

## NADIA VIDRO

### **CURRENT POSITION**

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- from Sept 2018      Research Fellow, Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, UCL  
 Research Project: *Karaite and Rabbanite Calendars: origins, interaction, and polemic*; funded by Fritz Thyssen Foundation, PIs: Prof. Sacha Stern, UCL and Prof. Ronny Vollandt, LMU; grant proposal co-written by Sacha Stern and Nadia Vidro (funding granted until August 2020, with a possibility of a one-year extension)
- from May 2018      Research Associate, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library  
 Research Project: *Calendar Fragments as a Tool for Palaeography*; BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, PI: Dr. Ben Outhwaite; idea and development Nadia Vidro (funding granted until September 2020)

### **EDUCATION**

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- 2006–2009      PhD in Hebrew Studies, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge, St. Edmund's College  
 Thesis title: *Verbal Morphology in the Medieval Karaite Treatise on Hebrew Grammar Kitāb al-'Uqūd fī Taṣārīf al-Luġa al-'Ibrāniyya*; Supervisor: Prof. Geoffrey Khan; passed without corrections
- 2004–2006      Maternity leave
- 2001–2004      MA in Jewish Studies (major), Islamic Studies (minor) and General Linguistics (minor), Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Cologne, Germany  
 Dissertation title: *Diseases of the Head in the Medical Encyclopaedia of Moses Narboni Oraḥ Ḥayyim* [in German]; Supervisor: Prof. Gerrit Bos; grade: 1.5 (very good)
- 1999–2001      Degree course in Jewish Studies, Institute of African and Asian Studies, Moscow State University, Russia (transferred to the University of Cologne, Germany)
- 1995–2000      Degree course in Bio-Physics (hons), Faculty of Non-linear Processes, Saratov State University, Russia

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2018              Research associate, Genizah Lab, Princeton University  
 Research Project: *Cataloguing Documentary Manuscripts from the Cairo Genizah*; PI: Prof. Marina Rustow
- 2013–2018      Research associate, Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, UCL  
 Research Project: *Jewish Calendar Cycles in Medieval Manuscripts*, as part of the ERC-funded project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation*; PI: Prof. Sacha Stern

- 2011–2013 Research associate, Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Cambridge  
 Research project: *A Medieval Karaite Pedagogical Grammar of Biblical Hebrew: a critical edition and English translation of Kitāb al-‘Uqūd fī Taṣārīf al-Luġa al-‘Ibrāniyya*; Mentor: Prof. Geoffrey Khan
- 2011–2013 Research associate, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library  
 Project: cataloguing grammatical and scientific fragments in Hebrew and Judaeo-Arabic
- 2010–2011 Maternity leave
- 2009–2011 Postdoctoral research assistant in medieval Hebrew linguistic terminology (part-time), Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris  
 Research project: *Premodern Philosophic and Scientific Hebrew Terminology: studies on its emergence and development, and the creation of an Internet-based historical lexicon with the acronym PESHAT*; PI: Prof. Judith Olszowy-Schlanger
- 2007–2009 Graduate volunteer, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library  
 Project: cataloguing grammatical fragments in Hebrew and Judaeo-Arabic
- 2003–2004 Student research assistant, Martin Buber Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Cologne  
 Research project: *Middle Hebrew Medical Texts with Romance and Latin Elements. Edition and Analysis of the Sefer ha-Shimmush of Shem Tov ben Isaac of Tortosa and Other Lists of Synonyms*; PI: Prof. Gerrit Bos

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### 2019/2020 TEACHING

- 2019/2020, Course co-lecturer: *History of the Hebrew Language* (BA and MA level), UCL  
 First term (responsible for medieval Hebrew)
- 2019/2020, Course co-lecturer: *Survey of Jewish History 1: From the Ancient Near East to the Crusaders* (BA level), UCL (responsible for the medieval Jewish history)

### PAST TEACHING

- 2018/2019 Course lecturer: *Topics in the Karaite grammatical tradition*
- 2015/2016 Course lecturer: *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (BA level), UCL
- 2012/2013– Occasional lecturer: *Introduction to the History and Culture of the Middle East*  
 2013/2014 (BA level, Part IA), Cambridge
- 2011/2012 Course lecturer: *Introduction to Judaeo-Arabic* (MPhil level), Cambridge
- 2008/2009– Undergraduate supervisor in Biblical Hebrew, Cambridge  
 2009/2010

