

CURRICULUM VITAE

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EDUCATION

- 2011-2020** M.D., Faculty of Medicine, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel
- 2015-2017** M.A., *summa cum laude*, Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. Thesis advisers: Prof. Boaz Huss, Prof. Yuval Harari. Thesis Title: “The Seal of Bileth: Its Position in the Kevitza Literature and the Mafte’ah Shelomoh Cycle”.
- 2017-2022** Ph.D., Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel. Dissertation advisers: Prof. Boaz Huss, Prof. Yuval Harari. Dissertation Title: “Solomonic Magic: Texts, History, and Reception”.
- 2020-2022** Intern, Soroka Hospital, Beer-Sheva, Israel (with distinction).
- 2022-2023** John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester [Gaster’s Amulets Cataloguer].
- 2022-2023** Postdoctoral fellow, CSoC (The Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.
- 2022-2023** Postdoctoral fellow, ERC project – JEWTACT (Jewish Translation and Cultural Transfer in Early Modern Europe), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2024-Present** Senior Lecturer, The Department of the Arts, Ben-Gurion University of The Negev.
- 2023** Teaching Associate, “Twelve Lessons in Hogwarts: Magic and Visual

- Culture,” The Department of the Arts, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2023** Teaching Associate, “Nephrology,” Faculty of Health Science, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2023** Teaching Associate, “Physiology and Pathophysiology of the Respiratory System,” Faculty of Health Science, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2022** Teaching, “General Surgery” for the government licensure exam for nurses, Prognosis company.
- 2020** Teaching, “Hematology, Neurology and Endocrinology” for the government licensure exam for nurses, Prognosis company.
- 2020-2023** Teaching Associate, “Physiology and Pathophysiology of the Cardiovascular System,” Faculty of Health Science, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2019** Teaching, “Jewish Magic & Mystery,” Tarshish School, Kaye College, Beer-Sheva.
- 2019** Teaching Associate, “Academic Reading & Writing,” Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.
- 2014-2022** Coordinator & Instructor, “Introduction to Micro Computers,” Faculty of Health Science, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

(a) Academic Administration

2024 – Chair of the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee

2024 – Head of The Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Social and Cultural Research

2024 – Rosen Family Career Development Chair in Judaic Studies

(b) Ad-hoc Reviewer

Evaluation of Theses and Dissertations: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Tel Aviv University.

Peer Reviewed Journals: *Jewish Thought*, *Mabatim*, *Oqimta*, *Zutot*, *JSQ*.

Academic Presses: *Firenze University Press*.

Discussant of Doctoral Students' Research: Sapienza Università di Roma.

(c) Editor or Member of Editorial Board

2024-Present – Member of the Advisory Board of [*Studies in Magic and Kabbalah*](#) series (Harrassowitz Verlag)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2010-Present (Volunteering) Emergency Medical Technician Trainer & Training Developer, Negev Region, Magen David Adom.

2013-2021 Technical Supporter - Moodle System, Faculty of Health Science, Ben-Gurion University, Beer-Sheva.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

(a) Courses Taught

Twelve Lessons in Hogwarts: Magic and Visual Culture, undergraduate.

Ancient and Classical Art, undergraduate.

Medieval Art, undergraduate.

Christian Sources for Art History, undergraduate.

Academic Reading & Writing, undergraduate.

The Art of Magic: The Analysis and Crafting of Amulets and Magical Objects, undergraduate.

Portrayals of the Infernal: Depictions of the Devil and Demons from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era, undergraduate.

Portrayals of Paradise: Depictions of Angels from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era, undergraduate.

Humphry Seminar ("Body & Mind"), graduate.

Cardiovascular Physiology and Pathophysiology, undergraduate.

Renal Physiology and Pathophysiology, undergraduate.

Respiratory Physiology and Pathophysiology, undergraduate.

Introduction To Micro Computers, undergraduate.

(b) Research Students

Ph.D.

