

ADENA TANENBAUM
Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
The Ohio State University
300 Hagerty Hall, 1775 College Road
Columbus, OH 43210
Email: tanenbaum.8@osu.edu

DEGREES:

- Ph.D. 1993 Harvard University
Field: Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Dissertation: "Poetry and Philosophy: The Idea of the Soul in Andalusian Piyyut" (Advisors: Isadore Twersky, Bernard Septimus)
- A.M. 1986 Harvard University
Field: Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- B.A. 1981 Barnard College (Summa Cum Laude)
Field: Oriental Studies
Senior Essay: "Samuel Hanagid: His Life and Poetry"
(Advisor: Yosef H. Yerushalmi)

TEACHING COMPETENCE AND RESEARCH AREAS:

Modern Hebrew Literature and Language; Contemporary Israeli Culture (teaching competence); Postbiblical Hebrew Literature and Jewish History; Medieval Hebrew Poetry and Belles-Lettres; Medieval Jewish Philosophy; Biblical Exegesis; Judeo-Arabic Language and Literature.

POSITIONS HELD AND EMPLOYMENT:

- 2004- Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures,
The Ohio State University
- Faculty Board Member, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Middle East Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Greek and Latin, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Graduate Specialization on Religions of
the Ancient Mediterranean, O.S.U.
- 1998- Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures,
2004 The Ohio State University
- 1996- Corresponding Fellow, The Ingeborg Rennert Center for
Jerusalem Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

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1993- Senior Associate, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

1993-98 Member, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University.

1997-98,
1988-90 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies,
University College London.

TEACHING: DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES,
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Winter 2011- Advisor, Master's Degree, Miriam Rudavsky-Brody.

Summer 2013 Thesis: "Solomon ibn Gabirol and Samuel ibn Naghrela: An Examination
of Life and Death."

Summer '04- Advisor, Master's Degree, Jayme Schumacher.

Spring '05 Thesis: "The Song of Songs in Medieval Hebrew Poetry from Spain."

1998- Hebrew 216/MRS 216: The Medieval Jewish Experience (GEC Course)
Hebrew 241: The Culture of Contemporary Israel (GEC course)
Hebrew 241 Honors: The Culture of Contemporary Israel (GEC course)
Hebrew 372: Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation (GEC course)
Hebrew 372 Honors: Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation (GEC)
Hebrew 421: Modern Hebrew Short Stories
Hebrew 422: Modern Hebrew Poetry
Hebrew 620: Introduction to Hebrew Literary and Cultural Texts
Hebrew 693: Independent Study, Modern Hebrew Literature
Hebrew 721: Studies in Hebrew Poetry—Medieval and Modern

1993-98 FACULTY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Convenor, Graduate Seminars in Medieval Jewish History and Literature
and Jewish-Muslim Relations.

Master of Studies: Tutorials in Modern Hebrew Literature.

B.A.: Lectures and Tutorials in Modern Hebrew Literature.

Diploma in Jewish Studies: Lecture Course, "The Medieval Jewish
Experience."

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

1997-98 Major Trends in Medieval Jewish History

1988-90 The Jews in Islamic and Christian Spain.

The Hebrew Literature of Medieval Spanish and Provençal Jewry.

1987-88 OXFORD CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE HEBREW STUDIES

The Jews of Muslim Spain, 711-1141.

PUBLICATIONS:

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MONOGRAPH

The Contemplative Soul: Hebrew Poetry and Philosophical Theory in Medieval Spain.
Études sur le judaïsme médiéval (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2002)

Finalist, Koret Foundation Jewish Book Award, Philosophy/Thought category, 2003
Nominated for the annual *La corónica* International Book Award, 2007

Reviewed in:

Journal of Jewish Studies 57/1 (Spring 2006): 170-72.

Prooftexts 25/1-2 (Winter/Spring 2005): 210-216.

Revue des Études Juives 164/3-4 (2005): 573-74.

The Medieval Review (tmr-l@wmich.edu) (November 2004).

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

“Andalusian Hebrew Poems on the Soul and their Afterlife,” in *Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia and Europe*, edited by Stefan Sperl, Trevor J. Dadson and Yorgos Dedes, *Proceedings of the British Academy* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020). [Peer reviewed]

Submitted for publication February 2, 2018: 8100 words + bibliography (2070 words).

Corrected proofs submitted to editor Sept. 26, 2018.

Final proofs integrating external reviewer’s suggestions submitted to editor Jan. 30, 2019.

“The AJS at 50,” in “Forum on New Vistas,” *AJS Perspectives, The 50th Anniversary Issue: New Vistas in Jewish Studies* (Fall, 2018): 59-60.

Bi-annual Magazine of the [Association for Jewish Studies](#). Distributed at the AJS conference in Boston December 2018 and mounted online and sent to the AJS membership shortly thereafter.

