## Itamar Y. Ben Ami

Email: Itamar.Ben-Ami@mail.huji.ac.il

**EDUCATION**

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| 2018 – present | **Doctoral Student**, Department of Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Dissertation title: “*The Schmittian Jews: Leo Strauss, Isaac Breuer and the Foundations of Jewish Theopolitics of the state*”Supervised by Prof. Dan Avnon (Hebrew University) and Prof. Menachem Lorberbaum (Tel Aviv University); Committee: Prof. John P. McCormick (University of Chicago); Dr. Elad Lapidot (University of Bern) |
| 2017 | **M.A. Studies** in Political Science**,** Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Graduated *summa cum laude*M.A. thesis:“*Isaac Breuer's Critique of Sovereignty*” |
| 20152002 – 2010 | **B.A. Studies** in Social Sciences and Humanities, majored in Political Science and International Relations, Open University of Israel. Graduated *magna cum laude***Graduate of Haredi Yeshivas (Ultra-Orthodox Jewish rabbinical seminary)**  |

**APPOINTMENTS**

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|  2020 – present | Research Fellow (wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter), Faculty of Theology, Humboldt University of Berlin |

**FELLOWSHIPS**

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| Summer 2020July 20202019 – 20202018 – 20192017 – 20182016 – 20172012 – 2014 | University of Chicago, Special Collections Research Center, *Platzman Memorial Fellowship* (postponed due to the Coronavirus)Fellowship from the Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization, Cardozo Law SchoolSelma Stern Zentrum für Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg (ZJS), Germany, *Affilliated Scholar*Freie Universität Berlin, Germany, Friedrich Meinecke Institut, *Ludwig Armbruster Fellow*Universität Potsdam, Germany, School of Jewish Theology, *Research Guest*Cherick Center for the Study of Zionism, the Yishuv and the State of Israel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, *Herzl Fellow*Shalom Hartman institute, Jerusalem, *Fellow at the Advanced Beit Midrash* |
|  **SCHOLARSHIPS**

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| 2019 – 20212019 – 20202017 – 2019 | The Posen Society of Fellows, *Posen Foundation*Minerva Fellowship Program, *Minerva Stiftung – Max Planck Society, Germany*Lev-Zion Scholarship for Outstanding Ph.D. Students from Peripheral Areas, *Israeli Council for Higher Education* |

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**AWARDS**

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|  2021 2020  2020  2019, 2020 2019   2018  2016, 2018 2017 | Beck – ELES (Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich) Programme, BerlinThe Pinchas and Sheindel Wald Doctoral Prize in Jewish History, The Zalman Shazar Center, JerusalemStiftung deutsch-israelisches Zukunftsforum, GermanyKKL – JNF Grant for Philosophy, Switzerland-Israel Scholarship for Study and Research Stays at Saxon Universities, the Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts, GermanyHebrew University’s Department of Jewish Thought and Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center’s Lakritz Prize for MA thesis Shoshana and Milton Shier Scholarship for Jewish Political Thought Travel Grant, the Leonard Davies Institute for International Relations (HUJI) |
|  2015 – 2017 2016 – 2017 | Advanced Graduate Studies Honours Program (AGSP, *Telem*) scholarship (HUJI)Hebrew University Student Dean's List |
|  2015 – 2016 2016 2015 – 2016 2011 – 2012 | Hebrew University Rector's Award (second highest grade-point average in the Faculty of Social Sciences)Robert and Dorothy Ross Scholarship for Innovative Paths in the Study of Jewish and Israeli Political Culture Hebrew University Student Dean's ListOpen University President Award |

**GRANTS**

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|  2018 | The Center for Jewish and Democratic Law, Faculty of Law, Bar-Ilan University Project: Sovereignty in Isaac Breuer’s Thought |

 **PUBLICATIONS**

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| * Itamar Ben Ami, “Jewish Orthodoxy in the 20th Century: a Public Religion”, *The Jewish Quarterly Review* (forthcoming)
* Itamar Ben Ami, “How Judaism Became a State: Isaac Breuer and the Invention of Statist Theocracy” (under review in *Harvard Theological Review*)
* Itamar Ben Ami, “A New Perspective on the New Haredim” (under review in *Jewish Social Studies*)
* Itamar Ben Ami (ed.), *Haredi Leadership's Responsibility to Israeli Society at Large: Position Papers on Economy and Society in Israel* (Jerusalem: The Van Leer Institute, 2013). (Hebrew)
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**WORK IN PROGRESS**

