Main research interests and scientific activities:

I am a scholar of the Hebrew story and the printed Hebrew book. I focus of the development and reception of Jewish folktales from the medieval era to the 20th century. My research is conducted by folklore studies methodologies, narratology, structuralism and gender studies. I published two books as single author and five books and journal issues as co-editor. I published 37 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. I gave 38 papers at national and international conferences, symposiums and conventions. I organized 14 conferences and symposiums.

Major Research Findings:

The main arguments and the research innovations which I have made are: First, the printing industry and the printed Hebrew book from the fifteenth century onwards made extensive use of stories merged into the prose text in order to achieve didactic and aesthetic goals. The stories that got to print have been canonized and therefore their presence in culture to this day is extremely dominant; Second, from the 19th century onward, ancient Hebrew stories have been transformed into new literary systems, one of the most important of which is the renewed Hebrew children's literature - in light of its role in establishing cultural and national consciousness among the younger generation in the Diaspora and Israel. In my research projects I demonstrated the role of print in the preservation, distribution and canonization of the Hebrew traditional tale. I presented the concept of sequence in Hebrew pre-modern tale anthologies and opposed to the concept of "eclectic" anthologies. I made a clear distinction between the reception of printed and not printed Jewish essays by means of inspiring later essays (direct citations, indirect echoes, adaptations, imitations). I proved the role of pre-modern Hebrew literature in the shaping of modern Hebrew literature by means of themes and topics. Based on some case studies taken from important literary pieces I proved that pre-modern tales were adapted and modified to modern Hebrew readership in the 20th century and played a major role in the shaping of the Hebrew modern corpus.

Future Goals:

My new book: *Moralizing the Folktale* is nearly ready. This book is a summary of a study I have been dealing with since my previous book and deals with Hebrew stories that are incorporated into Hebrew moral books during the printing period. I set up a research group on narratology together with Prof. Chanita Goottblatt of Ben-Gurion University, whose products will be a conference and a special issue dedicated to the subject in the journal *Skene*. My joint project with Dr. Dafna Nissim of Ben-Gurion University on the subject: *Blurred boundaries between the sacred and the secular in pre-modern culture* yielded a collection of studies which is intended for *Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture* series published by De Gruiter Berlin.

Additional Information:

In 2021 I have had the honor of joining the scientific council of the Israel Folk Story Archive (ASAI) as the Bar Ilan University's delegate. I also joined the editorial board of *Lyre: Studies in Poetry and Lyrics* which is published in the Bar-Ilan University Press. These appointments join previous appointments 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*. From 2019 until today I am a member of Akaviahu fund board for Books in Hebrew literature studies. I am also a member of the committee of the Creative Writing Program in the Department of the Literature of the Jewish People, a member of the department's teaching committee and coordinator of the department's PhD committee. I served as a judge at the Gershon Shaked Prize for Thesis and Doctoral dissertations of Ben-Gurion University, as well as a judge for the National Science Foundation ISF. In 2018, I was appointed a judge at the Brenner Prize for Hebrew prose in behalf of the Hebrew Writers' Association. I was a peer-reviewer for the Israel Research Fund (ISF) and for the National Research Fund of Poland (2020).

Full Academic Profile:

My academic activities are based 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 in particular I focus on its performances in story collections and moral literature from the beginning of print to the first half of the twentieth century. I acquired my expertise in the field during my years of internship in the Hebrew literature departments at Ben-Gurion University as a research assistant and at Bar-Ilan University as a doctoral student and faculty member.

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My research is based on assumptions that claim sequences and interrelationships 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 center and 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.

In my research I prove that a deep and significant acquaintance with a cultural phenomenon is a product of 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. This is the conceptual basis for my classes, my research, the lectures I give at conferences, the conferences I organize and the graduate research papers I lead.

The 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 for a collection of twenty Hebrew legends and moral tales stories published Ferrara, Italy in 1554. In the book I also dealt with the Hebrew printing industry in Italy, as well as an annotated edition of the stories in full text according to the original sequence and 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 Akaviyahu Fund. This study was supported by another article based on the same story collection and focusing on the biblical traces of the stories (Handbook on the Reception of the Bible in the World's Folkloric Tradition) Published by De Gruiter.

