Research Interests and Scholarship:

I am a scholar of the Hebrew story and the Hebrew printed book, focusing on the development and reception of Jewish folktales from the medieval era to the 20th century. My research is conducted using methodologies from folklore studies, narratology, structuralism, and gender studies. I have published two books and have been co-editor of five books and journal issues. I have also published 37 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. I have given 38 papers at national and international conferences, symposiums, and conventions and have organized fourteen conferences and symposiums.

Major Contributions

* Hebrew books printed from the fifteenth century onwards made extensive use of stories integrated into the text in order to achieve didactic and aesthetic goals. The stories that came to be printed in this manner have become canonized and are consequently extremely dominant in Hebrew culture to this day.
* Beginning in the 19th century, ancient Hebrew stories have been transformed into new literary structures. One of the most important of these is the revival of Hebrew children's literature. This literature is especially important in light of its role in shaping the cultural and national consciousness of the younger generation in the Diaspora and Israel.
* I have shown how print has played an important role in the preservation, distribution, and canonization of the Hebrew traditional story.
* I have argued against the notion of "eclectic" anthologies and suggested instead that there is a sequence in the pre-modern Hebrew tale.
* In my studies of reception history, I have demonstrated the difference between the reception of Jewish essays that were printed and those that were not in terms of their influence on later work as reflected in direct citations, indirect echoes, adaptations, and imitations.
* I examined the role of pre-modern Hebrew literature in the shaping of modern Hebrew literature both topically and thematically. Based on case studies taken from important literary works, I proved that pre-modern tales were adapted and modified for a modern Hebrew readership in the 20th century and played a major role in the shaping of the modern Hebrew corpus.

Forthcoming:

My new book, *Moralizing the Folktale,* is nearly ready. This book brings together my research about the Hebrew stories that were incorporated into books of Hebrew ethical literature during the early period of print.

I also have set up a research group on narratology together with Prof. Chanita Goodblatt of Ben-Gurion University, which will result in a conference and a special issue dedicated to the subject in the journal *Skene*.

I have a joint project with Dr. Dafna Nissim of Ben-Gurion University titled: *Blurred Boundaries between the Sacred and the Secular in Pre-Modern Culture*. This project will yield a collection of studies which is intended for the *Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture* series published by De Gruyter Berlin.

Additional Activities:

In 2021 I had the honor of joining the scientific council of the Israel Folktale Archive (Archive) as Bar-Ilan University's delegate. I also became a member of the editorial board of *Lyre: Studies in Poetry and Lyrics*, published by Bar-Ilan University Press. Previously, I was appointed to the editorial board of the *Jewish and Christian Perspectives* series published by Brill as well as to the editorial board of the *Journal of Children and Youth Literature*. Since 2019, I am a member of the board of the *Akavyahu Fund for Books in Hebrew Literature Studies*. I am also a member of the Creative Writing Program committee in Bar-Ilan University’s Department of the Literature of the Jewish People, a member of the department's teaching committee, and coordinator of the department's Ph.D. committee. I served as a judge for the Gershon Shaked Prize for Thesis and Doctoral dissertations of Ben-Gurion University, as well as a judge for the Israel Science Foundation (ISF). In 2018, I was appointed a judge for the Brenner Prize for Hebrew prose given by the Hebrew Writers' Association. I was a peer-reviewer for the Israel Science Foundation (ISF) and the National Research Fund of Poland (2020).

Full Academic Profile:

My research is focused on questions about the poetics, history, distribution, and reception of the Hebrew story within its literary and cultural contexts. I am a scholar of the narratology and poetics of the Hebrew folktale, and I am particularly interested in folktales’ appearances in story collections and ethical literature from the beginning of the print era to the first half of the twentieth century. I acquired my expertise in the field during my years of study in the Hebrew literature departments at Ben-Gurion University, where I also served as a research assistant, and at Bar-Ilan University as a doctoral student and faculty member.

My most important contributions are in two areas:

1) Hebrew books printed from the fifteenth century onwards that made extensive use of stories integrated into the text in order to achieve didactic and aesthetic goals. The stories that came to be printed in this manner have become canonized and are consequently extremely dominant in Hebrew culture to this day.

2) Beginning in the 19th century, ancient Hebrew stories have been transformed into new literary structures. One of the most important of these is the revival of Hebrew children's literature. This literature is especially important in light of its role in shaping the cultural and national consciousness of the younger generation in the Diaspora and Israel.

My research is based on the assumption that sequences and interrelationships exist between the following areas: (a) The transfer of narrative traditions between antiquity and through the Middle Ages to modern times. (b) The transfer of narrative traditions between the oral story, the copied story, and the printed story. (c) The transfer of narrative traditions between canonical and non-canonical literature, between the center and the margins. (d) The transfer of narrative traditions between adult literature and children's literature. (e) The transfer of narrative traditions between fine literature, popular literature, and folk literature.

I believe that deep appreciation of a cultural phenomenon requires the study of its synchronous and diachronic place in culture. These basic assumptions allow me to broaden my research perspective in the field of Jewish and Hebrew culture. They are the conceptual basis for my classes, my research, the lectures I give at conferences, the conferences I organize, and the graduate research papers I supervise.

