



Matanel Fellows – Elyachar Center, BGU Activities in the Academic Year 2013-2014



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Dr Oded Porat	Post-Doctoral Fellow
	Oded Porat, A student of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His researches dealt with two anonymous Kabbalistic books from the 13th century: Sefer Brit ha-Mnuha and Sefer Ma'ayan ha-Hokhmah. The first is interested in describing the journeys of lights by the patterns of the journeys of Israel in the desert and by the images of vowels in the divine name of God. The second can be regarded as a mystical guidebook, in which the acts of study and inquiry as well as the discussions in the nature of elements and the image of the circle are schemed into theosophic creative structures. Oded was born in Kibbutz Tzora, made some contribution to the graduate movement of the Working Youth movement in Israel, had built an environmental-educational site for the study of Israeli flora and fauna in his Kibbutz, and is a constant traveler and a nomad, though at the year of 2014-2013, in which he had received, gratefully, the Matan'el scholarship, he made only journeys between his home to the Ben-Gurion university.
Current research:	In the academic year of 2013-2014 I have committed the following researches, by the fund of one-year post-doctoral scholarship given by the Matan'el Fundation: 1. Publishing a Hebrew article, titled "The Linguistic Form 'And the Air was Established' in Sefer Ma'ayan ha-Hokhma: Its Jewish Sources and the Non-Catastrophic Figuring of the First Stage of Emanation"; about to appear in Da'at on summer 2016. 2. Preparation of an article named 'Aimed Inquiry and Positive Theology in Sefer Ma'ayan haHokhmah: A Paperwork'. 3. Research, writing and preparation of print of the book 'Sefer Brit haMnuHa - Critical Edition and Prefaces'. 4. Management of a research workshop on the subject of 'Foundation Images in the Middle-aged Kabbalistic interpretations of the beginnings of creation (Ma'aseh Bereshit)', with the participation of Dr. Shifra Asulin, Dr. Sandra Valabregue-Peri, and a group of doctoral students from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. The main interests of that workshop are presented below. 5. Organizing and assembling of the academic conference on 'Zoharic literature and its Generation', that took place on 12/06/2014 in The Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, with the participation of doctoral students, young Ph.D. holders, docents and senior researchers. The conference was dedicated to Dr. Asi Farber-Ginat. Its program is supplied seperatly by language of the Hebrew men.
Workshops:	Foundation Images of the 13 th century Kabbalah in Provence and Spain Research Group supported by Matan'el fund and Elyachar center Participating: Dr. Shifra Asulin, Dr. Sandra Valabregue-Peri, and Dr. Oded Porat.

Dr Ktsia Alon	Post-Doctoral Fellow
	Ktsia Alon, PhD., is a lecturer in the field of Hebrew literature, a curator and an art critic. her book about Mizrahi poetics, Efsharut Shlishit LeShira ("Third Possibility of Poetry") was recently published by HaKibbutz Hameuhad publishing house, and a her lecture series was broadcast by IDF radio station. Her book, Shoshanat HaMeri HaShehora (Black Rebellion Rose), is to be published by the Broadcasted University publishing house. Dr. Alon is a co-founder of the movement Achoti - for Women in Israel.
Current research: Published and edited books:	During the first Semester of the present academic year I participated, on Mondays and Wednesdays, in our weekly joint workshop, but during the second Semester on Mondays only. At the workshop I presented an essay detailing my research on Moshe Sartal's work, an oriental poet who has already published 8 books by now. The first academic book dealing with the poetry of Erez Biton was published by Gamma publishing house, owned by me, in cooperation with Hakibutz Hameuhad publishing house and supported by Eliashar Center at the University of Beer Sheva. We launched the book at the joint University of Beer Shevay-Israeli Moroccan Community conference, held in Israel. The conference was attended to overflow, and had a lot of publicity.

Roee Horn	PhD Candidate
	I studied in Yeshivat Har-Etzion, a place that educates to loving Tora, with general knowledge. I love to educate, so I studied education In Herzog-College, and I work as a History and Philosophy teacher for several years. At the same time, I also learned psychlogy, and worked in this field for several years also. After that I started to have a deep interes in jewish misticism, and especially in Hasidism. My dissertatin deals with the very first steps oo this amazing movement, and more precisely, the relationship of the Kabbalist people to the new Torah of the Besht, the founder of the Hassidism movement
Current research: Conferences and Papers:	Over the past year , I wrote three chapters of my dissertation The first deals with the consciousness of the first self-Hasidic The second deals with the approach of the Besht to the holy names in the Kaballa. The third: attitude of Kabbalists to the teachings of the Besht. 0 In addition, I presented a paper at a conference in Ireland, under the title: New Kabbalistics and Old Kabbalists relations: A renewed perspective at the birth of Hasidism, BAJS 2014

