, undergraduate course)
- “Ancient and Medieval Art” (1st year, undergraduate course)
- “Selected Subjects in Medieval Art” (1st year, undergraduate course)

- 2012 “The Image of the Jew in Art and Cinema” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2013 “Humor, Satire and Polemics in Art” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)
- 2013-2014 “Outstanding: The Other and Otherness in Art” (3rd year, undergraduate seminar)

5. Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University in the Negev

- 2013-2014 “The Messianic Idea in the Middle Ages and its Expression in Text and Image” (2nd-3rd year, undergraduate course)

6. Department of Judaism and the Arts, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies

- 2014 “The Image of the Jew in Medieval Art” (M.A. course)

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2013-2015 ISF (Israel Science Foundation). Project Title: *Aspiration for Wisdom: Allegories of the Torah Study in European Jewish Art in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods*, research grant together with Dr. Ilia Rodov
- 2009-2010 The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism (SICSA), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, research grant
- 2007-2008 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Doctoral grant
- 2006-2007 Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship
- 2001 Scholarship from the Ministry of Education
- 2000 Certificate of Appreciation from The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

LANGUAGES	READING	WRITING
Hebrew	Excellent	Excellent
English	Excellent	Excellent
Rumanian	Good	Fair
French	Good	Fair
German	Fair	Fair
Yiddish	Fair	Fair
Spanish	Fair	
Aramaic	Fair	
Latin	Fair	

BOOKS

1. *Illuminated Piety: Pietistic Texts and Images in the North French Hebrew Miscellany*, Los Angeles: Cherub Press 2013
2. *Antisemitism and the Jewish Response in the Art and Literature of Thirteenth Century France*, Jerusalem: The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism (SICSA), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 250 p. (under contract)

PUBLICATIONS

1. "On a Pious Man, Adulteress Wife, and the Pleasure of Preaching to Others in Isaac Ibn Sahula's *Meshal Haqadmoni*," *Hispania Judaica Journal* 12 (forthcoming 2016)
2. "Jacob the Knight in Ezekiel's Chariot: Imagined Identity in a Micrography Decoration of an Ashkenazi Bible," *AJS Review* 39 (forthcoming 2015)
3. "Isaac Ibn Sahula and King Alfonso X: Possible Connections between the Book *Meshal Haqadmoni* and the *Cántigas de Santa Maria*," *Arts and Social Sciences Journal* 5/3 (2014), pp. 1-7.
4. "Creation, Eschatology, and the Temple in the London Hebrew Miscellany," *Gesta* 53/1 (2014), 41p. (Accepted).
5. "Purim like Yom Kippurim: Between the Texts and Images of the *London Miscellany* and R. Elazar the Preacher's Commentary on Exodus," in: *Exodus: Border Crossings in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Texts and Images*, ed. Annette Hoffmann, Heidelberg and Kunsthistorisches Institut in Florenz (forthcoming 2015).
6. "Staging the Blindfold Bride: Between Medieval Drama and *Piyyut* Illumination in the *Levy Mahzor*," in: *Resounding Images: Medieval*

- Intersections of Art, Music and Sound*, eds. Susan Boynton and Diane J. Reilly, Turnhout, Belgium: Brepols 2015, pp. 281-294 (forthcoming).
7. "Mirroring Samson the Martyr: Reflections of Jewish-Christian Relations in the *North French Hebrew Illuminated Miscellany*," in: *Jews and Christians in Thirteenth Century Europe*, eds. Elisheva Baumgarten and Judah Galinsky, Palgrave Macmillan 2015, pp. 203-216.
 8. "A Jewish Knight in Shining Armor: Messianic Narrative and Imagination in Ashkenazic Illuminated Manuscripts," *The University of Toronto Journal of Jewish Thought* 4 (2014), pp. 1-14.
 9. "Resisting Conversion or the True Aristocrat: Jews Imagining Themselves in Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts," *Sefer ha-Yovel for Burton D. Morris*, ed. Menachem Butler, New York, 15 p. (forthcoming 2015).
 10. "Crossing over from Earth to Heaven: The Image of the Ark and the *Merkavah* in the *North French Hebrew Miscellany*," *Kabbalah* 26 (2012), pp. 135-158.
 11. "Illuminations of *Kol Nidrei* in two Ashkenazi Mahzorim," *Ars Judaica* 7 (2011), pp. 7-16.
 12. "To See and be Seen: Nava Astarhan," in the exhibition catalogue *Matza Nashi*, ed. Maor Haim, Beer Sheva 2002, pp. [3-6] (Hebrew).

