

Concise Academic CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Details

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Higher Education

Institution and Department	Degree	Graduated
Tel-Aviv University: The Department of Middle Eastern and African History	BA in Modern Middle Eastern History, <i>cum laude</i> (major - Islam, minor - Political Science & International Studies)	1994
The Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies: M.A. in Jewish Educational Leadership Program.	MA in Jewish Studies, Courses' average with excellence	Not completed
Bar-Ilan University: The Interdisciplinary Program for Hermeneutics	MA in Hermeneutics, <i>cum laude</i>	2003
Bar-Ilan University: The Interdisciplinary Program for Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies	PhD	2007
University of Haifa, Faculty of Education, Prof. Ofra Mayseless	Post-Doctoral Position	2007-2009

Main Academic Ranks and Tenure in Institutes of Higher Education

2007-2023	Zefat Academic College, Department of Mysticism and Spirituality	Associate Professor (since 2021); Founder of the BA program of Mysticism and Spirituality; Head of Program (till 2019); Member of the Academic Council
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2021-current	University of Haifa - Multi-University Center for the Study of Spirituality	Research Fellow
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Selected Board Membership and Membership of Academic Societies/Organizations

2016- current	Member of the founding board and the executive board of the Israeli Association for the Study of Religions (IASR). The Association became a registered NGO in 2018.	
2020- current	Associate researcher at the Lab for the Research of Conscience and Soft Logic at Tel-Aviv University.	
2020-2021	Member of the editorial board of <i>New Religious Movements Elements Series</i> at Cambridge University Press.	
2023	Initiator and head of the online series of meetings "HaBama" – The forum for the Study of Alternative and Contemporary Spiritualities	

Research Grants Awarded

Role	Topic	Funded by/ Amount	Year(s)
PI	The Sanctification of Mount Meron by Israeli Neo-Shamans	Awarded various calls for researches from Zefat Academic College, and specifically Zefat Center for the Study of Communities and Cultures in the Galilee – 15,000- 30,000 NIS per year	2014-2022
Co-PI, with Prof. Ofra Mayseless, University of Haifa	Jewish Psychology Methods in Israel – Between Orthodox and Secular Jews, Religion and Spirituality	Won competitive funding on behalf of John Templeton Foundation – “Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapies” (Brigham Young University) – about 115,000\$ for three years	2017-2020
Initiator and Co-Coordinator	Erasmus+ Grant for Staff and Students Mobility with Prof. Dr. Martin Radermacher, CERES, at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany	Zefat Academic College, and Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany	2020-2023

Selected Scholarships, Awards and Prizes

Topic	Funded by	Year(s)
MA studies - Scholarship for excellence	Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies	1998

MA & PhD Hermeneutics Studies - annual scholarships for excellence	Bar-Ilan University	6 times: 1999- 2005
PhD research proposal - Scholarship for excellence	on behalf of The Shlomo Moussaieff Center for Research in Kabbalah, Bar-Ilan University	2001
PhD studies - Scholarship for excellence	PhD studies committee, Bar-Ilan University	2002
PhD studies - Rector's Excellence Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement	Bar-Ilan University	2004-2005
Suggesting BA Course: Jewish Spirituality in the New Age	The Mindscapes Program, University of Haifa (personal research grant)	2012-2013
Article #18 in the list of publications was announced "the 2020 Honorable Mention Award Winner"	The Jewish Women's Caucus of the Association for Women in Psychology	January 2021

Courses Taught – Sample

Introduction to the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities

Judaism(s) in the New Age

Alternative Medicine and Spiritual Healing – A Cultural Outlook

Gender, Religion and Spirituality

Spirituality on the Internet, the Internet in Spirituality

Spiritual Perceptions of Time

Spirituality in Education

Introduction to Jewish Thought – Part A

Israeli Culture – Contemporary Issues and their Educational Meanings

Gender, Culture, and Education

Supervision of Graduate Students

Title/Subject of Thesis [student's name]	Institution and Role	Progress/ Students' Achievements
Positive Peak Experiences in Nature – Characteristics, Implications, and the potential for Personal growth [Lia Naor]	University of Haifa - Co-advisor	Thesis-level paper (PhD track) approved 2013 (Final grade: 90)
The Role of Religion/Spirituality in Popular Music ("Jüdische Religion im	Leipzig University, Germany – Personal advisory meetings upon the institution's request	2014 – PhD Dissertation approved