“A Cultural Nexus: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s Hebrew *Maqāma* from Sixteenth-Century Yemen.” Paper delivered at international conference on “Shared Cultural Values of Jews and Muslims in Yemen and Beyond,” sponsored by the American Sephardi Federation, the Princeton Institute of Semitic Studies and the E’eleh BeTamar Association for Yemeni Jewish Heritage in Israel. New York City, June 3-5, 2018.

Approx. 8000 words. Revisions in progress; To be published in peer reviewed volume of conference proceedings, ed. Ephraim Isaac, Director, Princeton Institute for Semitic Studies.

“Hidden Gems: The Hebrew *Maqāma* from Yemen.” In Special Issue of *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World*, Volume 7.1, edited by Jonathan Decker and Maurice Pomerantz, dedicated to the history, circulation and literary interpretation of the *maqāma* genre in the Islamicate world. (Forthcoming)

Submitted June 2017, 11,800 words.

Corrected proofs returned to editors March, 2018.

- “The Uses of Scripture in Zechariah Alḡdāhirī’s *Sefer hamusar*,” in *Exegesis and Poetry in Medieval Karaite and Rabbanite Texts*, ed. Joachim Yeshaya and Elisabeth Hollender (Leiden: Brill, 2017), pp. 147-184.
Offprint of final published version received October 2016.
- “Sefer ha-musar le-zekhariah al-dahiri: tekhnidot sifrutiyot ve-token” (“Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-musar*: Literary Techniques and Content”), *Tema: Journal for the Study of Yemenite Jewry and its Culture* 13 (2015): 33-41.
- Zechariah Aldāhirī, *Sefer ha-Musar*, excerpts trans. by Adena Tanenbaum. *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, Volume 5, 1500-1750*, ed. Yosef Kaplan (New Haven and London: Yale University Press/Lucerne: The Posen Foundation, Forthcoming).
- “Polemics Real and Imagined in Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” in *Giving a Diamond: Essays in Honor of Joseph Yahalom on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*, edited by Wout van Bekkum and Naoya Katsumata (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 243-263.
- “‘The Wrong Side of a Turkey Tapestry’: Peter Cole and Academic Translations of Medieval Hebrew Poetry,” Forum on Peter Cole’s *The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492*, *La coronica* 38.2 (Spring 2010): 197-209.
- “Kabbalah in a Literary Key: Mystical Motifs in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*.” *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* vol. 17, no. 1 (2009): 47-99.
- “Didacticism or Literary Legerdemain? Philosophical and Ethical Themes in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” in *Adaptations and Innovations: Studies on the Interaction between Jewish and Islamic Thought and Literature from the Early Middle Ages to the Late Twentieth Century, Dedicated to Professor Joel L. Kraemer*, ed. Y. Tzvi Langermann and Josef Stern (Leuven: Peeters Publishers, 2008), 355-79.
- “Arrogance, Bad Form, and Curricular Narrowness: Belletristic Critiques of Rabbinic Culture from Medieval Spain and Provence,” in *Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics: Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times*, ed. Daniel Frank and Matt Goldish. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008), 57-81.
- “The Urge to be Immortalized: Zechariah Aldahiri’s Poetic Epitaphs for Himself,” in *Studies in Arabic and Hebrew Letters in Honor of Raymond P. Scheindlin*, ed. Jonathan Decker and Michael Rand (Gorgias Press, 2007), 181-210.
- “The Andalusian *Selihah* and Its Individualistic Conception of Penitence,” in *Be’erot*

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Yitzhak: Studies in Memory of Isadore Twersky, ed. Jay Harris (Cambridge, Mass. and London, England: Harvard Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard University Press, 2005), 377-398.

“Credit is Due to the One Who Completes It’: Zechariah Aldahiri on Poetic Originality and Plagiarism,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 56 (Spring 2005): 101-119.

“Of Poetry and Printed Books: Cultural Contacts and Contrasts Between the Jews of Yemen and the Land of Israel in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 12/3 (2005): 260-280.

“Of a Pietist Gone Bad and Des(s)erts Not Had: The Fourteenth Chapter of Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer ha-Musar*,” *Prooftexts* 23/3 (Autumn 2003): 297-319.

“On Translating Medieval Hebrew Poetry,” in *Hebrew Scholarship and the Medieval World*, ed. Nicholas de Lange (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 171-185.

“Nine Spheres or Ten? A Medieval Gloss on Moses Ibn Ezra’s ‘Be-shem el asher amar,’” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 47:2 (1996): 294-310.

“The Adornment of the Soul: a Philosophical Motif in Andalusian Piyyut,” *Hebrew Union College Annual* 66 (1995): 223-238.

Major Trends in the History of Medieval Jewry: Syllabus co-authored with Daniel Frank, in *University of London, External Programme for the BA in Jewish History*, 2d edition, vol. 1 (University of London, 1995), 13-36.

