# Maya Barzilai, Assistant Professor

Department of Near Eastern Studies and the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies
The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Work Address: 4167 Thayer building, 202 S. Thayer St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Daytime Phone: 734-7634671 Email: brmaya@umich.edu

#### **EDUCATION**

2009, Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Comparative Literature

Dissertation: Anatomies of Creation: Reviving the Golem in Times of War and Death

(Committee: Robert Alter, Anton Kaes, Chana Kronfeld)

2002, M.A. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Comparative Literature, *Magna cum Laude* 

M.A. thesis: "Documentation and Disorientation: The Functions of Photography in W. G.

Sebald's Die Ausgewanderten"

1999, B.A. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, English and "Amirim" Honors Program, Magna cum

Laude

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2012-2013	Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies Fellowship, University of Michigan
May-June 2012	National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Stipend
2003-2008	Berkeley Fellowship for Graduate Study
2007-2008	Doctoral Research Fellowship, Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies, Free University Berlin and German Studies Association
2007	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Near Eastern Studies Department, University of California, Berkeley
2005	DAAD Research Fellowship, Comparative Literature Department, Free University Berlin (under the supervision of Prof. Gert Mattenklott)
2005	Horst Frenz Prize for the best graduate student presentation at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference

#### **BOOK MANUSCRIPT**

Golem: Modern War and Their Monsters (forthcoming with NYU Press).

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

## **Peer Reviewed Essays:**

"Translation on the Margins: Avraham Ben Yitzhak and Yoel Hoffmann." *The Journal of Jewish Identities*. Volume 7:1, 2014. 109-128.

"S. Y. Agnon's German Consecration and the 'Miracle' of Hebrew Letters." *Prooftexts*. Volume 33:1, 2013. 48-75.

"A Poetics of Statelessness: Avraham Ben Yitzhak after World War I." *Naharaim: Journal of German Jewish Literature and Cultural History.* Volume 7:1-2, 2013. 111-130.

"Reading *Camera Lucida* in Gaza: Ronit Matalon's Photographic Travels." *Comparative Literature*. Volume 65:2, 2013. 200-219.

"The Challenge of Lyric Address in War Poems by Yitzhak Laor and Ingeborg Bachmann," co-authored with Katra Byram. *The Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*. Volume 53, 2007. 155-168.

#### **Invited Articles:**

"Witnessing Dying in the Tongue of Revival: Shaul Tchernihovsky's World War I Poetry." *Yearbook of the Simon Dubnow Institute*. Volume 13, 2014. 177-192.

### **Book Chapters:**

"Melancholia as World History: W. G. Sebald's Rewriting of Hegel in *Die Ringe des Saturn.*" W. G. Sebald and the Writing of History. Eds. Anne Fuchs and J. J. Long. Würzburg: Königshausen & Neumann, 2007. 73-90.

"On Exposure: Photography and Uncanny Memory in W. G. Sebald's *Die Ausgewanderten* and *Austerlitz.*" W. G. Sebald: History—Memory —Trauma. Eds. Scott Denham and Mark R. McCulloh. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2006. 205-218.

"Facing the Past and the Female Specter in W. G. Sebald's *The Emigrants*." In W. G. Sebald – A Critical Companion. Eds. J. J. Long and Anne Whitehead. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004. 203-216.

#### **Book Reviews:**

The Golem Returns: From German Romantic Literature to Global Jewish Culture, 1808-2008, by Cathy S. Gelbin. Journal of Modern Jewish Studies. 2013. 526-527.

Language, Absence, Play: Structuralism and Superstructuralism in the Poetics of S. Y. Agnon, by Yaniv Hagbi. Hebrew Studies. Volume 5, 2010. 427-429.

## In Progress:

"Kafka in Hebrew: Parables of Translation" (with Na'ama Rokem). Article in preparation.

"Paul Celan's 'Breath-Unit': A Poetic Dialogue with the Buber-Rosenzweig Bible Translation Project." Article in preparation.

### INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

"The Hebrew Metropolis: Leah Goldberg and David Fogel," Diaspora in Modern Hebrew Literature, University of Cambridge, May 2015.