2029 (expected) Yael Segal Hermoni, “Pioneers of Design: Groundbreaking Women Graphic Designers in the Land of Israel from the 1920s and the 1950s.”

M.A.

2026 (expected) Lobna Zenon, “Medieval Illuminated Manuscripts in Islamic Lands.” Together with Prof. Sara Offenber.

2026 (expected) Shachar Lifshitz, “Images of the Goddess Flora in the 20th-21st Centuries.”

BOOKS

1. Gal Sofer, *Solomonic Magic: Methodology, Texts, and Histories*, Brill Academic Publishers, 345 pages. ISBN: 978-90-04-54677-6. [In Print]
2. Gal Sofer, *The Imagined Arab Magician: Authority and Intercultural Encounters in Medieval Learned Magic Texts*, Cambridge University Press [Under preliminary contract, pending review].

PUBLICATIONS

- *1. Gal Sofer, ‘Upon the Magician’s Escritoire: A Recently Discovered Hebrew Clavicula Salomonis,’ *Harvard Theological Review* (accepted). (Q2, H-Index= 30)
- *2. Gal Sofer, ‘Between Heaven and Earth: On the Appearance of Demonic Cosmology in Text of Demonic Magic,’ *Jewish Thought*. [Heb] [in press] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- *3. Gal Sofer, ‘The Great Name: An Unknown Genizah-Fragment of *Sefer HaRazim*’s Tradition and Its Latin Recension,’ *Ginzei Qedem: Genizah Research Annual* 20 (2024), 75–107. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- *4. Gal Sofer, “‘For Then Thou Shalt Make Thy Way Prosperous’: The Interplay of

- Scriptures, Sacredness and Magical Practices,' *Maimonides Review of Philosophy and Religion* 3 (2024), 185–209. (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- *5.** Gal **Sofer** and Sara Offenberg, 'Therefore Harken Not Ye to Your Prophets, Nor to Your Diviners: Catoptromancy in Paris, BnF heb 9,' *Jewish Studies* 59 (1), 1–20. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- *6.** Gal **Sofer**, 'The Jewish Reception of the Ars Notoria: Preliminary Insights into a Recent Discovery,' *Religions* 15 (2024), 1–21. (Q1, H-Index=37)
- 7.** Gal **Sofer**, 'Crooked Manners and Strange Figures: Visuality as a Tool for Constraining Demons,' *Mabatim: Journal for Visual Culture* 1 (2022), 77–100. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- 8.** Gal **Sofer**, 'A Textual Network of Technical Texts: Background, Methodology, and a Case Study,' *Jewish Thought* 4 (2022), 106–125. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- 9.** Gal **Sofer**, 'Wearing God, Consecrating Body Parts: Berengar Ganell's Summa Sacre Magice and Shi'ur Qomah,' *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* 16 (Winter 2021), 304–34. (Q2, H-Index=4)
- 10.** Gal **Sofer**, 'The Magical Cosmos of Yohanan Alemanno: Christian and Jewish Magic in the Service of a Kabbalist,' *Jewish Thought* 2 (2020), 65–92. (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- 11.** Gal **Sofer**, 'Lover, Son, and Prophet: Magic and Kabbalah in The Autobiography of Yohanan Alemanno,' *Tarbiz – A Quarterly for Jewish Studies* 86/4 (2019), 663–694. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- 12.** Gal **Sofer** and Alon Ten-Ami, 'Inserting a Demon Inside a Person as a Case Study of Aggressive Magic: Between East and West', *Ginzei Qedem: Genizah Research Annual* 14 (2018), 55–66. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)
- 13.** Gal **Sofer**, 'The Hebrew Manuscripts of Maft'e'ah Shelomoh and an Inquiry into the Magic of the Sabbateans,' *Kabbalah: Journal for the Study of Jewish Mystical Texts* 32 (2014), 135–174. [Heb] (SJR=N/A H-Index=N/A)

REFEREED CHAPTERS IN COLLECTIVE VOLUMES

- 1.** Gal **Sofer**, 'Hebrew "Solomonic Magic": The Case of the Ydea Salomonis,' in

Magic and Language: Perspectives on Jewish and Christian Magic in Early Modern Europe, ed. Yuval Harari, Gerold Necker, and Marco Frenschkowski (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2024), 153–187.

