





## Matan'el Fellowship – Elyachar Center, BGU

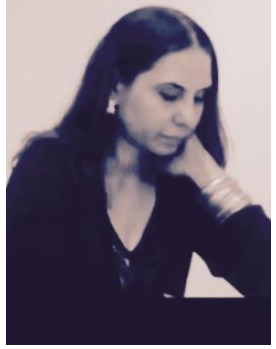
### Fellows in the Academic Year 2016-2017

Andrea Gondos	Post-Doctoral Fellow
	<p>Andrea received her PhD from the department of Religion at the Concordia University, Montreal (Quebec), Canada. Her thesis: <i>“Kabbalah in Print: Literary Strategies of Popular Mysticism in Early Modernity”</i> (2013), was written under the supervision of Dr. Ira Robinson. It was built on her Master’s Thesis which looked at the hermeneutic structure and midrashic influence on the Zohar Parshat LekhLekha. In her PhD dissertation, Andrea examined the general impact of printing on cultural processes in the field of Jewish mysticism. More specifically, she explored the influence of the publication and circulation of kabbalistic texts in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries on the production of learning tools in the form of study guides and reference aids to Kabbalah. The intellectual prisms to her investigation were the four works of Yissakhar Baer ben Petahya Moshe, a kabbalist, who worked in Prague in the early seventeenth century. Andrea argued and demonstrated in her dissertation that each of his works constituted a response to making Kabbalah more accessible to novice readers.</p>
<p><b>Current Research:</b></p>	<p>As a Matan'el fellow she continued working on the Zohar and more specifically on the intersection between piety, psychoanalysis and Kabbalah. She was interested in exploring the notion of emotions in the Zohar and other kabbalistic texts such as Elijah de Vidas’s Reshit Hokhmah in dialogue with psychoanalytic theories to illuminate the multifarious dimensions of relationality and the ethical dimensions of human existence.</p>
<p><b>Conferences, discussion groups:</b></p>	<p>Thanks to the Matan'el scholarship, in the academic year 2016-2017 Andrea has worked on the following projects.</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2017: "Between Carnality and Art: A Kabbalistic reading of Leonard Cohen's Poetry." AJS Conference, Washington D.C.</li> <li>2. 2017: "'If Not Now, When?': The Popularization of the Zohar as an Eschatological Imperative." World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem.</li> <li>3. 2017: "Zionism, Identity and Kabbalah: Decoding the World and Works of Isaiah Tishby." AIS Conference (Association of Israel Studies), Boston.</li> <li>4. 2017: "Peregrinatio Kabbalistica: The Movement of Books and Esoteric Knowledge in Early Modernity." ESSWE (European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism), Capri (Italy).</li> <li>5. 2016: "Who is the Author? - Abridgements to the <i>Parde Rimonim</i> in Manuscript and Print." AJS (Association for Jewish Studies) Conference, San Diego.</li> </ol>
<b>Publications:</b>	<p><b>Book:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2018: <i>Kabbalah in Print: The Study and Popularization of Jewish Mysticism in Early Modernity</i>, under review by University of Pennsylvania Press.</li> </ol> <p><b>Articles:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 2017: 'Let Him Kiss Me with the Kisses of His Mouth': The Concept of Love in Kabbalah and Psychoanalysis." Under review for Van Leer Institute volume on <i>Kabbalah and Psychoanalysis</i>.</li> <li>2. 2017: "Peregrinatio Kabbalistica: Travelling for the Sake of Learning Kabbalah in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Century." Submitted to <i>Journal of Jewish History</i>.</li> <li>3. 2017: "Making Meaning: The Appearance of Lexicons to the <i>Zohar</i> in Early Modernity." Submitted to the <i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>.</li> </ol>