Asaf Tamari	PhD Candidate
	Assaf Tamari is a doctoral student at the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, writing about early modern Jewish intellectual History. His research focuses on discursive relations between Kabbalah and Science in Ottoman Safed and early modern notions of agency. In addition he writes on current political-theology in Israel/Palestine and its genealogies.
Current research:	At this stage my research efforts are focused on the writing of the PhD itself, in hope of submitting it within the next few months. During the last year I have focused mainly on the chapter concerning the linguistic aspects of Lurianic Kabbalah, examining them both on the background of contemporary Islamic and renaissance linguistic theories and praxis, as well as in the prism of sceintific perceptions of technical jargon and unifying methodological language. In addition, much work has been put into a comparative chapter examining Lurianic body discourse vis-a-vis its different zoharic precedents. Furthermore, I continued working on the historization of the scholarly perception of Lurianic Kabbalah as narrative-oriented and mythical, on the backround of its different routes of reception. In addition, during the last year I completed work on a forthcoming article dealing with political theory issues in the thought of R. Ginsburgh, as well as on a french adaptation to an article on the concept of the Erev Rav and its political genealogy. Finally, I continued working on a paper devoted to a critical genealogy of the concept of myth in the scholarly study of the Kabbalah.
Presentations in Conferences:	2014 "'For Letters are Bodies': Linguistic Aspects of the Lurianic Body Discourse", a paper presented at the NAPH international Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture, Beer-Sheva. 2014 "Seeing Letters: Between Visionary Images and Medical Discourse in Lurianic Kabbalah", a paper presented in the 16th annual conference of New Studies of the Galilee, Tel-Hai. 2014 "'no soul exits in the world alone': Lurianic Anthropology and Early Modern Subjectivity", a paper presented at the 4th annual conference of INASWE (the Israeli Network for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism), Tel-Aviv. 2013 "'When the Emanator Willed It': Will, Action, and Scientific Discourse in Lurianic Kabbalah", a paper presented in the Israeli Society for History & Philosophy of Science

Fourteenth Annual Conference, Jerusalem.

"Myth of Science? Lurianic Kabbalah and the

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	Concept of Myth as a Secular Category", a paper presented in
	the summer workshop "Secularization, the Criticism of
	Secularization and Tradition", Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.
	2013 "'Without his Will': On the Conditions of Possibility
	of Action in Lurianic Kabbalah", a paper presented at the
	International Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.
	international congress for sewish stadies, serasaiem.
Publications:	Assaf Tamari, "Erev Rav", Mafteakh, 2 (summer 2010), pp. 43-
	74 (Hebrew) [reprinted in Adi Ophir et al. (eds.), Mafteakh:
	Political Concepts - A Selection, Tel Aviv University: Tel Aviv,
	2014]
	Assaf Tamari, "Mélange (ערב רב)", dans: Barbara Cassin
	(ed.), Philosopher en Langues: Les intraduisibles en
	traduction, Presses de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure: Paris,
	Forthcoming.
	Assaf Tamari, "The Place of Politics: The Notion of
	Consciousness in R. Ginsburgh's Political Thought and its
	Context", ISR , forthcoming.
	Assaf Tamari, "Mélange (ערב רב)", dans: Barbara Cassin (ed.),
	Philosopher en Langues: Les intraduisibles en traduction, Presses
	de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure: Paris, Forthcoming.
	Assaf Tamari, "The Place of Politics: The Notion of
	Consciousness in R. Ginsburgh's Political Thought and its
	Context", ISR, Forthcoming

Uri Safrai

PhD Candidate



Uri Safrai is a PhD student in the department of Jewish Thought at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, where his advisors are Prof. Boaz Huss and Prof. Uri Ehrlich. His M.A thesis, 'The Daily Prayer Intentions ('Kavanot') according to R. Isaac Luria' describes Luria's every-day routine and practice according to the writings of his student, R. Hayyim Vital, and especially his 'Shaar Ha'Tefila'. His current research, 'Worship of the Heart in the Kabbalah of the Sixteenth Century', builds on his M.A thesis, expanding on the representations and functions of prayer in the Kabbalah in this era. Particularly, he is interested in the way these kabbalists treated and practiced the daily prayer.

Uri is a research assistant of prof. Uri Ehrlich in the '*Tefilah* Project' which explores the prayer wording according to the manuscripts found in the Cairo *Genizah*. Uri has been awarded the Goldstien-Goren scholarship in 2012, the Nathan Rotenstreich Scholarship for Outstanding Doctoral Students and the Yad Ben-Zvi award for research on the Eastern Jewish Legacy in 2013 and the Matanel Scholarship for Kabbalah Doctoral Students in 2014.

