

Liat Alon

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(Updated 01/2023)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

August 2021-present Teaching Assistant Professor with the Program in Jewish Culture and Society & the Department of History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, EU Center Affiliate and Israel Institute Teaching Fellow

June 2021-Present Adjunct Lecturer, Hebrew Union College Cincinnati

January -Dec 2021 Hebrew Union College Cincinnati, Interim director of community engagement and education and lecturer

August 2020-July 2021 Israel Institute Teaching Fellow, the Program for Jewish Culture and Society and the Department of History The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

August 2019- May 2020 Israel Institute Visiting Faculty, the Program for Jewish Culture and Society and the Department of History The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Post-Doctoral Research

Aug. 2018-June 2020 *Family and Modernity in Israel and Jewish Middle Eastern Communities*

EDUCATION

2018 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)**, Department of Middle East Studies, Ph.D.
The Jewish Bourgeoisie of Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century: The Perspectives of Gender and Family
Iris Agmon (Advisor BGU), Henriette Dahan Kalev (Advisor BGU)

2012 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU)**, Department of Middle East Studies, M.A. (Summa cum Laude)
Women, Gender and Family in the Jewish Communities of Cairo and Alexandria, 1930-1956
The Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies, Graduate Program in Gender and Jewish Studies

* Since the Schechter Institute is not a research university, I moved to BGU in order to complete my thesis, with the support of faculty at both institutions.

2003 **Haifa University**, Excelling Students Honorary program and History of the Middle East. B.A. (Summa cum Laude)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

"Class performativity, modernity and the Ashkenazi-Mizrahi divide the Jewish urban middle classes of Egypt in Israel 1948-1967", *Looking for Work in Israeli Culture* Special Issue, Journal of Israeli History, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13531042.2022.2149125>, December 2022

"Habitus, Socio-Cultural Practice and the Construction of Modernity: The Jews of Cairo and Alexandria during the First Half of the 20th Century", *Jama'a Bilingual Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of the Middle East*, First Prize Winner of the Jama'a Journal Young Researchers' Papers Award, May 2019.

Book Reviews

Marglin, Jessica. *Across Legal Lines Jews and Muslims in Modern Morocco*, (Yale University Press, 2016), Review of Middle Eastern Studies Journal, June 2019.

Motzafi-Haller, Pnina. *Concrete Boxes: Mizrahi Women on Israel's Periphery* (Wayne State University Press, 2018) [Forthcoming in Journal of Jewish Identities].

Forthcoming

Monograph, *Gender and Family in a Period of Transition: Jewish Egyptian Women between the First and Second World Wars* [Hebrew] (tentative name, under contract with Resling Academic Press).

Solicited

"Urban Middle Class Performativity: Time, Space and the Architecture of the Jewish Community in Cairo and Alexandria in the Twentieth Century", Time and Space and the Jewish Middle Eastern Experience, Guy Miron and David Guedg eds.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023 **European Social Sciences History Conference, The International Institute of Social History (IISH)**, Gothenburg, Sweden, - biannual conference- *Modernity, Migration and the Family Ego-Documents and the 'Aliya from Egypt to Israel*, April 12-15, 2023, submitted as part of a panel.

2022 **Association for Israel Studies**, Ramat Gan, Israel, - Annual Conference- Conflicts and Mobility in a Diverse Society, *Local and Foreign: Immigration and the Modern History of Egyptian Jews*, June 27-29, accepted

- 2022 **American Jewish Historic Association**, Tulane, New Orleans - Biannual Scholars Conference, Building Bridges in the Americas -*Small but Big: The Contributions and Challenges of the Central Illinois Jewish Communities' Archives*, May 15-17
- 2021 **American Jewish Studies**, Chicago IL - Annual Conference- *Family and the Traditional-Modern Dichotomy: Changing the Paradigm through Jewish Middle Eastern Experiences*, December 19-21
- American Jewish Studies**, Chicago IL - Annual Conference- מסביב יהודים 1943: A Transformative Year? December 19-21
- 2021 **Association for Israel Studies**, Urbana Champaign, IL- Annual Conference- Class in Transition: Between MENA *Jews and Mizrahim in Israel, Class in Transition: The Emergence of Middle Class Identity among the Jews of Cairo and Alexandria in the First Half of the Twentieth Century, and Its' Role in their Integration into Israeli Society after 1948*, June 7-9
- 2020 **American Jewish Studies**, San Diego CA- Annual Conference- *Exodus or Expulsion Reconstructing the past of Jews of Egypt in the 20th Century*, presented by a colleague in my absence due to illness. Dec. 14-17,
- 2019 **American Jewish Studies**, San Diego CA- Annual Conference- *Exodus or Expulsion Reconstructing the past of Jews of Egypt in the 20th Century*, presented by a colleague in my absence due to illness.
- 2018 **Bath Spa University & Laboratoire d'Ethnologie et de Sociologie Comparative**, Bath, England- International Conference; Disrupted Histories, Recovered Pasts (Les Passés dans le Présent): A Cross-Disciplinary Analysis and Cross-Case Synthesis of Oral Histories and History in Post-Conflict and Postcolonial Contexts- Changing Representations of Egypt and its' Departure: *Memories and Life Stories of Former Members of the Jewish Community in Modern Egypt*
- 2017 **Centre de Recherche Francais de Jérusalem (CRFJ) with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Jerusalem, Israel- Annual International Conference; Ways of Remembering, Ways of Forgetting: Diasporas In and Out of Israel- *Interfaith Marriage, the Appropriation of Modernity and Migration: A Changing Narrative*
- 2017 **Israel Institute for Advanced Studies**, Jerusalem, Israel- International Workshop; Jewish Women's Cultural Capital under Islam- *Life Experiences of Women of the Jewish Bourgeoisie in Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century*
- 2017 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva, Israel- Jaqueline Kahanoff: 100 Years since Her Birth- *Living on the Nile: History of the Modern Jewish Community in Egypt*