“Beholding the Splendor of the Creator: Philosophical Conceptions of the Soul in the Poetry of Abraham Ibn Ezra,” in *Abraham Ibn Ezra and His Age* (Madrid: Asociacion Espanola de Orientalistas, 1990), 335-344.

ENCYCLOPEDIA AND DICTIONARY ENTRIES

Two translations from Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar* submitted to *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization*, December 2013 (Forthcoming).

“Dahrî, Zechariah al-” *Brill Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, ed. Norman Stillman (Leiden: Brill, 2010).

“Halevi, Judah,” *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Robert E. Bjork (OUP, 2010)

“Ibn Gabirol, Solomon,” *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Robert E. Bjork (OUP, 2010)

REVIEWS

Review Essay:

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- “Sacred and Suggestive: The Many Faces of Medieval Hebrew Poetry from Spain.” Review of: *The Liturgical Poems of Moshe Ibn Ezra* (Hebrew), edited by Israel Levin and Tova Rosen, 2 vols. (Tel Aviv University Press, 2012-2014) and Shari L. Lowin, *Arabic and Hebrew Love Poems in al-Andalus* (London & New York: Routledge, 2014). *Jewish Quarterly Review* 107/2 (Spring 2017): 247-266.
- Review of Joachim J.M.S. Yeshaya, *Medieval Hebrew Poetry in Muslim Egypt: The Secular Poetry of the Karaite Poet Moses ben Abraham Dar ‘ī*. Karaite Texts and Studies, Volume 3. Études sur le Judaïsme Médiéval. (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2011), in *Speculum* 90/1 (January 2015): 309-311.
- Review of Raymond P. Scheindlin, *The Song of the Distant Dove: Judah Halevi’s Pilgrimage* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 129.2 (2009): 320-323.
- Review Essay: “Poetry and History.” Review of Susan L. Einbinder, *Beautiful Death: Jewish Poetry and Martyrdom in Medieval France*, in *Prooftexts* 24/3 (Fall 2004): 386-400.
- Review Essay: “On Translating *Keter Malkhut*.” Review of David Slavitt, *A Crown for the King*, in *Prooftexts* 20/3 (Fall 2000): 349-362.
- Review of *Circa 1492*, ed. I. Benabu, *Edebiyât* 6:1 (1995): 154-157.
- Review of *Ibn Gabirol* by R. Loewe, *Journal of Jewish Studies* 41 (1990): 276-77.

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINARS:

- In preparation: “Contrafaction as Counter-Writing: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Jawāb* Poems,” 9th Medieval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium (MHPC), Organized in conjunction with the European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS), Katholieke Universiteit (KU) Leuven, Belgium, July 15-17, 2019.
- In preparation: Featured Presenter, Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, daily morning and afternoon graduate and faculty seminars dedicated to the work of Abraham Ibn Ezra (c. 1089-1167), June 2-7, 2019.
- “A Distinctive Sense of Self: Yemenite Jewish Self-Definition in Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-Musar*.” Paper delivered at international conference on “The 400th Anniversary of the Birth of Rabbi Shalem Shabazi and Yemeni Jews through the Ages,” Center for the Study of Yemeni Jewry at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem, Israel.
Jerusalem, September 2-3, 2018

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“A Cultural Nexus: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s Hebrew *Maqāma* from Sixteenth-Century Yemen.” Paper delivered at international conference on “Shared Cultural Values of Jews and Muslims in Yemen and Beyond,” sponsored by the American Sephardi Federation, the Princeton Institute of Semitic Studies and the E’eleh BeTamar Association for Yemeni Jewish Heritage in Israel.

June 3-5, 2018, the Center for Jewish History and the United Nations, New York City. To be published in volume of conference proceedings.

“Andalusian Hebrew Poems on the Soul and their Afterlife.” Paper delivered at *Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia, and Europe*, an International Conference sponsored by the British Academy and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, November 9-11, 2017.

This was an international collaborative research project with papers shared with participants via the project website; a conference held at the British Academy and SOAS in November 2017; and a forthcoming volume of revised papers to be published by Oxford University Press in the *Proceedings of the British Academy* (Forthcoming 2020).

“‘Tinkering With Some Older Poetic Model’: Zechariah Alḡdāhirī’s *jawāb* poems— Imitation, Appropriation, Transformation.” Symposium in Honor of Raymond Scheindlin. Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY. Sunday, October 30 2016.

“Sefer ha-musar le-zekhariah al-dahiri: tekhniquot sifrutiyot ve-token” (“Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-musar*: Literary Techniques and Content”). Conference on Zechariah Aldāhirī and His Literary Oeuvre. Ben Shalom Center for the Study of Yemenite Jewry at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem, Israel. June 18, 2014.

“Cruel Oppressors and Evenhanded Judges: Ambivalences Toward Muslims and Islam in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer hamusar*.” In organized panel, “Breaking New Ground in the Study of Pre-Modern Hebrew Literature.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston. December 2010.

