

Yaakov (Jacopo) A. Mascetti
15 Nahum Lifshitz Str. (Apt. 30)
9362257 Jerusalem, Israel
+972.544.950.814
Yaakov-akiva.mascetti@biu.ac.il
mascetti@gmail.com

EDUCATION

2003-2004 Andrew Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow at the Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania

1999-2003 Ph.D. in English literature, Bar Ilan University, Israel (Direct PhD program).

1991-1995 B.A. in English Literature and Foreign Languages, English Literature Department, State University of Perugia, Italy. B.A. Thesis: "Translation and Commentary of 'Two Sermons Preached to the King at Court in April 1629, on Gen.1:26'". Supervisor: Prof. Sergio Rufini.

DISSERTATION

Title: " 'Purifie / All, by a true religious Alchimy:' The Performative Semantics of Alchemic Discourses in Seventeenth Century English Poetry."

ACADEMIC HONORS

2023-2026 Israel Science Fund Research Grant

2022 ESFRI Funding for RESILIENCE Infrastructure Project.

2021-2022 Research Group on "Sensing the Truth" at the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University, Giv'at Ram Campus, Jerusalem

2019 Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities Grant for International Conferences

2017 Israel Institute for Advanced Studies and Israel Science Fund Conference Grant

2013-2016 Israel Science Fund Research Grant

2008-2011 Israel Science Fund Research Grant

2008-2009 Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities – National Forum for Young Scholars in the Humanities

2008 Research Grant from the Accademia dei Lincei, Rome, Italy.

2003-2004 Andrew Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania

2001 Bar-Ilan University Rector Prize for Outstanding Graduate Students

1999-2003 Bar-Ilan University Presidential Fellowship for Outstanding Doctoral Students

PUBLICATIONS:

- Books: Tokens of Love: Humanist Sign-Theory and Protestant Sacramentalism in Early-Modern English Religious Lyrics. (In three installments, *Common Knowledge*, Duke University Press, 2021)
- Articles:
- "Biddizza" and "Sapiri": Gender and Philosophy in the Poetry of Tommaso Campanella and Girolama Loreface Grimaldi. *Seicento e Settecento*, vol. 16, 2021, 107-132
- "Acta Apothegmata": Performative Semantics in John Donne's Sermons. *John Donne Journal*, 35 (2016), 145-163.
- "The Bible in the Renaissance" *Liber Annuus - Studium Biblicum Franciscanum* (January 2018).
- "The 'Dictatorship of Relativism' Revisited: Platonism vs. Pneumatology in the Vatican" *Common Knowledge* 24:2 (May 2018).
- "'With the eye of Faith': Aemilia Lanyer's Religious and Feminine Sight in Context, *Partial Answers* 16: (April 2018), 1-25
- "'This Pretious Passeeover Feed Upon': Poetic Eucharist and Feminine Vision in Aemilia Lanyer's Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum" in Arthur Marotti and Chanita Goodblatt, *Religious Diversity and Early-Modern English Texts: Catholic, Judaic, Feminist, and Secular Dimensions* (Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2013), 251-281
- "עבודה לתפארת": מוות, אלכימיה, שנינות והחייאה מילולית ב"אנטומיה של העולם" לגיון דון (ייצא ב-2015 באוסף על קבלה וספרות, מגנס) (In Hebrew)
- "'This is the famous stone: George Herbert's Ambiguous Poetic Alchemy'" in Stanton J. Linden, ed., *Mystical Metal of Gold: Essays on Alchemy and Renaissance Culture* (New York: AMS Press, 2007), 301-324
- "Satan and the 'incompos'd' visage of Chaos: Critical Certainties and Hermeneutic Indeterminacy" *Milton Studies* 50 (2010)
- A "World of Nothing, but Pure Wit": Margaret Cavendish and the Gendering of the Imaginary", *Partial Answers* vol. 6 no. 1 (January 2008), 1-31
- "'This great office': Death, Alchemy and Verbal Revivification in John Donne's Anatomy of the World", *Connotations* (Winter 2009)
- "Satanic Individualism, Divine Omnipotence and Chaos in John Milton's Paradise Lost: Post-Restoration Ontology and Politics of Uncertainty", in M. Caricchio, G. Tarantino, eds., *Cromohs Virtual Seminars. Recent historiographical trends of the British Studies (17th-18th Centuries)*, 2006-2007: 1-7
- Translations:
- "'How to make Justice out of Law: An Interview with Gianni Vattimo.'" *Common Knowledge* 8:3 (Summer 2002)
- "Path to Jerusalem" by Cardinal Maria Martini," *Common Knowledge*, 13:2-3 (July 2007)
- Reviews
- "*Shadow and Substance: Eucharistic Controversy and English Drama Across the Reformation Divide*" by Jay Zysk. (Forthcoming on *Common Knowledge*).

"*Death be not Proud*": *The Art of Holy Attention*. By David Marno. (Forthcoming, *Common Knowledge*).

"*The Destruction of Jerusalem in Early Modern English Literature*, by Beatrice Groves" *Renaissance Quarterly* 70:2 (Summer 2017), 806-8.