2. Gal Sofer, “‘And You Should Also Adjure in Arabic:’ Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Formulas in the Solomonic Corpus,” in *Esoteric Transfers and Constructions*, ed. Mark Sedgwick and Francesco Piraino (Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2021), 57–71.
3. Gal Sofer, ‘The Reception of Ritual Magic in Max Théon’s Circles,’ in *The Cosmic Movement: Sources, Contexts, Impact*, ed. Julie Chajes and Boaz Huss (Beer Sheva: Ben-Gurion University of the Negev Press, 2020), 169-197.

UNREFEREED PROFESSIONAL ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

1. ‘Sapientia Salomonis,’ in *Hear, O Israel: The Magic of the Shema*, eds. Nancy Benovitz and Dudi Mevorah, The Israel Museum 2021.
2. ‘Healing Stars,’ in *Dabeshet: The Journal of The Faculty of Health Sciences*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 2017.
3. ‘From Medicine to Magic – and Back,’ in *Dabeshet: The Journal of The Faculty of Health Sciences*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev 2016.

INVITED LECTURES

1. “From India to Cush: What Does a Fifteenth-Century Italian Physician Have to Do with the Indian Ocean World?,” presented at the Language Contact and Cultural Translation International Workshop (2025), University of Münster, Germany.
2. “Sefirot, Sefirot Everywhere: Examining Sefirotic Interpretations of Magical Texts,” presented at the “Ilanoth Workshop” (2024), Officina di Studi Medievali, Palermo.
3. “Letters Combination and Magical Reciprocity: The Christian Reception of Sefer Yetzirah in The Middle Ages,” presented at the 9th Annual Workshop on Ancient Jewish Magic and its Wider Contexts (2024), Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

4. “‘I Did Not Draw It Nicely:’ On Accuracy and Creativity in Learned Magic Literature,” presented at the colloquium of the Department of Art History (2024), Haifa University, Israel.
5. “Kabbalah as Magic, Magicians as Prophets: The Case of Liber Razielis,” presented at “Premodern Jewish Magical Affairs: Textual Transmission, Authority, and Practices of Esoteric Knowledge” (2023), Ca’ Foscari University, Venice.
6. With Sara Offenber, “‘Give No Heed to Your Prophets, Augurs, Dreamers, Diviners, and Sorcerers’: Catoptromancy in Ms BnF 9,” presented at “Premodern Jewish Magical Affairs: Textual Transmission, Authority, and Practices of Esoteric Knowledge” (2023), Ca’ Foscari University, Venice.
7. “Demonic Healing: Re-examining Jewish Exorcistic Rituals,” presented at “Medicine, Illness, and the Body: Jewish Healing and Healers from the Middle Ages to Early Modernity” (2022), Freie Universität Berlin, Germany.
8. “‘And These are The Beginning of The World of Prophecy:’ On Prophecy, Magic, and Kabbalah in Yohanan Alemanno’s Works,” presented at the workshop “Beyond Doubt: Prophetic Language and Esoteric Knowledge in Renaissance Kabbalah” (2022), Maimonides Center, Germany.
9. “*Bethala Susepnsus in Ethera*: A Rediscovering of a Branched Demonic Cosmology,” presented at the 7th Workshop for the Study of Jewish Magic (2022), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
10. “The Torah as a Magic Book, a Magic Book as The Torah: On the Preparation and Consecration of Magic Books,” presented at the conference in honor of Prof. Shamir Yona (2022), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
11. ‘Asking Demons: Demonic Magic in The Middle-Ages,’ presented in ‘The Daily Life in Medieval Ashkenaz’ course (2021), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
12. ‘Kabbalah and Magic in Renaissance Italy’, presented in ‘The Christian Kabbalah’ course (2021), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
13. ‘Mythology and Magic in Harry Potter’, colloquium in the Department of the Arts (2021), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