“The Hebrew Maqama in Yemen: Zechariah al-Dahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*.” Invited lecture for The Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York. June 2008.

“Fiction as a Vehicle for Kabbalistic Teaching: Mystical Motifs in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Ha-Musar*.” In organized panel, “The Literary Forms of Medieval Jewish Philosophy.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Toronto. December 2007.

“The Urge to be Immortalized: Zechariah Aldahiri’s Poetic Epitaphs for Himself.” Medieval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium, Harvard University. August 2006.

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- “Philosophical and Ethical Themes in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Washington, D.C. December, 2005.
- “Theft or Improvement? A Yemenite Poet Makes His Case.” Inaugural talk, *Memories and Visions*, forum for Near Eastern Studies. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University. February, 2004.
- “Poetic Originality or Plagiarism? Zechariah Aldahiri’s Adaptations of Andalusian Hebrew Poetry.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass. December, 2003.
- “Arrogance, Bad Form, and Curricular Narrowness: Belletristic Critiques of Rabbinic Culture from Medieval Spain and Provence.” *Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics: Jews, Heretics, Apostates, and Others in Medieval and Early Modern Times*. Melton Center for Jewish Studies, The Ohio State University. October, 2001.
- “Stateless Poets and Politics: Hebrew Poetry from Medieval Spain.” *Poets, Politics and Culture: The Case of Hebrew*. Middle East Studies Center Panel, The Ohio State University. April, 1999.
- “The Andalusian *Selihah* and Its Humanistic Conception of Penitence.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass. December, 1998.
- “Poetry and Philosophy: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Soul.” *Rebuilding Our Common Bridges*. Leo Baeck College Lectures on Muslim Jewish Relations. London, December, 1997.
- “Reflections on Death and the Afterlife in Hebrew Poetry from Medieval Spain.” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass. December, 1996.
- “Nine Spheres or Ten? A Medieval Gloss on Moses Ibn Ezra’s ‘Be-shem el asher amar.’” Seventh International Conference of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies, Strasbourg. July, 1995.
- “What Did Judah Halevi Really Think About Philosophy? Evidence from His Poetry and *Kitâb al-Khazarî*,” Seminar on Medieval Jewish Philosophy, University College London. February, 1995.
- “The Adornment of the Soul: a Philosophical Motif in Andalusian Piyyut,” International Conference: Aspects of Jewish Intellectual History in Memory of Alexander Altmann. London. June, 1994.

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“Finery for the Soul: Philosophical Symbolism in Medieval Hebrew Poetry from Spain,” Seminar in Medieval Jewish History and Literature, Faculties of Oriental Studies and Modern History, Oxford University. May, 1994.

“Islamic Philosophy and the Hebrew Poetry of Medieval Spain,” Seminar in Medieval Islamic Studies, Oriental Faculty, Oxford University. February, 1990.

“The Microcosm Motif In the Hebrew Poetry of Medieval Spain,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass. December, 1989.

“Beholding the Splendor of the Creator: Philosophical Conceptions of the Soul in the Poetry of Abraham Ibn Ezra,” *International Symposium On Abraham Ibn Ezra And His Age*, Universidad Complutense de Madrid. February, 1989.

“Philosophical Conceptions of the Soul in the Poetry of Moses Ibn Ezra,” Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, Mass. December 1988.

“Samuel ha-Nagid and the Flowering of Jewish Culture in Islamic Spain,” Centre for the Study of Judaism, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham. November, 1988.

“‘All Who Hear Will Laugh’: Parody in the Medieval Hebrew Poetry of Spain and Provence,” *The Parting of the Ways: A Study Conference on Jewish-Christian Interaction in Western Christendom from 500-1700*, York. July, 1988.

RECOGNITIONS:

April 2017

I was recognized, together with **only 20 other faculty members University-wide**, for working with a student from OSU’s TOPS Program for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in a regular course setting (Hebrew 2241). [TOPS: Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings.]

November 2015

Recognition for Research

Stefan Sperl, Professor of Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, UK, and principal organizer of conference, *Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia, and Europe*, wrote in his initial invitation:

“You will see that the attached paper makes reference to your study *The Contemplative Soul* and describes it as ‘a model of what this project is aiming to achieve’. I am pleased to tell you that I found it to be one of the most fascinating and inspiring books I have read in years.”

The guidelines sent to all conference participants included the following reference to my monograph:

“In a path-breaking study which can serve as a model for what this Conference aims to achieve, A. Tanenbaum (2002) has documented the Greco-Arabic philosophical

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foundation of Hebrew religious poetry in Medieval Spain and its subsequent propagation in Renaissance Italy, Byzantium, Palestine and Yemen.”