Biti Roi	Post-Doctoral Fellow
	<p>Biti Roi was born in Jerusalem and lived there her entire life, aside from two years serving in the army and four years teaching in New York (YCT Rabbinical School, Stern College of Yeshiva University, Drisha and more). Biti is a graduate of the Matan'el post-doctoral program in the Hebrew University, (2013-2014) the post-doctoral program in Kreitman (2015-2017), and the post-doctoral program in Elyachar Center for Sephardi Heritage (2017).</p> <p>During those years Biti taught at the Department of Jewish Thought in the Hebrew University, at the graduate program at the Department of Jewish Thought at Ben Gurion University, and at Elyachar Center for doctoral students under the supervision of Prof. Haviva Pedaya.</p> <p>Biti received her BA and MA (both cum laude) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and a PhD in Jewish Philosophy at Bar Ilan University. Her thesis, "<i>Myth of the Shekina in Tikkunei ha-Zohar: Poetic, Hermeneutic and Mystical Aspects</i>" (2013) was turned into a book and awarded the Matan'el Prize for the best book in Jewish thought for 2015-2017.</p>
<p><b>Current Research:</b></p> <p><b>Publications:</b></p>	<p>Thanks to the Matan'el scholarship, in the academic year 2016-2017 Biti has worked on the following projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publishing the book, ntitled: "Love of Shekhinah: Mysticism and Poetics in Tikkunei ha-Zohar" (2017).</li> <li>2. "A Command on Returning Lost Property Myth and Ritual: The Metamorphosis of the Motif from the Tikkunei ha-Zohar to Rabbi Nachman of Breslov", <i>The Zoharic Story</i>, Yad Itzhak Ben Zvi and The Hebrew University, (2017).</li> <li>3. "Dvekut", <i>Anthology of Hasidic Literature and Thought</i>, The Shneiderman Center for Hasidism, edited by Rella Kushelevsky, Bar Ilan University Press, (Forthcoming 2017).</li> <li>4. "<i>Rav Nachman of Breslov as a Religious Genius</i>", (with Zvi Mark), Religious geniuses: methods and case studies toward a new category in the study of religion - The Interreligious Study of Saints (A Project of the Elijah Interfaith Academy, Supported by the John Templeton Foundation), Ed. Alon Goshen-</li> </ol>


<p><b>Conferences, discussion groups:</b></p>	<p>Gottstein, Lexington Books (Forthcoming (2017)).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Preparing my second book: “Tiqquney Ha-Zohar and its Influences: Zefat, the Gaon of Vilna and Hassidism” (Two chapters already published).</li> <li>6. Working on my research project “Tiqqunei ha-Zohar between Ashkenaz and Sfarad.” Part of this research was taught to the doctoral students of the Elyachar Center at the Ben Gurion University.</li> </ol> <p>In the academic year 2016-2017 Biti gave the following presentations at conferences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “How to Beat the Snake? Strange Thoughts from Tiqquney ha-Zohar to Hassidism,” World Union of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem (August 2017).</li> <li>2. “From Multiplicity to Redundancy: the Lurianic Kavanot and Tiqquney Zohar,” The conference for Jewish Studies, Bar Ilan University (January 2017).</li> <li>3. “The Lurianic Kavanot of Prayer in Rav Nachman’s Teaching” (January 2017) Jerusalem, Van Leer.</li> </ol>
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Nurit Inbar	PhD Candidate
	<p>Nurit Inbar was born in the Jewish community of Djerba, an immigrant from Tunisia. She is a PhD student in the department of Jewish History at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, under the supervision of Prof. Haviva Pedaya. Her MA thesis: “<i>Bob Dylan: A Jewish Heretikon as an American Culture Icon</i>” (under the supervision of Prof. Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin), deals with the poetic and the musical journey of the American Jewish poet and musician Bob Dylan (Nobel Prize winner 2016) from a Jewish prospective. Her current research examines perceptions and cultural constrictions of dreams and visions in Safed of the sixteenth century, in the 'Book of Visions' by Rabbi Hayyim Vital.</p>
<p><b>Current research:</b></p>	<p>At this stage her 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 she has focused mainly on the chapter concerning with a comprehensive historical review that examines perceptions of dream from the ancient times to modernity. In addition, much work has been put into a comparative chapter examining the influence of Chazal's knowledge and traditions on the Lurianic body of discourse, which deals with perceptions of dream and vision. Furthermore, she continued working on reviewing the various mystical practices that Rabbi Hayyim Vital documents in his book of visions.</p>
<p><b>Conferences:</b></p>	<p>Thanks to Matan'el scholarship, in the academic year 2016-2017 Nurit has participated in:</p> <p>2016 – ‘Pargod’ - a paper presented in the workshop “Ele Shmot - Political Terms in Hebrew,” Minerva Center Tel Aviv and Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.</p>