**MENTORING**

- 2018 Mentor of a PhD student-volunteer in the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library
- 2012 Adviser on a MPhil dissertation in the history of Hebrew Studies, Cambridge

**EXAMINING**

- 2014 External examiner for an MPhil dissertation in Hebrew Studies, Cambridge
- 2012 Internal examiner for an MPhil dissertation in Hebrew Studies, Cambridge

**AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- 2019 UCL Institute of Advanced Studies conference grant for an interdisciplinary workshop *Time and Social Cohesion*, to run at UCL in March 2020, £1,800 (with Sacha Stern)
- 2017 Laidlaw Research and Leadership Programme (a grant to offer a summer research placement under my supervision to one first year undergraduate student at UCL, £625, not taken up by students)
- 2013 British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined in favour of the research associate position in the ERC-funded project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation*)
- 2013 The Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship matched by The Isaac Newton Trust Matching Funding Award (declined in favour of the research associate position in the ERC-funded project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation*)
- 2011–2013 The Isaac Newton Trust Matching Funding Award, matched by FAMES funding and the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit funding (£18,900 per annum)
- 2009–2010 St. Edmund's College (Cambridge) Emsley Prize for the highest mark or recommendation in History and/or subjects with a historical approach or content at a postgraduate level (£50)
- 2007 St. Edmund's College (Cambridge) travel grant (£500)
- 2006–2009 Kapitza Cambridge Scholarship by the Cambridge Overseas Trust (Graduate University Composition and College Fees at the overseas arts rate and maintenance allowance of £9,900 per annum)
- 2006–2007 Academic Jewish Studies in Europe Doctoral Award of the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation (£8,000)

**NETWORKING**

- Since Jan 2019 Research working group: *Jewish Manuscripts and Texts from the Byzantine Cultural Orbit including the Mediterranean*, based in Goethe University, Frankfurt and Ariel University, Israel
- 2010–2014 Research network: *Judaeo-Arabic Language and Literature from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era*, based at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid

2009–2010 Research network: *The Origins of Jewish Linguistic Thought in Medieval Islamic Societies*, based at Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### BOOKS

*A Medieval Karaite Pedagogical Grammar of Hebrew: a critical edition and English translation of Kitāb al-‘Uqūd fī Taṣārīf al-Luġa al-Ibrāniyya*, Brill, Leiden/Boston (2013)

*Verbal Morphology in the Karaite Treatise on Hebrew Grammar Kitāb al-‘Uqūd fī Taṣārīf al-Luġa al-Ibrāniyya*, Brill, Leiden/Boston (2011)

### EDITED BOOKS

Vidro, N., R. Vollandt, E.M. Wagner, J. Olszowy-Schlanger (eds), *Studies in Semitic Linguistics and Manuscripts: A Liber Discipulorum in Honour of Professor Geoffrey Khan*, University of Uppsala Press, Uppsala (2018)

Vidro, N., I. Zwiep, J. Olszowy-Schlanger (eds), *A Universal Art: Hebrew grammar across disciplines and faiths*, Brill, Leiden/Boston (2014)

### ARTICLES

‘Dating medieval manuscripts with the help of calendars: an evaluation’ (submitted for consideration to *Revue des Études Juives* in 2019)

‘A book on Arabic inflexion according to the system of the Greeks’, ZAL, *Journal of Arabic Linguistics* (accepted in 2019)

‘Reiterative calendars in medieval and early-modern Jewish manuscripts’ in Stern, S. (ed.), *Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (accepted in 2018)

‘A classification of the Hebrew verbs in the Karaite grammatical tradition: the method of symbols’ (in Hebrew) in Yaakov, D. (ed.), *Hebrew and Aramaic in the Middle Ages – Language Studies and Grammatical Thought* (forthcoming in 2019)

‘Grammars of Classical Arabic in Judaeo-Arabic: an overview’ (*Intellectual History of the Islamicate World* 8/1-2, forthcoming online in 2019, in print in 2020)

‘R. Naḥshon Gaon – a calendar scholar or a pseudo-author?’, *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 26/1 (2019), 17–34