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS:

September 2018 Arts and Humanities Small Grant to a maximum of \$2000.
 Melton Center International Conference Travel Grant \$1000.
To deliver paper, “A Distinctive Sense of Self: Yemenite Jewish Self-Definition in Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-Musar*” at international conference on “The 400th Anniversary of the Birth of Rabbi Shalem Shabazi and Yemeni Jews through the Ages,” Center for the Study of Yemeni Jewry at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East. Jerusalem, Israel. September 2-3, 2018

June 2018 Remainder of NELC travel allotment: \$742.70
 Melton Center Conference support \$600
 American Sephardi Federation \$600
To deliver paper, “A Cultural Nexus: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s Hebrew *Maqāma* from Sixteenth-Century Yemen” at international conference on “Shared Cultural Values of Jews and Muslims in Yemen and Beyond,” sponsored by the American Sephardi Federation, the Princeton Institute of Semitic Studies and the E’eleh BeTamar Association for Yemeni Jewish Heritage in Israel.
June 3-5, 2018, the Center for Jewish History and the United Nations, New York City.

October 2017 NELC International Conference Travel Grant to a maximum of \$2500
 Melton Center International Conference Travel Grant up to \$1200
 Arts and Humanities Small Grant to a maximum of \$2500
To deliver paper at British Academy conference, “Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia and Europe.” Also: to consult Hebrew manuscripts in the British Library.

Oct. 2016 Jewish Theological Seminary \$308.20 (airfare)
 NELC Conference Travel Grant
To deliver paper, “‘Tinkering With Some Older Poetic Model’: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *jawāb* poems—Imitation, Appropriation, Transformation.” Symposium in Honor of Raymond Scheindlin. Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY. Oct. 30, 2016.

Dec. 2015 NELC Conference Travel Grant
 Melton Center Conference Travel Grant
 Association for Jewish Studies Conference, Boston, Mass.

June 2014 NELC Conference Travel Grant to a maximum of \$2500
 Melton Center Conference Travel Grant to a maximum of \$1200
 Arts and Humanities Grant-in-Aid to a maximum of \$2500
To deliver a paper at conference on Zechariah Aldāhirī and His Literary Oeuvre, Ben Shalom Center for the Study of Yemenite Jewry at the Ben-

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Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem.

- Jan-Jun 2012 Faculty Professional Leave, O.S.U. (Winter and Spring quarters.)
- Dec. 2010 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Spring 2010 Pressey Honors Endowment: O.S.U. Honors Course Enrichment Grant for Honors Hebrew 241, "The Culture of Contemporary Israel."
- Autumn 2008 Pressey Honors Endowment: O.S.U. Honors Course Enrichment Grant for Honors Hebrew 241, "The Culture of Contemporary Israel."
- June 2008 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Autumn 2007 International Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- 2007 Monograph, *The Contemplative Soul: Hebrew Poetry and Philosophical Theory in Medieval Spain* nominated for the annual *La corónica* International Book Award.
- August 2006 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Winter 2005 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Winter 2003 Finalist, Koret Foundation Jewish Book Award, Philosophy/Thought category, for book, *The Contemplative Soul: Hebrew Poetry and Philosophical Theory in Medieval Spain* (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2002).
- Winter 2003 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Summer 2002 Publication Subsidy, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
- Apr. 2002 Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- Aug. 2001 International Conference Travel Grant, Melton Center, O.S.U.
- 2000-01 Research Grant, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
- 1999-00 Research Grant, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
- Aug. 99 Conference Travel Grants:
Middle East Studies Center, O.S.U.
Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
- 1998-99 Research Grant, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
Summer Research Grant, NELC Department, O.S.U.

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- 1990-91 Doctoral Scholarship Grant, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.
- 1990-91 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, National Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.
- 1989 Travel Grant, Institute of Jewish Studies, London.
- 1988-89 Doctoral Scholarship Grant, Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, New York.
- 1986-87 Lady Davis Fellowship, Israel, declined.
- 1985-86 Sidney L. Solomon Fellowship, Harvard University.
- 1982-84 Sosland Family Fellowship, Harvard University.
- 1982-84 Feldberg Financial Aid Fund, Harvard University.
- 1981 Phi Beta Kappa, elected to Barnard Chapter.

MEMBER: Association for Jewish Studies, Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies.

SERVICE TO THE FIELD:

Referee for Professional Journals

Jewish Quarterly Review
Journal of Jewish Studies
Jewish Studies Quarterly
Hebrew Union College Annual

Referee for Grant Applications

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Outside reader for promotion and tenure file

Brandeis University, September 2007.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE TO THE FIELD:

August 2018

Letter in support of Joseph Galron's candidacy for promotion to the rank of Full Professor at Ohio State.

December 2016

Provided detailed feedback on a 59-page book chapter, "Modernist Forms in a Jewish State," to Hannah Kosstrin, a colleague in the O.S.U. Dept. of Dance.

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January 2015

Evaluated 40 pp. article entitled “Prefatory Verse and the Transmission of the Guide of the Perplexed” for *Jewish Quarterly Review*.

