

**Roni Cohen**

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### ***Languages***

Hebrew (mother tongue), English (excellent proficiency), Yiddish (full proficiency in reading, writing and speaking), German (full proficiency in reading), Latin (advanced full proficiency in reading), Ladino (basic proficiency in reading).

### ***Education***

#### **Tel Aviv University**

- 2015–2022      **PhD studies**, Jewish History  
Dissertation: “Canon and Carnival: Medieval Parodies for Purim”  
Supervisor: Prof. Jeremy Cohen
- 2013–2015      **MA**, Biblical Studies (*summa cum laude*)  
Thesis: “Parallels, Origins and Hermeneutic Elements in Four Homilies from Midrash Va-Yosha”  
Supervisors: Prof. Meira Polliack, Prof. Elchanan Reiner
- 2009–2012      **BA**, Biblical Studies and Jewish History (*summa cum laude*)

### ***University Affiliations***

- September 2024–September 2026      Postdoctoral Fellow, Minerva Fellowship, Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main.
- March 2024–February 2025      Postdoctoral Fellow, The Open University of Israel.
- April 2023–February 2024      Postdoctoral Fellow, Fulbright Israel, Columbia University, New-York.
- October 2022–April 2023      Postdoctoral Fellow, Kreitman School, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- October 2021–April 2023      Postdoctoral Fellow, ERC project “Jewish Translation and Cultural Transfer in Early Modern Europe”, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

### ***Publications***

#### **Books**

- *Carnival and Canon: Medieval and Early Modern Purim Parodies*, Magnes Press, Jerusalem (forthcoming).
- ‘A Present for Purim’: An Unknown Yiddish Poem on the Megillah, introduction and commentaries: Roni Cohen, H. Leyvik Farlag, Tel-Aviv, 2021 (Yiddish).

#### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- “Laundry, Baths, and Eliyahu Ha-Navi: Cleanliness in *Brant shpigl*”, *Jewish History* (under review).
- “Like Reading the *Halel* in the Synagogue’: Between Biblical Poetry and Performance in Midrash Va-Yosha”, *Oqimta* (forthcoming).
- “Reading Scribbles with the Grain: The Case Study of One Sixteenth Century Hebrew Scribbles Page”, *Mabatim* (accepted with changes).
- “Funnier in Yiddish? The Yiddish Translation of a Hebrew Parody of the Talmud”, *Prooftexts* (accepted with changes).
- “Purim by the Book: The First Prints of the Medieval Parodies for Purim and the Invention of the Purim Anthology”, *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 31, 2024, p. 341–359.
- “A German Tune, A Hebrew Script: A Yiddish Translation of Lutheran Liturgy”, *In Geveb*, July, 2024.
- O. Idels, R. Cohen, “Israeli Nonsense: Humor, Globalization, and Vegetables During the Early Nineties”, *Humor*, 2024.

- R. Cohen, O. Cohen, “The Jewish Traveler and the Protestant Shoemaker: A Hans Sachs’ Poem in Yiddish”, *Zutot* 21, 2024, 1–14.
- R. Cohen, O. Levitan, “‘Di Yidn Kumen!’: Israeli and Multicultural Identities in Israeli Yiddish Light Entertainment Shows”, *In Geveb*, April 2023.
- “Parodic Purim Literature in the Early Modern Era and the Ban that Failed”, *Zion* 88, 1, 2022, p. 103–128 (Hebrew).
- “From Ridicule to Ritual: Standardization and Canonization Processes in the Transmission of Purim Parodic Literature”, *Medioevi* 7, 2021, p. 225–251.
- “Between ‘Blessed Mordecai’ and ‘Cursed Haman’: The Story of Esther in Kalonymos ben Kalonymos’ *Massekhet Purim* and the Medieval Custom of Hitting Haman”, *Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore* 34, 2021, p. 43–70 (Hebrew).
- “‘They say I am becoming greater than my peers’: An apprentice-scribe in early 18th century Amsterdam”, *Studia Rosenthaliana: Journal of the History, Culture and Heritage of the Jews in the Netherlands*, Vol. 46 (2020), p. 137–154.

### **Book Chapters**

- “Cursed be Haman?: Haman as a Victim in the 14th Century Parody *Massekhet Purim*”, ed. Roberta Sabbath, *Sacred Troubling Topics in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, and Qur’an* (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021), p. 469–492.