"*Donne's Augustine: Renaissance Cultures of Interpretation*, by Katrin Ettenhuber" *Renaissance Quarterly* 65:1 (Spring 2012), 303-305.

"*The Christian Hebraism of John Donne: Written With the Fingers of Man's Hand*, by Chanita R. Goodblatt" *Renaissance Quarterly* 64:1 (Spring 2011), 341-343

"*The Hebrew Book in Early-Modern Italy*, by Joseph R. Hacker and Adam Shear." *Common Knowledge* 21:3 (August 2015), 530.

"John Donne: Body and Soul" by Ramie Targoff – *Common Knowledge* 19:1 (Winter 2013), 136-6.

"Women, Space, and Utopia, 1600-1800" by Nicole Pohl – *The Scriblerian* Spring 2009

"Giovanni Tarantino, Martin Clifford 1624-1677. Deismo e Tolleranza nell'Inghilterra della Restaurazione." *Common Knowledge* (in preparation)

"Rocco Coronato, Shakespeare's Neighbors" *Partial Answers* 1:2, 173-176

DELIVERED PAPERS:

"'Spiritual Senses': Rhetoric, Perception, and the Indeterminacy of Christic Presence in John Donne's Sermons". Conference: *Sensing the Truth: Research Group Conference*. Monday 13 June 2022. Chair: William D. Kolbrener (Bar Ilan U). 14:30 – 16:00, Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem.

"'Spiritual Senses': Rhetoric, Perception, and the Indeterminacy of Christic Presence in John Donne's Sermons" – Panel: *Sensing the Truth I: Embodied Cognition and Experimental Philosophy in Early-Modern England*. Sponsored by the Israel Institute for Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. Organizer and Chair: Emilie Murphy (University of York). Wednesday 30 March 2022, 11:00 – 12:30, Renaissance Society of America, Dublin.

"Mysterious Sex in Paradise: Biblical Intimacy and Milton's Irrepresentable Sacramental Signs of Love" – Panel: *Milton and Biblical Poetry: Psalms and Canticles*. Sponsored by the *Medieval and Renaissance Studies Association in Israel*, Organizers: Noam Flinker (UHaifa) and Zur Shalev (UHaifa), Chair: Achsah Guibbory (Barnard College). Monday 18 March 2018, 11:00 – 12:30, Renaissance Society of America, Toronto

"The Performative Biblical Poetics of John Donne's Anniversaries and Sermons" – Panel John Donne Society V: New Perspectives on Donne's Sermons. Sponsor: John Donne Society. Organizers: Todd Butler, Washington State University; Lara M. Crowley, Northern Illinois University. Chair: Joshua Eckhardt, Virginia Commonwealth University. Thursday 30 March 2017, Renaissance Society of America, Chicago.

A "Last, and lastingst peece": The Performative Biblical Poetics in Anatomy of the World" – Panel: John Donne I: John Donne and the Bible, Park Plaza Fourth Floor, White Hill Room. Sponsor: John Donne Society. Organizer: Chanita R. Goodblatt,

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Chair: Kirsten Anne Stirling, Université de Lausanne. Renaissance Society of America, Boston, 31 March 2016.

From “perplexed doubt” to the “true Religious Alchimy”: Alchemical Poetry, Purification and Cognitive Ascent in John Donne’s First and Second Anniversary. - Renaissance Society of America, 2015

“Chaos, Uncreation and Satanic Lapsed Cognition in Paradise Lost.” Renaissance Society of America 2013

“Their inward state of mind”: Conceptions of Fall, Cognitive Distemper and Passions in Milton’s Paradise Lost – Renaissance Society of America 2012

“Acta Apothegmata”: Performative Semantics in John Donne’s Sermons.” John Donne Society Convention 2011

“Eucharistic Poetry and Gendered Textual Consumption in Aemilia Lanyer’s Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum.” – Renaissance Society of America, Washington DC 2011

“‘Here I have prepar’d my Paschal Lambe’: Eucharistic Writing and Gender in Aemilia Lanyer’s Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum.” – Renaissance Society of America, Montreal, Canada, 2010

“‘purifie / All, by a true religious Alchimy’: Performative Semantics and Alchemic Discourses in John Donne’s Anatomy of the World.” Renaissance Society of America, Los Angeles, March 2009.

“‘Real Hunger’: Eating Angels, Monist Ontology and Narrative Epistemology in Milton’s Paradise Lost.” Pleasures and Horrors of Eating: the Cultural History of Eating in Literature and the Arts, Bonn 27-29, November 2008

“The Orthodoxy and Unorthodoxy of Milton’s Chaos in Paradise Lost.” Ninth International Milton Symposium, July 2008, London (UK).