- 2017 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva, Israel- Academia, Hegemony, Subversion- *Oral History, Gender and Subversion*
- 2016 **Centre de Recherche Francais de Jérusalem (CRFJ) & Ben Zvi Institute**, Jerusalem, Israel- Egyptian Jews: Memory, History and Public Transmission of Heritage- *Memories of a Shared Habitus of the Jewish Egyptian Bourgeoisie between the Great Wars: Social Hierarchies and Gendered Arenas*
- 2016 **The Institute for Historical Research**, London, England- International Conference; Global Cities: Past and Present- *Class, Gender and Oral History: Life Stories of Egyptian Jews*
- 2015 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva, Israel- International Workshop: Middle Class in the Middle East and Beyond- *Gender, Class and Oral History: Things We Can Learn from Life Stories of Egyptian Jews*
- 2013 **Gender Studies Program, Ben Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva- Ph.D. Students' Conference on Gender & Sexuality; *"I Was Walking in High Heels but Could Not Go Out without My Brothers": Perceptions of Femininity and Modern Female Identity among the Jewish Bourgeoisie of Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century*
- 2013 **The Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel (MEISAI)**, Bar-Ilan University, Israel- Annual Meeting; *Family as a Social Platform under the Colonial Presence and Influence: Jewish-Egyptian Case Study*
- 2013 **Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva, Israel- The Department of Middle East Studies Annual Workshop for Research Students; The History of the Middle East from a Trans-Regional Trans-National Perspective- *Immigration, Jewish Bourgeoisie and the Development of Egyptian Modernity*
- 2012 **The Fifth Israeli Conference for Qualitative Research at Ben Gurion University of the Negev**, Beer-Sheva, Israel- *Life Stories, Microhistory and the Widening Framework for Thinking about the Modern History of Women*

Workshops, Conferences and Panels Organized:

- 2022 **American Jewish Historic Association**, Tulane, New Orleans - Biannual Scholars Conference, *Bridging the Lacuna of Local Jewish Histories Jewish Lives in Small/er Communities in the United States*, round table organizer, May 15-17, accepted
- 2021 postponed to 2022 **American Jewish Studies**, Chicago IL - Annual Conference- *Family, Modernity and Transition in the Twentieth Century: A Cross-Regional Perspective*, Round table Organizer, Dec. 19-21, accepted

- 2021 American Israel Studies, Urbana Champaign, IL- Annual Conference- **Class in Transition: Between MENA Jews and *Mizrahim* in Israel**, Committee Member, June 7-9
- 2019 **American Jewish Studies**, San Diego CA- Annual Conference- *The Struggle over the Memory of Middle Eastern Jewish Lives A Revived Narrative of Persecution and Expulsion*, Panel Organizer
- 2017 **Centre de Recherche Francais de Jérusalem (CRFJ) with The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Jerusalem, Israel- Annual International Conference- *Ways of Remembering, Ways of Forgetting: Diasporas In and Out of Israel*, Co-Organizer.
- 2013 **Ben Gurion University of the Negev**, Department of Middle East Studies, the Annual Research Workshop for Advanced Degrees Students; *History of the Middle East from a Trans-Regional Trans-National Perspective*, Co-Organizer.

