MORDECHAI (MORDY) MILLER

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Contact

- **Email:** sg.mordym@bgu.ac.il; mmiller@gratz.edu
- **Academia Profile:** https://bgu.academia.edu/MordechaiMordyMiller

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Postdoctoral Fellowships

- 2025-2026: Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Faculty of Law, **Tel Aviv University** (declined offer due to tenure-track appointment).
- 2024-2025:
- Institute for Advanced Israel Studies at Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, **Brandies University** (Hybrid)
- **Ben-Gurion University** (Short-Term Postdoctoral Fellowship).

PhD in Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

- October 2020 – January 2025 (Submitted in November 2024, approved in January 2025)
- **Thesis Title:** *Interactions Between Kabbalah and Political Ideologies Amongst Jewish Orthodoxy in the State of Israel in the Late 20th Century and Early 21st Century*
- **Supervisors:** Prof. Boaz Huss and Prof. Tzahi Weiss

MA in Jewish Thought (Honors Program), Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- October 2018 – October 2020
- **Thesis Title:** *The Attitude Towards Proselytes in the Zoharic Literature and the Writings of R. Moshe de-Leon*
- **Supervisor**: Prof. Avishai Bar-Asher
- **Graduated cum laude** (Final average: 96.3; Thesis mark: 97)

Teaching Certificate in Jewish Thought, Herzog College

- 2018-2019
- Completed with distinction: Average 94.8

BA in Philosophy and Jewish Studies, Shalem College, Jerusalem

- October 2014 – October 2018
- **Graduated cum laude** (Final average: 94.7)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & APPOINTMENTS

- *2025–Present*: Research Group Member, Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (led by Profs. Jocelyne Cesari and Guy Ben-Porat).
- *2025–Present*: Research Group Member, "Thought and Cultural Codes," The Azrieli Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (led by Prof. Arieh Saposnik).
- *2025–Present*: Member, Goldhirsh Prize Committee for Holocaust Research.
- *2025–Present*: Research Fellow, Schocken Institute for Jewish Research (Jerusalem).
- *2025–2026*: Member, Advisory Editorial Team, *Israel Studies*.
- *2025–Present*: Assistant Professor, The Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (Sde-Boker campus).
- *2025-2026*: Faculty Member, Executive PhD Program in Jewish Studies, Gratz College.
- *2024-2025:* Fellow, Institute for Advanced Israel Studies at the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University (Hybrid), with a focus on Digital Humanities and Jewish Mysticism in the context of contemporary Israel.
- *2024*-2025: Member, research group "Jewish Responses to October 7th," a joint project of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education (Hebrew University), Ben-Gurion University, and the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism; workshop held at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute, Sde-Boker, February 26–27, 2025.
- *2022-2023:* AJS Dissertation Writing Group Program.

- *2021-2023:* Research Assistant, Hebrew University of Jerusalem – "Otzar Haim" project (Kabbalistic diary by R. Isaac of Acre) led by Prof. Yehuda Liebes (Funded by the Israel Science Foundation).
- *2021:* Research Assistant to Dr. Uri Melamed for the course "Intellectuals and Leaders in Medieval Spain and Eastern Communities," Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies.
- *2021*: Research Assistant to Dr. Judith Weiss for the course "Kabbalah and Eroticism in the Middle Ages," Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- *2021:* Teaching Assistant to Prof. Yedidia Stern for the course "Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State," Shalem College.
- *2020:* Head of "Forum of Graduate Students," Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- *2020:* Coordinator of candidates for studies, Jewish Thought Department, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- *2018-2020:* Research Assistant, The Open University – "Ten Sephirot" project led by Prof. Tzahi Weiss and Dr. Na'ama Ben-Shachar (Funded by the Israel Science Foundation).
- *2018-2019:* Research Assistant, The Open University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – archival research on the history of The Hebrew University under Prof. Jacob (Kobi) Metzer.
- *2017*: Research Assistant, Shalom Hartman Institute – work on medieval Jewish-Italian manuscripts under Prof. Moshe Idel.
- *2016:* Research Assistant – research on American Jewry under Prof. Avinoam Rosenak.

TEACHING

- *2025–2026*: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel Studies Program, "Messiah Now: Messianism in Contemporary Israel."
- *2025–2026*: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel Studies Program, "The Ideology of the Settlements: From Gush Emunim to the *Religious Zionist* Party."
- *2025–2026*: Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, "Sacred Space and Political Power: Holy Sites in Contemporary Israel."