“Skepticism, Wit and the Decadence of the Noble Art of Painting: Roland Fréart, Leonardo da Vinci and the Rebirth of Artistic Perfection.” International Conference on “Leonardo da Vinci in Context: Knowledge and Transgression in Early Modernity”, May 2008, Bar Ilan University, Israel

“‘Biddizza’ and ‘Sapiri’: Knowledge, Beauty and Gender in the Poetry of Girolama Loreface Grimaldi.” Modern Language Association, December 2007, Chicago (USA)

“Teaching Literature in the Middle East: the Ethics of Hermeneutics in Conflict.” Modern Language Association, December 2007, Chicago (USA).

“This great office”: Death, Alchemy, Wit and Verbal Revivification in John Donne’s Anatomy of the World. Connotations International Symposium, July 2007, Tuebingen (Germany).

“the loud misrule of Chaos”: Social Entropy, Miltonic Ontology and Liberalism in the Narrative of Paradise Lost, International Milton Symposium, Grenoble (France), June 2005

“The loud misrule of Chaos farr remov’d”: Chaos and the Miltonic narrative. International Conference on Chaos and Order in Western Thought, Reims, France, March 2005

“This is the famous stone”: George Herbert’s Poetic Alchemy in “The Elixir,” Hebrew University, English Department Staff Seminar, 2004

“Metaphysical Wit, Belief and John Donne’s Catabolic Sensibility” Penn Humanities Forum, University of Pennsylvania, 2004

“‘Loth to Go up the Hill’: Empiricism and Enlightened Occultism in Donne’s ‘Anatomy of the World.’” Modern Language Association (session organizer), December 2003, San Diego (USA)

“‘A true religious / Alchimy:’ Alchemy, Hermeticism and Scientific Enlightenment in the poetry of John Donne.” Early Modern Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2003

“Donnean Wit and the Catabolic Sensibility,” Early Modern Forum, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2002

“Donnean Performative Semantics in a Disenchanted Cosmos: A Re-reading of the First Anniversary,” John Donne Society Panel, Modern Language Association Convention, December 2001, New Orleans (USA)

“‘This is the famous stone:’ George Herbert’s Ambiguous Poetic Alchemy.” Alchemical Tradition and Scientific Revolution in Seventeenth-Century England (session organizer), Modern Language Association, December 2001, New Orleans (USA)

“Transubstantiate / All to gold:’ John Donne’s Alchemic Eucharist,” “This cannot be said”: Eucharistic Ineffability in Seventeenth Century English Poetry, (session organizer), Modern Language Association, December 2002, Washington D.C.

“Alchemic Poetry in a Disenchanted Cosmos: A Re-reading of the First Anniversary,” Early Modern Forum, Bar Ilan University, 2001

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED:

“Sensing the Truth”: Research Group Conference. Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Jerusalem, 13-15 June 2022.

“Imagining the Renaissance / Defining the Jews” The National Library of Israel, Jerusalem, January 12-15 2020

“The Bible in the Renaissance” – Institute of Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 2017.

Humanists at Work: Research Riddles & the Pleasures of Pursuing Them – Bar Ilan University, October 2013

“Leonardo da Vinci in Context: Knowledge and Transgression in Early Modernity” – Bar Ilan University, Israel, 12-14 May 2008

“Perspectives of Early-Modern English Literature” – Bar Ilan University, 18 March 2009

TEACHING FIELDS

Seventeenth-century English and European prose and poetry; late medieval drama and poetry; varieties of metaphysical poetry in England, France and Italy; Renaissance epistemological issues; early-modern women writers; enlightenment and literature.

RESEARCH

Alchemic and occult discourses in seventeenth-century English poetry; conceptions of matter and spirit in the early seventeenth-century poets; women writers; relationship between conceptions of matter and gender definition; religious and proto-scientific discourses in before and after the English revolution; intersection, merging and blurring of modern ontological dualism; gender and enlightenment.

POSITIONS:

Fall 2020 – Senior Lecturer – Department of Comparative Literature – Bar Ilan University

Fall 2006 – Lecturer – Department of Comparative Literature – Bar Ilan University – tenure-tracked position

Spring 2006 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University – Teaching one undergraduate seminar, taking part in the English department staff course, cooperating in the organization of the Shakespeare courses in the department

Spring 2006 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – Teaching two undergraduate courses in the English department.

Fall 2005 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – Teaching one undergraduate course.

Spring 2005 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Teaching one undergraduate course

Fall 2004 – Visiting Lecturer - Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Teaching one undergraduate course.

Spring 2004 – Post-doctoral Fellow, visiting lecturer – University of Pennsylvania – teaching one undergraduate seminar

Fall 2003 - Post-doctoral Fellow, visiting lecturer – University of Pennsylvania – teaching one undergraduate seminar

Spring 2003 – Visiting Lecturer – Bar Ilan University – teaching one undergraduate course.

Fall 2002 – Visiting Lecturer – Hebrew University of Jerusalem – teaching one undergraduate course.

LANGUAGES:

English, Italian, French, Hebrew.

ACADEMIC SOCIETIES:

John Donne Society

Renaissance Society of America

Society for the Study of Early Modern Women

Ph.D. and M.A.
SUPERVISION:

Adi Segal, Reuven Komar, Nava Malkiel, Avi Akshoti, Ruth Sominsky, Meytal Levy.