

## Curriculum Vitae

Moshe Yagur  
moshe.yagur@biu.ac.il

### Academic Position

#### 2025 – Bar Ilan University

Senior lecturer, Department of Land of Israel Studies and Archaeology

### Past Positions

#### 2022-2025 - Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Martin Buber Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Social Sciences

#### 2020-2021 - Tel Aviv University

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies

#### 2019-2020 - Ben Gurion University of the Negev

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters

#### 2018-2019 - University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies

#### 2017-2018 - University of Haifa

Post-doctoral Fellow at the Department of Middle Eastern history

### Education

2018: PhD, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (approved 19.3.2018)

Title: “Religious Identity and Communal Boundaries in Geniza Society (10th-13th centuries): Proselytes, Slaves, Apostates”

Supervisor: Prof. Miriam Frenkel

2012: M.A. (Magna cum laude), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2007: B.A. (Magna cum laude), Judaic Studies and Bible, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### List of Publications

#### Monograph:

*Crossing the Line: Jewish identity in Medieval Egypt* [Hebrew], Zalman Shazar Center Press, 2025

#### Edited volume:

Co-edited with Oded Zinger - *Between Documents and Literature: Narration in the Pre-modern Islamicate World*, special issue of *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean* (due 2027)

#### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles:

1. “Self-fashioning in twelfth-century Egypt: was Judge Isaac b. Samuel a ‘Sepharadi?’”, to be published in *Medieval Encounters* (accepted April 24)
2. “Shaving Hair and the Maintenance of Confessional Boundaries in Jewish Sources from the Early Islamic Period”, *Viator: Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 56 (2025): 111-125.

3. "[Living in the city: Jews and their residences in medieval Fustāt](#)", *Medieval History Journal* 27 (2024): 411-440.
4. "[The cautious beginnings of Sephardi self-identification: a view from the Cairo Geniza \(tenth-thirteenth centuries\)](#)", *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies* 15.1 (2023): 1-23
5. "[Excommunication and apostasy: re-drawing Jewish communal boundaries in Fatimid and Ayyubid Egypt](#)", *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean* 35.1 (2023): 95-109
6. "[Shaving hair and paring nails: the origins and transmutations of a unique rite of passage in medieval Judaism](#)", *Tarbiẓ* 88.1 (2021): 109-132 [Hebrew]
7. "Ezra in Ashkelon: a medieval local tradition in its geo-political context", *Zion* 86.1 (2020): 31-56 [Hebrew]
8. "[Religiously mixed families in the Mediterranean society of the Cairo Geniza](#)", *Mediterranean Historical Review* 35.1 (June 2020): 27-42
9. with Miriam Frenkel, "[Jewish Communal History in Geniza Scholarship](#)", *Jewish History* 32 (2019): 131-142

#### **Article in Peer-reviewed Edited Volumes:**

10. "Converts, Captives, Concubines: A Gendered Rite of Passage in the Medieval Near East", *Language, Gender and Law in the Judaeo-Islamic Milieu*, eds. Amir Ashur, Zvi Stampfer, Leiden: Brill (2020): 88-109
11. "The Donor and the Gravedigger: Converts to Judaism in the Cairo Geniza Documents", *Contesting Inter-Religious Conversion in the Medieval World*, eds. Yaniv Fox, Yossi Yisraeli, New York: Routledge (2016): 115-134

#### **Other Book Chapters:**

12. "Communal Borders and Religious Conversion", *The Jews of Medieval Egypt*, ed. Miriam Frenkel, Boston: Academic Studies Press (2021): 47-71
13. "Several documents from the Cairo Geniza concerning conversion to Islam", *Conversion to Islam in the Premodern Age: A Sourcebook*, eds. Nimrod Hurvitz, Christian Sahner, Uriel Simonsohn, Luke Yarbrough, Los Angeles: University of California Press (2020): 227-231