- *2025-2026*: Gratz College, Doctoral Program, "Rabbi Tzvi Yehuda Kook and the Early Gush Emunim Movement".
- *2024-2025:* The Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, "From a Mixed Multitude to the Dawn of Our Redemption: The Attitude of Orthodoxy in Israel towards Zionism" (126-1-315)
- *2024-2025:* Ono Academic College (Jerusalem campus), "Introduction to Kabbalah" (225135454)
- *2024-2025*: Israel Studies Program, Ben-Gurion University, Eilat Campus, "Challenges of Israeli Society" (167-1-0381).
- *2024-2025:* The Secular Yeshiva in Jerusalem, "Contemporary Rabbis in Israel: Thought and Political Involvement"
- *2021*: Shalem College and Gesher Organization, "Haredim and Academia"
- *2018-2022:* Shalem College, "Fundamentals of Expository and Academic Writing"
- *2018-2020:* Shalem College, Writing Instructor

AWARDS & HONORS

2025: Recipient, Schocken Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary Grant for a First Book in Jewish Studies (2025–2026).

2025: Outstanding Article Award, Ben-Gurion University.

2025: Honorable Mention, Ben Halpern Best Dissertation Award, Association for Israel Studies (AIS), 2025.

2024-2025: Fellowship; Institute for Advanced Israel Studies at Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, Hybrid

2024-2025: AIS Dissertation Completion Grant, Association for Israel Studies

2024-2025: Gracefield Scholarships, Shalem College, Jerusalem

2024: Declined Full Travel Grant from the Association for Israel Studies

2021-2025: The Open University of Israel Doctoral Fellowship

2021-2024: Kreitman ("Negev") Scholarship, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

2020: Dean's Prize for outstanding M.A. students, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (based on 2019 academic year grades)

2020: Talking Peace Scholarship for academic writing about peace

2019-2020: Mandel Scholarship for outstanding M.A. students in the Humanities, Jack, Josef, and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2019-2020: Gilbert Scholarship for academic mentoring of students, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

2018: Full Travel Grant awarded by Shalem College to attend the Central European University (CEU) conference in Budapest, Hungary, August 10-13, 2018

2017: Young Scholars (Pirch'e Mehkar) Scholarship, Shalom Hartman Institute, in collaboration with Mifal HaPais

2015-2018: Judy and Larry Tanenbaum Scholarship, Shalem College

Membership in Professional Societies

- Association for Israel Studies (AIS)
- The Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
- World Union of Jewish Studies
- Association for the Social Study of Jewry (ASSJ)

PUBLICATIONS

a. Published

1. **Mordechai Miller**, "Redefining Jewish Boundaries: Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh's Fourth Revolution and the Quest for a Messianic Order," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 2025, 1–17.
2. **Mordechai Miller**, "Yitzhak Rabin and Isaac the Patriarch: Rabbi Menachem Froman's Curriculum as a Response to Yitzhak Rabin's Assassination", *Israel Studies* 30:2 (2025) 57–78.
3. **Mordy Miller** and Menachem Kellner, "Jews, Non-Jews, Converts", in Daniel Rynhold and Tyron Goldschmidt (eds.), *Routledge Companion to Jewish Philosophy*, 2025, pp. 375-386.

4. **Mordy Miller**, "From the Other Side, His Holy Name Will Sanctify': The Divine Role of Proselytes in the Zoharic Literature," in Avinoam Rosenack (ed.), *'Siach Shalom' as Philosophy: Studies in Kabbala, Halacha, and Anti-Politics*, Jerusalem, 2024: pp. 222-264 (Hebrew).
5. **Mordy Miller** and Hayim Katsman, "'On the Side of the Good': Political Alliances and the Religious Zionist Quest to Hegemony", *Politics and Religion Journal,* 18*,* (2024), pp. 105-129.
6. **Mordy Miller**, "A Man of Peace: In Memory of Hayim Katsman (1991 -2023)", *Politics and Religion Journal,* 18*,* (2024): 25-29.
7. **Mordy Miller**, "Rabbi Zvi Thau's Political Turn: The Rise of the Noam Party," *Religious Zionism Journal* 10 (2023): 155-222. (Hebrew.)
8. **Mordy Miller**, "'Also see Facebook': Jewish Thought research and the Social Media," *Jewish Thought* 4 (2022): 225-255. (Hebrew.)
9. **Mordy Miller**, "'They No Longer Distinguish Between Jews and the Other Nations': Rabbi Zvi Yisrael Thau and His Battle Against Foreign Influences," *Reshit* 5 (2021): 80-112. (Hebrew.)
10. **Mordy Miller**, "Opened Eye Synagoga." Review of *In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust*, edited by Dina Porat, Karma Ben-Johanan, and Ruth Braude. Tel-Aviv University, Tel Aviv, 2015. *Hashiloach* 1 (2016): 170-178.