Conference Presentations and other Academic activity:

22.12.2013. "As the Wheel Raises the Water' - Kabala and Technology at Early Modernity' (Hebrew), The Israeli Society for History & Philosophy of Science fourteenth annual conference, Jerusalem

30.4-1-5.2014. ' "The Secrets of the Divine Womb" - On Prayer and Birth in Safed's Kabbalah'. The 16th annual Conference of the Galilee Research, Tel-Hai College.

20-24.7.2014. "'Metaphors We Pray By"-Images of Prayer in Early Modern Kabbalah', The Xth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS), Paris

Research assistant in the Liturgy *Genizah* Project managed by Prof. Ehrlich at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
Participation in the *Matanel* Seminar: 'Founding Pictures in Medieval Kabbalah', Ben Gurion University of the Negev.
Participation in Yad Ben Zvi's Doctoral Forum, Jerusalem.

Publications:

"If Only a Man Could Pray All Day Long" – The Daily Prayer Intentions ('Kavanot') According to R. Isaac Luria' (Hebrew), Daat 77 (2014).

Moriya Rahmani PhD Candidate I was borne in Kibbutz Alumim. I came from a Hasidic family (I'm descendant of Rabi Levi Yitzchok of Berditchev), my grandfather was a great Rabbi and Hasidic leader in Romania, and then when he came to Israel after the Holocaust in Tel-Aviv. My father and mother who both grew in a Haredi home decided to go and live in a Kibbutz. So I was raised as an orthodox, but in an open and liberal environment. (Today I do not define myself in terms of "religious" and secular). In my first degree I studied literature and Jewish studies (and audited many courses from another disciplines). I decided to write my Ph.D on ritual in traumatic situations, focusing the concentration camps, under the guidance of Prof. Haviva Pedaya. My research phenomenological, and calls on psychoanalysis in combination with Hasidot, religion and mystical experience. One of my great teacher in psychoanalysis is Prof. Golan Shachar. In my academic life, while learning, I was teaching for 5 years an Arabic and Bedouin Woman in the university, and more important I was serving, voluntary, as an advisor for them. I'm also a poet. I published poetry in several journals, in Hebrew and in Yiddish. A few months ago I published a poetry book, a "poetry order"poetry style that I develop, called: "Inside the Name: a Poetry Order of Third Generation". It basically deals with my experience as a third generation to the holocaust. All my family, from all side, suffered from the Nazi, but especially my grandfather (my mother's father) who was send from Hungary to Auschwitz when he was a 14 year old, and lost all his family there. **Current Research:** In my Ph.D dissertation I'm observing and try to explain how ritual practice was used as one tool in the struggle to survive, in the mental context, in the concentration camps. How ritual practice helped to preserve the identity and the humanity. While I'm dealing with the mythical aspect of the ritual practice, and with the social aspect, I'm also dealing with the Hasidim in the concentration camps. Over the past year I wrote almost three chapters in my Ph.D. I wrote the theoretical chapter, where I develop the tools, terminology and theory for dealing with some basic questions: What is trauma, what is ritual, how to analyze the testimonies, and the great question of memory. I also wrote the second chapter that dealing with the way that ritual practice helped and served in preserving Identity In a situation of destruction. And I wrote the third chapter that basically argue that ritual as an order, was one way of dealing with the liminality (a situation characteristic of the concentration camps) in the aspect of the attitude to the categories of time, body and object. During my academic life I was participate in some conferences, in Israel and international. I received many awards and scholarships. In the last year I received the exclusive scholarship from the Council for Higher Education (Rotenshtraich scholarship). Conferences, discussion In the past year I participated in some conferences, in the Summer

Workshop of the Van-leer institute (topic: ritual), and the summer

workshop of Elyachar center (dealt with the concept of space). In addition, I was invited to participate in the international conference of Yad Vashem (Aspects of Jewish Solidarity, Mutual Help, Animosities and Tensions within Jewish Society during the Shoah) in December. In the

groups:

last year I sent several articles for publication (and they still in the judicial processes): 1. Ritual Practice in the Concentration Camps, in the Struggle to Survive: Self-Preservation: Emotions, Time and Body (Initials Observations) 2. "Let's have a toast with the death": Construction of the death, and identity expressions through the ritual practice in the concentration camps". 3. The Smoked: new categories of remembering and forgetting relationships and of identity in Apelfeld's literary creation.

These days I'm working on several new articles: 1. Dancing on the verge of death: time, space and ritual. 2. The "un-oral": a behavioral and prelinguistic (initial and promoter) representation in traumatic situations. 3. To forget and to remember: on the "three roses" poem of Abraham Sutzkever.

I participated in two interdisciplinary research groups. The Elyachar research group and the Raab research group for Holocaust and redemption study.