#### **Press and Outreach Publications**

14. "Between the neighborhood and the synagogue: Jewish settlement in Early Islamic Jerusalem", *Et-Mol* 288 (2024): 29-33 [Hebrew]
15. With Daniella Talmon-Heller and Dotan Arad, "[Jewish life in Palestine under Islamic rule – a response to Benjamin Netanyahu](#)", *The Social History Workshop*, Ha'aretz's blog, 26.3.23 [Hebrew]
16. "[A 'Geniza Street View': On Jewish neighborhoods and inter-religious neighborliness](#)", *Medieval Jewish Studies Now* (blog), 14.6.22
17. With Melonie Schmierer-Lee, "[Q&A Wednesday: a Genizah Street View with Moshe Yagur](#)", *Genizah Fragments: Blog of the Geniza Research Unit*, University of Cambridge, 21.7.21
18. "Iberian Migrants in Cairo Geniza documents: Between identification and identity", *Frankel Institute Annual: Sephardic Identities, Medieval and Early Modern* (2019): 42-44

19. [“Sa’āda the enslaved woman: immersion and oblivion, T-S 12.872”](#), *T-S Genizah Research Unit's Fragment of the Month*, August 2019
20. with Oded Zinger, [“The Cairo Geniza and Facebook”](#), *Association for Jewish Studies' Perspective*, The Old Media/New Media Issue (spring 2018): 38-40
21. [“Accusations of Conversion in the Jewish Community of Medieval Cairo”](#) [Hebrew], *The Social History Workshop*, Ha'aretz's blog, 30.9.16
22. [“He Who Chooses the Religion of Moses and Israel: Moses b. Samuel on a Pilgrimage to Mekkah”](#) [Hebrew], *Et-Mol* 239 (2014): 5-8
23. “Stop-over in Cyprus: Jewish Communities in Early Ottoman Cyprus” [Hebrew], *Et-Mol* 232 (2012): 5-8

## Teaching Experience

Department of Jewish History, Ben Gurion University in the Negev

Spring 2025 - ‘Pilgrimage in the medieval Mediterranean: Jews, Christians and Muslims’

Fall 2024-5 - ‘Introduction to Jewish history in the Middle Ages: Part I, 600-1100’

Spring 2024 – ‘Jews and Jewish identity in the medieval urban sphere: between east and west’

Spring 2023 – ‘Proselytes, apostates and the question of Jewish identity in medieval Egypt’

Department of Land of Israel Studies, Bar Ilan University

Fall 2022 – ‘Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters in the Land of Israel during the Middle Ages’

Fall 2021 – ‘Between City and Village: The Land of Israel from the first Islamic conquest to the first Crusade’

Spring 2021 – ‘Pilgrims and Holy Sites: Pilgrimage Traditions of the Holy Land between Judaism, Christianity and Islam’

Fall 2019 – ‘Palestine during the early Islamic period: great events and day-to-day life’

The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem

Fall 2021 – ‘Building a Community: A View on Jewish Communal Life in Medieval Islamic Lands’

## Awards and Prizes

2024 – **The Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies’** award for the publication of academic books, supporting the book *Crossing the Line*

2023 – **The Historical Society of Israel’s** Am ve-Olam annual award for outstanding historical article in Hebrew (for item number 6 in the publications list)

2021 – **The Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel’s** Bleiman prize for a doctoral dissertation – special commendation of excellence

2020 - **The Zalman Shazar Center’s Yuval Heiman Prize** for an outstanding Hebrew dissertation in Jewish history (to be published as a book in Shazar Press)

2017 – **Annual PhD Candidate Award**, The Joseph & Racheline Barda Chair for the Study and Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt, University of Haifa

2017 – **Dissertation Completion Award**, Jewish History Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2015 – **Wald Award for PhD candidate**, The Zalman Shazar Center  
2012 – **Misgav Yerushalayim Award**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2012 – **S. D. Goitein Award**, Institute of Asian and African Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2012 – **MA Thesis Award**, Jewish History Department, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2011 – **Yad Ora Award**, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## **Fellowships**