‘Manuscript to print and print to print: on the transmission history of Jacob ben Asher’s *Ṭur Oraḥ Ḥayyim*’, *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture*, 15/1 (2018), 73–93

‘Arabic vocalization in Judaeo-Arabic grammars of Classical Arabic’, in Vidro, N., R. Vollandt, E.M. Wagner, J. Olszowy-Schlanger (eds), *Studies in Semitic Linguistics and Manuscripts*, University of Uppsala Press, Uppsala (2018), 341–51

‘Calendar tables in manuscript and printed *Arba‘ah Ṭurim: Ṭur Oraḥ Ḥayyim*, chapter 428’, *Journal of Jewish Studies*, 69/1 (2018), 58–85

‘The origins of the 247-year calendar cycle’, *Aleph: Historical Studies in Science and Judaism*, 17.1 (2017), 95–137

Vidro, N., A. Kasher, ‘How medieval Jews studied Classical Arabic grammar: a Kūfan primer

- from the Cairo Genizah', *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*, 41 (2014), 173–244
- 'Mnemonic: Medieval period', *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (2013), vol. 2, pp. 650–53
- 'Paradigm', *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* (2013), vol. 3, pp. 11–15
- 'A Karaite tool-kit for teaching Hebrew grammar', *Journal of Jewish Studies*, 64/1 (2013), 98–118
- 'A newly reconstructed Karaite work on Hebrew grammar', *Journal of Semitic Studies*, 54/1 (2009), 169–78

#### CATALOGUE ENTRIES, BLOGS AND GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

- 'The Book against the People of the Equinox: T-S K6.63', *Fragment of the Month: September 2019*, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (<https://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/taylor-schechter-genizah-research-unit/fragment-month/fotm-2019/fragment-7>)
- 'The Genizah collection', in Merchán-Hamann, C., R. Abrams (eds), *Jewish Treasures from the Bodleian Library*, Bodleian Library Publishing (accepted)
- 'The strange Hebrew of a blessing for the Prophets: T-S K6.113', *Fragment of the Month: October 2018*, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/taylor-schechter-genizah-research-unit/fragment-month/fotm-2018/fragment-8>)
- 'A popular calendar', *Fragment of the Month: September 2017*, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/taylor-schechter-genizah-research-unit/fragment-month/fragment-month-sept>)
- Vidro, N., I. Bultrighini, 'Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages', a conference blog, UCL (July 2017) (<http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/calendars-ancient-medieval-project/2017/09/11/conference/>)
- 'A barley believable calendar dispute', *Genizah Fragments*, 71 (March 2016) ([http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/files/genizah\\_fragments\\_71.pdf](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/files/genizah_fragments_71.pdf))
- 'Science versus popular culture in medieval Jewish society', a workshop blog, UCL (November 2015) (<http://blogs.ucl.ac.uk/calendars-ancient-medieval-project/2016/01/11/science-versus-popular-culture-in-medieval-jewish-society/>)
- 'A medieval Karaite pedagogical grammar of Hebrew', *Fragment of the Month: September 2013*, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Taylor-Schechter/fotm/september-2013/index.html>)
- 'A Judaeo-Arabic grammar of Classical Arabic: T-S Ar. 31.254 and T-S 24.31', *Fragment of the Month: April 2012*, Taylor-Schechter Genizah Research Unit (<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Taylor-Schechter/fotm/april-2012/index.html>)
- Catalogue descriptions of fragments in the Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection, Cambridge University Library (<http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/genizah>)