INVITED SPEAKER

- 2022 **Challenging Myths and Stereotypes: Jewish Middle Eastern History since the 1700s**, Case Western University, March 3, 10, 24, 31
- 2022 **Israel and Israelis on the Screen**, Case Western University, Jan. 5
- 2021 New York State Working Group on Jewish Women and Gender in Global Perspective, Final Symposium 2020-21, **New Explorations: History of the Bodies and Embodiments of the Self**, "The Female Body and Modern Performativity in Egypt's Jewish Community in the First Half of the Twentieth Century", June 11
- 2021 Brown Bag The University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, Brown Bag Lecture, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, "Urban Middle Class Identity and the Israeli Melting Pot the Case Study of the Immigration and Integration of the Jewish Egyptian Community, 1948-1967", April 27
- 2019 The University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, Jewish Studies Program Seminar, "Exodus or Expulsion: The Dissolution of the Egyptian Jewry in the 20th Century", Dec. 9
- 2019 The University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, Brown Bag Lecture, Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, "Socio-Cultural Practices and the Construction of Modernity: The Jewish Bourgeoisie of Egypt"
- 2018 Columbia and Fordham Universities in New York, Honorarium, Jewish Studies Department, "A Modern Middle Eastern Jewish Family: Challenging Stereotypes"; Modernity, Socio-Cultural Practices and Oral Testimonials"
- 2017 Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Gender Studies Program, "Family and Gender: The Jewish Bourgeoisie of Egypt"
- 2014 The Joseph & Racheline Barda Chair for the Study and Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt, Awardee's Lecture, Award for Doctoral Thesis Proposals, Haifa University

SELECT PUBLIC SPEAKING

- 2022 The Cincinnati Meyerson JCC, *Interview with Actor Adam Gabay: Controversy on the Screen*, April 13.
- 2022 CU Hillel and CUJF, "Israeli Drama and Israeli Society", February 20
- 2022 The Jewish Federation of Champaign Urbana, *the Architecture of Community*, January 23
- 2021 The Cincinnati Meyerson JCC and HUC, **Israel through Television and Cinema: Our Boys Series**, Nov. 2021-May 2022
- 2021 The Cincinnati Meyerson JCC, **Strong Women of the Bible series**, July 2021-May 2022
- 2021 Festival of Faiths Cincinnati, "Mystical Philosophy in Islam and Judaism", August 26
- 2021 Northern Hills Synagogue, Cincinnati, "El Nora Alila - Middle Eastern Jewish Yom Kippur Traditions", August 24
- 2021 Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati and Meyerson JCC, **Interfaith Dialogue Class**, July 14
- 2021 The Meyerson JCC, Cincinnati, Summer 2021, **Islam 101 for the Jewish Community of Cincinnati**, June 23, 30, July 7
- 2022 **The Architecture of Community: Divides & Dialogue**, Urbana-Champaign Jewish Federation, Jan 23, 2022
- 2021 Meyerson JCC, Cincinnati, *Righteous Rebels: Reading Love Stories and Women in the House of David*, July 25
- 2021 Meyerson JCC, Cincinnati, *Islam 101 and Current Events*, June 23, 30, July 6
- 2021 The Dayan Family and Israeli Politics Jewish Federation of Champaign Urbana Film Festival, June 6
- 2021 Anshe Emet, IL, *Islam 101*, April 23, 30
- 2020 Jewish Federation of Champaign Urbana, *Conversation about Israeli Culture, Food and Social Life*
- 2020 Congregation Beth Shalom *Israel on the Silver Scree*
- 2020 Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. *Chaos and Current Israeli Society: Between Fauda, Shtisel and Our Boys*
- 2020 Jewish Federation of Champaign Urbana Chai Book Club, *On Gender, Religion and Unorthodox (Netflix Series)*
- 2020 The Illinois Agriculture Leadership Foundation in partnership with the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, *The History of Israel in 60 minutes or less*
- 2019 Anshe Emmet Synagogue, Chicago. *Between Fauda and Shtisel: Israeli Representations of the Screen*
- 2019 Illini Hillel, Urbana Champaign. *The Red Sea Diving Resort: Modern Israeli Imageries on the Big Screen*
- 2018 the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem. *The Jewish Bourgeoisie and Jewish Family in 20th Century Egypt*

PODCASTS

Ladies and Gents: The Jewish Bourgeoisie in Interwar Egypt, January 22 2018, Tel Aviv Review TLV1, <https://tlv1.fm/the-tel-aviv-review/2018/01/22/ladies-and-gents-the-jewish-bourgeoisie-in-interwar-egypt/>