### **Reviews, Short Texts and Encyclopaedic Entries**

- “Rachal Rojansky, ‘Yiddish in Israel: A History’”, a book review, *Zion* (forthcoming).
- “Parody (Jewish Medieval)”, encyclopedic entry, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception Online* (forthcoming).
- “Purim”, encyclopedic entry, *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception Online*, (forthcoming).
- “Purim and Purim Literature”, *The reversal of fortunes. Queen Esther and the feast of Purim in Rome* (Catalogue), Jewish Museum of Rome 21 March - 16 September 2024.
- Online Database of Jewish Translations and Cultural Transfer in Early Modern Europe (JEWFACT), 2024. <https://aranne5.bgu.ac.il/jtact/index.php>, entries: 304, 465, 516, 517, 520, 522, 524, 525, 526, 528, 532, 534, 535, 536, 538, 540, 543, 546, 547, 554, 555, 558, 560, 563, 565, 569, 570, 573, 578, 582, 584, 585, 586, 590, 593, 596, 616, 628, 633, 634, 644, 729, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747.
- “Karmi the Wine King and his Loyal Citizens: Fourteenth-Century Haskamot for Purim”, *Ho!* 23, 2022, p.3 39–44 (Hebrew).
- “‘The Blessed Ben Bibi Explained It Beautifully’: The Story of the Purim Sages”, *Et-Mol*, 271 (2021), p. 1–4 (Hebrew).

### **Fellowships and Awards**

2024–2026	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Minerva Fellowship.
2024	Postdoctoral Fellowship, The Open University of Israel
2023	The National Authority for Yiddish Culture’s prize for Post Doctorate Fellows
2023–2024	Postdoctoral Fellow, Fulbright Israel
2022–2023	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Kreitman School, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
2021–2023	Postdoctoral Fellowship, ERC project “Jewish Translation and Cultural Transfer in Early Modern Europe”, Department of Jewish History, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
2018–2021	Nathan Rotenstreich Fellowship of the Committee for Budgeting and Planning, Council for Higher Education
2020–2021	Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture doctoral scholarship
2021	The Chaim Rosenberg School of Jewish Studies and Archaeology Prize for Publications Encouragement
2018	Dov Sadan Scholarship for Hebrew and Yiddish Literature and Language
2017	Ignatz Bubis Scholarship for Jewish Studies
2017	Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Centre fellowship for Jewish Studies

2016	Ellie and Mark Lainer Scholarship for Yiddish Studies
2010–2015	Award for BA and MA in Biblical Studies
2012	Dean's List in Jewish History, 2012

### ***Academic Teaching Experience***

2013	The Book of Jonah (undergraduate course), Tel Aviv University.
2014–2017	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible I and II (undergraduate course), Tel Aviv University.
2018–2022	Yiddish for Beginners, Leyvik House, Tel Aviv.

### ***Scholarly Activities***

2019–2020	Library fellow, Van Leer Institute
2019–2021	Research Assistant for Prof. Gideon Bohak.
2017–2019	Research Assistant, critical edition for Ibn Giat's piyyutim by Dr. Ariel Zinder.
2017–2021	Co-organizer of the School of Jewish History's workshop for PhD candidates, Tel Aviv University.
2015–2017	Research Assistant for Prof. Yaakov Shavit.
2015–2017	Research Assistant, Mandaic Dictionary project, supervised by Prof. Moshe Morgenstern.
2013–2016	Teaching Assistant and Instructor for Prof. Noam Mizrahi, Biblical Studies.
2013–2016	Research Assistant, <i>Biblia Arabica</i> Project, supervised by Prof. Camila Adang, Prof. Andreas Kaplony, Prof. Meira Polliack, Prof. Sabine Schmidtke.
2014–2015	Yiddish cataloguing, Israeli Center for the Documentation of Performing Arts, Tel Aviv University.

### ***Workshops and Professional Training***

06–12.09.2015, Manusciences 15, a Franco-German Summer School in Philology and Digital Humanities, Freie Universität. Berlin, Frauenchimsee.