REVIEWS

1. *Former Synagogues and Host-Miracle Shrines in Germany and Austria: on Mitchell B. Merback, Pilgrimage and Pogrom: Violence, Memory, and Visual Culture at the Host-Miracle Shrines of Germany and Austria*, in: *Ars Judaica* 11 (2015), pp. 91-92.
2. Book Review: David M. Freidenreich, *Foreigners and Their Food - Constructing Otherness in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Law*, in: *Der Islam* -

Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Kultur des islamischen Orients 90 (2013), pp. 159-161.

3. Book Review: Marc Michael Epstein, *The Medieval Haggadah: Art, Narrative, and Religious Imagination*, in: *Jewish History* 27/1 (2013), pp. 91-94.
4. "All the Roads Lead to Jerusalem: Review of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Wing for Jewish Art and Life at the Israel Museum," *Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture* 5 (2011), pp. 107-109.

IN PREPARATION

Book: A Critical Edition of R. Elazar ben Moshe the Preacher, Commentary on Exodus: Oxford, Bodleian Library MS Opp. 202.

ORGANIZATION OF CONFERENCES & CHAIRING

1. Organizer and Member of Academic Committee (together with Dr. Shulamit Laderman): "Art and Performance in the Middle Ages," IMAGO International Conference, Bar-Ilan University, (March 2012).
2. Chairperson: "Criminology and Society", *Dioknaot: the Sign of Cain* Conference, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (April 2012).
3. Chairperson: "Of Art and Nature," *Traditions and Perspectives in History of Jewish Art*, International Conference, Bar Ilan University, (September 2012).
4. Member of Academic Committee: "Capturing Light in Late Antique, Medieval and Early Modern Art," IMAGO International Conference, University of Haifa, (January 2013).
5. Moderator: "Material Witnesses: Text and Image in Hebrew and Arabic Manuscripts," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2013).
6. Moderator: *Text-image Relationship and Visual Elements in Written Hebrew Sources*, International Conference, Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg (November 2013).

7. Member of Academic Committee: "East & West in Medieval and Early Modern Art," IMAGO International Conference, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, (January 2014).
8. Organizer and Member of Academic Committee (together with Dr. Judah Galinsky): "Middle Ages, Now!" The Annual Israeli Historians Conference, Bar Ilan University, (in Hebrew) (March 2014).
9. Member of Academic Committee: "Speculation, Imagination, and Misinterpretation in Art," IMAGO International Conference, Tel Aviv University, (March 2015).
10. Organizer of two sessions at the International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2015:
 - a. Redemption in Medieval Ashkenaz: Elijah and Jewish-Christian Polemic
 - b. Messianic Redemption in Medieval Ashkenaz: Festival Book Prayer and Hanukkah
11. Organizer and Member of Academic Committee (together with Dr. Mirjam Rajner and Dr. Ilia Rodov). International Conference: "Constructing and Deconstructing Jewish Art," Bar-Ilan University, September (7–9, 2015).

