



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2025

# THE POLONSKY PRIZES

**For Creativity & Originality In  
The Humanistic Disciplines**



DREAMING. CREATING. INNOVATING.  
Since 1925







## DR. LEONARD S. POLONSKY

**Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky, CBE, a distinguished philanthropist and entrepreneur, passed away on March 14, 2025, at the age of 97. His life was marked by significant contributions to higher education, cultural heritage, and the arts, leaving a lasting legacy that will inspire and impact future generations.**

Born in New York City, Dr. Polonsky attended the prestigious Townsend Harris High School and graduated from New York University at the age of 18. Following his military service in 1945-46, he pursued graduate studies at Lincoln College, Oxford, and the Sorbonne in Paris, where he earned his doctorate in 1952. He taught English literature in Heidelberg before transitioning to a career in financial services in 1955.

In 1970, Dr. Polonsky founded Liberty Life Assurance Company Limited in London, which later evolved into Hansard Global plc. Under his leadership, Hansard Global was listed on the London Stock Exchange in 2006.

In 1985 Dr. Polonsky established the Polonsky Foundation, a UK-registered charity, which became the principal vehicle for his philanthropic activity. The Foundation's main areas of activity are cultural heritage, humanities education and the performing arts, in the United Kingdom, the United States, Israel and Europe.

In recognition of his charitable services, Dr. Polonsky was named a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2013. He held honorary positions at Oxford University, Cambridge University, the Royal College of Music, Lincoln College, Oxford, and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. In 2013 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University.

His support for the Hebrew University was extensive. The Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanities have been awarded annually since 2004. The Polonsky Foundation has for many years provided scholarships for students of Ethiopian heritage, and support for East Asian studies and for the Truman Institute for Peace, where Dr Polonsky served as a board member.

Other institutions in Israel that have benefited from his support include the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (a programme for postdoctoral researchers), the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, Haifa University and Tel Aviv University.

Dr. Polonsky's passing is a significant loss to the many institutions and individuals who benefited from his generosity and vision.





## Dear friends and colleagues,

Since its founding in 1928, our faculty has led the country in research and teaching in the humanities. Our scholars consistently produce work of the highest quality, making significant contributions to global knowledge. We are proud to be recognized as a world leader in Jewish studies and are equally committed to excellence in the study of Western civilization, as well as Asian and African cultures. Our international reputation and rankings continue to rise each year, and we recognize the importance of offering meaningful incentives to sustain this momentum.

Established in 2004 through the vision and generosity of Dr. Leonard Polonsky—a true friend of the Faculty of Humanities and a passionate advocate for humanistic studies—the **Polonsky Prizes for Creativity and Originality in the Humanistic Disciplines** were designed to do exactly that. These prizes encourage creativity and “out-of-the-box” thinking, fostering vibrant scholarly dialogue within the humanities. They also serve as an important way to recognize outstanding faculty members, postdoctoral scholars, and advanced graduate students whose innovative work stands at the forefront of academic excellence.

Sadly, Dr. Polonsky passed away last March. Yet his vision and spirit continue to inspire us, and his legacy lives on through these prizes and the community they uplift.

The Polonsky Prizes are the highest honor our Faculty bestows, and each year we receive many exceptional nominations. Selecting this year’s recipients was no easy task. I can personally attest to the challenge of choosing just four scholars from among so many impressive candidates.

I extend my sincere thanks to the members of the prize committee for their dedication and insights—especially to Prof. Yossi Maurey, who chaired the committee, and to Prof. Aaron Palmon, Vice President for Research and Development, for his invaluable support. I also wish to thank Ms. Karen Frydman Kovari and Ms. Lya Brik from the University’s Authority for Research and Development, as well as Ms. Yael Dagan from the Faculty of Humanities, for coordinating the committee’s work so efficiently.

We are deeply grateful to the Polonsky Foundation for its continued support of our faculty and its commitment to advancing cutting-edge research in the humanities. We look forward to future Polonsky Prize recipients who, like today’s honorees, will leave their mark on global scholarship through bold, creative, and impactful research.

