

Curriculum Vitae and List of Publications

Prof. Ronit Irshai

Personal Data

Place of birth	Israel
Work Address	The Gender Studies Program, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, Israel.
Permanent Address	15 Dostai St. Jerusalem, 9318124
Mobile	972- 508849855
Email	Ronit.irshai@biu.ac.il
ORCID	0000-0002-3079-3991

Academic Ranks

2022 - Associate Professor
2017 - Senior Lecturer (tenured)
2011 – Assistant Professor

Research Areas

Gender and Halakhah (Jewish Law)
Feminist Theologies
Jewish Religious Feminism
Sexual Ethics and Jewish Law
LGBTQ and Jewish law
Fertility and Jewish Law

List of Publications

Books

1. Ronit Irshai and Tanya Zion-Waldoks, *Holy Rebellion - Religious Feminism and the Transformation of Judaism and Women's Rights in Israel* (Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2024) (**Winner** – National Jewish Book Award, 2025).
2. Ronit Irshai, *"Woman or Eve" – Abortion in 20th Century Orthodox Halakhah from a Gender Perspective*, (Magness Press, 2022) [Hebrew].
3. Ronit Irshai and Dov Schwartz (eds.) *New Spirit in the Palace of Torah: A Jubilee book in Honor of Prof. Tamar Ross* (Bar Ilan University Press, 2018) [Hebrew].
4. Ronit Irshai, *Fertility and Jewish Law: Feminist Perspectives on Orthodox Responsa Literature*, Brandeis Series on Gender, Culture and Law (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press 2012).

Chapters in Books

1. "Gender Considerations in Halakhic Decisions: Abortion as a Test Case", in *New Streams in the Philosophy of Halakhah*, edited by Aviezer Ravitzky and Avinoam Rosenak, (Jerusalem: Magnes, 2008) (Hebrew), 417-451.
2. "Fertility and Gender: Aspects in Reform and Orthodox Halakhic Literature," in *Reform Judaism: Thought, Culture and Sociology*, edited by Avinoam Rosenak (Jerusalem: Van Leer Institute, 2014), 183-212 (Hebrew).
3. "Judaism, Gender, and Human Rights: The Case of Orthodox Feminism," in: *Religion and the Discourse of Human Rights*, edited by Hanoch Dagan, Shachar Lifshitz and Yedidia Stern (Jerusalem: The Israel Democracy Institute, 2014), 412-438.
4. "Judaism," *The Oxford Handbook of Theology, Sexuality and Gender*, edited by Adrian Thatcher (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015), 413-431.

5. "Tamar Ross: An intellectual Portrait", in: *Tamar Ross – Constructing Faith*, Library of Contemporary Jewish Philosophers, edited by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson and Aaron W. Hughes, (Leiden-Boston: Brill Academic Publishers, 2016), 1-40.
6. "The Gap between Public and Private Rulings in Jewish Law (Halakhah): A Critical Analysis", in: *The Halakhah as Event*, edited by Avinoam Rosenak (Jerusalem: Magnes, 2016), 431-465 (Hebrew).
7. "Between Honor and Equality: On the Tendency to Oppose Women's Torah Reading" in: *New Spirit in the Palace of Torah-A Jubilee book in Honor of Prof. Tamar Ross*, edited by Ronit Irshai and Dov Schwartz (Ramat-Gan: Bar Ilan University Press, 2018, Hebrew), 301-326.
8. "Homosexual Identity and Masculinity in Contemporary Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Law (Halakhah)", in: *Oltre l'individualismo. Relazioni e relazionalità per ripensare l'identità*. Ed. by Lorella Congiunti, Giambattista Formica and Ardian Ndreca (Urbaniana University Press, 2017), 399-418.
9. "Theology and Halakhah in Jewish Feminisms", in *Cambridge Companion to Jewish Theology*, ed. by Steven Kepnes (Cambridge UK: Cambridge University Press, 2020), 297-315.
10. "Religious Feminism in Israel – Between Conservatism and Liberal Human-Rights Discourse" (Accepted for publication), Van-Leer Institute, Jerusalem (Hebrew).

Referred Articles

11. "Family Planning: A Halakhic-Gender Perspective." *Nashim* 12 (2006), 95-128.
12. "Toward A Gender Critical Approach to the Philosophy of Jewish Law (Halakhah)," *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 26/2 (2010), 55-77.
13. ""Dignity, Honor, and Equality in Contemporary Halachic Thinking: The Case of Torah Reading by Women in Israeli Modern Orthodoxy,"