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| The Liberal Theocracy of the 1940s (article)The German Origins of the Jewish Total-State (article)The Sufficiency of Jewish Law and the Legitimacy of Modernity (article)The Neo-Kantian Origins of the Jewish Theocracy (article) |

**PRESENTATIONS**

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| June 2021March 2021January 2021December 2020October 2020August 2020June 2020April 2020 January 2020July 2019June 2019May 2019September 2017May 2017 | **“Between Stammler and Weber: Two Jewish Theocracies Beyond Kant”***Sociality in Jewish Philosophy and German Idealism*, Yale University**“Jewish Orthodox Conservative Revolution?”***Casden Institute’s seminar***,** University of Southern California**“The Invention of Statist Theocracy”***Political Theology Network’s (PTN) Dissertation Workshop***“Isaac Breuer’s Total Theocracy”***AJS (Association for Jewish Studies) 52nd Annual Conference***“Neo-Haredim: An Anti-Secular Model”***On the Margins of Contemporary Jewish Orthodoxies Symposium*, Baruch College, CUNY, New York**“The Sufficiency of the Jewish Law and the Legitimacy of the Jewish Polity”***Workshop on Jewish Law and Political Thought*, JTS and Princeton University**“The Ethical State: Isaac Breuer and H. Cohen’s Case for Jewish Theocracy”***Centenary of the First Publication of Hermann Cohen’s RRSJ*, Boston University (postponed due to the Coronavirus)**“The Total State of the Torah”***Colloquium***,** *Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur,* University of Munich (postponed due to the Coronavirus)**“How Judaism Became a State”***Colloquium***,** *Selma Stern Zentrum für Jüdische Studien,* Berlin**“The Politicization of Jewish Ultra-Orthodox Theology”** *The Legal Agenda of Agudath Israel*, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies**“Preliminary Remarks to the Concept of the Political in Jewish Theology”***Conceptualizing “Political”*,University of Aberdeen**“The Schmittian Jews”***Colloquium, School of Jewish Theology*, University of Potsdam**“The Concept of Sovereignty in Jewish Religious Tradition”** *London Summer School in Intellectual History*, University College London (UCL)**“Isaac Breuer's Critique of Sovereignty”***From KKL-JNF forests to the Balfour Declaration*, Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem |

**ACADEMIC TEACHING**

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| **Teaching**  |
| Faculty of Theology, Humboldt University of Berlin: |
| 2020 – 2021 2020 – 2021 | **Jewish Political Theology** (undergraduate and graduate)**Theocracy: Past, Present, Future** (undergraduate and graduate) |
| **Teaching Assistance** |
| Department of Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: |
| 2015 – 2017 2015 – 2017 2015 – 2016 | **Foundations of Political Thought** (undergraduate)**Modern Political Thought** (undergraduate) **Cultural Wars in Israel** (undergraduate) |

**PROFFESIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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| **Research Assistance** |
| 2017 – 2018 2012 – 20162014 – 20162011 – 2015 | **The Israel Democracy Institute,** research assistant and editor**The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute,** research assistant and editor**Shalom Hartman Institute,** research assistant and editor**Mandel Leadership Institute,** research assistant and editor |
| **Participation in Research Groups** |
| 2019 – 20202016 – 20172015 – 2016 | **Bilderverbot und Theorie der Kunst,** Selma Stern Zentrum (ZJS), Berlin**Between Politics and Religion: the Legal Sphere as a Realm of Jewish Political Thought**,The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**Tradition: Canon, Transmission and Critique**, the Minerva Humanities Center, Tel Aviv University |
| **Writing** |
| 2018 – Present | **Haaretz,** Books (nonfiction) critique and reviews |

 **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Jewish political thought; intellectual history; political theology; critical political theory; conceptual history

 **LANGUAGES**

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Hebrew (native language), English (competent), German (competent), Yiddish (reading), Aramaic (reading)