

ADENA TANENBAUM

Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
The Ohio State University
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DEGREES:

- Ph.D. 1993 Harvard University
Field: Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
Dissertation: "Poetry and Philosophy: The Idea of the Soul in Andalusian Piyut" (Advisors: Isadore Twersky, Bernard Septimus)
- A.M. 1986 Harvard University
Field: Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations
- B.A. 1981 Barnard College (Summa Cum Laude)
Field: Oriental Studies
Senior Essay: "Samuel Hanagid: His Life and Poetry"
(Advisor: Yosef H. Yerushalmi)

RESEARCH AREAS:

Medieval Hebrew Poetry and Belles-Lettres; Postbiblical Hebrew Literature and Jewish History; Medieval Jewish Philosophy; Judeo-Arabic Language and Literature.

TEACHING COMPETENCE:

Modern Hebrew Literature and Language; Contemporary Israeli Culture; Postbiblical Hebrew Literature and Jewish History.

EMPLOYMENT:

- 2004- Associate Professor, Department of NELC, The Ohio State University
1998- Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, The Ohio State University
1993-98 Member, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Oxford University.
1997-98, Visiting Lecturer, Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies,
1988-90 University College London.

POSITIONS HELD:

- Faculty Board Member, Melton Center for Jewish Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Middle East Studies, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Greek and Latin, O.S.U.
Faculty Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Graduate Specialization on Religions of the Ancient Mediterranean, O.S.U.
1996- Corresponding Fellow, The Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

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- 1993- Senior Associate, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.
- TEACHING:** DEPARTMENT OF NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES, OSU
- 1998- Supervision of Master's Theses
Hebrew 216/MRS 216: The Medieval Jewish Experience (GEC Course)
Hebrew 241: The Culture of Contemporary Israel (GEC course)
Hebrew 241 Honors: The Culture of Contemporary Israel (GEC course)
Hebrew 372: Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation (GEC course)
Hebrew 372 Honors: Modern Hebrew Literature in Translation (GEC)
Hebrew 421: Modern Hebrew Short Stories
Hebrew 422: Modern Hebrew Poetry
Hebrew 620: Introduction to Hebrew Literary and Cultural Texts
Hebrew 693: Independent Study, Modern Hebrew Literature
Hebrew 721: Studies in Hebrew Poetry—Medieval and Modern
- 1993-98 FACULTY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES, OXFORD UNIVERSITY
Convenor, Graduate Seminars in Medieval Jewish History and Literature and Jewish-Muslim Relations.
Master of Studies: Tutorials in Modern Hebrew Literature.
B.A.: Lectures and Tutorials in Modern Hebrew Literature.
Diploma in Jewish Studies: Lecture Course, "The Medieval Jewish Experience."
- 1997-98 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
Major Trends in Medieval Jewish History
- 1988-90 The Jews in Islamic and Christian Spain.
The Hebrew Literature of Medieval Spanish and Provençal Jewry.
- 1987-88 OXFORD CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE HEBREW STUDIES
The Jews of Muslim Spain, 711-1141.

ADMINISTRATION & SELECT SERVICE (THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY):

- 2018-2019 **Area Officer, Jewish Studies**
- 2017-2018 **Committee for Assessment & Review, NELC external review**
- 2017- **Administrator, Diane Cummins Scholarship for Hebrew**
- 2014-2015 **Islamic Studies Search Committee**
- 2012-13 **CHAIR, NELC Hindi Language and Culture Search Committee**
- Spring 2011 **CHAIR, Melton Center Search Committee for Schottenstein Chair in Israel Studies.**
- Au 08-Wi 09 **NELC Hebrew Lecturer Search Committee**
- Au 07-Wi 08 **NELC Modern Hebrew/Israel Studies Search Committee**
- Au 05-Wi 06 **NELC Turkish Studies Search Committee**
- Sp 03 **NELC Chair Search Committee**
- 9/01- **Library Committee, Departmental Officer**

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9/00-8/01 **Colloquium and Lecture Officer, NELC Department**
9/99- **Islamic Studies Search Committee, NELC Department**
9/00-8/02 **CHAIR, Student Affairs Committee, Melton Center for Jewish Studies.**
9/98-present **Program Coordinator, Contemporary Israeli Culture**
9/98-4/04 **NELC representative to Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies**

PUBLICATIONS:

MONOGRAPH

The Contemplative Soul: Hebrew Poetry and Philosophical Theory in Medieval Spain.
Études sur le judaïsme médiéval (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2002)

Finalist, Koret Foundation Jewish Book Award, Philosophy/Thought category, 2003
Nominated for the annual *La corónica* International Book Award, 2007

Reviewed in:

Journal of Jewish Studies 57/1 (Spring 2006): 170-72.
Prooftexts 25/1-2 (Winter/Spring 2005): 210-216.
Revue des Études Juives 164/3-4 (2005): 573-74.
The Medieval Review (tmr-1@wmich.edu) (November 2004).

