

Omri Asscher, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies Kort Language Studies Building 1004, room 210 Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan 5290002 Israel	<i>Phone:</i> (+972) 3-5318227 <i>Email:</i> omri.asscher@biu.ac.il
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EMPLOYMENT

2019 - :

Senior Lecturer
Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies
Bar-Ilan University

2018-2019:

Post-Doctoral Scholar
Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies
UCLA

2016 - 2018:

Kreitman Post-Doctoral fellow
The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

2015 - 2016:

Post-Doctoral fellow
The Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies
Department of Jewish History
University of Haifa

2015 - 2018:

Head of Certificate Program in Translation, Beit-Berl College

2014 - 2016:

Head of Translation Track in the Multidisciplinary Program in the Humanities,
Faculty of Humanities, Tel Aviv University

EDUCATION

2014:

Ph.D. in Cultural Studies, Tel Aviv University
Course credit from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
Dissertation: “Ideological Aspects in the Translation of Hebrew Literature in the United States and its Integration into the (Jewish) American Literary Discourse”

2008:

M.A. *Summa cum laude* in Literature, Tel Aviv University
Thesis: “The Influence of Stylistic Norms on the Hebrew Translation of British Humor”

2004:

B.Sc. in Computer Sciences, B.A. *cum laude* in the Multidisciplinary Program in the Humanities, Tel Aviv University

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

ISF Personal Research Grant, “‘Under-the-radar’ Israeli-American Jewish exchange: Translating Religious Zionist and Modern Orthodox theology, 1990-2020,” Israel Science Foundation, 2021-2024

Bar-Ilan Rector Grant for Interdisciplinary Research Groups (with Dr. Ella Glikson), Bar-Ilan University, 2020-2022

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Younes & Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, UCLA, 2018-2019

Kreitman Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Kreitman School of Advanced Graduate Studies, The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, 2016-2018

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies, University of Haifa, 2015-2016

Hecht Prize, Herzl Institute for Research and Study of Zionism and History, University of Haifa, 2015

Leffell Foundation Research Fellowship, Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation, Summer 2015 and Fall 2015.

Orgler Fellowship for Exceptional Ph.D. Students, Tel Aviv University, 2011 - 2013

Rina Drori Scholarship for Exceptional Ph.D. Students, Tel Aviv University, 2012

Pozis Scholarship for Exceptional M.A. Students, Tel Aviv University, 2005, 2006

PUBLICATIONS**BOOK**

Asscher, Omri (2019). *Reading Israel, Reading America: The Politics of Translation between Jews*. Stanford University Press.

REFEREED ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. Asscher, Omri (forthcoming). "Language Ideology in American Jewish Thought," *Religion*.
2. Asscher, Omri (2021). "The American Oz: Notes on Translation and Reception," *Journal of Israeli History*. DOI: [10.1080/13531042.2020.1874674](https://doi.org/10.1080/13531042.2020.1874674)
3. Asscher, Omri (2021). "Translation as a Probe into Homeland-Diaspora Relations," *Translation Studies* 14:1, 36-50.
4. Asscher, Omri and Ella Glikson (2021). "Human Evaluations of Machine Translation in an Ethically Charged Situation," *New Media & Society*. DOI: [10.1177/14614448211018833](https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448211018833)
5. Asscher, Omri (2020). "Exporting Political Theology to the Diaspora: Translating Rabbi Kook for Modern Orthodox Consumption," *Meta* 65:2, 292-311.
6. Asscher, Omri (2020). "The Ben-Gurion-Blaustein 'Understanding' as a Historiographical Yardstick," *Israel Studies* 25:3, 33-48.
7. Asscher, Omri and Ofer Shiff (2020). "Diasporic Stances, Homeland Prisms: Representing Diaspora in the Homeland as Internal Negotiation of National Identity," *Diaspora Studies* 13:1, 1-15.
8. Asscher, Omri (2018). "Jewish-American Literature Makes Aliyah? Jewish/non-Jewish Boundary Maintenance, and the Israeli Approach to the Diaspora," *Jewish Social Studies* 23:3, 128-159.
9. Asscher, Omri (2018). "Israel for American Eyes: Literature on the Move, and the Mediated Repertoire of Jewish-American Identity," *AJS Review* 42:1, 21-38.
10. Asscher, Omri (2018). "'Judaism in Translation': American Jewish Literature and Culture in Israeli Thought," *Israel* 25, 109-137. [in Hebrew]
11. Asscher, Omri (2017). "A Case for an Integrated Approach to the Mediation of National Literature," *Translation and Interpreting Studies* 12:1, 24-48.
12. Asscher, Omri (2016). "The Ideological Manipulation of Hebrew Literature in English Translation in the 1970s and 1980s," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 15:3, 384-401.
13. Asscher, Omri (2014). "The Integration of Translated Hebrew Literature in America: The Pre-Zionist Phase," *Studies in Israeli and Modern Jewish Society (Iyunim Bitkumat Israel)* 24, 94-129. [in Hebrew]