14. 'Jewish Babylonian Magic,' colloquium in the Department of Jewish Thought (2021), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
15. 'The Key(s) of Solomon: Demonic Magic', presented in 'Jewish Magic: From the Bible to The Screen' course (2020), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
16. 'Judeo-Christian Magic: Summoning Demons in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Period', presented in 'Devils in Everyday Life Medieval Ages' course (2020), Tel Aviv University, Israel.
17. 'Demonic Magic: Translations and Transmissions of Practical Knowledge', seminar of the Jewish Translation and Cultural Transfer research project (JEWTACT) (2020), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
18. 'Don't Try That at Home: Between Practical Kabbalah and Kabbalistic Practices', colloquium in the Department of the Arts (2019), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
19. 'Keys and Chains: Reconsidering Italian Magic and Kabbalah', Symposium for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (2019), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
20. 'From Ashkenaz to Italy: Toward a New Historiography of *Clavicula Salomonis*,' presented at 'Magic and Language – Jewish and Christian Magic in Early Modern Europe' (2019), University of Leipzig, Germany.
21. 'Jewish Kabbalist reads Liber Juratus,' presented at 'The Middle Ages Now!' conference (2019), The Open University, Israel.
22. 'Jewish Babylonian Magic: Everlasting hidden traditions', colloquium in the Department of Jewish Thought (2019), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
23. 'Dicat hoc nomina: Continuity and transformation in demonic magic from antiquity to the 21st century', colloquium in the Department of History (2018), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
24. 'How to Gain Prophecy: Magic and Kabbalah in Renaissance Italy', Presented at the 3rd Workshop for the Study of Ancient Jewish Magic (2018), Tel Aviv University, Israel.

25. 'Wizards, Magical Books and Books of Magic: Harry Potter and Book's Occult Power', colloquium in the Department of the Arts (2018), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
26. 'The Divine Comedy of Yohanan Alemanno', colloquium in the Department of Jewish Thought (2018), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
27. 'The Return of Bilar, King of Demons: The Qevitzah Literature and Demonic Rites', Presented at the 2nd Jerusalem Workshop for the Study of Ancient Jewish Magic (2017), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
28. 'Théon The Magician – Is it All About Sex?', Presented at the Research Workshop - "The Cosmic Movement: Sources, Contexts, Impact" (2017), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

PRESENTATIONS

1. "Magic and Kabbalah: Towards a New Historiography of Medieval Kabbalah?," presented at the Kabbalah in Its Place Workshop (2025), Ben Zvi Institute, Israel.
2. "'Through Our Sins Hath the Might of Our Foe Been Exalted': Polemics in Solomon's Magical Traditions," presented at the 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies (2024), Western Michigan University, Michigan.
3. With Sara Offenberger, "Examining the Dark Arts: A Case Study of Jewish and Christian Prohibited Practices," presented at the 16th Annual IMAGO International Conference (2023), Bar-Ilan University, Israel.
4. "When the Rabbi Celebrated the Mass: Liturgy and Interreligious Transmissions in Demonic Magic Texts," presented at the 18th Congress of Jewish Studies (2022), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
5. "Overcoming Fears, Controlling Demons: Magic and Royal Behavior," Presented at the Leeds International Medieval Congress (2021), England. [via ZOOM]
6. "'I adjure you, Amon of No, minister of impurity': The Magic of *Sefer HaMeshiv*," Presented at the conference of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences - Revolutions (2020), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