2022-2025 – **Martin Buber Society of Fellows'** post-doctoral fellowship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2022-2023 – **Kreitman School, Ben Gurion University of the Negev's** post-doctoral fellowship for 2022-2024 (declined)  
2022 – **Mandel-Scholion Research Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem** finalist for 2022-2023 post-doctoral fellowship  
2020-2021 – **The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies**, Tel Aviv University, post-doctoral fellowship  
2020-2021 – **The Halpern Center for the Study of Jewish Self-Perception**, Bar Ilan University, post-doctoral research fellowship  
2019-2020 – **The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters**, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, post-doctoral fellowship  
2018-2019 – **Fulbright Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship**, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor  
2018-2019 – **Frankel Center for Advanced Judaic Studies** – research fellow  
2018-2020 – **Yale University Judaic Studies program** post-doctoral fellowship in Jewish history (declined)  
2017-2018 – **University of Haifa** post-doctoral fellowship, Department of Middle Eastern History  
2013-2017 – **PhD Honors Program**, Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2015-2016 – **Yad Ben Zvi** Scholarship for PhD candidates  
2013-2014 – **Schocken Institute** Scholarship for PhD candidates

## **Projects and Collaborations**

2025 – Co-organizer, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies' 7th Advanced School in the Humanities, on "Historical Formations of Spatial Knowledge" (March 2025)  
2025 – Co-organizer of the annual research group 'Jews interpreting Space' at the HU  
2022-2024 – coordinator (and member) of the research group "The Holyland in transition from late antiquity to the Middle Ages: Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions", Yad Ben Zvi  
2022 – Co-convenor, 'The Histories of Ibn Gabirol: Jews, Muslims and Christians in eleventh century al-Andalus – new perspectives and directions' – an international workshop, Tel Aviv University, 14.3.22, as part of Ibn Gabirol 1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

2016-2017 - Coordinator, 'From Fustat to Haifa: An International Workshop Celebrating 120 Years of Genizah Research', May 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2017, University of Haifa

2015-2016 - Co-organizer, Annual Graduate Workshop on 'Changing Jewish Identities', The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Spring 2014 – Initiator and Coordinator, Research Students' Semester-long workshop on Hebrew Medieval Manuscripts and Paleography, held at the National Library of Israel

### **Conferences and Panels organized**

8.2025 –19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, panel titled 'Jews in the medieval urban sphere in Europe and the eastern Mediterranean'

8.6.25 – International workshop concluding the first year of the research group 'Jews interpreting Space', Hebrew University

22.9.24 – Concluding conference of the research group 'The Holyland in transition from late antiquity to the Middle Ages: Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions' [Hebrew], Yad Ben Zvi

7.6.23 – Book event at the Hebrew University for Oded Zinger's book *Living with the Law* (Philadelphia 2023)

27.4.23 - Annual conference of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Association of Israel, panel titled 'Between integration and segregation: formation of multi-religious spaces in Medieval Mediterranean urban centers'

10.8.22 – 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, panel titled 'The city and the house'

20.12.21 - 53rd AJS Annual conference, Chicago, panel titled 'Shared Urban Landscapes East and West: A Comparative Examination of Jewish Identity in the Medieval Urban Environment'

### **Selected Invited Talks and Presentations in Conferences**

#### **Invited Talks**

**5.2026** - 'Between Cairo and Alexandria: 'The Jewish Neighborhood' - a place or a concept?', at the 'Jewish Medieval Spaces and Places', University of Münster

**17.12.24** - 'The Islamic City, the Jewish neighborhood and modern research: Ḥaret Zwayla as a test case' [Hebrew], joint seminar of the departments of History, Jewish history, and Middle Eastern history, Ben Gurion University

**26.3.24** - 'Between male and female proselytes: social and gendered variations in conversion in Cairo Geniza documents' [Hebrew], Israel Institute for Advanced Studies

**13.3.24** - 'Urban patriotism in the Jewish communities of medieval Islam: The case of Ascalon', The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**22.6.23** - 'Jews and the 'Jewish neighborhood': Jewish identity and urban space in the medieval Middle East' [Hebrew], Identity and Memory: Ben Zvi institute celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee - [link](#)