### ***Conferences and Lectures (selected)***

#### ***International Conferences and Seminars***

- “A Broadside for Purim and Circumcision”, *The Role of Broadsides in Jewish Ritualistic and Cultural Space*, June 18th, 2024, The National Library in Jerusalem.
- Faculty teaching, *The Shalom Spiegel Institute Summer Seminar in Medieval Hebrew Poetry Weeklong Seminar on Kalonymos ben Kalonymos*, June 16–21st, 2024, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York.
- “Haggai and Habakbuk: Purim Medieval Biblical Books”, *500 Years for Cairo Purim (1524)*, June 20th, 2024, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan.
- “Carnival and Canon: What can Premodern Jewish Parodies Teach Us About the History of the Carnival?”, *Department of Jewish Studies Faculty Seminar*, February 6th, 2024, Rutgers University.
- “Bach in Yiddish, *Carolina Center for Jewish Studies Lunch Seminar*, January 30th, 2024, Chapel Hill University.
- “The Early Modern Tennis Scholar: A Philosophic Parody”, *AJS 55th Annual Conference*, December 19, 2023, San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco.
- “The Jewish Tennis Philosopher”, October 18, 2023, Centro Primo Levi, New York.
- “The Myth of Jewish Humor: A Medieval Take”, October 4, 2023, Columbia University, New York.
- “Bach in Yiddish: A Yiddish Translation of Lutheran Liturgy”, *12th EAJIS Congress: Branching Out – Diversity of Jewish Studies*, July 18, 2023, Goethe University Frankfurt.
- O. Idels, R. Cohen, “Nonsense: Israeli Humor and Globalization During the Nineties”, *39th Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies*, June 26, 2023, New York University.

- “Working with Hebrew Manuscripts: A Few Thoughts and Suggestions”, *Shalom Spiegel Seminar on Medieval Hebrew Poetry: Colloquium on Shem Tov Ibn Falaquera*, June 12, 2023, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City.
- “A German Tune, a Hebrew Scripts”, *New Directions in North American Scholarship in Early Modern Jewish History*, a Salo and Jeanette Baron Conference, May 16, 2023, New York University.
- “And They Will Rejoice, and Sing on the Day I Die”: An Antigambling Hebrew Poem as a Medieval “Earworm”, *AJS 54th Annual Conference*, December 19, 2022, Boston.
- “Eliyahu Ha-Navi’s Dirty Laundry: Brantspigel and the European Conduct Literature”, *The 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies*, August 10, 2022, the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- “Is it Funnier in Yiddish? An Eighteenth-Century Yiddish Translation of a Talmudic Parody for Purim”, *Speaking in Tongues*, July 14, 2022, Sde Boker Campus, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- “Laundry Bath and Eliyahu Ha-Navi: One Story About Manners and Hygiene in Brantspigel”, *Musar in Context*, February 15, 2022, Goethe Universität.
- “‘And They will Rejoice and Sing on the Day I Die’: A Medieval Anti-Gambling Hebrew Poem as a ‘Textual Doodle’”, *Western Jewish Studies Association*, March 16, 2021, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- “From Citation to Imitation: The Medieval Purim Parodies and Their Role in the Reception History of the Talmud”, *The 50th Congress of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)*, December 18, 2018, Boston.
- R. Cohen, O. Levitan, “A Look at One Theatrical Cartoon: Archival Encounters”, Historical Approaches in Contemporary Research Field: Making Connections, August 29, 2018, *Department of Folkloristic*, Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu.
- “Purim by the Book: The First Print of the Medieval Parodies for Purim”, *The XIth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS)*, July 19, 2018, Jagiellonian University, Krakow.
- “Parody, Ritual and Function: The Medieval Parodies for Purim and Their History of Reception”, *International Medieval Congress (IMC) 2018*, July 5, 2018, University of Leeds.
- “A Sacred Parody: When a Parody for Purim Stops Being Funny”, *30th International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) Conference: Humour: Positively (?) Transforming*, June 29, 2018, Tallinn University.
- “‘Like Reading the Halel in the Synagogue’: Between Biblical Poetry and Performance in Midrash Va-Yosha”, *The National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) 2018 International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature and Culture*, June 26, 2018, University of Amsterdam.
- “‘Every City With at Least Ten from Israel Has to Pick a King’: Between the Purim King Custom and the Jewish Parodic Literature in Provence”, *The 17th World Congress of Jewish Studies, August 8, 2017*, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- “‘Seriously, it’s a Joke: Standardization and Canonization in Purim Parodies”, *An Exploration of Humor’s ‘Je ne sais quoi’: The International Society for Humor Studies Annual Conference*, July 11, 2017, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal.
- R. Cohen, O. Levitan, “Di Megillah by Itzik Manger: the Golden Peacock Case” (poster), *Ways of Dwelling: Crisis, Craft, Creativity: 13th International Society for Ethnology and Folklore (SIEF) Congress*, March 27–28, 2017, University of Göttingen, Göttingen.
- “Cursed be Haman? Haman as a Victim in the 14th Century Parody Massekhet Purim”, *Religion, Race and Racism: The American Academy of Religion Western Region Annual Conference, March 19, 2017*, University of the West, Rosemead.

