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Dear members of the PESHAT (Premodern Philosophic and Scientific Hebrew Terminology in Context) Project,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in PESHAT in Context’s open research position at Hamburg University. I recently completed my doctoral studies in the Department of Jewish Thought at Bar-Ilan University, where I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation, “Astronomy and Astrology in Thirteenth-Century Hebrew Encyclopedias” (Heb.), under the supervision of Prof. Shlomo Sela. (The dissertation was submitted in June 2021, and has already been approved by the referees, Prof. Ruth Glasner of the HHhsa Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Prof. Dov Schwartz of Bar-Ilan University. I anticipate receiving official Ph.D. approval at the beginning of November.) As I will explain below, my research is clearly relevant to the PESHAT project, I am highly motivated to collaborate with the project’s team members, and I am certain that I have all the requisite tools to make a significant contribution to the project.

My research focuses on medieval science and its reception in medieval Jewish cultures, especially from the twelfth to the fourteenth century. My dissertation examines the contents, sources, use of sources, and Hebrew scientific terminology in the astronomical and astrological sections of six encyclopedic works composed during the thirteenth century; more generally, it seeks to enhance our understanding of the encyclopedic genre’s place in the process of transmission, reception, and integration of scientific knowledge in medieval European Jewish society. The dissertation includes, *inter alia*, a detailed analysis of the Hebrew scientific terminology adopted (and in some cases coined) by the encyclopedists, a discussion of the various strategies they adopted in formulating their Hebrew vocabulary, and glossaries of technical terms. In these investigations, I distinguish between authors who drew on Arabic sources, and those who exclusively relied on the material produced by the Hebrew translation movement. For the former, I locate the Arabic words from which their Hebrew terms originate, and compare their Hebrew terminology with that found in the Hebrew translations of their Arabic sources; for the latter, I examine their attempts to negotiate the diverse Hebrew terminologies found in their distinct literary sources. In my M.A thesis, “The Relationship between Abraham Bar Ḥiyya’s Astronomical Tables and His Treatise *Calculations of the Stellar Motions*,” (2016), I paid special attention to the technical terms used by Abraham Bar Ḥiyya, the foremost pioneer in the creation of Hebrew scientific terminology, in his descriptions of mathematical algorithms.

During my studies, I have acquired a variety of tools that I believe are perfectly suited to the position’s requirements. First, I am knowledgeable in medieval Hebrew and conversant with the diverse philosophical and scientific vocabularies found in treatises that belong to disparate scientific traditions, such as the Aristotelian-Averroenian and Ptolemaic traditions. Furthermore, I am well versed in numerous distinct medieval scientific disciplines. I am highly qualified in the fields of medieval astronomy, cosmology, astrology, and mathematics (including spherical trigonometry); I also have knowledge of meteorology and logic. In addition, I am familiar with Arabic and Latin, and I have already gained experience in comparing medieval original works with their medieval translations. Moreover, I have considerable prior experience working with manuscripts and editing medieval texts, as well as a background in Hebrew codicology and paleography. Lastly, I am already familiar with the PESHAT database, and have significant prior experience working with the technical aspects of online applications. Prior to my academic studies, I worked as a software implementer\(or:integrator?) in a high-tech company, teaching business clients to work with the company’s online environment products.

My current work and future research plans also have the potential to contribute to the PESHAT project and its database. I am compiling a critical edition of a twelfth-century Provençal astrological text with a horoscope, notable for its use of unique astrological terms different from those used by Abraham bar Ḥiyya and Abraham ibn Ezra, and writing my own commentary to the text. In the future, I hope to produce the first complete critical edition of Gersonides’ *The Wars of the Lord*, Book V, Part 1 (also known as *Astronomy*), accompanied by an introduction, a commentary, and a glossary of technical terms. The research program of this ambitious long-term project is enclosed.

In addition to my professional skills, I have the ability to work both as a cooperative team member and independently. I am self-motivated, diligent, and always open to feedback. I know how to seek out advice from more experienced scholars; at the same time, I willingly share my own thoughts and insights. I am aware of the project’s significance, and I would be thrilled to collaborate with the PESHAT team, participate in the project’s conferences and workshops, and contribute to its database.

Accordingly, I am confident that I am an ideal candidate for this position. I believe that I have much to offer the project, and that participation in the project will contribute to my development as a young scholar. As I have just completed my doctoral studies, I am available to start working immediately. I have enclosed my *curriculum vitae*, my future research plan, and copies of my degree certificates.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Niran Garshtein

Important note:

As I already wrote to Dr. Reimund Leicht and Dr. Michael Engel, I would like to inform you in advance that, unfortunately, I will not be able to move with my family to Hamburg. However, I would be happy to come to Hamburg as often as is necessary for the project. Since the Hebrew University is also involved in the project, I can participate from there, if such an arrangement is amenable to everyone. I understand the importance of physical presence at Hamburg University and respect your preference for someone who would be able to relocate to Hamburg. Nevertheless, I would very much appreciate it if you would be kind enough to consider my application, and I can assure you that I will make every effort to compensate for the distance.