**28.5.23** - 'Inter-religious encounters from street-level view :The case of Michael street, Fustāṭ', at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities' Late Antiquity Forum

- 17.5.23** - 'What can the dwelling quarters of Jews, Muslims and Christians can teach us about inter-religious encounters in Medieval Islamic urban centers?' [Hebrew], The Open University of Israel's Center for the Study of Relations Between Jews, Christians and Muslims
- 2.5.23** - 'Moshe b. Shemuel recounts his life story: From Damascus to Cairo, from Judaism to Islam and back' [Hebrew], Department of Hebrew Literature' seminar, Ben Gurion University
- 20.4.23** - 'Was there a "Jewish neighborhood" in Medieval Fustāṭ and why is it important?', Princeton Geniza Lab talk - [link](#)
- 23.2.23** - 'Jewish presence in Islamic Jerusalem: A Jewish-Christian-Muslim debate', as part of the e-conference 'Abbasid Idntities 750-1000: Jews and Samaritans'
- 13.5.2022** – 'Narratives of the ideal proselyte in documentary sources from the Cairo Geniza', international workshop at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, titled 'The Status of Converts in Jewish Communities and Jewish Thought, from Biblical Times to Contemporary Israel'
- 25.4.2022** – 'Contesting religious identity in Muslim courts', Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Annual conference
- 31.10.21** - 'A Geniza Street View: Domestic inter-religious encounters in the Medieval Islamic Mediterranean', Job-talk at the Haifa Center for Mediterranean History, University of Haifa
- 2.6.21** – 'Brothers from afar: a view from medieval Islamic lands' – Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters, Ben Gurion University, Book event
- 29.4.21** – 'The ruined house of Abu Ali Yefet ben Avraham, Judge Street, Fustāṭ' [Hebrew], *Jems and Objects*, Department of Jewish History, University of Haifa
- 25.1.21** - 'Identity and identification: Jewish immigrants from al-Andalus and the early formation of Sephardi identity' [Hebrew], Job-talk at the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Bar Ilan University
- 23.11.2020** – 'Badr al-Jamali's Armenian identity and its effect of Egyptian architecture and demography', *Israel Institute for Advanced Studies' research group 'Cultural brokerage in pre-modern Islam'*
- 12-13.3.2020** – 'The double-edged sword of excommunication: A view from the Cairo Geniza', '*Acts of Excommunication in the Late Antique and Early Islamic Middle East*', an international workshop as part of the ERC project 'Embedding Conquest, Naturalizing Muslim Rule (600-1000)', University of Leiden
- 13.12.18** - "'Are you with the Jews or with the Gentiles?": communal boundaries and space in Medieval Egypt' [Hebrew], Job-talk at the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 27.10.18** – 'Conversion as a non-issue: Conversion to and from Judaism under the Fatimids', *University of Chicago, Shi'i Studies Group Annual Symposium*
- 12.6.17** – 'Manumitted Female Slaves and their (lack of) Cultural Capital', International Conference of the Research Group *Jewish Women's Cultural Capital*, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem
- 16.5.17** – 'Religious Conversion and Social Boundaries: Outlining the borders of 'Genizah Society'', *From Fustat to Haifa: An International Workshop Celebrating 120 Years of Genizah Research*, University of Haifa