Summer-Autumn 2014

Organized 9/29/14 lecture, “In Praise of God, In Praise of Man: Political-Theology in Arabic and Hebrew Panegyric,” by Professor Jonathan Decter, Edmond J. Safra Professor of Sephardic Studies at Brandeis University.

(Secured co-sponsorship from NELC, CMRS, the Melton Center, and the Iberian Studies Working Group. Arranged publicity and the speaker’s meals.)

January 2014

Evaluated 33 pp. article entitled “Longing for Granada in Medieval Arabic and Hebrew Poetry” for *Journal of Jewish Studies* (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies).

October 2012

Introduced Peter Cole at his reading from *The Poetry of Kabbalah: Mystical Verse from the Jewish Tradition*. Sponsored by the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.

June 2012

Evaluated 25 pp. article entitled “Intertextual Supplications in the Liturgical Poetry of Yehudah Halevi” for *Journal of Jewish Studies* (Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies).

Sept, 2011

Recommendation letter in support of Joseph Galron’s candidacy for promotion to the rank of Full Professor at OSU.

February 2008

External assessor for research grant application, “Medieval Jewish thought and the common language of philosophy, mysticism and midrash,” submitted by Dr. James Diamond, University of Waterloo, to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

September 2007

Outside reader for promotion and tenure file: Wrote evaluation of tenure and promotion file of Associate Professor Jonathan Decter, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies Department, Brandeis University.

Summer-Autumn 2007

Organized 10/2/07 public poetry reading and visit to campus by Peter Cole, recipient of the 2007 MacArthur award.

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October 2005

Evaluated 29 pp. article submitted to *Jewish Studies Quarterly*: “Landscape and Culture in the Hebrew Rhymed Prose Narrative.”

Winter 2004

Evaluated 40-page article, “A Case of 12th-Century Plagiarism? Abraham Ibn Ezra’s *Hay Ben Meqitz* and Avicenna’s *Hayy Ibn Yaqzan*,” for *Journal of Jewish Studies*.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE AT OSU:

Departmental committees:

Autumn 2018-Spring 2019

Curriculum Committee

Area Officer, Jewish Studies

Administrator, Diane Cummins Scholarship for Hebrew

Spring-Autumn 2018:

Committee for Assessment & Review for NELC external review:

Wrote section on Faculty recruitment, mentoring, and retention; Diversity; Intellectual life of the unit; Trends in academic appointments for Departmental Self-Study.

Met with external review committee, February 2018

Special Scholarship Administration: Diane Cummins Scholarship for Hebrew.

Area Officer, Jewish Studies.

Spring 2017

Graduate Studies Committee

Attended all committee meetings, participated in all fellowship deliberations and all email deliberations.

Met with prospective doctoral students, Stephen Harris and Grace Bickers.

(I had been a member of this committee continuously since Autumn 2013.)

Special Scholarship Administration: Diane Cummins Scholarship

Recommended candidate deemed most deserving by Hebrew faculty for Diane Cummins Prize for Hebrew; notified winner and Melton Center; corresponded with Kelly Snow re. payment of award.

Autumn 2017

Committee for Departmental Assessment and External Review

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•Met with two other committee members, as well as with Jay Johnson, Associate Director of Institutional Research and Planning, O.S.U. Office of Academic Affairs (Aug-Sept 2017).

•Wrote section on Faculty recruitment, mentoring, and retention; Diversity; Intellectual life of the unit; Trends in academic appointments for Departmental Self-Study (Dec. 2017).

Autumn 2016-Spring 2017

Graduate Studies Committee

Autumn 2015-Spring 2016

Graduate Studies Committee

Autumn 2014-Spring 2015

Islamic Studies Search Committee

Graduate Studies Committee

Autumn 2013- Spring 2014

Departmental Officer for Hebrew

Graduate Studies Committee, NELC

Chair's Advisory Committee, NELC (Regular member).

Autumn 2012 **NELC Nomination Committee**, Distinguished Scholar Award

Autumn 2012-

Spring 2013 **CHAIR, NELC Hindi Language and Culture Search Committee**

2010-11 **Chair's Advisory Committee, NELC (Alternate)**: Summarized student evaluations of NELC faculty.