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### Activities in the Academic Year 2016-2017

<p>A book launch: "<i>I am burning and I can't bear the silence</i>," an anthology of Slovene poetry.</p> <p>Dr. Eliezer Papo, Hava Pinchas Cohen, and Barbara Pogacnik.</p> <p>Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	
<p>An opening meeting</p> <p>Israel Belfer: Basic Concepts</p> <p>Nov 21<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	
<p>A study meeting and working on the annual activities with Prof. Haviva Pedya</p> <p>Andrea Gondos: Introduction to Sefer HaZohar</p> <p>Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	
<p>A study meeting dedicated to Leonard Cohen:</p> <p>"Sincerely, L. Cohen", Leonard Cohen Tribute – Jewish mysticism and music history</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Gondos, David Peretz, Israel Belfer</p> <p>Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi: An opening to the series - "Shekhinah and the Place"</p> <p>Nurit Inbar: The Pargod</p> <p>Dec 21<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	

<p>A Book launch:</p> <p>“And thence they are Two that are One” - Event Inaugurating Arthur Green’s Book <i>Radica Judaism</i>, Ben Gurion University.</p> <p>Participants: Arthur Green, Haviva Pedaya, Yigal Harmelin.</p> <p>Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016</p>	
<p>Dr. Andrea Gondos: Between Spain and Safed</p> <p>Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 2016</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi: "Shekhinah and the Place"</p> <p>Roni Tzoreff: Representation of Nidah in contemporary art – Aesthetic, Gender and Jewish Thought</p> <p>Jan 4<sup>st</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Andrea Gondos and Dr. Biti Roi - Group studying of Zohar</p> <p>Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi: "Shem HaKotev" [The Name of the author]</p> <p>Irena Plaston: The holy names in the kabala of Rabbi Abraham Abulafia</p> <p>Jan 18<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Piyut, Hasidut, Jewish Mysticism, and liturgical music meetings. Ben Gurion University</p>	
<p>Dr. Andrea Gondos and Dr. Biti Roi – Rabbi Moshe Cordovero and the Zohar</p> <p>Jan 25<sup>nd</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Andrea Gondos and Dr. Biti Roi</p> <p>Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2017</p>	



<p>Dr. Biti Roi</p> <p>Dr. Israel Belfer: Mapping places in imaginary and concrete spaces</p> <p>Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>"Let Us Here Thy Voice" – International Woman's Day Conference and Celebration. A joint event by Elyachar-Center, Ben-Gurion University and Bar-Ilan University</p> <p>This event included Panels by prominent scholars, artists and correspondents. The artistic section of the event brought together key feminine voices of the Piyyut tradition.</p> <p>March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi :From Tikunei Zohar to Safed</p> <p>March 20<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr Andrea Gondos: Expressions of Piety in the Zohar</p>	
<p>Dr Andrea Gondos: Expressions of Piety in the Zohar</p> <p>Ziva Kort: Artistic memories in the archive</p> <p>April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi</p> <p>Adam Ratzon: 'Beautiful death' in modern times and the characterization of accepting death and overcoming death in documentary literature of dying people</p> <p>April 26<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Personal meeting with Haviva Pedaya</p> <p>May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr. Biti Roi :From Tikunei Zohar to Safed</p> <p>May 8<sup>th</sup> 2017</p>	
<p>Dr Andrea Gondos: Sacred Space in the Zohar</p>	

May 15 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
Dr Andrea Gondos: Sacred Space in the Zohar May 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2017	
Dr Andrea Gondos: Sacred Space in the Zohar May 29 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
I-core Conference – “Space and Place in Israeli Identity”, a collaboration of research groups - Haviva Pedaya and Ariel Hirshfeld, Central Daat Hamakom Office June 4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
International meeting of Elyachar Center and Helicon - home for poetry, with the poets - Sara Maclay and Sandra Alcosser June 7 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
Dr. Biti Roi June 12 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
David Peretz: Spaces, South and Sound – rethinking June 19 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
Dr. Biti Roi Shlomo Dov Rozen: Feeding from the divine Beauty – the media culture June 26 <sup>th</sup> 2017	
A special conclusion meeting on Haviva Pedy's House	
A session in the 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies. The session was produced by the Elyachar Center, in collaboration with the Elijah Interfaith Institute - to honor Dr. Alon Goshen-Gottstein. The session was titled “Judaism and World Religions: Sharing Spiritual Strategies” The Elyachar Center also held a booth during the whole conference. August 6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> 2017	

## **The research group 'Jewish Babylon as a meeting place and as an intersection of identities'**

It seems that the achievements of the previous generation of researchers and artists now allow us to take a broader view of the Babylonian place in the modern era, as a meeting place between dispersed cultures and religions in the Ottoman Empire and beyond.