With best wishes,

**Prof. Nissim Otmazgin**  
Dean



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2025

## 2025 PRIZE WINNERS

**PROF. GAL VENTURA**

1st Prize Researcher

**DR. TAMAR GROSWALD OZERY**

2nd Prize Researcher

**DR. MICKA ULLMAN**

1st Prize Postdoctoral Fellows

**GABRIEL ABENSOUR**

1st Prize Ph.D./M.A. Students





# 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE RESEARCHER



## PROF. GAL VENTURA

**Prof. Gal Ventura** is a cultural art historian in the Department of Art History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research, which primarily explores the socio-medical dimensions of childhood and motherhood in nineteenth- and twentieth-century France, seeks to reconstruct the complex ties between visual representation and everyday social experience—encompassing tastes, mentalities, collective ideas, narratives, knowledge, and emotion. Her recent book, *Hush Little Baby: The Invention of Infant Sleep in Modern France*, investigates the historical, cultural, economic, and medical forces that shaped the normalization and regulation of infant sleep. Her current research project examines the dynamics of attention and distraction in modernity, focusing on phenomena such as queuing, modes of art viewing, evolving perceptions of the five senses, and the collection of celebrity photographs.



## RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

In the nineteenth century France became fixated on infant sleep. Pictures of sleeping babies proliferated in paintings, posters, and advertisements for cradles and toys. Childcare manuals and medical writings insisted on the importance of sleep as a measure of a child's future health and vigour. Infant sleep was transformed from an unremarkable event to a precarious stage of life that demanded monitoring, support, and, above all, the constant presence and attention of mothers.

Drawing on a wide range of sources including childcare manuals, medical treatises, paintings, advertisements, and domestic objects, *Hush Little Baby: The Invention of Infant Sleep in Modern France* uncovers how medical discourses and visual culture converged to construct new ideals of motherhood, domestic order, and infant care. As paediatricians began urging mothers to regulate their infants' sleep according to medical norms, a sleeping child became emblematic of both good health and good parenting. These expectations were reinforced by a growing visual culture that depicted mothers tenderly watching over sleeping children—images that idealized caregiving even as physicians acknowledged the psychological toll on women,

including postpartum depression. Gal Ventura further demonstrates how medical advice fostered a booming commercial market of sleep-related goods—cribs, bedding, toys, and garments—positioning infant sleep as both a private ritual and a public marker of class. By tracing the intertwined evolution of medical discourse, visual culture, and domestic life, *Hush Little Baby* sheds light on the historical roots of contemporary anxieties around infant sleep and maternal responsibility, revealing how modern parenting standards were shaped by broader cultural and institutional forces.



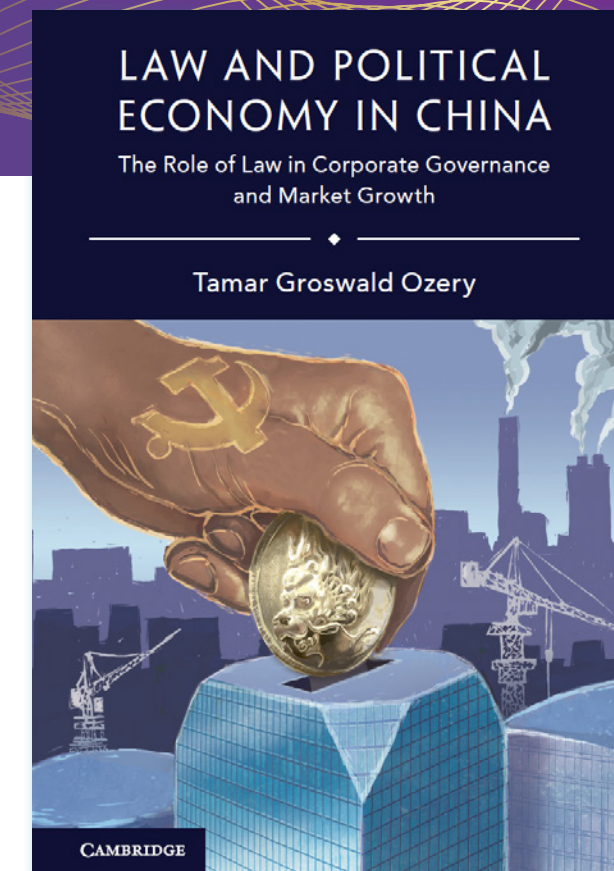
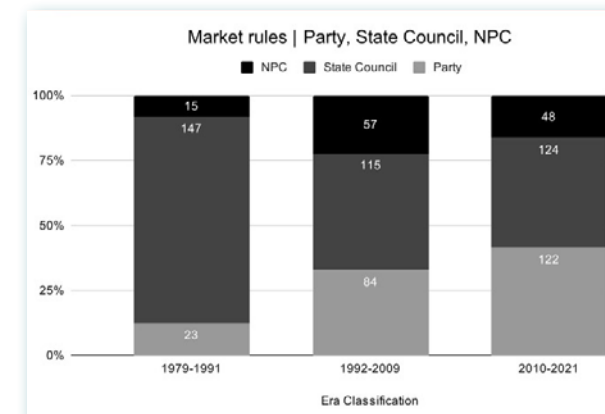