JOURNAL ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS

“Andalusian Hebrew Poems on the Soul and their Afterlife,” in *Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia and Europe*, edited by Stefan Sperl, Trevor J. Dadson and Yorgos Dedes, *Proceedings of the British Academy* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2020).

“The AJS at 50,” in “Forum on New Vistas,” *AJS Perspectives, The 50th Anniversary Issue: New Vistas in Jewish Studies* (Fall, 2018): 59-60.

“Hidden Gems: The Hebrew *Maqāma* from Yemen.” In Special Issue of *Intellectual History of the Islamicate World*, Volume 7.1, edited by Jonathan Decker and Maurice Pomerantz, dedicated to the history, circulation and literary interpretation of the *maqāma* genre in the Islamicate world. (Forthcoming)

“The Uses of Scripture in Zechariah Alṣdāhirī’s *Sefer hamusar*,” in *Exegesis and Poetry in Medieval Karaite and Rabbanite Texts*, ed. Joachim Yeshaya and Elisabeth Hollender (Leiden: Brill, 2017), pp. 147-184.

“Sefer ha-musar le-zekhariah al-dahiri: tekhniquot sifrutiyot ve-token” (“Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-musar*: Literary Techniques and Content”), *Tema: Journal for the Study of Yemenite Jewry and its Culture* 13 (2015): 33-41.

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- Zechariah Aldâhirî, *Sefer ha-Musar*, excerpts trans. by Adena Tanenbaum. *The Posen Library of Jewish Culture and Civilization, Volume 5, 1500-1750*, ed. Yosef Kaplan (New Haven and London: Yale University Press/Lucerne: The Posen Foundation, Forthcoming).
- “Polemics Real and Imagined in Zechariah Aldâhirî’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” in *Giving a Diamond: Essays in Honor of Joseph Yahalom on the Occasion of His Seventieth Birthday*, edited by Wout van Bekkum and Naoya Katsumata (Leiden: Brill, 2011), 243-263.
- “‘The Wrong Side of a Turkey Tapestry’: Peter Cole and Academic Translations of Medieval Hebrew Poetry,” *Forum on Peter Cole’s The Dream of the Poem: Hebrew Poetry from Muslim and Christian Spain, 950-1492, La coronica* 38.2 (Spring 2010): 197-209.
- “Kabbalah in a Literary Key: Mystical Motifs in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*.” *The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy* vol. 17, no. 1 (2009): 47-99.
- “Didacticism or Literary Legerdemain? Philosophical and Ethical Themes in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” in *Adaptations and Innovations: Studies on the Interaction between Jewish and Islamic Thought and Literature from the Early Middle Ages to the Late Twentieth Century, Dedicated to Professor Joel L. Kraemer*, ed. Y. Tzvi Langermann and Josef Stern (Leuven: Peeters Publishers, 2008), 355-79.
- “Arrogance, Bad Form, and Curricular Narrowness: Belletristic Critiques of Rabbinic Culture from Medieval Spain and Provence,” in *Rabbinic Culture and Its Critics: Jewish Authority, Dissent, and Heresy in Medieval and Early Modern Times*, ed. Daniel Frank and Matt Goldish. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008), 57-81.
- “The Urge to be Immortalized: Zechariah Aldahiri’s Poetic Epitaphs for Himself,” in *Studies in Arabic and Hebrew Letters in Honor of Raymond P. Scheindlin*, ed. Jonathan Decker and Michael Rand (Gorgias Press, 2007), 181-210.
- “The Andalusian *Selihah* and Its Individualistic Conception of Penitence,” in *Be’erot Yitzhak: Studies in Memory of Isadore Twersky*, ed. Jay Harris (Cambridge, Mass. and London, England: Harvard Center for Jewish Studies and Harvard University Press, 2005), 377-398.
- “‘Credit is Due to the One Who Completes It’: Zechariah Aldahiri on Poetic Originality and Plagiarism,” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 56 (Spring 2005): 101-119.
- “Of Poetry and Printed Books: Cultural Contacts and Contrasts Between the Jews of Yemen and the Land of Israel in Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer Hamusar*,” *Jewish Studies Quarterly* 12/3 (2005): 260-280.

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“Of a Pietist Gone Bad and Des(s)erts Not Had: The Fourteenth Chapter of Zechariah Aldahiri’s *Sefer ha-Musar*,” *Prooftexts* 23/3 (Autumn 2003): 297-319.

“On Translating Medieval Hebrew Poetry,” in *Hebrew Scholarship and the Medieval World*, ed. Nicholas de Lange (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 171-185.

“Nine Spheres or Ten? A Medieval Gloss on Moses Ibn Ezra’s ‘Be-shem el asher amar,’” *Journal of Jewish Studies* 47:2 (1996): 294-310.