2009-10 **Chair's Advisory Committee, NELC (Regular member).**

9/08- **NELC Undergraduate Studies Committee**

8/10

Au 08- **NELC Hebrew Lecturer Search Committee**

Wi 09

Au 07- **NELC Modern Hebrew/Israel Studies Search Committee**

Wi 08

Au 05- **NELC Turkish Studies Search Committee**

Wi 06

Sp 03 **NELC Chair Search Committee**

9/01- **Curriculum Committee, NELC Department**

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- 8/07 Devising a cycle of core courses for majors and incoming graduate students; evaluating colleagues' proposed courses.
- 9/01- **Library Committee, Departmental Officer**
- 9/00- **Colloquium and Lecture Officer, NELC Department**
8/01
- 9/99- **Islamic Studies Search Committee, NELC Department**
2/00 Met with three senior colleagues to discuss applications received, conduct telephone interviews, and draw up a short list out of more than 40 applicants.
- 9/98- **NELC Graduate Studies Committee**
9/00 Evaluating graduate admissions requests, as well as colleagues' proposed graduate courses.
- 9/98- **Program Coordinator, Contemporary Israeli Culture Course**
Developing and coordinating syllabus for regular and honors version of course; hiring of new lecturers; ongoing advising and supervising of lecturers; preparing and regularly updating substantial reader used by all sections.
(For many years, taught 6 or 7 times a year)
- 9/98- **NELC representative to Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies**
4/04 advisory committee.
Attending quarterly meetings; serving as liaison between CMRS and NELC dept.

Other administrative services to the University:

Autumn 2018- Spring 2019

Melton Center Faculty Services Committee
Vetted faculty research/travel funding requests.

Spring- Autumn 2017

Melton Center Faculty Services Committee
Vetted faculty research/travel funding requests.

Spring 2017

I was one of **only 21 faculty members University-wide** to enable a student from OSU's TOPS Program for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to enroll in a regular GE course (**Heb 2241**). [TOPS: Transition Options in Postsecondary Settings. Students are enrolled in one inclusive course from the Ohio State course catalog. This course either supports the student's career path or is a course in an area of interest. On the web: [Nisonger.osu.edu/specialed transition/tops](http://Nisonger.osu.edu/specialedtransition/tops)]

Spring- Autumn 2016

Melton Center Faculty Services Committee

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Vetted faculty research/travel funding requests.

- April 2016 **NELC representative at Melton Center Student Awards Ceremony.**
Introduced and distributed awards to students attending with their families.
- Apr 12, 2013 **Honors Representative** at defense of Alexis Wagner's Undergraduate Honors Thesis, "Context, Prediction, and Individual Differences: Roles in Shaping Memory," Department of Psychology.
- 9/09-12/11 **Melton Center Faculty Services Committee:**
Evaluated faculty member funding requests for research support, conference travel, etc.
- Jan-Apr 2011 **CHAIR, Melton Center Search Committee for Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies.** Convened meetings, telephone interviews, drew up short list (from 20 applicants), contacted candidates, drew up itineraries, invited History and NELC faculty members to job talks. (50-60 hours.)
- Au 08- **Melton Center Israel Studies Search Committee,** liaison to Director of the
Wi 09 Melton Center. (Visiting position).
- 5/05 **Honors Representative.** Served as outside reader and defense committee member for undergraduate Honors thesis in creative writing: Shira Handler, *Biology: Stories*.
- 3/04 **Selection Committee, College of Humanities** undergraduate Brandt/Amstutz, Knopf, and Lalendorf Scholarships
Evaluating 45 undergraduate applications for COH merit scholarships.
- 9/02- **Student Affairs Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies.**
8/07 Evaluating student applications for:
Melton Center undergraduate and graduate fellowships; conference funding; essay competitions.
- 9/00- **CHAIR, Student Affairs Committee, Melton Center for Jewish**
8/02 **Studies.**
Arranging meetings, evaluating student applications for:
Melton Center undergraduate and graduate fellowships; conference funding; essay competitions.
- 9/99- **Program Enrichment Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies.**
8/00 Proposing speakers and topics for the Melton Center's Mann lecture series, Friends of the Melton Annual Lecture and Distinguished Humanist Award, and Feibel lecture on Jewish Law.
- 9/98- **Student Affairs Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies.**
8/99 Evaluating student applications for:

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Melton Center undergraduate and graduate fellowships; conference funding; essay competitions.

MENTORING:

PEER TEACHING EVALUATION LETTERS FOR:

Naomi Brenner, NELC 4601, Dec. 2018.

Galit Golan, Hebrew 1102, March 2017.

Marité Labaki, Arabic 1102, Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II, April 15, 2016.

Lynn Kaye, Hebrew 5806, “Studies in Biblical Law,” March 2015.

Ila Nagar, NELC 2220, “Introduction to South Asia,” April 2014.

Ila Nagar, Hindi 1103, November 2014.

Morgan Liu, NELC 241, “Cultures of the Middle East,” April 11, 2011.