14. Asscher, Omri (2014). "An Anthology Editor as Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.: Ehud Ben-Ezer and Representing the Arab in Hebrew Literature to the American Reader," *Dappim: Research in Literature* 19, 172-186. [in Hebrew]
15. Asscher, Omri (2010). "A Model for Hebrew Translation of British Humor: Amplification and Overstatement," *Target: International Journal of Translation Studies* 22:2, 237-263.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTER

Asscher, Omri (2013). "The Augmentation Model in the Hebrew Translation of British Humor," in Rina Ben-Shachar and Nitsa Ben-Ari (eds.), *Ha-Ivrit Safa Xaya*, Volume VI, 43-61. [in Hebrew]

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Asscher, Omri (2021). "On two inherent ambiguities in Samuel Beckett's *Murphy*." [in Hebrew] https://www.newlibrary.co.il/page_18548

Asscher, Omri (2013). Review of Michael Weingrad's "American Hebrew Literature: Writing Jewish National Identity in the United-States". *Studies in American Jewish Literature* 32:2, 218-221.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

MEMBER OF ORGANIZING COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:

- "Lay use and perceptions of machine translation," The Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, Bar-Ilan University, May 2021
- "The Jewish world – perceptions in Israel," The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, October 2017
- "Translators and (their) Authors", Tel Aviv University, May 2013

REVIEWER FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS: Israel Science Foundation (ISF)

MEMBER OF CHALLENGE CALL EXPERT GROUP: European Coordinated Research on Long-Term Challenges in Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (CHIST-ERA).

REVIEWER FOR JOURNALS: *Jewish Social Studies*, *Journal of Jewish Languages*, *Diaspora Studies*.

Member (2016-2018) of "Israel and the Jewish World" research group, The Center for Israel Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Member (2013-) of the Young Scholars Forum, The Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel, Tel Aviv University

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES (SELECTED)

“Translating Rabbi Kook for Modern Orthodox Consumption”, *annual AIS (Association for Israel Studies) conference*, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (online), June, 2021.

“American Jewish Language Ideologies since the Mid-twentieth Century”, *annual AJS (Association for Jewish Studies) conference*, online, December, 2020.

“Exporting Political Theology to the Diaspora”, *annual AJS conference*, San Diego, December, 2019.

“Israel faces itself in the (Jewish American) mirror”, *annual (NAPH) National Association of Professors of Hebrew conference*, Boston University, June 2019.

“Moral Dilemmas: Negotiating Jewish-American Critique in Israeli Literary Discourse”, *annual AJS conference*, Boston, December, 2018.

“‘Exilic-Jewish loneliness of our bustling era’: American Jewish Culture in Israeli Thought”, *Israel: A Case Study, The Jewish State through the Prism of Social Sciences and Humanities*, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, May, 2018.

“Jewish-American Literature Makes Aliyah: Negotiating Collective Boundaries in the Israeli Literary Discourse”, *annual AJS conference*, Washington DC, December, 2017.

“‘Philip Roth, Come home!’”, *annual British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) conference*, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh, July, 2017.

“Judaism in Translation: Jewish-American Culture and Literature in Israeli Thought” at the *annual AIS conference*, Jerusalem, June, 2016.

“Between Israel and America: Translation and Modern Jewish Identity”, *Annual Conference of the Israeli Association for Applied Linguistics*, Jerusalem, October, 2015.

“Hebrew Literature and the American Reader: Ideological Manipulations in Translation”, at the *Ruax Be-Sapir Conference*, Sapir College, March 2014.