## **Presentations in Conferences**

- 1.26 - 'Jerusalem in the 14th-16th centuries and the varying characteristics of 'the Jewish neighborhood', The Materiality of Jewish-Arab relations conference, Munich
- 7.8.25 - 'Jews, Muslims and Christians in one neighborhood in medieval Cairo' [Hebrew], 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- 31.7.25 - 'Zuqāq, darb, ḥāra: terms and their meanings in the urban life of medieval middle eastern Jews' [Hebrew], 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference of the Society for the Study of Medieval Judeo-Arabic Culture, Be'er Sheva
- 8.6.25 - "'The Jewish Neighborhood" as a Toponym in the Historiography of Cairo', International workshop 'Jews Interpreting Space', Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 22.9.24 - 'Jewish sites in Islamic Jerusalem before the first Crusade' [Hebrew], Yad Ben Zvi
- 9.9.24 - 'The private residence of the Jewish dignitary as a communal site in Medieval Egypt' [Hebrew], Machon Ben Zvi's Annual Conference
- 29.2.24 - 'Jews in Gaza and its surroundings during the Middle Ages', Yad Ben Zvi [Hebrew]
- 20.7.23 - 'Michael street: Co-habitation of Jews, Muslims and Christians in Medieval Cairo as reflected in the history of one alley', European Association of Jewish Studies' 12<sup>th</sup> congress, Frankfurt
- 27.4.23 – 'Michael street, Fustāṭ: The Church, the Jewish endowment and urban fabric in Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk Egypt' [Hebrew], Annual conference of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Association of Israel
- 10.8.2022 – 'Shared, not divided': Inter-religious ownership of private dwellings in medieval Fustāṭ', 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- 25.5.22 – 'Crossing the Religious Border, Staying at Home' [Hebrew], the Fifth Annual conference of the Israeli Association for the Study of Religion, Ben Gurion University
- 20.12.21 - 'Next-door neighbors: communal identity and inter-communal dwelling patterns in medieval Egypt', 53rd AJS Annual conference, Chicago (accepted; declined due to Covid-19)
- 31.3.2019 – 'The Jewish ritual of circumcision under medieval Islam: Common practice, exclusive identity and the 'narcissism of minor differences'', 39<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, NYC
- 28.3.2019 – 'To be or not to be a Sephardi: The case of Rabbi Isaac b. Samuel' - *Frankel Center for Judaic Studies' Annual Symposium*, 'Sephardic Identities: Medieval and Early Modern'
- 5.7.18 – 'From Judaism to Islam and Back: A 14th-Century Autobiography of a Relapsed Convert', *International Medieval Congress*, Leeds
- 7.6.18 – 'Muslim Attitudes towards conversion between Judaism and Christianity in Fatimid Egypt' [Hebrew], *Annual conference of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel*, Tel Aviv University
- 28.12.17 – 'Circumcision as a Shared Custom in Medieval Egypt' [Hebrew], 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims, the Open University of Israel
- 6.8.17 – 'Foreigners in the Bedroom: Jewish Men, Slave Women, and their Children', 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress for Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- 24.5.17 – "Are You With the Jews, Your Father's People, or With Your Mother and the Gentiles?", *The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

**17.8.16** - 'Social Bonds Between Jews and Apostates in the Geniza Society', *International Conference of the Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville Tennessee

**22.6.16** - 'Conversion between Judaism and Christianity in the Cairo Geniza 'Classical Period'', *Eastern Jews and Christians in Interaction and Exchange in the Islamic World – Doctoral Workshop*, Jews-East ERC Project in collaboration with the Open University of Israel and the Ben Zvi Institute

**27.5.14** – 'The Donor and the Gravedigger: Portraits of Two Proselytes from the Cairo Geniza Documents, and Their Social Significance', *The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Sheva

### **Other Relevant Professional Experience**

2022-2025 – Senior research assistant, Princeton University's Princeton Geniza Project (<https://geniza.princeton.edu/en/>)

2014-2025 – Research Assistant to Prof. Ora Limor (Open University of Israel) – Mount of Olives Monotheist Traditions

2010-2012 – Research Assistant to Dr. Miriam Frenkel as part of *The Formation of Muslim Society in Palestine* Research Group – ISF Center of Excellence

### **Languages**

Hebrew – native fluency

English – fluent

Arabic and Judaeo-Arabic – advanced

French – intermediate

German - intermediate

### **Membership in Professional Societies**

World Union of Jewish Studies (2013-)

Historical Society of Israel (2017-)

The Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel (2018-)

Association for Jewish Studies (2018-)

The Israeli Association for the Study of Religions (2020-)

Society for the Medieval Mediterranean (2023-)

The European Association for Jewish Studies (2023-)