**Yael Barouch**

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**Research Interests**

Following my discharge from mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces at the age of 20, I became involved in writing, editing, and publishing. I opened an independent publishing business, under the auspices of which I worked for many years. More recently, I developed an interest in exploring the heritage of Tunisian Jewry, where my own roots are from. To this end, I completed my bachelor’s degree, and went on to earn my master’s degree, which included a research thesis, graduating *summa cum laude*. I then continued on to doctoral work. During my studies, I was exposed to a subject that has, thus far, been under-researched: the Hebrew cursive script (*Mu’alleq*, *Hatzi Kulmus, Nisf Qalam*). Until the mid-twentieth century, this script had been a generations-old tradition among Jewish communities in North Africa, the East, the Balkans, and Spain. *Mu’alleq* differs from contemporary Hebrew script, and I found myself drawn to the study of its documentation and culture. This subject is of such importance and interest to me that I wish to focus all my time and attention to it.

**Education and University Affiliation**

2017-present PhD Candidate (ABD), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of History of the Jewish People and Contemporary Jewry. (*summa cum laude*)

Thesis title: *The Hebrew Cursive Script in the Maghreb and the East: History, Culture, Identity—Mu'alleq (Nisf Qalam)*

Supervisors: Prof. Miriam Frenkel and Prof. Esther Schely-Newman

2013-2017 MA, Cultural Studies (*summa cum laude*), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Thesis title: *Mu’alleq /Nisf Qalam / نصف قلم /מעלק : Documentation and cultural reflection on Hebrew cursive script*

Supervisor: Prof. Esther Schely-Newman

2010-2012 BA, Humanities and Social Sciences (*summa cum laude*)

The Open University of Israel

**Grants, Fellowships, Awards**

2019 **Fellowship for Doctoral Students**

The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem

2019 **Prize for Doctoral Students**

Center for Research and Study of the Sephardi and Oriental Jewish Heritage (Misgav Yerushalayim), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2019 **Excellence Scholarship**

Israel Association of University Women

2018 **Gertrude Barber-Halpern Prize at the Dinur Center** (for graduate students at the Hebrew University researching the history of the people of Israel)

Israel Association of University Women

2018 **Prize for Doctoral Students**

Center for Research and Study of Sephardi and Oriental Jewish Heritage (Misgav Yerushalayim), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2018 **Outstanding Research Poster Award (**Topic presented: ‘“Our script” and “their script”: Hebrew cursive writing as an arena for political and cultural struggle between Mizrahi and Western Jews, as reflected in the Zionist enterprise.’)

8th International Qualitative Research Conference, Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies, Ben Gurion University

2015, 2014 Dean’s Honor List, The Hebrew University

2012 Dean’s Honor List, The Open University of Israel

**Publications**

Publication of 80-page extract from MA thesis. *Sefunot: Studies and Sources on the History of the Jewish Communities in the East* (Jerusalem: The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem). (Commissioned by Prof. Nahum Ilan)

*‘Mu’alleq (Hatzi Kolmus)*: Hebrew cursive writing in the communities of the Maghreb and the East’, In N. A. Stillman (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* (Online edn.).Leiden: Brill. (Commissioned).

Chapter in a book to be published in Princeton following a workshop, *Dots, Marginalia, and Peritexts*, June 2018, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, in (provisional title and details) Schmidtke, S. and Kiraz G. (eds.) *Dots and Marginalia*. Princeton: Gorgias Press. (In progress).

**Non-Academic Publications**

Barouch, Y. (2001). *One simple day.* Tel Aviv: Notsa va-Keset. (Hebrew)

Barouch, Y. (1995). *Flutter (poems).* Tel Aviv: Notsa va-Keset. (Hebrew)

Barouch, Y. (1982). *The beauty of the women’s corps, a female soldier’s guide.* Tel Aviv: Notsa va-Keset. (Hebrew)

Barouch, Y. (1981). *Songs that mustn’t be plucked.* Tel Aviv: Notsa va-Keset. (Hebrew)

**Participation in Academic Conferences and Lectures (selected)**

***Invited Lectures:***

March 2019‘Signatures des rabbins Tunisiens: influences, traditions et culture.’*Conference****.*** Paris***:*** Société d'histoire des juifs de Tunisie et d'Afrique du Nord.

December 2018 **‘**Tugra et Hanfusa – illisibilité stylisée des signatures de rabbins sous l’influence ottoman.’ *Conference.* College de France-EPHE, Paris:Groupe de Recherches Transversales en Paléographie.

***Lectures at Academic Conferences:***

January 2020 ‘On the place of writing in the personal, educational, and public practices of Rabbi Moshe Kalphon Hacohen, his works, and his students.’ *Conference*: *The Creations, Works, and Influence of Rabbi Moshe Kalphon Hacohen and Tunisian Scholars in Modern Times.* Bar Ilan University: Dahan Center for Culture, Society, and Education in the Sephardic Heritage.

July 2019 ‘Identity, identities, and hidden messages in illustrations in children’s books for the teaching of Hebrew in North Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries.’ *Conference.* Jerusalem*:* Association of the Study of the History of Education in Israel.