- Modern Judaism* (2013) 33 (3), 332-356.
14. Ronit Irshai and Tanya Zion-Waldoks, "Israeli Modern-Orthodox Feminism: Between Nomos and Narrative", *Mishpat U'mimshal (Law and Governance)* 15 (1-2) (2013), 233-327 (Hebrew).
 15. "Public and Private Rulings in Jewish Law (Halakhah): Flexibility, Concealment and Feminist Jurisprudence", *Journal of Law Religion and the State* 3 (2014), 25-50
 16. "Halakhic Discretion and Gender Bias: A Conceptual Analysis." *Tarbut Demokratit (Democratic Culture)* 16 (2015), 141-185 (Hebrew).
 17. "Fertility Treatments and the Prohibition on Wasted Seed – Three Approaches in Modern Halakhah", *Zehuyot (Identities)* 7 (2015), 41-63 (Hebrew).
 18. "Rape of Unmarried Women: Between Hazal and Maimonides", *Shnaton Ha-Mishpat Ha-Ivri (Jewish Law Annual)* 28 (2015/16), 171-202 (Hebrew).
 19. "Rape of Married Women: A Look at the Halakhic Literature in the Wake of the Responsum Mima'amakim", *AJS Review* 42 (2) 2016, 1-22 (Hebrew).
 20. "And I Find a Wife More Bitter Than Death" (Eccl 7:26): Feminist Hermeneutics, Women's Midrashim, and the Boundaries of Acceptance in Modern Orthodox Judaism", *Feminist Studies in Religion* 33 (1) (2017), 69-86.
 21. "Religion and Morality: Aqedah Theology and Cumulative Revelation as Contradictory Theologies in Jewish Modern-Orthodox Feminism", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 16 (2) (2017), 219-235
 22. "The Return of Aqedah Theology: The Relationships between Religion, Gender and Ethics", *Mechkarei Yerushalaim B'machshevet Israel (Jerusalem Investigations in Jewish Thought)*, 25 (2017/18), 273-304 (Hebrew).
 23. "Sex Reassignment Surgery: Orthodox and Conservative rulings in light of Rabbi Waldenbergs' responsa", *Shnaton Ha-Mishpat Ha-Ivri (Annual of the Institute for Research in Jewish Law)*, (2016-2018),

- 123-151 (Hebrew).
24. "Homosexuality and "Aqedah Theology": A Comparison of Modern Orthodoxy and the Conservative Movement", *Journal of Jewish Ethics* 4 (1) (2018), 19-46.
 25. "Between Feminist and Gender Analysis in the fields of Rabbinic and Modern Halakhah: Homosexuality and the Construction of Masculinity as a case Study", *Dinei Israel* 32 (2018), 195-230 (Hebrew).
Reprinted in English as: "Feminist Research in Jewish Studies: What's in a Name", in: *Re-Making the World: Christianity and Categories*, Essays in Honor of Prof. Karen King, edited by Taylor G. Petrey (Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2019), 257-276.
 26. "The Construction of Gender in Halakhic Responsa by the Reform Movement: Transgender People as a Case Study", *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 18(2) (2019), 160-176.
 27. "The Challenge of Male Homosexuality – Theology, Ethics and Halakhah", *Reshit* 3 (2019), 47-72.
 28. Tanya Zion-Waldoks, Ronit Irshai and Bana Shoughry, "The first female Qadi in Israel's Shari'a (Muslim) Courts – Nomos and Narrative", *Shofar* 38.2 (2020), 229-262.
 29. "Cross-Dressing in Jewish Law (Halakha), and the Construction of Gender Identity", *Nashim* 38 (2021), 46-68.
 30. Ronit Irshai, Miri Rozmarin, "Religious Jewish Feminism in light of Foucault's Concept of Critique", *Daat* 91 (2021), 7-38 (Hebrew).
 31. Udi Forman, Ronit Irshai, "Narrative Blindness in the Rabbinic Court Verdict regarding Rabbi Aviners' Case (Hebrew)", *Maasei Mishpat* 13 (2022), 357-381 (Hebrew).
 32. Avishai Mizrahi, Ronit Irshai, "Rabbi, I am Attracted to Men - What should I do"? - conservative Strategies to Cope with the Conflict Between Homosexuality and Jewish Law (Halakhah) Among Religious-Zionist Rabbis, *Daat* 92 (2022), 401-443 (Hebrew).
 33. Nitzan Caspi-Shiloni, Ronit Irshai, "Women victims of violence stand for trial before the rabbinical courts", *Mishpat U'mimshal* (Law and Governance) 26 (2023), 1-57 (Hebrew). (Forthcoming in English with changes as: Nitzan Caspi-Shiloni, Ronit Irshai, "Why didn't you leave him?": Epistemic Injustice in Israeli Rabbinical Courts, *Nashim* 45, 2025)

34. Avishai Mizrahi, Ronit Irshai, "Liberal Orthodox Rabbinic Views on Male Homosexuality", *Reshit* 8 (2024), 139-178 (Hebrew).
35. Tanya Zion-Waldoks, Ronit Irshai, "Orthodox Feminism = Religious Egoism"? Theological Rabbinic Rhetoric as Illiberal Backlash to Religious-Zionist Feminism in Israel, *Nashim* 43 (2024), 60-98.
36. Ronit Irshai, Ilay Avidan, "Beyond Essentialism: An against-the-grain reading of Orthodox Jewish Law (Halakhah) on Transgender People", *Nashim* 44, 2024, 147-178.
37. Udi Forman and Ronit Irshai, "Consent and Coercion in Power Relations - Between Jewish Law and Israeli Law", *Jewish Law Annual* 33 (2025), 463-512 (Hebrew).
38. Udi Forman, Ronit Irshai, "Marital Rape – From Divine Law to Human Law", *Mehkarei Mishpat* (Law Investigations) 35(3) (2025), Forthcoming (Hebrew).

Encyclopedia Entries

1. Ronit Irshai, "Rape in Jewish Law". *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception (EBR)*, accepted for publication.
2. Ronit Irshai, "Why does gender matter in Jewish law", *Judaism in Five Minutes*, edited by Sarah Imhoff, Equinox 2025, 48-50.
3. 'Feminist Theologies', *St. Andrews Encyclopaedia of Theology, Scotland*, 2024. Edited by Brendan N. Wolfe et al.
<https://www.saet.ac.uk/Judaism/FeministTheologies>

