Curriculum Vitae – Tomer Persico

**Academic Education**

2020-2021 - Senior Research Scholar, UC Berkeley Center for Middle Eastern Studies

2015-2017: Research Fellow at the [Shalom Hartman Institute](http://www.hartman.org.il/).

2014-2015: Post-Doctoral fellow at the [Elyachar Center](http://in.bgu.ac.il/humsos/elyachar/Pages/default.aspx) in Ben Gurion University.

2009-2012: PHD in Comparative Religion at the [Tel-Aviv University](http://english.tau.ac.il/), tuition exemption grant and monthly living stipend. Dissertation titled *"Jewish Meditation": The Development of a Modern Form of Spiritual Practice in Contemporary Judaism*, Prof’ Ron Margolin supervisor.

2006-2008: Teaching certification (B.Ed. approximate) from the [Shalom Hartman Institute](http://www.hartman.org.il/), tuition exemption grant and monthly living stipend.

2002-2004: M.A. *Magna Cum Laude* in Comparative Religion from the [Hebrew University in Jerusalem](http://www.huji.ac.il/huji/eng/), tuition exemption grant and monthly living stipend. Theses Titled: *The Return: A Model of Mystical Ascension as Demonstrated through the Works of R. Abraham Isaac Kook and Meister Eckhart*

1998-2000: B.A. *Summa Cum Laude* in Philosophy and the University’s Honors Program from the [University of Haifa](http://www.haifa.ac.il/index_eng.html), tuition exemption grant.

**Employment**

2018-2021: The Koret Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish and Israel Studies, Dept. of Near Eastern Studies, [Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and Israel Studies](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-institute-for-jewish-law-and-israel-studies/), Center for Jewish Studies at U. C. Berkeley.

2018-2021: [Shalom Hartman Institute](http://www.hartman.org.il/) Bay Area Scholar in Residence.

2009-2017: Adjunct Professor in [Tel-Aviv University](http://english.tau.ac.il/).

2016: Academic director at [Alma: Home for Hebrew Culture](http://www.alma.org.il/?lang=en).

2009-2011: Teacher in the [Hebrew Reali High-School](http://www.hareali-haivri.haifa.k12.il/newsite/template5.asp?typeid=1), Haifa, subjects: Bible and Jewish Culture

2010: Lecturer at [Ascolot](http://www.openu.ac.il/ascolot/) (Course: "Eastern Religions")

2008-2009: Lecturer at [Machon Avshalom](http://www.avshalom-inst.co.il/) (Courses: "Christian Mysticism", "Eastern Religions")

2006-2010: Religion Columnist for [Maariv](http://www.nrg.co.il/) newspaper, Contributor writer to [Haaretz](http://www.haaretz.co.il/) newspaper on Religion

**Publications – Peer Reviewed Monographs**

* *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 Monographs**

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

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

* “The End of Man - Philosophical Consummation in Jewish Meditative Tradition” in *The Routledge Handbook of Meditation and Philosophy*, Routledge, forthcoming.
* "The Jewish Meditative Tradition", in *The Oxford Handbook of Meditation*, eds. Miguel Farias, David Brazier, Mansur Lalljee, Oxford University Press, October 2021
* “’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)
* “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 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
* “Neo-Hasidism”, in *Hasidism – An Anthology for Hasidic Literature and Thought*, ed. Moshe Idel et al., Bar Ilan University Press, forthcoming (Hebrew)
* “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**

* “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)
* “The Divided Subject and its Unification”, in *Besht Articles*, ed. Roy Horen, Yedioth Ahronoth, forthcoming (Hebrew)
* “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.
* More than two hundred articles about Religion and contemporary spirituality in Israeli national newspapers.

**Publications – Articles in the Popular Media**

Hundreds of different articles in Haaret's, Yediot Aharonot, Ma'ariv, Makor Rishon, and popular magazines on issues concerning, Judaism, Religion and State, Contemporary Spirituality and Religious History.

**Chair - Academic Conferences**

* 3-4.5.15, Tel Aviv University, Chair, alongside Prof. Ron Margolin, The Seventh Israeli Conference on the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities
* 24.4.14, Tel Aviv University, Chair, alongside Prof. Ron Margolin, The Sixth Israeli Conference on the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities

**Languages**

Hebrew and English