### **Local Conferences**

- “The Philosophy of Ball Games: The Parody Maḥol mesahakim”, *New Sources and Perspectives for the Study of Early Modern Jewish History: Texts and Contexts*, July 14th, 2024, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

- “Fake Bibles for Purim”, *Imposters, Falsehood and Forgery in Yemen and the broader Middle East, from the Middle Ages to Modern Times*, July 11th, 2024, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.
- “I Wanted to Write a Book about the Essence of Games: Mahol Mesahakim and the Philosophical Importance of Ball Games”, *The Middle Ages Now: The Annual Conference for Medieval Studies in Israel*, April 11th, 2024, Givat Ram, Jerusalem.
- “Not Only Megillat Esther: The Purim Prophets Literature”, March 19th, 2024, *The Cymbalista Synagogue and Jewish Heritage Center*, Tel Aviv.
- “Gamblers, Scribblers, and Hits”, *Hebrew Literature Seminar*, February 21st, 2024, The Hebrew University.
- “Between Musar and Satire: The Dangers of Chatter According to Brant Shpigl”, *The Third Doctorate Candidates Conference of the Department of Jewish Philosophy*, July 9, 2023, Bar Ilan University.
- “Carnival as Canon: What the Parodic Literature for Purim can Teach Us About the European Carnival?”, Keynote, *The World is Upside Down, Let’s Laugh: Boundaries and Changes*, March 12, 2023, Tel Aviv University.
- O. Cohen, R. Cohen, “The Case of the Talking Raven: Translation and Knowledge Transmission in the German Jewish World during the 16th Century”, January 19, 2023, Haifa University.
- “The Jewish Haman: The History of Mesirat Haman”, *The Jewish History Forum*, March 23, 2022, Tel Aviv University.
- “Drunkards’ Tractates, Kabbalic Tikkunim and the Books Boycott that Did Not Happen”, *The Medieval and Renaissance Forum*, December 30, 2021, University of Haifa.
- “Rav Gargeran Hot Gezogt: How to Translate a Talmudic Parody into Yiddish”, *Talmud to the People: The Life of the Gemara in the wide Public*, December 15, 2021, Tel Aviv University (co-organizer).
- “Drunkards Talmud: A Yiddish Translation to a Talmudic Parody”, December 12, 2021, *The Centre for Yiddish Culture*, Ben Gurion University in the Negev.
- “Fools, Drunkards and Gamblers: The Development of Purim in Medieval Europe”, *Judaism in a New Perspective: from Megillah to Carnival*, February 18, 2021, Tel Aviv University.
- “Old Laughs, New Ritual: The First Print of the Medieval Parodies for Purim”, *Books of Stories After the Invention of Printing*, January 29, 2020, The National Library of Israel, Jerusalem.
- “The Parodic Literature for Purim: Between Study and Performance”, *The Jewish History Forum*, March 27, 2019, Tel Aviv University.
- “Talmud with a Drink: Between Study and Ritual in the Talmudic Literature for Purim”, *Afternoon Scholar*, March 10, 2019, The National Library of Israel, Givat Ram, Jerusalem.
- “Got it! Standardization and Canonization Processes in the Transmission of the Purim Parodic Literature”, *1st Workshop – Jewish Knowledge in Motion from Late Antiquity to the Early Modern Era*, June 17, 2018, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem.
- “Talmud for a Drunkard’s Night: Between Performing and Studying of the Parodic Literature for Purim”, *Haifa’s Workshop for Performance Studies: Performance as a Creator of Knowledge*, June 12, 2018, Haifa University.
- “‘R. Liar Said’: Between the Parodic Midrash and the Question of Credibility in Midrashic Literature”, *The 38th Annual Conference for Folklore Studies in Israel: Truth and Fiction in Folklore and its Research*, April 24, 2018, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- “Reception and Transmission of Hebrew Non-Canonical Texts: The Case of Purim Parodies”, *A PhD Candidates Workshop with Prof. Simon Schama*, December 7, 2017, Historical Society of Israel, Jerusalem.
- “Between Acceptance and Rejection: Purim Parodies in the Early Modern Period”, *The Historical Society of Israel Harsagor’s Workshop for Early Modern Period’s Scholars*, April 3, 2017, Beit Daniel, Zikhron Ya’akov.
- “On Language, Jewishness and Intercultural in the 90s Israeli Yiddish Entertainment Shows”, *The Jew in 3-D*, June 1, 2016, the Zalman Shazar Center, Jerusalem.

- “Between Hebrew and Yiddish: Humorous Adaptations to Esther from the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period”, *Space, Body, Language: The Tel Aviv University Study Group Conference*, May 25, 2016, Tel Aviv University.
- R. Cohen, O. Levitan, “Di Megila” (poster), *Ha-Megila – After Fifty Years*, March 21, 2016, Tel Aviv University, Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center.

***Volunteer Activities:***

2017–                      Manager of H. Leyvik Publishing House for Yiddish literature.