**Curriculum Vitae**

**Tomer Persico**

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**Profession Positions**

**2009–2012**  Tel Aviv University, Doctor of Philosophy, Comparative Religion,

Dissertation: *“Jewish Meditation”: The Development of a Modern Form of*

*Spiritual Practice in Contemporary Judaism* (supervised by Professor Ron

Margolin).

**2006–2008** Shalom Hartman Institute, Teaching Certification (approximate to B.Ed.)

(Jerusalem, Israel).

**2002–2004** Hebrew University Master of Arts, Comparative Religion (magna cum laude),

(Jerusalem, Israel).   
 Thesis: *The Return: A Model of Mystical Ascension as Demonstrated through*

*the Works of R. Abraham Isaac Kook and Meister Eckhart.*

**1998–2000** University of Haifa Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and University’s Honors

Program (summa cum laude), (Haifa, Israel).

**Academic Education**

**2020–2021** Senior Research Scholar, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of

California, Berkeley.

**2018–2021** Koret Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies, with joint

appointments in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Berkeley Institute for

Jewish Law and Israel Studies, and Center for Jewish Studies, University of

California, Berkeley.

**2015–2017** Shalom Hartman Institute, Research Fellow, (Jerusalem, Israel).

**2014–2015** Elyachar Center, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Postdoctoral Fellow,

(Beersheba, Israel).

**2018–2021** Shalom Hartman Institute, Bay Area Scholar in Residence (Jerusalem, Israel).

**2009–2017** Tel Aviv University Adjunct Professor.

**2016** Academic Director, Alma: Home for Hebrew Culture (Tel Aviv, Israel).

**2009–2011** Hebrew Reali High School, Teacher, Bible and Jewish Culture, (Haifa, Israel).

**2010** The Open University, *Ascolot* (external education), Lecturer in “Eastern

Religions,” (Israel).

**2008–2009**: Machon Avshalom, Lecturer in Christian Mysticism and Eastern Religions,

(Tel Aviv, Israel).

**Publications – Books**

* *The Idea of Image of God and the Making of the Modern World* [Hebrew], Yedioth Sefarim, Tel Aviv, May 2021.
* *“Jewish Meditation”: The Development of a Modern Form of Spiritual Practice in Contemporary Judaism* [Hebrew], Tel Aviv University Press, Tel Aviv, 2016.

**Publications – Edited Books**

* *The Jubilee Haggadah*, SISO and The Israeli Center for Libraries, Tel Aviv, 2017.

**Publications – Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals and Books**

* “Contemporary Spirituality in Israel: The search for meaning and the Privatization of Religion,” in *Search for Meaning in the Israeli Scene*, eds. Ofra Mayseless and Pninit Russo-Netzer, forthcoming.
* “The End Point of Zionism: Ethnocentrism “The End of Man – Philosophical Consummation in Jewish Meditative Tradition,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Meditation and Philosophy*, Routledge, forthcoming.
* “‘It’s Time to Emphasize the Spirit’: Neo-Hasidic Awakening in the Religious Zionist Public and its Significance,” in *The Place of Religious Zionism in the Israeli Society: Between Segregation, Cooperation and Hegemony*, eds. Yedidia Stern, Tzachi Hershkowitz and Yair Sheleg, The Israeli Center for Democracy, forthcoming (Hebrew).
* “Neo-Hasidism,” in *Hasidism – An Anthology for Hasidic Literature and Thought*, ed. Moshe Idel et al., Bar-Ilan University Press, forthcoming (Hebrew).
* “The Jewish Meditative Tradition,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, eds. Miguel Farias, David Brazier, Mansur Lalljee, Oxford University Press, October 2021.
* and the Temple Mount,” in *Israel Studies Review*, Vol. 32, No. 1, Summer 2017, pp. 104–122.
* “Kabbalah through the Utilitarian Prism – Contemporary Neo-Kabbalah in Israel as a form of Consumer Culture,” in *Contemporary Alternative Spirituality in Israel*, eds. James Lewis and Shai Feraro, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 21–38.
* “A Pathless Land - Krishnamurti and the Tradition of No Tradition,” in *Theosophical Appropriations Kabbalah, Western Esotericism and the Transformation of Tradition*, eds. Boaz Huss and Julie Chajes, Ben-Gurion University Press, 2016, pp. 115–133 (Hebrew).
* “Eastern Spirit: The Turn of Contemporary Religion into Ethics,” *Theory and Criticism* 43, Winter 2014, pp. 131–142 (Hebrew).
* “*Hitbodedut* for the New Age: Adaptation of *Hitbodedut* Meditation among the Contemporary Followers of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov,” *Israel Studies Review*, Vol. 29, No. 2, Winter 2014, pp. 99–117.
* “Neo-Hasidic Revival: Expressivist Uses of Traditional Lore,” *Modern Judaism*, Vol. 34, No. 3, October 2014, pp. 278–308.
* “Neo-Hasidism & Neo-Kabbalah in Israeli Contemporary Spirituality: The Rise of the Utilitarian Self,” *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Spring 2014, pp. 31–54.
* “Rabbi Kook: Of Great Tzadiks and Strait-of-Hearts – Ascending the Mystical Path,” *Moreshet Yisrael* 5, 2008, pp. 106–138 (Hebrew).

**Publications – Articles in Non-Peer Reviewed Journals and Books**

* “The Divided Subject and its Unification,” in *Besht Articles*, ed. Roy Horen, Yedioth Ahronoth, forthcoming (Hebrew).
* “On the Last Jewish Attempt to Overcome Secularization: The Rise and Fall of Gush Emunim,” *Israeli Affairs Journal* 63, October 2016, pp 38–50 (Arabic).
* “Getting Married in Israel out of the Chief Rabbinate: Characteristics, Trends and the meaning of Ritual,” *Kikar Ha'Ir*, 1, 2016, pp. 147–155, (Hebrew).
* “The Privatization of Religion and the Sanctification of the State: The Fracture of the Zionist Narrative and its Corollaries,” *Akdamot* 30, 2015, pp. 51–64 (Hebrew).
* “Judaism” in the India national UGC E-Pathshala Programme, 2015.
* “Zionism and Ultra-Nationalism, Neo-Liberalism and Ethnocentrism,” *Israeli Affairs Journal* 57, May 2015, pp 9–20 (Arabic).
* “Education: Between Matter and Spirit” in *Education: Essence and Spirit*, eds. Yeshayahu Tadmor & Amir Freiman, Mofet, 2012 (Hebrew).
* “The Ethics of Consciousness: The Religious Experience in the age of Prozac,” *Akdamot* 25, 2010 (Hebrew).
* “By Peaceful Means: The New Age as an Internalization of a Christian Ethos in Contemporary Judaism,” *Akdamot* 24, 2010 (Hebrew).
* “Chabad’s Lost Messiah,” *Azure*, Autumn 5770 / 2009, no. 38 (Hebrew and English), pp. 82–127.

**Publications – Articles in the Popular Media**

Hundreds of articles in all major Israeli newspapers – *Haaretz*, *Yediot Aharonot*, *Ma'ariv*, *Makor Rishon*, and popular magazines on diverse issues, such as Judaism, Religion and State, Contemporary Spirituality and Religious History.

**Chair – Academic Conferences**

* May 3–4, 2015, Tel Aviv University, Chair, with Prof. Ron Margolin, The Seventh Israeli Conference on the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities.
* April 24, 2014, Tel Aviv University, Chair, with Prof. Ron Margolin, The Sixth Israeli Conference on the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities.

**Languages**

Hebrew and English