b. Accepted for publication

1. Book under contract with the Schocken Institute for Jewish Research (JTS), based on the doctoral dissertation (expected 2027).
2. **Mordy Miller**, "Engaging with the Enemy: Rabbi Menachem Froman's Kabbalistic Approach to Peacemaking with Hamas", *Harvard Theological Review*.
3. **Mordy Miller**, "New Perspectives on Religious-Secular Education in Israel: History and Challenges", *Studies in Jewish Education*.

4. Issac Lifshiz, JJ Kimche, **Mordy Miller** and Matanel Bareli (eds.), *Minha Le'Menachem: Essays in Tribute to Prof. Menachem Kellner*, Shalem Press: Jerusalem.
5. **Mordy Miller** and JJ Kimche, "Between Host and Guest: Shadal's Approach to Kabbalah in 19th-Century Italy", in *Minha Le'Menachem: Essays in Tribute to Prof. Menachem Kellner*.

c. Submitted / Under Review

1. **Mordy Miller**, "Kabbalistic Motifs after October 7: The Social and Spiritual Role of Facebook Reels".

d. In Preparation

2. **Mordy Miller** and Nethanel Dagan, "Redemption Through Sin: Kabbalah, Crime and Neutralizations", *Theoretical Criminology*.
3. **Mordy Miller** and Ian McGonigle, "Fluid Boundaries: Contemporary Perspectives on Purity and Impurity in Jewish Thought".
4. **Mordy Miller** and Menachem Kellner, "Converts and the Messianic Era: A Comparative Study of Maimonides and Tikkunei Zohar," *Kabbalah* (Hebrew).
5. **Mordy Miller** and Gilad Rubinstein, "'It Is Mandatory to Reach Out to Them': Rabbi Eliezer Melamed and the Reform Movement in Israel".
6. **Mordy Miller**, "Celebrating Bar-Mitzvah and Avoiding Christmas: Messianic Jews' Methods of Adaptation in Israel."
7. **Mordy Miller**, "Transformation of Religious Parties in Israel: Shifting Trends and Implications".

Selected Non-Academic Books and Publications

1. **Mordy Miller**, *The Rebbe from Tekoa: The Life of Rabbi Menachem Froman*, Yediot Books, 2025 (Winner of the Mifal HaPais Prize).

2. "'I Dreamed That We Were Going Home': Jews Dreaming following October 7," *Et Ratzon* 15 (2025), pp. 60–62. (Hebrew).
3. "Messiah or Missionary? Religious Israeli Theologies Confront the Trump Gaza Plan", *De'ot* 110 (2025), pp. 44–50. (Hebrew).
4. "We Spoke the Language of the Heart: Rabbi Menachem Froman and His Meetings with the Hamas Leadership," *Haaretz Magazine*, March 7, 2025.
5. "Interfaith Relations Post-October Seventh, 2023 – A Reassessment", *Nexus Magazine*, The Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies, University of Haifa, June 14, 2024.
6. "Connected from Afar – Singapore Judaism." *Makor-Rishon*, June 30, 2023. (Hebrew).
7. "A Jewish State in All Areas: What MK Avi Maoz, Follower of Rabbi Thau, Really Wants?" *Haaretz*, January 13, 2023.
8. "The Messianic Conversion Revolution of Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsburg." *Haaretz*, October 15, 2022. (Hebrew).
9. "The Necessity of Mediation in the Relationship Between Parents and Their Former Religious Children." *Hartman Institute*, September 14, 2022. (Hebrew).
10. "The Serpent is the Messiah's Secret: The Key to Rabbi Berland's Toxic Charisma." *Haaretz*, September 2, 2022.
11. "The Spiritual Doctrine of Noam's Rabbi." *Hartman Institute*, June 23, 2022. (Hebrew).
12. "The Mediation Potential of Returnee to the Faith (*Hozer B'Tshuvah*) and Formerly Orthodox Jews." *Makor Rishon: Musaf Shabby*, August 2020. (Hebrew).
13. "Noam's War: On the Politicization of Rabbi Zvi Thau's Circle." *Ha'ayin Hashvi'it*, September 2, 2019. (Hebrew).
14. "The Destruction of the *Beit Midrash*", *Makor Rishon: Musaf Shabbat*, December 2017. (Hebrew).
15. "Hamsa Aleichem: An Interview with Prof. Yuval Harari and the Collector of Amulets and Manuscripts, William (Bill) Gross." *Makor Rishon: Deyukan*, June 2017. (Hebrew).