Kontext Israelischer Populärmusik”) [Felix Papenhagen]		
Political Perceptions in New-Age Jewish-Israeli Spirituality [Asaf Lebovitz]	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem – Member of the PhD Advisory Committee	2018 – PhD Dissertation was approved
A psychotherapeutic theory based on the writings of “Conscious Thinking” by Yemima Avital [Liat Zucker]	University of Haifa – Co- advisor	2020 – PhD Dissertation’s proposal approved
Mindfulness – Yes, Transcendental Meditation – No. Medical-Scientific Stance on Eastern Therapeutic Methods [Orit Kotler]	The Biological Thought Program at the Open University – Advisor	2022 – MA paper approved (Final grade: 93)
Narratives of Religious Israeli JuBus [Carmel Raz]	University of Haifa – Co- advisor	2020 – MA paper proposal approved (Final grade: 95)
Processes of Change, Acception and Tradition Invention in the Reiki Movement from Japan to Western Countries [Liad Horowitz]	Tel Aviv University – Co- advisor till 2023	PhD Research Proposal is being consolidated
Birth in Hospitals – Between Medical and Cultural Considerations [Nurit Rosenberg]	The Biological Thought Program at the Open University – Co-advisor	MA Research Proposal is being consolidated
Spirituality as a Component in Dance Therapy Theory – A Critical Outlook [Helena Kovalsky]	Hermeneutics and Culture Interdisciplinary Program, Bar-Ilan University	PhD Research Proposal is being consolidated

Student Feedback and Teaching accounts

Student average feedback score examples: in the course “Guided Personal Research” (2019-2020) – 6.86 (out of 7); in the course “Alternative Medicine and Spiritual Healing” (2018-2019) – 6.43; in the course “Academic Orientation” (2018-2019) – 6.62.

More examples will be provided upon request.

PUBLICATIONS

* Indicates works after appointment as Associate Professor.

Ph.D. Dissertation

Ruah-Midbar, Marianna. *The New Age Culture in Israel: A Methodological Introduction and the 'Conceptual Network'*. Bar Ilan University, 2006. [Hebrew, 459 pages, in two volumes]

Articles in Refereed Journals

Published

1. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, “The Myth of David and the Abyss [Thehom]”, in *Nefesh [Soul] – A Quarterly for Psychology, Emotional Nurturing and Creative Education* 7 (May 2001): 11-18. [Hebrew]
2. Oron Klin Adam, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar**, “Secular by the Letter, Religious by the Spirit: The Attitudes of the Israeli New Age to Jewish Law”, in *Israeli Sociology* 12.1 (2010): 57-81. [Hebrew]
3. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, and Klin Oron, Adam, “Jew Age: Jewish Praxis in Israeli New Age Discourse”, in *Journal of Alternative Spiritualities and New Age Studies* 5 (2010): 33-63.
4. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, “Current Jewish Spiritualities in Israel: A New Age”, in *Modern Judaism – A Journal of Jewish Ideas and Experience* 32.1 (February 2012): 102-124.
5. Ruah Midbar, Omri, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar**, “The Dynamics of a Cultural Struggle in Academia: The Case of New Age Music Research”, in *Cultural Analysis – An Interdisciplinary Forum on Folklore and Popular Culture* 11 (2013): 67-90.
6. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, and Nurit Zaidman, “‘Everything Starts Within’ – New Age Values, Images, and Language in Israeli Mainstream Advertisements”, in *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 28.3 (2013): 421-436.
7. Naor, Lia, **Marianna Ruah-Midbar**, and Moshe Zeidner, “Positive Peak Experiences as Formative Events in a Person’s Life”, in *Iyunim BeHinuch [Studies in Education]* 7-8 (November 2013): 61-73. [Hebrew]

8. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, and Adam Klin Oron, "'Tell me Who your Enemies are' – Israeli Government Reports on NRMs", in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 52.4 (2013): 810–826.

9. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, "A Channeler, a Healer, and a Shaman Meet at the Rabbi's: The Roadmap of Israeli Judaism(s) in the New Age", in *Iyunim: Multidisciplinary Studies in Israeli and Modern Jewish Society* (Thematic series) 7 (Special issue, edited by Gideon Katz, Shalom Ratzabi, Yaacov Yadgar: *Beyond Halacha: Secularism, Traditionalism and 'New Age' Culture in Israel*). Sde Boker: Ben-Gurion Institute for the study of Israel and Zionism, 2014. pp. 498-528. [Hebrew]

10. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna** (2014). "The Sacralization of Randomness – The Theological Imagination and the Logic of Computerized Divination Rituals", in *Numen – International Review for the History of Religions* 61.5-6 (2014): 619-655.

11. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, "Thank God for India – A Look at Jewish Israelis in Light of the Easternization of the West Thesis", in *Theory and Criticism* 44 (Summer 2015 - Special issue: "India / Israel"): 311-325. [Hebrew]

12. **Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, Hili Ratzon, and Rachel Werczberger, "New Religious Movements in Israel: Neo-Shamanism", in *MEIDA – Israeli Center for Contemporary Religions* (2016): 0-14. [Hebrew]

13. **Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Ruah Midbar, Omri, "Outdoing Authenticity: Three Postmodern Models of Adapting Folklore Materials in Current Spiritual Music", in *Journal of Folklore Research – An International Journal of Folklore and Musicology* 54.3 (Sep.-Nov. 2017): 199-231.

14. Moore, Lila, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar Shapiro**, "Humanity's Second Chance: Darren Aronofsky's *Noah* (2014) as an Environmental Cinematic Midrash", in *Journal of Religion and Film* 22.2 (April 2018): Article 35.

15. **Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, "Abracadabra! Postmodern Therapeutic Methods: Language as a Neo-Magical Tool", in *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* 17.49 (Spring 2018): 3-17.

16. **Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Sharon Warshawski, "Trance, Meditation and Brainwashing – The Israeli Use of Hypnosis Law and the New Religious Movements Scene", in *The Journal of CESNUR* 2.4 (July-August 2018): 61-96.

- 17. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “It's a Game Everybody's Already Playing' – Versions of the ‘Creating-Our-Reality’ Motif in the Discourse of Alternative Spiritualities”, in *Journal for the Study of Religions and Ideologies* 17.51 (Winter 2018): 115-133.
- 18. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Lilith's Comeback from a Feministic Jungian Outlook: Contemporary Feminist Spirituality Gets into Bed with Lilith”, in *Feminist Theology* 27.2 (January 2019): 149-163.
- 19. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Historians as Storytellers: A Critical Examination of New-Age Religion’s Scholarly Historiography”, in *Alternative Spirituality and Religion Review* 10.1 (March 2019): 1-24.
- 20. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “The Temptation of Legitimacy – Lilith’s Adoption and Adaption in Contemporary Feminist Spirituality”, in *Modern Judaism – A Journal of Jewish Ideas and Experience* 39.2 (May 2019): 125-143.
- 21. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Lila Moore, “‘Not Your Grandmother’s Bible’ – A Comparative Study of the Biblical Deluge Myth in Film”, in *Religions* 10.10 (2019), 542 [17 pages].
- 22. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Adi Sasson, “‘The Most Powerful Portal in Zion’ – Kursi: The Spiritual Site that Became an Intersection of Ley-lines and Multicultural Discourses”, *The Pomegranate – The International Journal of Pagan Studies* 21.1 (2019): 100-127.
- 23. Klin-Oron, Adam**, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar Shapiro**, “State of Israel vs. the Cults: The Anti-Cult Discourse and the Israeli Public Discourse in Government Reports”, in *Israel studies in Language and Society* 12.2 (2019; special issue on “Authoritative groups [cults] in contemporary Israeli society”): 126-144. [Hebrew]
- 24. Ruah Midbar, Omri**, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar Shapiro**, “The Doors of Creativity Shall Never be Barred: The Iconization Process of Rabbi Shalom Shabazi's Piyyut ‘Im Nin'Alu’ in Contemporary Pop Music – From a Mystical-Yemenite Piyyut to a Mizrachi-Spiritual Symbol”, in *Tema – Journal of Judeo-Yemenite Studies* 16 (2019/5780): 263-298. [Hebrew]
- 25. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Tal Elohev, “The Hippie Colony of Old Rosh-Pina – The Appropriation and Design of Buildings and Scenic Elements for the Creation of a Spiritual-Alternative Milieu”, in *Horizons in Geography* 97 (2019): 107-135. [Hebrew]

- 26. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “The ‘Enchanted Benches’ at Kursi National Park – A Case Study of the Formation of Alternative Sacred Geography”, in *Horizons in Geography* 97 (2019): 136-163. [Hebrew]
- 27. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Lila Moore, “Three Religious-Cultural Worldviews in Noah (2014) – Hedonism, Fundamentalism, and Ecofeminism”, in *The Journal of Religion and Popular Culture* 32.2 (2020): 144-158.
- 28. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Witch-Hunt or Women’s Oppression? The Secularization and Re-Enchantment of the Witches of Ashkelon Tale by Contemporary Spiritualities’ Leaders”, in *Journal of Jewish Studies* 72.1 (Spring 2021): 164-190.
- * **29. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Elijahu Eshed, “Canaanites and Neopagans in Canaan: A Comparison between Two Israeli Movements over the past Century”, *Reshit – Studies in Judaism* 6 (2022): 25-56. [Hebrew]

Accepted for Publication

- * **30. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Tal Elohev, “The Sixties Have (Not-Altogether) Skipped Israel – Rosh-Pinna’s Hippie Community”, in *National Resilience, Politics and Society* 5. 1-2 (2023, forthcoming).