I have confirmed my assumptions about the development and dissemination of the Hebrew story in a series of monographic articles in which I examined and analyzes special case studies of Unique literary themes. I examined the processes of changung of the theme "Abraham and Sarah in Egypt" (Women in Judaism 2013), the ways in which Bahya ben Asher used the stories in his interpretation of Genesis 13 (EJJS 2015), researched the origins of the story "The Two Brothers" (2017 Fabula) and also reviewed the biblical traces in folklore of The Ashkenazi community in the Middle Ages (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) And the traces of the story of the birth of the daffodil (in print).

My research on the stories of the morality compilation "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 the literary themes: "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) continue my interest in the poetics, history and reception of the Hebrew story.

In addition, I am 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 already in 2015-2016, I co-edited a collection of articles in the *Jewish and Christian Perspectives series* published by Brill alongside 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.

This article collection is a product of an international symposium in which I participated in Amsterdam in 2015. The symposium dealt with the connections between stories in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and the continuation of the project took place in May 2018 in Jerusalem. Following this conference, which I am also one of the organizers of, published a collection of articles on the subject: *Jerusalem and Other Holy Places* which I co-edited with Dr. Barry Hartog of the University of Utrecht, Dr. Archibald van Weeringingen from the Protestant University of Amsterdam From the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem, the file was published by Brill in 2020.

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

A separate field of my research derives from the study of the Hebrew story and focuses on the adaptations of the Hebrew story into Hebrew children and youth literature in the 19th and 20th centuries. In this project were published articles on the adaptation by Asher Barash to the medieval story of "Rabbi Hanina and the frog" (Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore 2018), The adaptation of Aaron Loboshizki for the medieval essay "Sefer HaYashar" (Studies in Israeli and modern Jewish Society 2018), The struggles of memory in the Children's cultural arena (Ali Sefer 2020), the use of folk legends in educational anthologies (accepted) and 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 also a part of my research on the connection between ancient Hebrew history and Hebrew children's literature in our generation.

These articles join my other initiatives in the field of the study of Hebrew children's literature. During the last years I supervised M.A. theses on Hebrew children's literature (lullabies by Leah Goldberg, modern lullabies, gender representations in children's literature by Rinat Hopper, monograph on the historical novels of Esther Shtreit-Wurzel). I also initiated two seminars in the department on the subject of researching children's literature. Together with Prof. Zvi Mark, I initiated and established a collection of ultra-Orthodox children's literature that is used for teaching and research and continues to expand. As editor, I also co-edited an issue of the journal *Criticism and Interpretation*, which was devoted to the study of Hebrew and Jewish children's literature. Between 2018 and 2020, I worked with Prof. Tamar Wolf-Monzon to edit issue 46 of the journal Criticism and Interpretation, which was devoted to the study of Hebrew and Jewish children's literature. The volume contains 13 articles. Issue 46 was launched through a seminar held in the department and I organized together with Prof. Tamar Wolf-Monzon.

At the same time, Prof. Tamar Wolf-Monzon and me also completed the #47 issue of *Criticism and Interpretation* which is an eclectic issue and is in press in these days. 44 articles were accepted for peer-reviewing for this issue, and from them accepted for publication 9 articles.

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Plans for the Near Future and Emerging Studies: My new book: *Moralizing the Folktale* is nearly ready. This book is a summary of a study I have been dealing with since my previous book and deals with Hebrew stories that are incorporated into Hebrew moral books during the printing period. I set up a research group on narratology together with Prof. Chanita Goottblatt of Ben-Gurion University, whose products will be a conference and a special issue dedicated to the subject in the journal *Skene*. My joint project with Dr. Dafna Nissim of Ben-Gurion University on the subject: *Blurred boundaries between the sacred and the secular in pre-modern culture* yielded a collection of studies which is intended for *Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture* series published by De Gruiter Berlin.