My book *Hibbur HaMa'asiot: The Book of Tales, Sermons and Legends: An Anthology of Hebrew Stories from the Print Era*" (2016) is the product of four years of research. The book provides a literary, cultural, and folkloristic interpretation of a collection of twenty Hebrew legends and ethical tales published in Ferrara, Italy in 1554. In the book, I also discuss the Hebrew printing industry in Italy, provide an annotated edition of the full text of the stories in their original sequence as well as a detailed analysis of each story in terms of content, structure, sources, and connection to other stories in Jewish and world culture. This project was supported by three research funds: The Beit Shalom Fund of Kyoto Japan, the Ihel Fund, and the Akavyahu Fund. This study grew out of another article based on the same story collection and focusing on the biblical traces of the stories published in *The Handbook of Biblical Reception in Jewish, European Christian, and Islamic Folklores*, published by De Gruyter.

I have demonstrated my theses about the development and dissemination of the Hebrew story in a series of monographic articles in which I analyze case studies of literary themes. I examined the reception history of the story of "Abraham and Sarah in Egypt" (Women in Judaism 2013), analyzed the ways Bahya ben Asher used stories in his interpretation of Genesis 13 (EJJS 2015), discussed the origins of the story "The Two Brothers" (2017 Fabula) and also reviewed the biblical traces found in the folklore of the medieval Ashkenazi community (EBR 2014). I compared the first two print editions of "Midrash on Ten Commandments" (Aliento 2018). I also examined the traces of the story of Yocheved as a prolific mother in the exegesis of Bahya ben Asher (in print), the traces of the story of the birth of the daffodil (in print).

My research on the stories in the ethical work *Orchot Tzaddikim* yielded a comparative study of Hebrew-Yiddish with Dr. Noga Rubin, and the first article from it was accepted for publication (Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore). My studies on literary themes are: "The Adulterous Woman and the Dog" (Reinardus, 2020), "The Imprisoned Woman" (Medievales, 2019), "The Moving Stones of the Holy Temple" (Jerusalem and Other Holy Places, 2020), "The Eternal Stone in Hebrew Poetry" (in print) and "The Hidden Torah Scroll" (in print). These articles are expressions of my ongoing interest in the poetics, history, and reception of the Hebrew story.

I am also a member of a joint research project that brings together literary and cultural researchers from Bar-Ilan University, the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, and the Protestant University of Amsterdam, and the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem. As part of the group, in 2015-2016 I co-edited, together with Prof. Marcel Poorthuis of the University of Tilburg, Prof. Alberdina Hautman of the Protestant University of Amsterdam, and Dr. Tamar Kadari of the Schechter Institute, a collection of articles in the *Jewish and Christian Perspectives Series* published by Brill. This article collection was the product of an international symposium that took place in Amsterdam in 2015. The symposium, in which I participated, dealt with the connections between stories in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the continuation of the project took place in a conference that I helped organize in May 2018 in Jerusalem. Following this conference, , , and Shulamit Laderman of the Schechter Institute in Jerusalema collection of articles entitled *Jerusalem and Other Holy Places* which was published by Brill in 2020.

As a continuation of the project that gave rise to *Hibbur HaMa'asiot: The Book of Tales, Sermons and Legends* and as part of my ongoing interest in the Hebrew story at the beginning of the print era, I traced the origins, influences, and reception of the ethical treatise "Tzemach Tzadik" (Venice 1600) by Yehuda Aryeh Modena. This study was also accomplished with the support of the Ihel Fund. This project highlighted Modena's place as a storyteller and examined the sources and influences in the Latin and Italian literature of his time. My research about this treatise was the basis for my article on gender aspects in the treatise (Scripta Judaica Cracovienstia 2017) and my article on the poetic aspects of the treatise (Studies in Jewish Narrative 2018) and my lecture at Reading University (2017). My research about Modena's work continues today in collaboration with Prof. Susan Payne from the University of Verona and is due to produce a special issue of the Journal of the University of Verona and a joint conference.

Another area of my research focuses on the study of the Hebrew story and the adaptations of the Hebrew story into Hebrew children and youth literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. In this field, I have published articles on the adaptation by Asher Barash of the medieval story of "Rabbi Hanina and the Frog" (Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore, 2018), The adaptation of Aaron Loboshizki of the medieval treatise *Sefer HaYashar* (Studies in Israeli and Modern Jewish Society, 2018), the struggles of memory in children's cultural arena (*Alei Sefer*, 2020), the use of folk legends in educational anthologies (accepted) and an adaptation of the Narcissus myth for Israeli children (accepted). Another two studies, on Nurit Yuval's children's literature (*Criticism and Interpretation*, 2020) and on Uriel Ofek's historiographical work (2020), are part of my research on the connection between ancient Hebrew history and Hebrew children's literature in our generation.

These articles are part of my broad interest in the field of Hebrew children's literature. In recent years, I have supervised M.A. theses on Hebrew children's literature (on lullabies by Leah Goldberg, on modern lullabies, on gender representations in children's literature by Rinat Hopper, a monograph on the historical novels of Esther Shtreit-Wurzel). I also organized two seminars in my department on the subject of children's literature. Together with Prof. Zvi Mark, I put together a collection of ultra-Orthodox children's literature that is used for teaching and research and continues to expand. I also co-edited an issue of the journal *Criticism and Interpretation* that was devoted to the study of Hebrew and Jewish children's literature. The issue grew out of a seminar in the department that I organized together with Prof. Tamar Wolf-Monzon.

Prof. Tamar Wolf-Monzon and I also edited issue 47 of *Criticism and Interpretation* which is an eclectic issue and is going to press now. 44 articles were accepted for peer-reviewing for this issue, from which nine were chosen for publication.

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