7. 'Demonic Practices and Their Attribution to King Solomon,' presented at the 2nd interuniversity conference 'The Bible in Text and Image' (2019), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
8. 'Between Yohanan Alemanno and Yosef della Reina,' Presented at the interuniversity conference: 'The Fantastic, Magical and Mysterious in Hebrew Literature' (2018), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
9. "'Be strong and courageous!'" – Management of Fear in The Solomonic Corpus', Presented at the Living in a Magical World: Inner Lives Conference (2018), St. Anne's College, University of Oxford.
10. 'The Kabbalization of The Key of Solomon', Presented at the 1st Jewish Knowledge in Motion Conference (2018), National Library of Israel, Jerusalem.
11. "'And you should also adjure in Arabic": Islamic, Christian & Jewish formulas in the Solomonic Corpus', Presented at the ENSIE International Conference (2018), Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Italy.
12. 'Exaudi Israel Dio, Dio Nostro: Appealing to God in Clavicula Salomonis', Presented at the 8th INASWE Annual Conference (2018), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.
13. 'The Divine Comedy of Yohanan Alemanno', Presented at the conference of research students (2018), The Department of Jewish Thought, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
14. 'Conjuring Evil - The Prisca Theologia of Yohanan Alemanno', Presented at the conference of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences - East & West (2018), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.
15. 'Rethinking "Solomonic Magic": Some Hebrew Sources of The Clavicula Salomonis', Presented at the 31st conference of AISG - Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Giudaismo (2017), Italy.
16. 'How to Get Out of Prison: A Rediscovered Manuscript of Maft'e'ah Shelomo', Presented at the 17th Congress of Jewish Studies (2017), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

- 17.** ‘Demons, Flying Boats & The Translation of Knowledge: Two Case Studies’, Presented at the 7th INASWE Annual Conference (2017), The Open University, Israel.
- 18.** ‘Mafteah Shelomo: How to Deal with Demons and Other Forms of Foreign Knowledge’, Presented at the 5th INASWE Annual Conference (2015), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2024 Interdisciplinary Research (The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences), BGU. 25,000 ILS.

AWARDS

2022 – MHR Award for Excellent Article (Ph.D. Studies), for the article ‘A Textual Network of Technical Texts: Background, Methodology, and a Case Study.’ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

2022 – Innovative Lecturer Award, Pro-Rector for Education, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

2022 – Dean’s Certificate of Excellence (Ph.D. Studies), The Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

2022 – Outstanding Lecturer Award, Prognosis company.

2020 – MHR Award for Excellent Article (Ph.D. Studies), for the article ‘Lover, Son and Prophet: Magic and Kabbalah in The Autobiography of Yohanan Alemanno.’ Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

2019 – Rector’s Award for Academic Excellence (Ph.D. Studies), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

2016 – Dean’s Award for Excellence (M.A. Studies), Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2023-2026 Alon Scholarship.

2023-2025 Dan David Postdoctoral Fellowship (declined).

2018-2022 Azrieli Fellows Program.

2017-2021 Kreitman “Negev” Scholarship, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL/SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

Societas Magica

ESSWE – The European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism

INASWE - The Israeli Network for the Academic Study of Western Esotericism

IMAGO – Israeli Association of Visual Culture in the Middle Ages

AJS – Association for Jewish Studies

CSMBR - Centre for the Study of Medicine and the Body in the Renaissance

WUJS - World Union of Jewish Studies

LANGUAGES

Ancient – Latin, Greek, Aramaic.

Modern – Hebrew, English, French, Italian.

PL – Visual Basic (inc. applications for Android through B4A), (basic) Python.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2021 - Certified ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) Provider, American Heart Association.

2021 - Certified Machine Learning Course, Primrose - Deep Learning School.

2021 - Consultant, Noah Stollman’s Television Series “The Malevolent Bride.”

2020 - Certified Intramuscular Stimulation Therapist, The Israeli Society of Musculoskeletal Medicine.

2017 - Certified GCP (Good Clinical Practice) Training, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

2015 - 2018 Council Member of Magen David Adom. [Volunteering]

2013 - 2021 Rep. of Magen David Adom in Soroka Hospital. [Volunteering]