A post-colonial perspective is not sufficient to provide adequate representation of the balance of power between the Jews and the Ottoman, British, or Iraqi authorities. There is a need to create constructions that express the symbiosis and mutual enrichment that exist between Jews and their surroundings. Iraq is a crossroads of intercultural encounters between Muslims, Christians, Jews, Assyrians, and others; and between Jewish communities from Persia, Kurdistan, Syria, India, Turkey and, to some extent, Eastern and Central Europe.

The recognition of these debatable contacts is important for creating a broader understanding of the structure of Jewish identity, beyond the narrow paradigm of Arab-Jewish identity, which is a partial and relatively late representation of the local identity politics.

An examination of the tension between a concrete space and a symbolic space will include an in-depth look into the mystical mapping of the space; questions relating to Zohar and Kabala interpretations in the Babylonian space; their implications over perceptions of national tolerance and identity as well as poetic creation.

In 2016-2017 a research group managed by prop. Haviva Pedaya and dr. Itamar Drori was held at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, named "Jewish Babylon as a meeting place and as an intersection of identities".

The research group had four main objectives: **(a)** Concentration of knowledge, development of a distinct body of knowledge on the subject of the "Babylonian Jewish place" and the application of new methodologies about it. **(b)** The use of the Iraqi Jewish place as a case study of the Jewish-Muslim space as a whole (the Mashrak and the Maghreb). **(c)** Comparative discussion of the contribution of various Rabbinical and Kabalistic figures to the Kabalistic creation, and the contribution of various artists to the extensive poetic and literary work. **(d)** Developing the discussion of the mystical space as a basis to cultural metamorphosis, whether in the framework of secularization or inside religion, while simultaneously expanding the borders of the discussion of Jewish mysticism.

Therefore, the thought of a place will be due to consideration of its overall space in several contexts: the Jew, the Muslim, the Arab, the European, and the Middle Eastern, as a whole. Thus, it will be possible to harness the memory guardians and those who formulate methodological questions together in a new process. The combination of these focal points is also important in

relation to the entire Jewish historiography, which is still deficient in relation to the profound recognition of spaces of its kind. Both the perspectives and the contents produced in this research group may make a significant contribution, as feedback, to the various research disciplines on theoretical questions of place and identity, updating their existing knowledge sets and opening up new questions.

The group members come from different disciplines and give their lectures with a variety of opinions and insights, from various perspectives, on the Jewish-Babylonian place.

In this framework, we intend to edit a collection of articles based on the work of the group members, as well as to hold an academic conference during the coming year (2017/2018).

Among the participants in the group is Dr. Merav Rosenfeld of Cambridge University, who deals with Arabic (ancient and modern) music in Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities. We hope for future academic cooperation.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecture</b>	
1.	8.11.2016	Itamar Drori (Responding: Haviva Pedaya)	Historiography of Iraqi Jewery – survey and initial thoughts
2.	29.11.2016	Saul Regev	The Mussar literature of Babylonian Jewish Diaspora, initial chapters
3.	20.12.2016	Avi-Ram Tzoref	Theological narratives of modern science and education in the writings of Rabbi Yoseph Haim
4.	10.1.2017	Yosef Ozer	Remembrance and pictures – on the personal experience of memory construction in second generation Iraqi Jewery immigrants

5.	14.3.2017	Menashe Anzi	The theosophy dispute in Basra and the generational shift in Iraq
6.	4.4.2017	Enav Koren	The <i>Efeza</i> Talisman – as a cultural text
7.	25.4.2017	Rivka Kadosh	Narrative and ethos in Rabbi Yoseph Haim's Laws of Women
8.	16.5.2017	Haya Sasportas	Eli Kaduri – Biography, History, Empire and Historiography

**Pictures in the next pages**





A Meeting with the poets - Sara Maclay and Sandra Alcosser, 7-6-17