**SELECTED RECENT PRESENTATIONS (\*invited speaker)**

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- Sept 2019 *Intercalation by the observation of new crops and its impact on calendar diversity among medieval Jews*  
Workshop: Calendar Polemics in Medieval Judaism and Islam (9th–11th centuries), Centre for Advanced Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich
- July 2019 *Medieval scribes and the writing of calendar tables*  
British Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference 2019, University of Oxford
- \*July 2019 *“Rules without exceptions”: a medieval Karaite approach to the logic of the Hebrew verbal system*  
Conference: Biblical & Rabbinic Hebrew: New Perspectives in Philology & Linguistics, University of Cambridge
- \*Sept 2018 *The Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection and what it tells us about the use and study of language among medieval Jews in Muslim lands*  
Workshop: Asian Studies in University of Cambridge and University of Tartu. Ways for Cooperation, Tartu, Estonia
- Aug 2017 *R. Naḥshon Gaon – a calendar scholar or a pseudo-author?*  
17th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem
- July 2017 *Reiterative calendars in medieval and early-modern Jewish manuscripts*  
Conference of the ERC Project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation*, UCL
- \*Feb 2017 *Karaite treatises on Hebrew verbal conjugations: a genre and its function*  
International Conference on Hebrew and Aramaic in the Middle Ages: language studies and grammatical thought, Academy of the Hebrew Language, Jerusalem
- July 2016 *Who authored the calendar in Arba‘ah Ṭurim? The transmission of calendar tables in manuscript and print*  
British Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference 2016, Birmingham University
- Dec 2015 *A Popular cycle: reiterative calendars in medieval and early modern Jewish manuscripts*  
American Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference 2015, Boston
- Nov 2015 *Scientific and popular calendars in medieval Jewish sources*  
‘Science versus popular culture in medieval Jewish society’, Workshop 6 of the ERC Advanced Grant project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, UCL
- Feb 2015 *Distorted festivals: calendar and the diversity of medieval Jewish religious practice*  
‘Calendar and religion in Antiquity and the Middle Ages’, Workshop 4 of the ERC Advanced Grant project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, UCL

- Nov 2014 *A table or a list? The layout of perpetual Jewish calendars*  
‘Images, diagrams, and tables in Antiquity and the Middle Ages’, Workshop 3  
of the ERC Advanced Grant project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle*  
*Ages*, UCL
- Jul 2014 *Grammars of Classical Arabic in Judaeo-Arabic: an overview*  
Xth Congress of the European Association for Jewish Studies, Paris

## **RESEARCH SKILLS**

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- Old languages Hebrew (Biblical, medieval); Judaeo-Arabic; Arabic
- Modern languages Hebrew (fluent); English (fluent); German (fluent); Russian (native speaker);  
Arabic; French (working knowledge); Spanish (working knowledge)
- Other skills Hebrew codicology; Hebrew paleography

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

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- 2012 *Lecturing: An Introduction*, Personal and professional development workshop,  
University of Cambridge
- 2008 *Hebrew Codicology Course*, led by Prof. Malachi Beit-Arie, Centre for Hebrew  
and Jewish Studies, Oxford
- 2008 *Supervising Undergraduates: An Introduction*, Personal and professional  
development workshop, University of Cambridge
- 2006 *Presentation Skills*, St.Edmund's/Lucy Cavendish Colleges graduate workshop,  
University of Cambridge
- 2003–2004 *Teaching German as a Foreign Language*, Additional degree course, Faculty of  
Arts and Humanities, University of Bonn

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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### COMMITTEE WORK

Research Committee of the Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department, UCL

### ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES

- 2019 co-organiser of the workshop *Time and Social Cohesion*, to run at UCL Institute  
of Advanced Studies in March 2020
- 2018/2019 Co-organiser of the workshop *Parenting, Schooling and Identity Formation and*  
*Reformation: From the Middle Ages to the Modern Period* of the Taylor-Schechter  
Genizah Research Unit, Cambridge University Library and the Research  
Authority of Orot Israel College, Rehovot
- 2014 Co-organiser of a panel on the history of Hebrew linguistics at the European  
Congress for Jewish Studies (Paris)
- 2013–2017 Co-organiser of six interdisciplinary workshops in the framework of the ERC-  
funded project *Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization*  
*and fixation* (UCL)

ADMISSIONS

2017 Admissions assessment marking for Cambridge (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)

PEER REVIEWING

*Journal of Jewish Studies*

*Journal of Semitic Studies*

*Sefarad. Revista de Estudios Hebraicos y Sefardíes*

*Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture*

*Cambridge Genizah Studies, Etudes sur le judaïsme médiéval, Brill*

REVIEWING GRANT PROPOSALS

2015, 2016: reviewed grant proposals for the National Science Centre of Poland

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

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2013, 2014 *Taster language workshop: Hebrew*, Residential School for Modern Foreign Languages, The Prince's Teaching Institute

2011, 2012 Festival of Ideas, University of Cambridge