# 2<sup>ND</sup> PRIZE RESEARCHER



## DR. TAMAR GROSWALD OZERY

Dr. Tamar Groswald Ozery is a Lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research explores law and political economy in China, party-state market relations, corporate governance, and China's global economic integration. She has testified before the U.S. Congress (U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission) on CCP presence in firms and its implications for U.S. investors. Before academia, she led the China department at a leading Israeli law firm. She was previously a Grotius Fellow at Michigan Law, a Teaching & Research Fellow at Harvard Law School, and Editor of the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance. She holds law and East Asian Studies degrees from Hebrew University and earned her LL.M. and S.J.D. from the University of Michigan.



## RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

**Law and Political Economy in China: The Role of Law in Corporate Governance and Market Growth, Cambridge University Press (2023)**

The conventional wisdom linking economic development with a modern, impartial legal system—one that safeguards contracts, property rights, and investment—is fundamentally challenged by China's economic rise. The book, *"Law and Political Economy in China"* (2023), reexamines this relationship, arguing that law in China has been wrongly dismissed as a political tool or mere window dressing. Instead, it presents law as a significant governance instrument that mediates between political power and market forces. By adopting a "law and political economy" framework, the book reveals law's dual economic and political functions, offering a new lens through which to understand China's development.

Drawing on extensive analysis of primary Chinese legal and policy documents, the book delineates a novel historical periodization of contemporary legal reforms into three distinct eras: the Early Reform Era (1978–1991), the Legal Modernization Era (1992–2009), and the current Legalized Politicization Era (2010–present).

Each era demonstrates how legal reforms consistently balanced political imperatives with market incentives, facilitating economic growth while preserving party-state control.

A central contribution is the detailed exploration of corporate governance, examining how substitutional mechanisms—such as political instruments within firms—increasingly resemble traditional legal constructs. This "legalized politicization" highlights the adaptability of China's governance system, supporting market growth even as individual legal rights remain underdeveloped.

Methodologically, the book integrates doctrinal legal analysis, empirical research, political economy critique, and comparative perspective. This approach provides a nuanced understanding of alternative pathways to market development and challenges traditional dichotomies between state and market. The book opens new avenues for understanding relations between governance, markets, and development in systems where state influence permeates ostensibly private domains, with relevance extending well beyond China.