“The Adornment of the Soul: a Philosophical Motif in Andalusian Piyyut,” *Hebrew Union College Annual* 66 (1995): 223-238.

“Beholding the Splendor of the Creator: Philosophical Conceptions of the Soul in the Poetry of Abraham Ibn Ezra,” in *Abraham Ibn Ezra and His Age* (Madrid: Asociacion Espanola de Orientalistas, 1990), 335-344.

ENCYCLOPEDIA AND DICTIONARY ENTRIES

“Dahrî, Zechariah al-” *Brill Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World*, ed. Norman Stillman (Leiden: Brill, 2010).

“Halevi, Judah,” *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Robert E. Bjork (OUP, 2010)

“Ibn Gabirol, Solomon,” *Oxford Dictionary of the Middle Ages*, ed. Robert E. Bjork (OUP, 2010)

REVIEWS

Review Essay:

“Sacred and Suggestive: The Many Faces of Medieval Hebrew Poetry from Spain.” Review of: *The Liturgical Poems of Moshe Ibn Ezra* (Hebrew), edited by Israel Levin and Tova Rosen, 2 vols. (Tel Aviv University Press, 2012-2014) and Shari L. Lowin, *Arabic and Hebrew Love Poems in al-Andalus* (London & New York: Routledge, 2014). *Jewish Quarterly Review* 107/2 (Spring 2017): 247-266.

Review of Joachim J.M.S. Yeshaya, *Medieval Hebrew Poetry in Muslim Egypt: The Secular Poetry of the Karaite Poet Moses ben Abraham Dar‘î*. Karaite Texts and Studies, Volume 3. Études sur le Judaïsme Médiéval. (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2011), in *Speculum* 90/1 (January 2015): 309-311.

Review of Raymond P. Scheindlin, *The Song of the Distant Dove: Judah Halevi’s Pilgrimage* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008), in *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 129.2 (2009): 320-323.

Review Essay: “Poetry and History.” Review of Susan L. Einbinder, *Beautiful Death: Jewish Poetry and Martyrdom in Medieval France*, in *Prooftexts* 24/3 (Fall 2004): 386-400.

Review Essay: “On Translating *Keter Malkhut*.” Review of David Slavitt, *A Crown for the King*, in *Prooftexts* 20/3 (Fall 2000): 349-362.

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RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINARS:

“Contrafaction as Counter-Writing: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Jawāb* Poems,” 9th Medieval Hebrew Poetry Colloquium KU Leuven, Belgium, July 15-17, 2019.

Featured Presenter, Shalom Spiegel Institute of Medieval Hebrew Poetry at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, June 2-7, 2019. Research presentation, “Re-writing Abraham ibn Ezra: Zechariah Aldahiri’s Jawab Poems.”

“A Distinctive Sense of Self: Yemenite Jewish Self-Definition in Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-Musar*.” Paper delivered at international conference on “The 400th Anniversary of the Birth of Rabbi Shalem Shabazi and Yemeni Jews through the Ages,” Center for the Study of Yemeni Jewry at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem, Israel. September 2-3, 2018.

“A Cultural Nexus: Zechariah Aldāhirī’s Hebrew *Maqāma* from Sixteenth-Century Yemen.” Paper delivered at international conference on “Shared Cultural Values of Jews and Muslims in Yemen and Beyond,” sponsored by the American Sephardi Federation, the Princeton Institute of Semitic Studies and the E’eleh BeTamar Association for Yemeni Jewish Heritage in Israel. June 3-5, 2018, the Center for Jewish History and the United Nations, New York City.

“Andalusian Hebrew Poems on the Soul and their Afterlife.” Paper delivered at *Faces of the Infinite: Neoplatonism and Poetics at the Confluence of Africa, Asia, and Europe*, an International Conference sponsored by the British Academy and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, November 9-11, 2017.

“‘Tinkering With Some Older Poetic Model’: Zechariah Al\$dāhirī’s *jawāb* poems—Imitation, Appropriation, Transformation.” Symposium in Honor of Raymond Scheindlin. Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY. October 2016.

“Sefer ha-musar le-zekhariah al-dahiri: tekhnidot sifrutiyot ve-token” (“Zechariah Aldāhirī’s *Sefer ha-musar*: Literary Techniques and Content”). Conference on Zechariah Aldāhirī and His Literary Oeuvre. Ben Shalom Center for the Study of Yemenite Jewry at the Ben-Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East, Jerusalem, Israel. June 18, 2014.

MEMBER: Association for Jewish Studies, Society for Judaeo-Arabic Studies.

Referee for Professional Journals

Jewish Quarterly Review

Journal of Jewish Studies

Jewish Studies Quarterly

Hebrew Union College Annual

Referee for Grant Applications

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.