16. "Late Discovery: The Lost Letters of Stefan Zweig," *Makor Rishon: Musaf Shabbat*, January 2017 (in cooperation with the National Library of Israel). (Hebrew).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. a. “Humility and Shared Ground: Rabbi Menachem Froman’s Ethical Approach to Peace and Coexistence,” The Southeast Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities (SEACAH2026), Singapore, February 7, 2026.

   b. Session Chair, “Education, Sustainability and Society”, The Southeast Asian Conference on Arts & Humanities (SEACAH2026), Singapore, February 2026.
2. "Jerusalem as an Israeli-Palestinian Capital City," Research Conference on Urbanism 2025, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, October 20, 2025.
3. "Continuity and Change in Interfaith Relations in Singapore After October 7, 2023: A Jewish Community Perspective." The Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS), University of Haifa, September 8, 2025 (Forthcoming).
4. "Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh and His Circle: Challenges to Democracy in Israel," 19th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 4–8, 2025.
5. "Analyzing Rabbinic Sermons After October 7 Using AI: A Digital Humanities Approach," the Digital Humanities in Israel Studies Conference, Brandeis University, April 7-8, 2025.
6. "Intersection of Social-Media and Kabbalah: Reflections Post-October 7" (conference on “Jewish Esotericism in the Information Age and Beyond”), Rice University, April 1-3, 2025.
7. "Disrupting the Sacred: Theological Discourse in Post-October 7 Dream Narratives," lecture at the *Jewish Responses to October 7* workshop, Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel, Sde Boker, February 27, 2025.
8. "The Jews of Singapore: Between Tradition and Innovation in Light of the History of the Book", Ben-Zvi Institute, Jerusalem, November 14, 2024.

9. "Political Kabbalah in Contemporary Israel" (roundtable led by Prof. Ian McGonigle titled "Kabbalah in Contemporary Israeli Society"), AIS conference, Prague, July 2024.
10. "Kabbalistic Diplomacy: Rabbi Menachem Froman's Encounters with Hamas Leaders" - Religion and Political Protest Conference, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, 29-30 May 2024.
11. "Technological Evolution and Religious Practice: Reimagining the Connection Between Believers and the Western Wall" - The Third Global STS Conference, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 22-24 February 2024.
12. "Religious Zionist Parties' Transformation in Israel" - Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India, October 30-31, 2023.
13. "Materiality and Performance of Hebrew Charms against COVID-19" - ISFNR conference, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, August 29-31, 2023.
14. "Role of Zoharic Literature in Rabbi Menachem Fruman's Political Activity" - 5th Graduate Student Conference, Ben-Gurion University, Israel, June 15, 2023.
15. "Jews of Singapore: Religious and Ethical Perspectives" - Philosophy in Southeast Asia Conference, National University of Singapore (NUS), May 1-3, 2023.
16. "Political Kabbalah of Rabbi Israel Eliyah Weintraub" - 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 11, 2022.
17. "Messianic Judaism in Israel: Theological Portrait" - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, June 20-22, 2022.
18. "Pluralistic Israel: Women, Minorities, and Diversity" - University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, June 2-3, 2021.
19. "Proselyte in Zoharic Literature" - Mandel School of Advanced Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 20, 2020.
20. "Converts' Souls in Zoharic Literature" - Research Forum, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 30, 2020.
21. "Rabbi Yitzhak Ginsburg's Thought" - The 26th International Conference on Jewish Studies, Moscow, Russia, July 14-16, 2019.

22. "Castilian Kabbala and Evil Post-Holocaust" - Philosophy 360, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April 1, 2019.
23. "Evil in Maimonides's Thought" - Outstanding Students Session, National Library of Israel, Jerusalem, December 11-13, 2018.
24. "Zoharic Approach to Post-Holocaust Evil" - Coping with Crisis, Central European University (CEU), Budapest, Hungary, August 10-13, 2018.
25. "Prayer in Rabbi Josef Dov Soloveitchik's Thought" - Worlds Encounter, Shalem College, June 11, 2017.