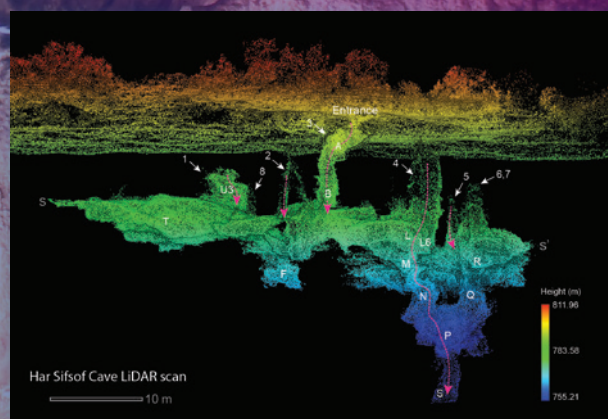


# 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE POST-DOC. FELLOWS



## DR. MICKA ULLMAN

**Dr. Micka Ullman** is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Laboratory for Environmental Micro-History at the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, University of Haifa, and the Spatial Archaeology Laboratory at the Institute of Archaeology, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She completed her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D (2024) at the Hebrew University's Institute of Archaeology and has been an active member of the Israel Cave Research Center since 2009. Her Ph.D research, for which she was awarded the President's Scholarship at the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, focused on human activity in extreme cave environments during the later prehistory of the southern Levant, spanning the 7th to 3rd millennia BCE. She also received the Rothschild Fellowship for Postdoctoral Research from the Yad Hanadiv Foundation, which she undertook at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (2024-2025). Her current research focuses on spatial and geoarchaeological analysis of the late prehistoric village of Shiqmim, a key site of the Late Chalcolithic period (ca. 4500-3800 BCE), as well as the advanced study of contemporaneous complex cave sites.



## RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

### Human Activity Patterns in Complex Karstic Caves during the Late Prehistory of the Southern Levant

This research investigates ancient human use of complex caves—extensive natural karstic systems characterized by extreme environments—during the later prehistory of the southern Levant, from the 7th to the 3rd millennia BCE, through a pioneering interdisciplinary approach. Combining archaeology and speleology, it offers a holistic perspective in which the Archaeology of the Senses, analyses of site formation processes, spatial configuration, and cultural contextualization are integrated to explore how cave environments were embedded in human lifeways and culture. The study offers new insights into human relationships with extreme natural spaces (wildscapes) in the ancient southern Levant.

By emphasizing the diverse and multifunctional uses of complex caves, this work challenges the prevailing global view that regards such spaces primarily as symbolic or ritual arenas. Instead, it presents them as dynamic environments, continuously adapted and reimagined in response to shifting cultural and geographic contexts. Drawing on historical,

ethnographic, and archaeological sources, the study considers various functions of cave use, including ritual, burial, resource acquisition (e.g., fresh water, rare minerals), and refuge during times of crisis.

For the first time in Levantine archaeology, the use of complex caves has been examined comparatively across a broad geographical scope—including the Galilee, Central Highlands, Judean Desert, and Negev—and over an extended chronological range. The study encompasses the 40 largest caves in the southern Levant and reveals that engagement with these extreme environments was both widespread and recurrent. The earliest evidence dates to the Pottery Neolithic period (second half of the 7th millennium BCE) but limited to the western slopes of the Central Highlands. Subsequently, cave use re-emerged intermittently, reaching a peak during the Late Chalcolithic period (second half of the 5th millennium BCE), when dozens of caves across all studied regions were used. Regional and chronological variations, the material remains found in the caves and their spatial interaction with cave environments, all suggest that patterns of cave use serve as sensitive indicators of broader cultural dynamics.



# 1<sup>ST</sup> PRIZE PH.D./M.A. STUDENTS



## GABRIEL ABENSOUR

**Gabriel Abensour** is a Ph.D. candidate in Jewish history and contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) and an M.A. in Jewish History from the Hebrew University, and is a graduate of HUJI's Amirim Interdisciplinary Honors Program. His dissertation, *Resilience, Mimicry, and Resistance: Algerian Jews Under French Colonialism (1865–1940)*, presents the first comprehensive “history from below” of Algerian Jewish life. Gabriel integrates postcolonial and Jewish studies approaches in his research.



## RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

### A Rabbinical Critique of Colonial Space-Time in Algeria

This article examines a hidden critique of French colonialism in Algeria articulated by Rabbi Yosef Messas in 1934. In his introduction to *Mayim Hayyim*, Messas embeds a sophisticated theological and cultural resistance to colonial space and temporality. Drawing on Michel Foucault's notion of “subjugated knowledge,” the study argues that the marginalization of North African rabbinic texts enabled them to serve as covert spaces of dissent—overlooked by colonial authorities, yet potent in symbolic critique.