"Banished from the Socialist Garden: H. Leivick's Distopic Yiddish Drama," Jewish Secular Utopias and Distopias in Central and Eastern Europe, Tulane University, February 2013.

"Home Video and Autoethnographic Documentation in *Children of the Sun* and *Fragments*," The International Symposium on Israeli Documentary Cinema, Jerusalem Film Festival, July 2012.

"Post-Mortem Translations: Yeshurun Keshet's 'Jackals and Arabs'," Roundtable on Kafka in the Middle East, Center for Middle Eastern Studies and Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan, April 2012.

"The Flowers of Shame: Avraham Ben Yitzhak's Bilingual Pslams," An International Conference in Honor of Robert Alter, University of California, Berkeley, May 2010.

"S.Y.Agnon's German Consecration and the 'Miracle' of Hebrew Prose," German and Hebrew: Histories of a Conversation, An International Conference at the University of Chicago, April 2010.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

"Learning to Read the "Breath-Unit": Paul Celan's Dialogue with the Buber-Rosenzweig Bible Translation," MLA annual convention, Boston, January 2013.

"Modern Hebrew: Primary Sources for a Reconsideration of its Revival, Politics and Poetics," Roundtable at the Association of Jewish Studies conference, Chicago, December 2012.

"Reframing the Holy Land: The 'Adventures' of Jewish Women Cartoonists in Israel," Graphic Details Symposium, Yeshiva University Museum and Center for Jewish History, New York, February 2012.

"Farzvayfelt: The Conundrum of Multilingualism in Yoel Hoffmann and Avraham Ben Yitzhak," National Association of Professors of Hebrew, College Park Maryland, June 2011.

"Cosmic Witnesses in War Poems by Shaul Tchernichovsky and Avraham Ben Yitzhak," Organizer of Panel on "The Poetics of War in Modern Hebrew Literature, Association of Jewish Studies conference, Boston, December 2010.

"Techniques of the Survivor: The Expressive Turn in Paul Wegener's Golem Films," German Studies Association conference, Oakland, October 2010.

"Béla Balázs and the Language of Cinematic Expression(ism)," American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, Harvard University, March 2009.

"Ein Ganzes? The Unclaimed German Writings of the Modernist Hebrew Poet Avraham Ben Yitzhak," German Studies Association conference, San Diego, October 2007.

"Teaching Genesis and Dancing Arabs," MLA annual convention, Philadelphia, December 2006.

"Abstract-scapes: Early Twentieth-Century Visions of Urban Commotion," MLA annual convention, Philadelphia, December 2006.

"Mourning as Creation: World War I Resurrections of the Golem," American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, Princeton University, March 2006.

"The Challenge of Lyric Address in War Poems by Yitzhak Laor and Ingeborg Bachmann," in collaboration with Katra Byram, American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, Penn State University, March 2005.

"Gender Trauma: the Feminization of the German-Jewish Past in W. G. Sebald's *Die Ausgewanderten*," Conference on *Memory Contests: Cultural Memory, Hybridity, and Identity in German Discourse since 1990*, Humanities Institute of Ireland at University College Dublin, June 2004.

"Cinema Beyond the Wall: The Projection of Mourning in Fritz Lang's *Der müde Tod*," The Tel-Aviv International Colloquium on Cinema Studies, Tel-Aviv, June 2004.

"Photography and Traumatic Memory in W.G. Sebald's *Austerlitz*," The Davidson Symposium on Germanic Studies, Davidson College, North Carolina, March 2003.

"Photography and the Mazes of Memory in W. G. Sebald's *Die Ausgewanderten*," MLA annual convention, New York, December 2002.

### **REFEREE FOR:**

Comparative Literature Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture Jerusalem Studies in Jewish Folklore

The Journal of Israeli History: Politics, Society, Culture

Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook

Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature

**PMLA** 

Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies

# MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Comparative Literature Association
Association for Jewish Studies
German Studies Associations
Modern Language Association: executive committee of MLA Jewish Cultural Studies discussion group
National Association of Professors of Hebrew