June 2019 ‘Mu’alleq (Hatzi Kulmus): the form of Hebrew cursive script in the Maghreb as a reflection of the Arabic-Jewish language and of its processes.’ *International* *Conference*. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Center for the Study of Jewish Languages and Literatures.

December 2018 ‘Mu’alleq (Hatzi Kulmus):Hebrew cursive script in the Maghreb and the East—history, culture, identity’ *The Christians and the rest: 40 years of research on the Jews of the East and North Africa (1978-2018) conference.* University of Haifa.

July 2018 ‘Traces of scribe’s personal rituals and writing preparations on Hebrew manuscripts from the Maghreb’. *Searching for the Roots of Jewish Tradition: XI Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies.* Krakow: European Association for Jewish Studies.

July 2018 ‘The Hebrew cursive script in the Maghreb and the East’ and ‘It’s a boy, it’s a girl, is it? Latent messages in books for teaching Hebrew in North Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries’. Two lectures at REEH: *Conférence Internationale des Etudes Hébraïques*. Paris: Université Paris 8.

June 2018 ‘Inscriptions and scribbles on the margins of Hebrew manuscripts from the Maghreb.’ *International workshop: Dots, Marginalia, and Peritexts.* Princeton University: Institute for Advanced Study.

May 2018 ‘Tugra and Hanfusa—on the signatures of sultans, rabbis, and sages in the Ottoman Empire’. *International conference: Jews and culture in the Ottoman Empire and in modern Turkey.* Bar Ilan University: The Dahan Center for Culture, Society, and Education in the Sephardic Heritage.

April 2018 ‘In witness whereof we have affixed our signatures: On the popular tradition of embroidered rabbis’ signatures in the Maghreb, the East, and in the old settlement of Eretz Yisrael’. *Annual conference of folklore research: ‘truth’ and ‘fiction’ in folklore and its research.* The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

March 2018 ‘Writing, deleting, silencing: the disappearance of the Hebrew cursive script of the communities in Islamic countries reflected in the Great Aliyah and the Zionist enterprise’. *Conference*. Kedmata: The Israeli Center for the Research of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jewries, The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East.

February 2018 “Our script” and “their script”: Hebrew cursive writing as an arena for political and cultural struggle between Mizrahi and Western Jews, as reflected in the Zionist enterprise. *8th International Qualitative Research Conference.* Ben Gurion University of the Negev: Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies.

May 2017 ‘Mu’alleq (Hatzi Kolmus): documentation and cultural reflection on Hebrew cursive script.’ *Conference.* The Historical Society of Israel, Zichron Yaakov.

**Participation in Workshops and Working Groups**

2019-present Committee Member. The Oded and Toni Eliashar Center for the Study of the Sephardi Jews in the Land of Israel.

2017-present Committee Member. Kedmata: The Israeli Center for the Research of Sephardi and Mizrahi Jewries, The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem.

2017-2018 IC Workshop for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellows of the Jews of Asia, Africa, and the Balkans (monthly meetings at Tel Aviv University).

2018 Training fellowship. The Authority for Research Students, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Professional experience**

Feb 2019-present Independent documentation as part of the initiative ‘Mother Tongue’: The Preservation of Jewish Languages and Cultures. University of Haifa and The Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East.

1983-present Independent editor and publisher.

Among the tens of books I have edited are: Hamutal Ben Ze’ev, *Sometimes a devil, sometimes an angel* (winner of the Poetry Prize); Sharon Rechter, *The girl from over there* (a young adult book about the Holocaust recommended by the Ministry of Education); Michal Barkai, *Yoni’s two houses* (a children’s book recommended by the Ministry of Education to help children cope with divorce); Mordechai Ben Ze’ev, *Wolf [Ze’ev] stage* (the history of theater in Israel); Mina Shamir, *Right of primacy* (the life and recollections of the first female judge in Tel Aviv); Prof. Masha Itzhaki, *Toward the garden beds* (Hebrew garden and flower poems in Medieval Spain); Olga Roeh, *The tastes of Tunisia that Ilan loved* (Tunisian recipes); Moche Trigalou, *PRO-TUNES* (Judaeo-Arabic idioms and proverbs translated into Hebrew and French); Hanna Cohen Perez, *La Ghriba l'enigmatique sainte de l'ombre*.

1980-83 Reporter for the Yedioth Aharonoth newspaper.

**Community work**

2018-20 Volunteer activities with pensioners, with the charity AMIT (the Charity for Tunisian Immigrants) in Netanya.

2009-18 Volunteer activities with the Al Ghriba charity, which preserves Tunisian Jewish heritage in Israel, led by Prof. Ephraim Hazan and Dr. Miriam Guez-Avigal.

2001-10 Volunteer activities with A Child’s Smile, an organization that I initiated, to celebrate the birthdays of disadvantaged children in the Neve Sharet neighborhood of Tel Aviv.

**Other personal details**

Family status: divorced with two children.

1978-80 Military service, Israeli Air Force, Israel Defense Forces.

**Languages**

Hebrew (native); English (fluent); French (fluent); Judaeo-Arabic (basic); Mu'alleq (*nisf qalam*), the Hebrew cursive script (reading knowledge).