The article identifies three key contributions. First, it highlights Messas's early analysis of colonial “allochronism”—the imposition of a disjointed modern temporality on traditional Jewish life. For Messas, colonial modernity functioned as a new theological regime, with immanence, industrialization, and liberalism forming its secular trinity. His insights anticipate post-secular critiques of European universalism and its embedded violence.

Second, the article compares Messas's perspective with those of Bourdieu and Fanon. Unlike these thinkers, who describe colonial space as increasingly closed to the colonized, Messas depicts Jews being expelled from their inner, sacred spaces and forced into colonial public spheres. The study draws striking parallels between colonial policies applied to Jews and Muslim women—both were “emancipated” into visibility and control through spatial and bodily transformation.

Third, the article proposes a new methodological lens that bridges Jewish Studies and Postcolonial Theory. It shows how rabbinic texts can serve as critical sources for understanding colonial experiences from minority perspectives. In doing so, it challenges linear narratives of Jewish assimilation and reframes Algerian Jews as “colonized outsiders”—both included and excluded, beneficiaries and victims of empire.



# PREVIOUS WINNERS

## 2024

### First Prize:

#### DR. ODED ZINGER

Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry  
Faculty of Humanities

**Living with the Law: Gender and Community Among the Jews of Medieval Egypt**

### Second Prize:

#### PROF. YOEL GREENBERG

The Department of Musicology  
Faculty of Humanities

**How Sonata Forms: A Bottom-Up Approach to Musical Form**

### First Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

#### DR. MAAYAN RAVEH

The Department of Comparative Religion  
Faculty of Humanities

**If Stones Could Speak: Identity Construction in Palestinian Christian Theology.**

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

#### TOMER DAMSKY

The Department of Musicology  
Faculty of Humanities

**The Voice of Carmel: Sounding the Texts of Teresa of Avila**

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

#### ADIEL BREUER

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities  
Faculty of Humanities

**The Collections of R. Isaac Alfasi's Responsa in Print Editions and Manuscripts**

## 2023

### First Prize:

#### DR. KARMA BEN JOHANAN

Department of Comparative Religion  
Faculty of Humanities

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

### Second Prize:

#### DR. YAKIR PAZ

Departments of Talmud and Classics  
Faculty of Humanities

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

### First Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

#### DR. NORA DERBAL

Postdoctoral fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows  
Faculty of Humanities

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

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

#### MR. AMI ASYAG

PhD (Honors) student at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.

Faculty of Humanities

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

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

#### MR. YAKIR ARIEL

Doctoral candidate at the Department of Musicology  
Faculty of Humanities

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

## 2022

### First Prize:

#### PROF. ELITZUR BAR-ASHER SIEGAL

Department of Hebrew Language  
The 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  
The 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  
The 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  
The 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. YURI PINES

Department of Asian Studies  
Faculty of Humanities

**"Zhou History Unearthed: The Bamboo Manuscript Xinian and Early Chinese Historiography" (Columbia University Press, 2020)**

### Second Prize:

#### PROF. JONATHAN GARB

Department of Jewish Thought  
Faculty of Humanities

**"A History of Kabbalah: From the Early Modern Period to the Present Day" (Cambridge University Press, 2020)**

### First Prize Post-Doctoral Researcher:

#### DR. ANNA SIERKA

Department of Jewish Thought  
Faculty of Humanities

**Between Tradition and Innovation: Images of the Divine Chariot (merkavah) in Early Modern Ashkenazi Kabbalah with Particular Focus on Naphtali Bacharach's Emeq ha-Melekh**

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

#### TAL BANIN

Fellow at the Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities

Faculty of Humanities

**"The Winged Creatures of The Waves and Virginia Woolf's Figurations of 'The One'," JML: Journal of Modern Literature**





# PREVIOUS WINNERS

## 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 Yeşirah 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 Sabbathian 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 Nahḍa: 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 HACOEN (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 Sabbathian 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**

## 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 Halakha, 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**





# PREVIOUS WINNERS

## 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 Nizāmī Manuscripts as a Case Study**

### Young Researcher:

#### **MS. NOA NAHMIAS**

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 ('Piyyutei 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**





# PREVIOUS WINNERS

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:**

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