SCHOLARLY PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES

1. "Beauty and the Beast: Esthetics, Morals and Polemic in Miniature Paintings of Animals," *Berechia Hanaqdan and Medieval and Early Modern fable lore and moralizing literature International Workshop ISF-IAS Conference at IAS, Jerusalem* (November 2015) (invited lecture)
2. "Divide and Conquer: Deconstructing the Art from its 'Jewishness' and Reconstructing a contextual Meaning in Medieval Art History," *Constructing and Deconstructing Jewish Art*, International Conference, Bar-Ilan University, (September 2015)
3. "The Double Messiah in Text and Image: The Son of Joseph, the Son of David, and the Jewish-Christian Polemic," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2015)

4. "Once Upon a Time there was a Painting: Illuminations of the Bible and Midrash," Colloquium of the Comparative Literature Department Bar-Ilan University, (in Hebrew) (May 2015) (invited lecture)
5. Two Sides of the Same Coin: Christian Aristocratic Motifs in Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts," *The Jewish Neighborhood*. International Conference, Tel Aviv University, (April 2015) (invited lecture)
6. Research workshop, "Imagining Medieval Jewish Life in Word and Image," The British Library, London, (March 2015)
7. "Illuminated Midrash: Reflections of the Aggadah in the illuminations of Esther Scrolls," Book Launch Event Honor: *Midrash Esther Rabbah*, eds. Joseph Tabory and Arnon Atzmon, Jerusalem 2014, (in Hebrew) (March 2015) (invited lecture)
8. "On Symbolic Animals in Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts," Colloquium the Jewish Art Department, Bar-Ilan University, (in Hebrew) (January 2015) (invited lecture)
9. "The Empire and the Jews: Symbols of the Holy Roman Empire in Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2014)
10. "Moshe in Art, Paintings and Stories," International workshop, Swedish Theological Institute (June 2014) (invited lecture)
11. "The Image of the Hassid in Art, Theatre and Cinema," The Faculty of Jewish Studies Congress, Bar-Ilan University (in Hebrew), (June 2014) (invited lecture)
12. "Mystery and Love in Jewish Art," *A Time for Judaism and Knowledge*, The Faculty of Jewish Studies Conference, Bar-Ilan University (in Hebrew), (March 2014) (invited lecture)
13. "A King, a Temple, and Amalek in the Texts and Illuminations of the *North French Hebrew Miscellany*," *Text-image Relationship and Visual Elements in Written Hebrew Sources*, International Conference, Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg (November 2013)
14. "Up in Arms: Pretend Identity of Jewish Warriors in Ashkenazic Illuminated," The Sixteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University, (August 2013)
15. "Naughty Women and the Pleasure of Preaching to Others in Isaac Ibn Sahula's *Meshal Haqadmoni*," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2013)

16. "Samson of Metz and the Biblical Samson in the *North French Hebrew Miscellany*," *Martyrology: Characters, Perceptions and Ideologies*, Forum for Medieval and Early Modern Culture, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (March 2013)
17. "Biblical Characters: Art as Commentary," *Biblical Characters in Islamic Paintings of Indian*, Colloquium of the Jewish Art Department, Bar-Ilan University, (December 2012) (invited lecture)
18. "The Triple Messiah in the Thirteenth Century: Son of Joseph, Son of David, and Anti-Messiah," *Traditions and Perspectives in History of Jewish Art*, International Conference, Bar Ilan University, (September 2012)
19. "Text and Image in Illuminated Mahzorim and Their Meaning in Medieval Ashkenazi Synagogue," Summer School, Lander Institute, (in Hebrew) (July 2012) (invited lecture)
20. "Law & Order of Work: Text, Image and Practice of the *Seder Avodah* in the *London Miscellany*," *Minhagim: Custom and Practice in Jewish Life*, International Conference, Tel-Aviv University, (May 2012) (invited lecture)
21. "Self Acceptance: Between the Sign of Cain and Jewish Self Image," *Dioknaot: the Sign of Cain*, Exhibition Opening and Conference, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (April 2012) (invited lecture)
22. "Between *Birkat Ha-Minim* and Desecrating an Icon: Jewish-Christian Relations in 13th Century Castile," *Middle Ages, Now!* The Annual Israeli Historians Conference, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (March 2012) (invited lecture)
23. "Staging the Blindfold Bride: Between Medieval Drama and *Piyyut* Illumination in the *Levy Mahzor*," IMAGO (Israeli Association for Visual Culture in the Middle Ages), International Conference, Bar-Ilan University, (March 2012)
24. "Between Hekhalot Literature, Sefer Gematriot and the North French Hebrew Miscellany," Seminar of the Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (November 2011) (invited lecture)
25. "Illuminated and Written Polemic: Jewish-Christian Relations in Medieval Jewish Art and Literature," Seminar of the Department of Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (June 2011) (invited lecture)
26. "The London Miscellany as a Mirror: Reflections of Jewish-Christian Relations in 13th Century French Art and Literature," *13th Century France*,