COMMUNITY LECTURES:

- Mar. 2019 “Jerusalem as Symbol, Setting, and Protagonist in Hebrew Literature,” Melton Center Advanced Texts Study Discussion Group, 2 sessions.
- Feb. 2019 “Hebrew Poets Talk About God”: Lecture and text study, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- July 2017 “Etgar Keret: Reflections on Israel, Tel Aviv, Myth and Realities.” Melton Center Advanced Text Study Discussion Group. Home of Carole Genshaft, Curator-at-Large, Columbus Museum of Art. German Village, Columbus, OH.
- Nov. 2011 “Yemen: A World Apart,” *The Jews of Arab Lands: Communities, Medieval and Modern*. Midreshet Israel: The Center for Continuing Education, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- Oct. 2011 “Andalusia: Land of *Convivencia*,” *The Jews of Arab Lands: Communities, Medieval and Modern*. Midreshet Israel: The Center for Continuing Education, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- Feb. 2011 S. Y. Agnon’s “Tale of the Scribe” and “A Whole Loaf.” Melton Center Advanced Text Study Group. Bexley, OH.
- Feb. 2011 S. Y. Agnon’s “The Lady and the Peddler.” Melton Center Advanced Text Study Group. Bexley, OH.

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- Jan. 2011 “The Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-18) in Jewish Tradition.”
Congregation Agudas Achim, Bexley, OH.
- April 2010 “The Song of Songs: Liturgical Use and Interpretations.” Congregation
Agudas Achim, Bexley, OH.
- March 2009 “Yehuda Amichai: Subverting the Sacred; Reimagining Jerusalem.”
Melton Center Advanced Text Study Group. Bexley, OH.
- August 2008 “Literary Responses to Destruction: Laments for the Ninth of Av.”
Congregation Torat Emet, Columbus, OH.
- Autumn 2007
Delivered three adult education lectures (“Andalusia: Land of *Convivencia*,” “Yemen: A World Apart,” “Israel: *Mizrahim* in the Jewish State”) as part of a series of seven lectures entitled *The Jews of Arab Lands: Communities, Medieval and Modern* given jointly with Daniel Frank. Midreshet Israel: The Center for Continuing Education, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2007 “Hebrew Poetry from Muslim Spain, Secular and Sacred.”
3000 Years of Jewish Life. Adult Education Program, Temple Israel.
Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2006 “Hebrew Poets of the Golden Age.”
Scholar’s Circle: Windows on Sephardic History and Culture.
Congregation Torat Emet and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.
Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2006 “Judah Halevi: Sweet Singer of Israel and Defender of the Faith”
Scholar’s Circle: Windows on Sephardic History and Culture.
Congregation Torat Emet and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies.
Columbus, OH.
- Nov. 2005 “Perspectives and Poetry: Israeli Literature.”
Leo Yassenoff Jewish Community Center’s Jewish Bookfair Lecture
Series. Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2005 “Israeli Poets and Politics.”
The OSU Melton High School Honors Program. Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2005 “The ‘Anglo-Saxon’ Experience in Israel.”
The OSU Melton High School Honors Program. Columbus, OH.
- Feb. 2004 “The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai: Playing With the Sacred.”
Adult Education Program, Agudas Achim Synagogue, Bexley, OH.

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- Jan. 2004 "Israeli Poetry."
The OSU Melton High School Honors Program. Columbus, OH.
- Jan. 2004 "The Kibbutz: Then and Now."
The OSU Melton High School Honors Program. Columbus, OH.
- May 2001 "Akdmut: Text and Context." Adult study session,
Agudas Achim Synagogue, Bexley, OH.
- March 2001 "Israel in Hebrew Poetry: Ideal and Reality." Midreshet Israel: The
Center for Continuing Education, Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus,
OH.
- Nov. 2000 "Jewish Messianism in Practice: Maimonides' *Epistle to Yemen*."
Midreshet Israel: The Center for Continuing Education, Congregation
Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- Oct. 2000 "Jewish Messianism in Theory: Saadya Gaon's *Book of Beliefs and
Opinions*." Midreshet Israel: The Center for Continuing Education,
Congregation Tifereth Israel, Columbus, OH.
- April 1999 "Hannah Senesh: Her Life and Poetry."
Women's Rosh Chodesh Institute, Columbus Torah Academy.
- Nov. 1998 "The Binding of Isaac in Medieval Hebrew Poetry."
Rabbi's Class in Biblical Studies. Agudas Achim Synagogue, Bexley,
OH.

UNIVERSITY GUEST LECTURES:

- June 2006 "Israeli Culture"
Summer Institute on Middle Eastern Cultures, Middle East Studies Center,
OSU. (NELC 692)
- May 2005 "Andalusian Hebrew Love Poetry"
Guest lecture for Professor Dick Davis' "Medieval Christendom,
Medieval Islam: a shared literary culture?" (MRS 651)
- Feb. 2002 "Sefarad in the Golden Age"
Guest lecture for Professor Michael Swartz' "Introduction to Jewish
Studies" (JS 201).
- Nov. 2000 "The Jews of Paris and Northern France in the Middle Ages"
Guest lecture for Professor Nick Howe's Gothic Paris Course (MRS 215).
- Nov. 1998 "The Spanish School of Hebrew Poetry and its Islamic Cultural Milieu"
Guest lecture for Professor Dick Davis' "Medieval Christendom,
Medieval Islam: a shared literary culture?" (MRS 651)