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 *The Baron New Voices in Jewish Studies Award*, A joint award presented by the program in Jewish Studies at Columbia and Fordham Universities
- 2018 Research Grant, **The Ben Zvi Institute for the Study of Jewish Communities in the East**
- 2017 **The Jama'a Bilingual Interdisciplinary Journal** for the Study of the Middle East's Annual Papers Competition for Young Scholars Award
- 2015 Excelling Ph.D. Research Award, **Chaim Herzog Center for Middle East Studies and Diplomacy**
- 2014 Award for Doctoral Thesis Proposals, **The Joseph and Racheline Barda Chair for the Study and Research of Jewish Heritage in Egypt**, Haifa University
- 2013-2017 Scholarship in memory of Nathan Rotenstreich for excellent Ph.D. students, **The Israeli Council for Higher Education**

TEACHING COMENDATIONS AND AWARDS

- 2020-2021 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
- 2017-2018 Letter of Commendation from the Head of the Humanities Department and Dean of Kibbutzim College for Education, Technology and the Arts' Faculty of Humanities for pedagogic, educational and academic excellence.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Self-Designed Courses:

- Spring 2023 **Advanced Hebrew 2; Local Histories in Central Illinois; Israeli Television and Cinema** (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
- Fall 2022 **The Arab-Israeli Conflict; & The Modern Middle East Since WW1; Intermediate Hebrew 1; Advanced Hebrew 1** (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
- Summer 2022 **Gender, Jewish Identity and Israeli Identity on the Screen**, (Hebrew Union College)
- Spring 2022 **Intro to Historic Interpretation: Difference and co-existence in the Middle East in the 19th and 20th centuries; & Local Histories: Jewish Life in Small Central Illinois Communities** (under-grads and grad students), (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign; **The Jews of the Modern Middle East** (Hebrew Union College)
- Fall 2021 **The Arab-Israeli Conflict; & The Modern Middle East Since WW1** (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
- Summer 2021 **Israeli Television and Cinema**, Hebrew Union College (national)

Spring 2021	The Arab-Israeli Conflict; Modern Jewish History since the 1700s; Jewish Life in Small Communities in Central Illinois: Archives, Microhistory and Oral History (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
Fall 2020	The Israeli Palestinian Conflict; The History of Egypt since WW1 (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
Spring 2020	Israeli TV and Cinema section 2, Graduate and Under-Graduate, (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign) The Middle East after WW1 - Politics, Cultures, Societies, Under-Graduate, (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
Fall 2019	Israeli TV and Cinema , Graduate and Under-Graduate, (University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign)
Spring 2018	Jews in Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century: Gender, Family and Middle Eastern Modernities (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)
Fall 2017	Middle Eastern History 101 (Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology and the Arts, Tel Aviv Israel)
Summer 2017	Millets and Minorities in the Middle East during the 19th-20th Centuries (Achva Academic College, Achva, Israel)
Summer 2017	History of the Middle East and Islam: History, Society, Culture , Adjunct Lecturer (Sapir Academic College, Sderot, Israel)
Spring 2017	The Jewish Bourgeoisie in Egypt: A Modern Middle Eastern Society (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)
Fall 2016 & spring 2017	History of the Middle East and Islam: History, Society, Culture (Sapir Academic College Special Program for Bedouin Students, Sderot, Israel)
Summer 2015	The Jews in Egypt during the First Half of the 20th Century: Gender, Family, Hierarchy (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)
Summer 2014	Questions of Family, Gender, and Social Relations in Contemporary Middle-Eastern Societies (David Yellin Academic College of Education, Jerusalem, Israel)
Spring 2014	Egyptian Modernity: Questions of Bourgeoisie, Migration and gendered relations (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)
Co-Designed Courses:	
Fall 2016 & Spring 2017	History of the Middle East and Islam: History, Society, Culture , Adjunct Lecturer (Sapir Academic College, Sderot, Israel)
Fall 2016	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheba, Israel)
Fall 2015 & Spring 2016	History of the Middle East and Islam: History, Society, Culture , Adjunct Lecturer (Sapir Academic College, Sderot, Israel)
Fall 2015	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheba, Israel)
Spring 2014	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)

Fall 2014 & Spring 2015	History of the Middle East and Islam: History, Society, Culture , Adjunct Lecturer (Sapir Academic College, Sderot, Israel)
Fall 2014	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheba, Israel)
Spring 2013	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Achva Academic College, Achva Israel)
Fall 2013	Methodology and Academic Skills Adjunct Lecturer (Ben Gurion University, Be'er Sheba, Israel)
Language Instruction:	
Fall 2021 & spring 2022	Hebrew for English Speakers , University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign (beginners, intermediate and advanced)
Summer 2013	Hebrew as a Second Language , Special Program for the Advancement of Bedouin Students (Achva Pre-Academic Program)
2000-2005	English as a Second Language , Or Bialik High School, Wall Street School of English (adults) and private tutoring
1996	Arabic as a Second Language , IDF

LANGUAGES

Hebrew	Native Fluency	English Fluent	Arabic Advanced
Persian	Basic	French Basic	