- Continuity and Change*, ISF-IAS Conference at IAS, Jerusalem, (February 2011) (invited lecture)
27. "Crossing over from Earth to Heaven: The Image of the Ark and Merkavah in the *London Miscellany*," *Exodus: Border Crossings in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Texts and Images* Interdisciplinary Colloquium, Karl-Jaspers-Centre, Heidelberg, (December 2010)
 28. "‘It Was Turned to the Contrary’: Inverted Scenes at the *Michael Mahzor*," Colloquium of the Interdepartmental Division of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University, (in Hebrew) (March 2010) (invited lecture)
 29. "Inverted Hunt Scene: Motifs of the Jewish-Christian Polemic in the Illumination of the Liturgical Poem *El Mitnase*," The Fifteenth World Congress of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University, (August 2009)
 30. "Resisting Conversion or the True Aristocrat: Jews Imagining Themselves in Hebrew Illuminated Manuscripts," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2009)
 31. "Isaac Ibn Sahula and King Alfonso X: Possible Connections between the Book *Meshal HaQadmoni* and the *Cántigas de Santa Maria*," IMAGO (Israeli Association for Visual Culture in the Middle Ages), Open University, (in Hebrew) (June 2009)
 32. "The Subjects of the King Under the Fourth Kingdom: Jewish-Christian Polemic in the Liturgical Poems and Illumination for the High Holy Days," Seminar of the Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (January 2009) (invited lecture)
 33. "The 'Four Kingdoms' and *Yom Kippur*: The Illumination of *Kol Nidrei* in Ashkenazi Mahzorim," *The Jewish Presence in Art*, International workshop, Bar Ilan University, (June 2008)
 34. "Not Just a Wedding Scene: The Illumination of the Liturgical Poem *Come with me from Lebanon my Bride* in the Worms Mahzor and the Jewish-Christian Polemic," International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, (July 2007)
 35. "The Deer Hunt in the *Worms Mahzor*: The Illustration of a Liturgical Poem and Jewish-Christian Polemics," *Art as Historical Text*, International workshop, Department of the Arts, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (May 2007) (invited lecture)
 36. "Expressions of the Jewish-Christian Polemic in the Illuminations of Ashkenazic Mahzorim in the Middle Ages," Seminar of the Department of

- Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (January 2007) (invited lecture)
37. “‘Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image’ - Really? The Halachic Approach to Art during the Ages,” *Daromah Beit Midrash*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (January 2005) (invited lecture)
38. “Passover, Matza and Blood: Illuminated Blood Libels,” *Passover: Blood Libels, Hametz, and Haggadah*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, (in Hebrew) (March 2004) (invited lecture)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editor of *Ars Judaica Journal*

Editorial board *Arts & Social Sciences Journal*

Advisor, Digitized Manuscripts Collection Database, The National Library of Israel

PEER REVIEWING

Journals: *Ars Judaica, Images: A Journal of Jewish Art and Visual Culture, Jewish Studies Quarterly, Melbourne Historical Journal*

Grants: ISF (Israel Science Foundation)

MEMBERSHIP IN A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

IMAGO – The Israeli Association for Visual Culture in the Middle Ages. 2011-2015: committee member and treasurer

BAJS – British Association for Jewish Studies

EAJS – European Association for Jewish Studies

ICMA – International Center of Medieval Art

WUJS – World Union of Jewish Studies

The Historical Society of Israel

VOLUNTEER WORK

2010-Present OFEK Project