“Ethics and Politics in Literary Translation: Translating Hebrew Literature for the (Jewish) American Reader”, at the *Voice and Ethics: La Voz Del Traductor* conference, Tel Aviv University and Cervantes Institute, December 2013.

“‘America is our Zion’: The Translation of Hebrew Literature in America: 1910-1940”, at the 16th *World Congress of Jewish Studies*, Jerusalem, July 2013.

“The Editor of a Literary Anthology as Israeli Ambassador to the U.S.”, at the *annual NAPH conference*, University of Maryland, Washington D.C., June, 2011

“The Translator’s Invisibility? Ideological Interference in English Translations of Hebrew Literature”, at the *annual NAPH conference*, Yeshiva University, New York City, July, 2010

“Hebrew Translation of British Humor: Bridging the Cultural Gap through the Norm of Amplification”, at the 7th *Ha-Ivrit Safa Xaya* Conference, Oranim College, Kiryat Tiv’on, February, 2010

INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

“Translation as an Israeli-American juncture,” Departmental Seminar, department of philosophy and theory, Shenkar College, January, 2021.

“Reading across Borders,” Scholars Seminar, Schusterman Center for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, April, 2019.

“Intra-Jewish Translation: Historical Perspectives,” Jewish Studies Program, University of California, San Diego, March, 2019.

“Translation as a Bridge? Literary Encounters between Israeli and American Jewish Cultures”, Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, Department of Literature, and Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, UCLA, October, 2018.

“Jewish-American Literature Makes Aliyah: Negotiating Collective Boundaries in Israeli Discourse,” Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, Concordia University, October, 2018.

“Ideological Encounters in Translation: The Politics of Translation between Israeli and American Jewish Cultures,” Department of French Studies, Concordia University, October, 2018.

“Between the Researcher and his Objects of Study: The Politics of Translation (and Scholarship) among Jews” at the *Bimat Sde-Boqer* seminar, The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, December, 2016.

“A Model for Socio-historical Research of Literary Translation,” at The Program for Cultural Studies, Hebrew University, February 2014.

“From Translation to Mediation: A Model for Socio-historical Research of Literary Translation”, at The Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, March, 2013

“Ideological Mediation of Israeli Literature in the U.S.: 1970s vs. 2000s”, at The Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, November, 2012

“Ideological Mediation of Israeli Literature in the U.S.” at The Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, May, 2012

TEACHING, SELECTED COURSES

Bar-Ilan University:

- “Israeli-American Encounters: Jewish Identity in Translation”
- “Translation in the 21st Century”
- “Key Issues in Translation Studies: Between the Social and the Formal”
- “Translation: between History and Memory”
- Department of Translation and Interpreting Studies (M.A. program)

UCLA:

- “The Politics of Translation”
- Department of Comparative Literature
- Nazarian Center for Israel Studies

University of Haifa:

- “Cultural Encounters: Key Moments in the Making of Jewish American Identity”
- Ruderman Program for American Jewish Studies (M.A. program)
- Department of Jewish History

Tel Aviv University:

- “Translation, Manipulation, Censure” (seminar)
- Department of Literature

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Association for Israel Studies
- Association for Jewish Studies
- Israel Association of Applied Linguistics
- European Society for Translation Studies

SELECTED TRANSLATIONS

BOOKS - TRANSLATION

Murphy by Samuel Beckett, Tel Aviv: The New Library (with my annotation), 2020.

Thinking in Tongues by Guy Deutscher, Tel Aviv: Xargol-Am Oved, 2011.

The Unfolding of Language by Guy Deutscher, Tel Aviv: Xargol-Am Oved, 2007.

Game Theory: A Very Short Introduction by Ken Binmore, Tel Aviv: Aliyat Hagag-Yediot Sefarim.

Watt by Samuel Beckett (forthcoming, with my annotation).

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS - TRANSLATION

“My Israel Story: An Interim Report on a Winding Journey” by David N. Myers, Ben-Gurion Publishing Institute, forthcoming.

“Getting Up on Cold Mornings” by James Henry Leigh Hunt, in *Dehak*, 6, February 2016.

“Dissecting the Qumran-Essene Hypothesis,” by Edna Ullmann-Margalit, in *Odyssey* 4, June 2009.