ACADEMIC GUEST LECTURES

1. “The Noam Party and its Conception of the Family”, departmental research seminar, Department of Politics and Government, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, December 24, 2025.
2. “Kabbalistic Discourse on Social Media after October 7,” guest lecture in Dr. Jonnie Schnytzer’s course, The Multidisciplinary Department of Jewish Studies, Bar-Ilan University, December 14, 2025.
3. “The Attitude toward the Hostages in Rabbi David Giami’s Wartime Sermons: Theological and Political Perspectives,” research seminar, Ben-Gurion Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, December 10, 2025.
4. “The Attitude toward the Hostages in Rabbi David Giami’s Wartime Sermons: Educational Perspectives”, departmental research seminar, School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 3, 2025.
5. “Rabbi Menachem Froman and the Religious Roots of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict”, Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum for the Study of Contemporary and Alternative Spirituality, October 28, 2025.
6. “Rabbi Yitzchak Ginsburgh: Political Kabbalah Today”, Shalom Hartman Institute, November 27, 2025.
1. “The Attitude toward the Hostages in Gaza and Their Release in Rabbi David Giami’s WhatsApp Sermons: Educational Aspects,” guest lecture at the

Department of Education Seminar, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2025 (forthcoming).

2. "Jewish understanding of the Pentateuch" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Peter Ho's class, Singapore Bible College, March 6, 2024.
3. "AI and the Future of Academia" – The Forum for the Study of Contemporary and Alternative Spirituality, April 4, 2023 (Hebrew).
4. "ChatGPT and the Humanities: Risks and Opportunities" – Efrata College, Jerusalem, February 14, 2023 (Hebrew).
5. "Unique Aspects of the Berland Affair" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Oded Israeli's class, Ben-Gurion University, January 9, 2023.
6. "Facebook as a Knowledge Source in Wissenschaft des Judentums" – Conducted lecture in Prof. Ian McGonigle's Lab, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, April 29, 2022.
7. "Origins of Kabbalah and Sefer HaBahir" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Boaz Huss's class, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, November 3, 2021.
8. "Changes and Trends in Religious Zionism in Israel" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Menachem Kellner's class, Shalem College, May 12, 2021.
9. "The Ultraorthodox: An Introduction" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Yedidya Stern's class, Shalem College, December 17, 2020.
10. "In the Name of God: Kabbalists Explaining COVID-19" – Lecture at Shalem College, April 8, 2020.
11. "Metaphysics in the Voting Booth" – Delivered lecture in Prof. Menahem Kellner's class, Shalem College, December 19, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS AND PUBLIC ACTIVITY

Leading the *Singapore Genizah Project*

- Initiating collaborative efforts since August 2022 to gather, discover, and catalog religious texts from the earliest Jewish settlers in Singapore. Responsibilities include preservation, research coordination, and scholarly collaboration to illuminate Singapore's early Jewish community history.

Public Engagements

- Guest Lecturer at the Israeli Embassy in Singapore (December 20, 2024): Delivered a lecture on the theme of "Few Against Many in Hanukkah," exploring its historical, cultural, and spiritual dimensions.
- Panel Member, "AI X Religious Futures-Policy Roundtable", Smart Nation Strategy Office, Ministry of Communications and Information, Singapore, June 3, 2024.
- Member of the Jewish Inter-Faith Sub-Committee in Singapore (January 2023 - March 2024).
- Lecturer for the Inter-Religious Organization (IRO) Singapore on topics from a Jewish perspective, including "The Concept of Life and Death" (March 2023), "Religiosity vs. Spirituality" (June 2023), and "Life After Death" (November 2024).
- Engaged in AsiaOne's "Do You Believe?" series, participating in interfaith dialogues (July-August 2023).
- Featured in interviews and contributed to prominent Israeli media outlets such as Kan 11, and Haaretz, among others. Topics covered diverse subjects, including the Singapore Genizah project, political theology, and cultural analyses.
- Provided content consultancy for TV series and facilitated discussions on Jewish culture (Israel Broadcasting Corporation, 2019).
- Led a program fostering interaction between secular and Haredi students (Gesher organization and Shalem College, March-May 2021).
- Represented Shalem College in delegations to Toronto, Boston, New York, and San Francisco on behalf of the Koret Fund, all in September 2016.

LANGUAGES

- Hebrew: Native
- English: Native
- German: Advanced

- Yiddish: Beginner