Being Reviewed

- * **31. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, and Rina Levanon, “Contemporary Trends in Jewish Feminist Liturgy (JFL)”. [Hebrew]
- * **32. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “‘Jew Age’ in Education: Attitudes towards the Implementation of Spiritual and Jewish Contents and Practices in Israeli Public Schools”. [Hebrew]
- * **33. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “The Study of Contemporary Spiritualities in Israel – Between Academization and Public Involvement”. [Hebrew]
- * **34. Maysel, Ofra**, and **Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Veiling and Unveiling: Caution in Explicitly Integrating Jewish Spirituality in Psychotherapy in Israel”.

- * **35. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “‘We’re All for Spiritual Education, Just Don’t Call It That’: Spirituality in Secular State Schools in Israel – Between Conceptualization and Legitimacy”.

Refereed Articles or Chapters in Scientific Books (which are not Conference Proceedings)

Published

- 36. Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, “‘Back to Paradise’ in New Age Thought: Images of an Ideal Past in the History of the Jewish People”, in *Dancing in a Fallow Land: The New Age in Israel*, edited by Iddo Tavory. Tel Aviv: HaKibbutz HaMeuchad (Red Line), 2007. pp. 28–59. [Hebrew]
- 37. Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, “The Attitude towards Ugly People in Israeli Culture in Light of its Sources – Early Rabbinic Literature versus European Folktales”, in *Thought, Art and Literature in Judaism as Culture (Interdisciplinary Studies in Judaism as a Culture)*, edited by Ezer Cahanov. Tel Aviv: Yaron Golan (Achva Academic College and Judaism as Culture Library), 2007. pp. 113-152. [Hebrew]
- * **38. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “The Witch Hunt in Ashkelon as Retold by Contemporary Spiritualities: From Embarrassment to Treasure Trove”, in Hazan, Haim, Shar’abi, Rachel, and Inbal Esther Sikurel (Editors). *Between the Times – Text and Ritual in a Changing Society*. Carmel: 2021. pp. 381-406. [Hebrew]
- * **39. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Judaism is the New Orient – How Experiencing the Far-East Helps Israelis Find Meaning in their Jewish Tradition”, in Mayselless, Ofra and Pninit Russo-Netzer (Editors). *The Search for Meaning in the Israeli Cultural Scene*. Oxford University Press, 2021. ch. 15; pp. 333-354.
- * **40. Mayselless, Ofra, Marianna Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Rice, Aya, and Liat Zucker**, “Jewish Forms of Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy”, in Richards, P. Scott G. E., Allen, Kawika, and Daniel K. Judd (Editors.) *Handbook of Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapies*. APA Books (2023), Ch. 14, pp. 268-283.

Accepted for Publication

- 41. Ruah-Midbar Shapiro, Marianna**, “Dabhar [thing] Dibbur [speech] Midbar [desert] – From Pre-Modernism to Post-Modernism in Contemporary Mysticism”, in Bar-Levav, Avriel,

Halbertal, Moshe, and Ron Margolin (Editors). *Jubilee Book in Honor of Prof. Moshe Idel* [Temporary Title]. Idra Press (forthcoming, 2024). [Hebrew]

Entries in Encyclopedias (Refereed)

42. Mayseless, Ofra, and **Marianna Ruah-Midbar**, “Spirituality and Mothering”, in O'Reilly, Andrea. (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Motherhood*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, 2010. pp. 1154-1156.
43. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, “Kabbalah – Modern Judaism – New Age Judaism”, in Helmer, Christine, Steven Linn McKenzie, Thomas Chr. Römer, Jens Schröter, Barry Dov Walfish, and Eric Ziolkowski. (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of the Bible and Its Reception*. Vol. 14. De Gruyter: Berlin and Boston, 2017. pp. 1182-1184.

Other Professional Publications (Textbooks for high schools – refereed)

44. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, Ariel Aviv, and Zila Miron-Ilan. “*The One Whom my Soul Loveth*” – *Love and Relationship in Jewish Thought*. Ma’alot and the Ministry of Education: Jerusalem, 2007. [Hebrew, about 400 pages]
45. **Ruah-Midbar, Marianna**, Ariel Aviv, and Inbal Yagar. “*The One Whom my Soul Loveth*” – *Love and Relationship in Jewish Thought: A Teachers’ Guide*. The Ministry of Education: Jerusalem, 2007. [Hebrew, about 150 pages]